




Travel Planning


FOR KENYA

This document offers useful information on travel to Kenya, health planning advice & what to pack.

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About KENYA

Located in the Equatorial belt of East Africa, Kenya is a country of tremendous cultural heritage, astoundingly diverse terrain and an incredible variety of fauna. Kenya is best known for being one of Africa's premier safari destinations, where the annual Great Migration, one of the earth's most remarkable natural phenomena, occurs. Close to two million animals, predominantly wildebeest and zebra, cross over from the Serengeti of Tanzania into the Masai Mara in the southeast of Kenya each year. In the northwest of the country, the central highlands descend into the arid Great Rift Valley, a landscape of ancient, mineral-rich lakes interspersed with largely extinct volcanoes. The Kenyan Rift Valley lakes attract thousands of migratory birds, including huge shimmering flocks of pink flamingos. Mount Kenya soars almost 5,200 meters (17,000 feet) above sea level in the centre of the country, complete with permanently snow-capped peaks despite its location on the Equator. This extinct volcanic cone is a considerable attraction for mountaineers, albeit a challenging climb. In dramatic contrast, the warm Indian Ocean coastline is a tropical delight, with sandy shores, coral reefs and areas of mangrove forests, offering visitors an array of beach and marine experiences.

Kenya covers 582,646 square kilometres and has a population of 54.9 million (reported figures as of 2021). The capital city is Nairobi.



CURRENCY

The Kenyan shilling (KES) is the local currency of Kenya. United States Dollars (USD) are widely accepted across the country, while UK Pound Sterling (GBP) and Euros (EUR) are widely accepted in major tourist areas. Small denominations of foreign currencies should be carried where possible, however, change may only be given in local currency, or change may not be available. Foreign Exchange centres are in the main cities, towns and international airports.

BANKS

There are numerous banks in the major cities and towns, including several international banks in the major cities. Business hours vary from bank to bank, but most are open Mondays to Fridays from 9h00 to 15h00 and 9h00 to 11h00 on the first and last Saturdays of each month. Banking services are also available at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi and Moi International Airport in Mombasa. Automated teller machines (ATMs) are found in all large cities and towns, however, they may not accept all foreign cards.

CREDIT CARDS

Mastercard, Visa Cards and American Express Cards are widely accepted in major tourist areas, whereas Diners Club Cards are generally not accepted.

LANGUAGE

The national language of Kenya is Swahili, English is the official language and is widely spoken across the country. Numerous local languages and dialects are spoken throughout Kenya.



TIME

Kenya falls into the Eastern African Time zone (EAT), three hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) during the northern hemisphere's winter. During the northern hemisphere's summer, international Daylight-Saving hours change. During this time, EAT is two hours ahead of GMT.

CLIMATE

Kenya's climate varies regionally, depending on topography, coastal proximity and prevailing equatorial wind direction. In general, the coastal regions remain hot and humid throughout the year, while the interior highlands tend to be warm and dry with cool to cold nights.

Seasons are classified by rainfall patterns, which in themselves are variable. Generally speaking, dry conditions occur from June to October and December to March, whilst the months that experience the most significant precipitation are usually April, May and November.

Year-round, it can get cool to very cold at night and in the early morning whilst on safari.

Please refer to our Packing Suggestions in this document for recommended seasonal attire.



WATER

Adequate water intake is essential whilst travelling throughout Kenya, mainly since the climate varies from warm to extremely hot during the long summer months, typical of the country's tropical location. We do not recommend drinking from local water sources. Therefore, we recommend that all guests drink prepared and/or filtered water, available at all major airports and at all hotels, camps and lodges.



LUGGAGE LIMITATIONS ON SCHEDULED LIGHT AIRCRAFT TRANSFERS

There are strict luggage weight restrictions for all scheduled light aircraft transfers. These restrictions are as follows:

- Camera & Hand Luggage per person is restricted to 5kgs (11 pounds).
- Only Soft-sided bags will be accepted.
- Suitcases, bags with wheels, frames or hard sides will not be permitted on scheduled light aircraft flights.

