



TRAVEL INFORMATION

KENYA

GEOGRAPHY

Kenya lies on the equator and shores of common borders with Tanzania and Uganda, which makes up the region of "East Africa". Kenya is roughly the size of Texas or Spain.

PEOPLE

There are 42 tribal ethnic groups, each with their own dialects though most people in the country speak Kiswahili as well as their own tribal language. English is commonly spoken in the major towns and at all the lodges and hotels.

GETTING TO KENYA

Kenya has three international airports; Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, Moi International Airport in Mombasa and Moi International Airport in Eldoret. These airports service numerous international carriers including the national airline Kenya Airways. Kenya has good connections to destinations throughout Europe, the Asia- Pacific region, USA and Africa. Kenya can be accessed by road from Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia. Immigration should be processed at land border stations.

CLIMATE

The Kenyan climate is very pleasant and variations in altitude and terrain can create contrasts. Generally in the Highlands and the climate is cool, elsewhere the temperatures can reach approximately 35 degrees C during the day. The coast is humid and balmy. Over most of the country there are two rainy seasons:

- » The short rains which occur from late October through November.
- » The long rains which occur from late March to early June

It is possible to visit Kenya during rainy season. Few roads are affected, the parks are fresh green and there are fewer people and vehicles. Rain usually falls in the late afternoon preceded by bright, sunny and fresh days.

July and August are the coolest months and are often overcast especially in the morning. December to mid March is the warmest time of the year.



HEALTH PRECAUTION

Kenya is considered a generally health place to travel. Malaria mosquitoes are not present in large quantities inland due to the high altitude of the country, but there is a higher risk at the coast and it is recommended that you take Malaria prophylaxis. There are no mandatory inoculations required for Kenya but travelers should contact their doctor or specialized travel clinic for further advice.

INSURANCE

There is no national welfare scheme and visitors to Kenya are responsible for their own medical expenses. We recommend our clients have evacuation insurance in Nairobi. All clients are requested to leave a copy of their travel insurance with us at the briefing, along with the copies of their airline tickets and passports. Whilst every care is taken of you and your property we cannot be held responsible for any accidents, injury, or illness that you may incur or any loss or damage to baggage. We therefore advise you have your property be fully covered by insurance and it is advisable to have separate baggage and ticket insurance.



DRINKING WATER

Please ensure that you drink bottled water only throughout your stay in Kenya.

FOOD AND DRINKINGS

The multicultural heritage of Kenya is the basis for a wide range of gourmet foods. Traditional African dishes are supplemented by English and Indian fare. Kenya offers an assortment of quality beef and seafood dishes, supplemented by an array of tropical fruits and vegetables.

Portions tend to be generous, and elaborate buffets are common at hotels and lodges. Even the more expensive restaurants are reasonable by American and European standards.

LUGGAGE

Please ensure that your baggage is packed in soft bags and should weigh no more than 15kg per person. It is possible to store luggage during the safari either at your hotel if you are returning there after your trip or with us at our offices. Most lodges have laundry facilities. On air safaris the maximum luggage allowance per person is 15kg in Kenya.

CURRENCY

The monetary unit is the Kenyan shillings. There is no limit to the amount of currency or traveler's Cheques that you bring into the country. Traveler's Cheques are recommended. Most of the hotels, lodges and shops in Kenya will take the major credit cards. Reverting your Kenyan shillings into hard currency is easily done at the airport, hotels and banks. As there is no longer "exchange control" the rate of exchange varies between banks, foreign exchange bureaus and hotels. It is recommended that visitors do.

TIPPING

Tipping is not compulsory in Kenya, however, if you are happy with the service that you have received, any gesture of appreciation will be enthusiastically received. A guideline for tipping is as follows:-

Porters: USD. 1.00 – 3.00 per bag

Waiters: USD. 3.00 – 5.00 per day

Drivers: USD. 10.00 – 20.00 per client per day

VOLTAGE

Voltage throughout the country is 220 – 240 AC. Most safari vehicles have a cigarette lighter socket operating on a 12 –volt system. In most lodges and camps there is no main power and generators are used during limited times during the day and in the evening. Please carry adaptors with a square 3-pin English standard option and sufficient batteries for photographic equipment.

COMMUNICATIONS

All camps and lodges have a radio communication with Nairobi. The outside world is of very little interest or consequence to us on safari, but if there are urgent messages they should be sent to our office in Nairobi for onward transmission by radio, Email/Tel/Fax communication is also generally available.

VEHICLE

Your vehicle will be comfortable and specially safaris equipped with game viewing hatches, HF Radio and are prepared for any eventuality!

ON SAFARI

When you are out on safari our schedule is completely flexible. We can spend the day exactly as you wish. The best times for viewing animals are the cool hours of the early morning and late afternoon. Therefore, our usual routine will be to have an early rise with a cup of tea or coffee before leaving camp on a game drive, returning to camp mid-morning for breakfast unless otherwise. Your guide will be there to plan your day, tell you about what you are seeing, take you to the loveliest place, look after any formalities or negotiation with the local people, and take care of your safety and comfort. All our guides speak the local language, are proficient in bush craft, and can tell you about the animals, identify birds, and help you learn more about the world around you.

