COUNTRY INFORMATION PACK



KENYA

GETTING THERE

Kenya has two major international airports; Nairobi Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and Mombasa Moi International Airport. There are various domestic airports and airfields connecting all major towns and safari destinations, and to other destinations in Africa.

Depending on your arrival time you may have to overnight before catching your connecting flight to your first safari camp the next day. We would recommend booking your flights online in order to get the best rates. If you need any help or advice please let us know.

All of your domestic and small charter flights, which are used to travel between the various camps in Kenya, are included in the cost of your safari. From the moment that you land in Kenya you will be greeted and escorted onto your connecting transfer to your first camp and you will be looked after from that point on until you are transferred back to the airport in time for your departure flight.

VISAS

Visas are required by almost all nationalities visiting Kenya and generally cost between USD 50 to 100. To determine whether you require a visa to enter Kenya, please contact the Kenyan Embassy in your home country.

Visas can be obtained in advance of departure or applied for at one of the main ports of international entry to Kenya. If obtained on entry, visas must be paid for in USD cash. Please check all visa requirements carefully before you travel as regulations change frequently. To find out more, please click here

Entry requirements:

- 1. a passport that is valid for a minimum of 6 months beyond your intended departure date and with 2 blank consecutive pages
- 2. onward travel documents

Yellow fever: For all vaccinations, please consult a medical professional at least 6 weeks before your date of departure. Yellow fever vaccination is required for travellers arriving from countries with risk of yellow fever transmission and certificates are required at your point of entry although the rules change regularly so we would strongly advise you to check with your medical professional and Kenyan embassy for further information.

WHEN TO

The dry seasons in Kenya are generally from mid-June to October, and from late-December to mid-March, and game-viewing is best at these times. Only a limited number of camps and lodges are open in the wettest months of November, April and May. However, rain can be experienced at any time of year, and the seasons on the coast are slightly different.

Day time temperatures and humidity are affected by altitude but it is generally warm to hot throughout the year (averaging around 28C but slightly higher from October to March). Night time temperatures also vary considerably according to altitude, but aside from the Mount Kenya and Aberdare highlands, rarely fall to low single figures (areas such as the Laikipia and Maasai Mara might see low double figures at night and during the rains).

On the coast, temperatures are high year round (averaging around 30C). The best conditions are found from October/November to March/April when the Kaskazi wind blows gently from the north-east. This is also the most humid time. From April/May to September/October, when the Kusi monsoon wind blows more strongly from the southeast, sea conditions can be choppy and certain beaches affected by seaweed. During this time, snorkelling and diving options could be restricted.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Please consult your local doctor and also check with your health department prior to departure for any changes in health regulations. **This is a guideline only.**

Vaccinations: Please consult your doctor for their recommendations and your previous vaccination history. Please also refer to the following as a useful guide.

Malaria: Malaria is present in Kenya and it is strongly advisable to take malaria prophylactics before, during and after your visit. Please consult a medical professional regarding which prophylactics will be suitable for you. In addition, please take precautionary measures to reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes: use insect repellant, sleep under a mosquito net and wear a long-sleeved shirt and long trousers with closed shoes in the evenings.

Yellow Fever: Yellow Fever vaccination is required for travellers who are arriving from, or have transited through, countries with risk of yellow fever transmission. As this requirement does frequently change, especially when transiting through South Africa, we would recommend having a certificate to ensure that you do not experience any problems at the border.

Insurance:It is a condition of booking, that you carry the correct comprehensive travel and medical insurance to cover yourself, as well as any dependents or travelling companions for the duration of your trip to Africa. This insurance should include cover in respect of, but not limited to, the following eventualities:

Compulsory Insurance

- a. emergency evacuation expenses,
- b. medical expenses,
- c. repatriation expenses,

Recommended Insurance:

- a. cancellation or curtailment of trip,
- b. damage/theft/loss of personal luggage, money and goods

CLIMATE

Kenya offers warm days and cool mornings and evenings year round, throughout most of the country. At altitude, the temperatures are moderate and the coast is often humid and tropical. There are two primary rainy seasons: the long rains roughly from April to June and the short rains during October and November. Kenya can be visited year-round, but the climate varies hugely between the rainy and dry seasons. Please be aware that climate can vary greatly depending on altitude and proximity to the ocean.