Maximum dimensions Soft-sided bags which can be accommodated are as follows:

- 25cm (10 inches) wide x 30cm (12 inches) high and 62cm (24 inches) long.
- Please remember that baggage compartments on light aircraft are only 25cm high (10 inches), so the pilots must be able to manipulate the bag into the compartment.
- A collapsible wheeled luggage frame/trolley (separate from the bag) is allowed as long as the basic dimensions are similar to the bag'S.

Excess Luggage:

- Requirements and costs for excess luggage on any light aircraft transfers vary depending on the charter company, aircraft used and routing. In most cases, you will have to purchase an extra seat which allows for additional 20kgs (44 pounds) per person.





PASSENGER LIMITATIONS ON SCHEDULED LIGHT AIRCRAFT TRANSFERS

- Besides luggage allowances, light aircraft are designed to carry a specific maximum body weight.
- Many airfields utilised for safari destinations are above 1,000 metres (3,280 feet) above sea level. Many of these airfields are also located in tropical regions, therefore, the permissible aircraft carrying capacity is further reduced.
- Please inform us in advance if guests weigh more than 100kg (220 pounds), as additional weight allowance on the aircraft must be purchased for safety and comfort.
- The costs for this are calculated on request, according to specific region and routing, and provide for a maximum of 70kg (154 pounds) excess weight per passenger.
- These limits apply to guests travelling on a seat rate, scheduled light aircraft transfer basis.
- This requirement may differ if guests have booked sole use of an aircraft or private charter option, in which case the maximum passenger weights will depend on the type of aircraft and the number of passengers booked.

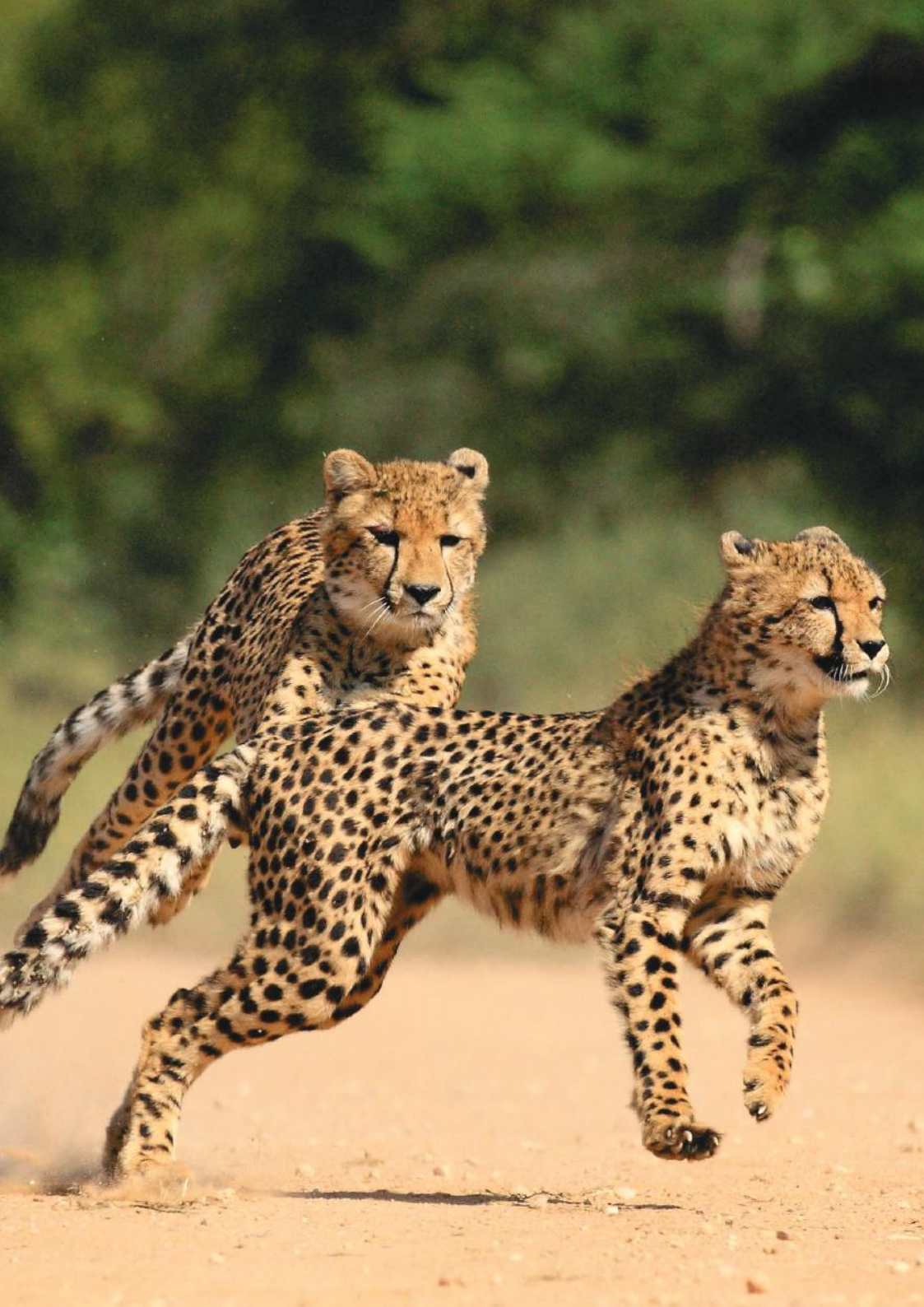
“If I have ever seen magic, it has been in Africa.”