CLOTHING ON SAFARI

Light cotton clothing is recommended; ideal safari outfits can be purchased in Kenya. T-shirts, shorts and long cotton trousers (or jeans), a hat against the sun, long-sleeved shirts and sweaters for game drives (it can be cold in the morning and evening), swimming costume as some lodges / camps have swimming pools. Good and comfortable walking shoes (e.g. sneakers).

TIME ZONE

Kenya has a single time zone - which is GMT+3.

SECURITY

Avoid carrying large sums of money. Be sensible with handbags, jewellery and camera cases. Avoid walking at night. Lock up valuables in the safety deposit boxes provided by all hotels and lodges.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT

Do not photograph local people without their prior permission. Your driver will advise you further on this sensitive matter. Take a good supply of film as local supplies are limited when on safari. Please also carry spare batteries (please note the rechargeable batteries cannot be relied upon as some camps and lodges only have solar or generator power). Binoculars are invaluable for game and bird viewing.



SOUVENIRS

Shopping in Kenya is dominated by souvenir sellers. Handmade items may be purchased at market stalls, roadside stands, and from street peddlers. Tourists are easily identified, and a walk down the street can bring the attention of groups of salesmen.

Be prepared for a strong sales pitch, offering bargain prices on handcrafts. Prices are initially determined based on what these sellers believe you will pay, but can generally be bargained down to a low price. Chances are you will get a fair price, and the vendor will still walk away with a good profit. Don't be intimidated by the number of peddlers offering similar goods, or you may end up with more souvenirs than you can easily carry home. If quality is an issue you may want to make your purchases at some of the more established shops in the larger cities, but be prepared to pay higher prices.



CUSTOMS

Moving through customs is a relatively painless formality. Travelers over 21 years of age may import duty-free 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars of eight and three quarter ounces of tobacco, one litre of alcoholic beverage and ¼ litre of perfume. Importing any fruit, plants, seeds or animals is prohibited. Domestic dogs or cats may be admitted with an entry permit obtained at the same office as your visa. Personal effects, including cameras and film, are generally duty free. Check with the nearest Kenya Tourist Office about customs restrictions on video cameras and recorders. Some electronic devices may require a refundable deposit.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

Kindly note that all nationals require a visa to enter Kenya. Visa fee is USD.50.00 PER PERSON aged 16years and above and for persons aged 15years and below it's free. Visas can also be obtained upon arrival at the airport but it is recommended to obtain them prior online (evisa)

1. Why the eVisa

Most Governments world over are moving towards digitization of their operations. Online application makes it possible for visitors to get their Visa in advance hence removing the anxiety of whether one will be able to get it or not at the point of entry

2. The Online Application is NOT complicated

The procedure of application has now been modified and simplified to a user friendly mode that takes three simple steps. The E-Visa portal now has its dedicated website: www.evisa.go.ke. Visa approval is being done real-time.

3. Do you need to upload a passport photo to process the online application?

The applicant needs to upload a passport size photo and a copy of the passport for the online application to be complete. Photos can either be scanned or taken by a mobile phone. The system is able to resize the photo automatically to fit in the photo size requirement.

4. If your application is refused, is the fee refundable?

Visa fee is non refundable since the application will be processed for approval or non approval

5. Is it only payable in US dollars?

The online payment of visa fee is in US dollars.

6. Will you still be able to get visas on arrival at the port of entry if you do not have an E-Visa?

Yes, an applicant will still be able to get a visa at the port of entry on arrival.

Visas acquired at Kenyan Embassies and High Commissions are also valid and will be honored at the port of entry. Citizens of the following countries require a visa that cannot be obtained online or on arrival at the airport but instead this must be done in advance through a Kenyan Embassy: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Iraq, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Palestine, Senegal, Somalia, Syria, Tajikistan.

7. If you are in transit at JKIA with an onward ticket, for example to Kilimanjaro, would you have to purchase a visa, even if you are only going to pass through immigration then check back in for your connecting flight?

If a passenger is on transit and needs to clear with immigration to enter Kenya, he or she will need a transit visa. The Department has set up a work station where they can apply for the transit visa at the port of entry in case of such unexpected circumstances.

8. What visa types are available via the online system?

The visas available online are those of countries in category two (2) of the Kenya visa regulations. They are listed on the on line visa application form.

9. For those visas you can't currently purchase online, will visitors still be able to purchase on arrival at JKIA or the High Commissions/Kenyan Embassies abroad?


The procedures of applying for visas which are not available on line remain the same. These are in category three (3) of the visa regulations and the applicants have always applied to the Director of Immigration Services before travelling. However, further consultations are under way before this category can be put on line.




**Welcome
To Kenya!!!**



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