



# TRAVEL INFORMATION

## KENYA

# Kenya - *Home of African Safari*



# Country Facts

**Capital City** : Nairobi

**Language:** English and Swahili

**Literacy Level;** 82%

**Forest Cover:** 10% of land mass

**Currency:** Kenya Shillings

**Economic Ranking in Africa:** 8 of 54 (2022)

**Time Zone:** +3 GMT



## GEOGRAPHY

Located in East Africa, Kenya borders the Indian Ocean to the east, Somalia to the northeast, Ethiopia to the north, South Sudan to the northwest, Uganda to the west, and Tanzania to the south. Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, is situated slightly south of the centre point of the country at an altitude of 1,700 meters or 5,500 feet above sea level. Kenya is roughly the size of the state of Texas in USA or the size of Spain.

## POPULATION

Estimated at 55 million in 2023, the population of Kenya is relatively young, with 43 percent of all Kenyans aged between zero to 14 years. Only 30.4 percent of the population lives in urban areas, though this figure is expected to expand significantly in forthcoming years.

The population of Kenya is highly heterogeneous (ethnically diverse). Kenya's ethnic diversity has produced a vibrant culture which at times has been a source of conflict. The predominant religions in Kenya include Christianity 82.6%, Islam 11% and other religions.

## LANGUAGE

English and Kiswahili are the official languages of Kenya. Many Kenyans also speak a variety of indigenous languages.

## CLIMATE

Although Kenya lies across the equator, annual rainfall over most of the country is surprisingly low and rather variable from year to year. The variety of relief and the range of altitude in Kenya produce a considerable number of distinctive local climates and local weather too numerous to be detailed here.

## SEASONS

Short rains are generally from October to November. The **long rains** last from March to early June. It is important to note that climate change has modified seasons significantly. The average day-time temperature year-round is between 20°C / 68°F and 28 C / 82 F, but it is warmer at the coast where it is hot and humid all year-round





## 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, in offices and at all the lodges and hotels.

## GETTING TO KENYA

Kenya has 4 international airports, two inland and two coastal; Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, Eldoret International Airport in Eldoret and the coastal Moi International Airport in Mombasa and Malindi International Airport in Malindi. Each of these airports is serviced by numerous carriers with good connections to destinations across Europe, the Asia- Pacific region, USA and the rest of Africa. Kenya can be accessed by road from Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia. A revamped rail network connects the Kenya coast to the border town of Malaba near Uganda. Immigration is processed at all border points.

## HEALTH PRECAUTION

Kenya is generally considered a healthy place to travel. The quality of health facilities in the country are highly commendable for a developing country. Malarial 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, lake basin areas and urban areas in hot low lying regions. It is recommended that you take malarial prophylaxis 30 days before travel or carry with you an insect repellent. There are no mandatory inoculations required for entry into Kenya but travelers should contact their doctor or specialized travel clinic for more professional advice.



## INSURANCE

There is no national health scheme available to non-residents and visitors to Kenya are responsible for their own medical insurance. As a tours and travel company, we offer air medical evacuation cover as part of our holiday package.

Our clients are requested to send us a copy of their travel insurance, air ticket and passport with us for filing in their holiday file to help facilitate needed assistance in case of emergencies.

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 including ticket insurance.

## CURRENCY

The monetary unit is the Kenyan Shilling. There is no limit to the amount of currency or traveller's cheques that a visitor can bring into the country.