J. HEMINGWAY



TRAVEL INSURANCE

- Fully Comprehensive Travel Insurance Cover, including Comprehensive Medical Cover, is essential and must be purchased before travelling.
- Comprehensive Insurance Cover can be extended to cover loss of luggage, personal items, and trip cancellations.
- Depending on your country of origin, a separate Comprehensive Medical Travel Insurance policy may be required, over and above your Fully Comprehensive Travel Insurance policy.
- Please ensure you have these Insurance Documents with you at all times during your trip.



PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN

- Visas are not issued at ports of entry into Kenya.
- Kenya does not require visas from several countries, therefore, all visitors must get in touch with their local Kenyan Embassy, Consulate or other Kenyan Representative Office to determine whether a visa is required to enter Kenya.
- Visitors to Kenya must possess a passport valid for at least six months from the date of travel and should have at least two blank pages available in their passport.
- It is advisable for visitors who intend to travel to neighbouring East Africa and/or additional African countries to have sufficient passport pages in place and, where applicable, apply for multiple entry visas.
- For more information, visit <https://evisa.go.ke/evisa.html>



TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS:

- Please contact your local Kenyan Embassy, Consulate or other Kenyan Representative Office for advice regarding travelling with children, as the following guidelines may change at short notice.
- Parents of children under the age of 18 years may be required to provide certified copies of the following documentation when entering or leaving the borders of Kenya:

Both parents travelling with children:

- A certified copy of the unabridged birth certificate of each child must include the full names of both the biological father and mother, the identity numbers, and the place of birth.

One parent travelling with children:

- A certified copy of the unabridged birth certificate of each child must include the full names of both the biological father and mother, the identity numbers, and the place of birth.
- An affidavit signed by the parent who is not travelling authorising the parent who is travelling with each child, together with a certified copy of the non-travelling parent's passport or identity document and contact details.
- If the parent travelling with each child has been granted full parental rights and responsibilities or is the legal guardian of each child, they must provide a certified copy of the court order granting them those rights.
- If one parent or legal guardian is deceased, the parent or legal guardian travelling must provide a certified copy of the death certificate.