DRESS CODE

Modest clothing is advisable in the bigger towns and cities in Kenya, however in the lodges and camps and on the beaches at the coast, it is perfectly fi ne to wear shorts and shirts or beach wear. Generally speaking, light layers of clothing in neutral safari colours of green, khaki and beige are the best items to bring with you, as well as a warmer jacket or fleece for the colder evenings. A hat is also a must have! Dark colours such as navy or black can attract tstese fllies and are best avoided, as are bright colours like yellow, red and purple if you are going on safari.

LUGGAGE

Many international airlines have a baggage allowance of 20 kgs or more per person, but please check this with your individual airline. Please be advised that on domestic scheduled flights, luggage is limited to one soft sided bag per person with **a maximum** weight of 15kg. No hardshell bags are permitted.

MONEY

The currency in Kenya is the Kenya Shilling (Ksh). You can convert money to Shillings at a bank or Forex Bureau, or withdraw from an ATM, all found in the larger airports and towns. Please check with your bank for charges and advice when using international ATMs. Major credit cards are widely accepted in most hotels and establishments however there may be a surcharge levied. It is advisable to have some cash for smaller shops and stalls. Banks are available throughout Kenya, operating business hours of 9am - 3pm, Monday to Friday.

IMPORTANT: When bringing foreign currency (e.g. USD, GBP, EUR) into the country, be sure to have the new format with no damage or marks.

TIPPING

We must stress that tipping is not compulsory or expected; rather it is an extra reward for excellent service. If you are pleased with the service you receive you are more than welcome to tip your guide or the staff in the various lodges and camps. As a guideline for tipping your guide and the staff, you can leave between USD 10 to 15 per traveller per day. Tipping is usually done at the end of your safari and most lodges and camps have a tip box in the main area. You may tip the staff individually, place a tip for all the staff in the box or do both. Tips can be made in Kenyan Shillings or US Dollars.

WHAT TO PACK

Layers - long and short sleeve shirts and trousers

A warm fleece or jumper

A lightweight waterproof jacket

Comfortable but sturdy shoes

Flip-flops

Swimming costume and kikoi (Kenyan sarong)

A hat or baseball cap

Sunglasses

Sunscreen - a must!

Toiletries - most camps will provide shampoo, shower gel and soap

A small torch

Spare batteries, plug adaptors and charging equipment

A good pair of binoculars

Books or a fully loaded Kindle / iPad for siesta time

For Mount Kenya treks:

- 1 x 50 to 70 litre ruck sack and 1 x dry bag liner
- 1 x daypack (20-40 litres)
- 1 x Goretex Jacket or equivalent (an umbrella is handy too!)
- 1 x Goretex waterproof pants or equivalent
- 1 x down jacket
- 1 x warm fleece top (add a second if you don't have a down jacket)
- 1 x hiking trousers
- 3 x breathable t-shirts
- 1 x base layer top (breathable underlayer)
- 1 x base layer bottoms (breathable long johns)
- 5 x hiking socks (warm)
- 1 x warm hat (balaclava, beanie)
- 1 x warm insulate gloves
- 1 x hiking boots (preferable Goretex)
- 1 x head torch and spare batteries
- 1 x fleece pillow case (not essential but makes your sleep more comfortable)
- 1 x sleeping bag (3-4 season: must be rated to -15 degrees C) and sleeping bag liner
- 2 x telescopic trekking poles (not essential, but help a lot)
- 1 x pair gaiters
- 1 x sun hat and sunglasses
- 1 x camera and spare batteries
- 1 x water bottle or hiking bladder (Camelbak)

Personal toiletries

PLEASE NOTE: Plastic bags are banned and carry a fine if brought into the country. Make sure you leave your bags on the aeroplane upon arrival