Nearly all hotels, lodges and shopping mall outlets accept credit cards. Hard cash should be limited only for gratuities. Where payment needs to be paid for a service, there are plenty of foreign exchange bureaus

## TIPPING

Tipping is not compulsory, but it is really humane to show appreciation for a service rendered heartily. As a tours and travel company we have a *guideline* as follows:

**Tour Drivers / Guides:** USD 10-20 per client per day

**Waiters:** USD 3-5 per day (some establishments have a common tipping box and tips can be given at the end of stay. Clients are free to do as they wish regarding tipping a specific person or persons)

**Porters:** USD 1-3 per bag

## VOLTAGE

Voltage throughout the country is 220 – 240v. Most safari vehicles have a cigarette lighter socket operating on a 12 –volt system. Some of our 4x4 safari vehicles are equipped with power sockets for charging hand-held devices. Visitors from countries where 110-120v should bring along suitable adaptors. Sockets are 3 pin square English style

## COMMUNICATION

Those in need of cell phone service, a SIM card can be obtained in every major town and mobile transaction's system **MPESA** is very popular in the country. As a matter of fact, it is so widespread and this makes it very easy to pay for virtually anything where Kenya shillings are required, even in government offices.

This also makes it very easy to access internet data service from major providers by dialing \*544# USSD service and purchase data packages. A monthly bundle of 10GB is less than \$10. Most lodges have a WiFi service in their lounges.

All Safari vehicles are equipped with HF radio systems for communication with related establishments and authorities.

## SECURITY & SAFETY

Avoid walking alone and especially at night in urban centres. There is zero worry in the lodges because adequate (sometimes personal) security is provided by ferocious Maasai guards. Lock your valuables in the safe provided in your lodge. Your driver guide will ensure adherence to park rules for your safety from wild animals.

## DRINKING WATER

Please ensure that you drink bottled water only throughout your stay in Kenya. Our safari vehicles carry a supply of 1 litre per person per day. Meals will be served with the same and extra bottles can be purchased at the hotel restaurant and in-transit shops.

## LUGGAGE

Excessive luggage is not recommended even for long stays. We recommend no more than 15kg per person. Nearly all lodges will offer laundry services. Extra luggage can be stored in our offices centrally in Nairobi especially where a safari has to circuit to popular destinations.

## DRESS CODE

Kenya is multi-ethnic and embraces various religions. Strict dressing codes are required in areas like the coast where moslem faith is dominant. Nudity is not allowed and we recommend modest dressing at all times.

## CUSTOMS

Moving through customs is a relatively painless formality. Travellers 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 during the application of your visa. Personal effects, including cameras, are generally duty free.

Check with the nearest **Kenya Tourist Office at the Embassy or Consulate** about customs restrictions on video cameras and recorders. Some electronic devices may require a refundable deposit.



## VISA REQUIREMENTS

### KENYA IS A VISA FREE STATE

Kenya abolished visa requirements for all foreign visitors from 1 January 2024, and instead implemented an Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) system.

Most visitors must obtain an eTA prior to travel unless they are citizens of eTA-exempted countries. Citizens from all countries except for East African Partner States (Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda) are required to obtain a Kenya eTA to enter the country

To apply visit [www.etakenya.go.ke](http://www.etakenya.go.ke)

### What is the Kenya Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA)?

Kenya eTA is a semi-automated system that determines the eligibility of visitors to travel to Kenya. An eTA offers permission to travel and is authorised by the Government of the Republic of Kenya. An eTA does not determine whether a traveller is admissible to enter Kenya. Immigration officers will determine admissibility upon travellers' arrival.

The eTA application collects biographic information and answers to eligibility questions from the traveller. Applications are usually processed within 3 days, but in some cases it may take longer. We recommend applying for your eTA 2 weeks prior to travel. Travellers can submit their applications up to 3 months prior to travel. It is highly recommended that travellers apply as soon as they have booked their accommodations and transport tickets..

### What information is required to apply for an eTA?

- == Valid passport
- == Recent passport style picture OR a selfie picture taken during application process
- == Contact details (home address, telephone, email)
- == Travel information and flight itinerary (arrival flight number, date of departure of initial flight in case of connecting flights)
- == Proof of booking for the hotel you will be staying at (if staying with friends, a letter of invitation is accepted)
- == Credit/Debit card information for payment, if applicable

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