An adult travelling with children who are not their biological children:

- A certified copy of the unabridged birth certificate of each child must include the full names of both the biological father and mother, the identity numbers, and the place of birth.
- An affidavit from each child's parents or legal guardians confirming that they have permission to travel with each child.
- Certified copies of the identity documents or passports of each child's parents or legal guardians.
- Certified proof of the contact details of each child's parents or legal guardians.



Children travelling unaccompanied by an adult:

- A certified copy of the unabridged birth certificate of each child must include the full names of both the biological father and mother, the identity numbers, and the place of birth.
- An affidavit of proof of consent for each child to travel from both parents or legal guardians. If only one parent or legal guardian provides proof of consent, each child must also travel with a certified copy of a court order granting that parent or legal guardian full parental responsibilities.
- A certified copy of a letter/affidavit from the person in authority in Kenya who will be responsible for each child on arrival. This letter/affidavit must include the said person of authority's contact number, residential address, and all contact details for where each child will be staying in Kenya.
- A certified copy of the identity document, passport, visa or permanent residence permit of the person in authority who is to be responsible for each child on arrival.
- Certified proof of the contact details of each child's parents or legal guardians.



PLEASE NOTE

- As indicated, all supporting documents required should be certified copies.
- Parental consent documents must be issued within six months before the date of travel.
- Families travelling with children under the age of 18 years may be restricted from entering and/or departing from Kenya without the above-mentioned documentation.
- The above-mentioned documentation must be available when visiting neighbouring countries when travelling with minors, where the point of entry and/or exit is Kenya.
- For all documentation, it is recommended that should the documentation not be in English, an English version is obtained

For all VISA requirements, including the entire application process and costs, please contact your local Kenyan Embassy, Consulate or other Kenyan Representative Office for further details.





HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Kenya is an endemic Malaria area, therefore, Malaria prophylactics are strongly recommended. Please contact your Local Travel Clinic or Medical Practitioner before travel to determine the appropriate anti-Malaria measures. The use of additional precautionary measures, such as topical insect repellents and wearing long-sleeved clothing, long trousers and socks when outside at night are recommended, especially when on safari.

- It is inadvisable for pregnant women to visit Malaria areas.
- Kenya is an endemic Sleeping Sickness (African Trypanosomiasis) area, particularly in game reserves where the Tsetse Fly vector occurs. No prophylactics are available, therefore, precautionary measures, such as topical insect repellents and wearing long-sleeved clothing, long trousers and socks when outdoors, are recommended, especially when on safari. The incidence of human transmission of the disease in Kenya is low compared to other countries in the region.
- Pregnant women must please get in touch with their Local Travel Clinic or Medical Practitioner before travel to determine whether travelling to Kenya is advisable or not.
- Kenya falls into the Yellow Fever belt of Africa, therefore, a Yellow Fever vaccination certificate is required to enter and exit Kenya. Furthermore, travellers arriving from or travelling onwards to other countries in Africa and/or the Yellow Fever belt of South America require a Yellow Fever vaccination certificate.





- Although additional vaccinations (such as Hepatitis A and B, Polio, Tetanus and others) are not mandatory, certain vaccinations may be recommended by your Local Travel Clinic or Medical Practitioner.
- Should you be on prescription medication or require any other types of medications, please ensure you have an adequate supply of all your medicines for the duration of your trip.
- For prescription medications, it is recommended that you have a copy of the original prescription and keep all medicines in their original labelled packages.

Please contact your Local Travel Clinic or Medical Practitioner well before your departure date regarding all the above-mentioned health requirements.

Vaccination requirements may be subject to change at short notice.





PHOTOGRAPHY

Please be mindful of others when taking photographs at all times. Should you wish to photograph local people, particularly children, please be courteous and ask permission before taking pictures. Some local people may not wish to be photographed for cultural reasons. Photography is not permitted at specific locations, including government buildings, museums, art galleries, private houses, etc., these areas are usually clearly marked. If in doubt, please ask, otherwise, camera equipment may be confiscated. Flash photography may be prohibited in certain night-time situations, notably when on safari. While game viewing, be respectful of animal life and your fellow travellers. Do not startle or disturb animals or birds whilst taking photographs.

SHOPPING

In major cities and towns, your hotel or guesthouse concierge will assist you with locating the best local shops and handicraft markets to visit. Curio shops can be found at numerous lodges/camps throughout Kenya.





POWER SUPPLY

All electrical appliances run on 240V (AC – alternating current). Special adaptors for charging photographic equipment, mobile phones, laptops, tablets, hairdryers, etc., are required. These can be purchased at major airports and certain shopping centres.

Some hotels and lodges may be able to supply guests with adaptors – however, we recommend that you carry your own adaptors and converters, particularly if you have specific charging devices that operate at different currents/voltages. Some safari camps/lodges may not have 240V (AC – alternating current) and may operate on solar-powered 12V electricity (direct current – DC). Please bring spare batteries that can be charged at the camp/lodge while you are out on safari activities





SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

CLOTHING

- Sun hat
- Golf shirts and/or T-shirts – preferably with a sleeve to protect your shoulders from the sun
- Long-sleeved cotton shirts
- Shorts and/or skirts
- Long trousers/slacks
- Comfortable walking shoes such as trainers, tennis shoes or similar sports shoes
- Sandals
- Swimming costume
- Lightweight jersey for summer evenings
- A warm jacket and/or fleece jacket is recommended not only for winter but also year-round whilst on safari
- Light rain gear or waterproof jacket
- Formal attire for your stay at prestigious city hotels.



EQUIPMENT/OTHER

- Good quality sunglasses with UV protection – preferably polarised
- Personal toiletries
- Moisturising cream and suntan lotion – SPF 30 or higher recommended
- Insect repellent for topical application
- Torch
- Kenya wildlife and/or bird guides, especially if you have specific areas of interest
- Binoculars
- Camera equipment, including spare batteries, chargers, film, memory cards, and sticks.
- Converter plugs to 220V Alternating current, and 12V Direct current, as detailed in the section on power supply above.
- Waterproof/dustproof bag or cover for your camera
- Dive card and logbook (if applicable)
- An adequate supply of all prescription medications and/or other medicines required for the duration of your trip
- Visas, tickets, passports, money, credit cards, insurance documents, etc.

PLEASE NOTE: There may be a restriction on luggage limits on your journey – please ensure that you have the details from your agent according to your itinerary. Please ask your agent ahead of time if you would like details on the feasibility and costs of taking excess luggage with you, as noted above in Luggage and Passenger Limitations on Scheduled Light Aircraft Transfers.



GRATUITIES GUIDELINES

We would like to reiterate that tipping is not compulsory. Guests should not feel obliged to do so. Tipping should be offered only by choice, subject to the service received.

As such, we have enclosed a brief guideline to assist guests.

In addition, guests may wish to add a nominal amount for incidentals (subject to personal budget choice) – i.e. if additional activities are booked once on their journey, if travel arrangements change for any reason, in acknowledgement of good service received in another area, etc.



USD GRATUITIES GUIDELINE

SERVICE

Meet & Greet

Airport Transfer Driver

Hotel / Airport Porters

Guides for City Sightseeing (Half Day)

Guides for City Sightseeing (Full Day)

Local Safari Guides at camps/lodges

Local Safari Trackers at camps/lodges

Housekeepers

General staff at camps/lodges

- Gratuities are then shared among the general staff

Meals at Restaurant, incl Room Services **10-15%** *Unless already included

OUR RECOMMENDATION

US\$ 5 per person, per Meet & Greet

US\$ 10 per person, per transfer

US\$ 2 per person per bag movement

US\$ 10 per person per Half Day

US\$ 20 per person per Full Day

US\$ 20 per person per day

US\$ 15 per person per day

US\$ 5 per person per night

US\$ 15 per person per day



