

Trip Notes: Kenya

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Travelers arriving in Kenya are required to have passports valid for at least six months from the date of return and containing at two blank pages for visas and entry stamps for each country on your itinerary.

Travelers who are visiting both Kenya and Rwanda, or Kenya and Uganda, may purchase an East Africa visa which is cheaper than purchasing separate visas, and saves time at Immigration. East Africa visa information can be found here: <https://www.kenyaembassyaddis.org/services/consular-services/visa-services/>

PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

At least 2 weeks prior to visiting Kenya, travelers must fill out an ETA application at <https://www.etakenya.go.ke/en> and pay the equivalent of USD\$30 on the online platform.

CURRENCY

Travelers can use either US dollars or Kenyan shillings in Kenya. Africa Answers recommends bringing a mix of smaller and larger USD bills to tender or exchange locally, and exchanging money

at the airport on arrival for purchases at local markets, and small tips. Bills should be at least 2008 or newer “large face” bills in excellent condition, with no tears or marks. Your bank will be familiar with this requirement if you mention that you are using the bills overseas.

CREDIT CARDS

Visa and MasterCard are accepted in many locations, Amex less so. ATMs are available at Nairobi Airport and in most larger towns and cities. Money is issued in local currency from ATMs.

TIPPING

Service staff in Africa depend on tips as part of their livelihood. As a guideline, hotel porters get about \$1 per bag carried each way. City restaurant staff are tipped \$1 per person per meal. Bar waiters at 10% - 15% value of the beverages purchased. Airport transfer drivers at \$2 per person per transfer. Camp and lodge staff at \$10 per person per day in camp to be split between the entire camp crew - there is often a Tips box for this group tip in the main area of the camp or lodge. Driver-guides are with you the most and should receive \$10 - \$15 per person per day. If you have both a driver and a guide, the driver should receive \$5 per person per day



Wildlife



Mara River, Kenya



Mount Kilimanjaro

SHOPPING & VAT

The official currency of Zimbabwe is the Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG). US Dollars and South Africa Rand are also utilized in Zimbabwe, however, ATMs do not dispense these currencies.

It is suggested to take US Dollars (USD) in cash, especially small bills (\$1, \$5) for tips and local purchases, as credit/debit cards are rarely accepted outside major hotels for anything beyond lodging, and ATMs can be unreliable. Prepay major expenses if possible, and be aware that while the Zimbabwean Dollar (ZiG) is the official currency, USD is the preferred currency for tourists, though the ZiG's value fluctuates.

BAGGAGE

Airlines into and out of Zimbabwe routinely weigh both checked and carry-on bags. To avoid paying excess baggage fees, please adhere to your airline's restrictions. Important rules for shared in-country air transfers in light aircraft, to and from game camps/lodges.

There is a weight allowance of 15kg (33 lbs) per person, including hand luggage, which must be in soft bags. Note that one flat/hard side is allowed, but the majority of the bag needs to be soft. Maximum dimensions 27 inches (70cm) x 23 inches (60cm) x 13 inches (35cm). Wheels are only allowed if they are not part of a solid frame or rigid structure.

PHONES

To dial Kenya from the US: 011 + 254 + number

To dial the US from Kenya: 000 + 1 + area code + number.

VACCINATIONS

All travelers to Kenya should consult a travel clinic at least 6 weeks before departure for advice as to the recommended medications and vaccinations for their safari, based on their itinerary, personal health profile and the latest policies at their destinations.

Malaria is present in Kenya. Although malaria medication is not required for entry to Kenya, your travel clinician may recommend it. Yellow fever is present in Kenya. Although travelers arriving directly from the US and returning directly to the US are not required to have yellow fever certification, your travel clinician may recommend it.

Travelers entering Kenya from countries where yellow fever is present, or traveling in other African countries after Kenya, must have either certification of yellow fever vaccination, or a waiver document provided by their physician citing the reason. Travelers who are only in airport transit are not required to have yellow fever vaccinations.

LANGUAGE

Kenya has two official languages: Kiswahili (the national language) and English. In addition to these, people across the country speak over 60 indigenous tribal languages and an urban slang called Sheng.

TIME DIFFERENCE

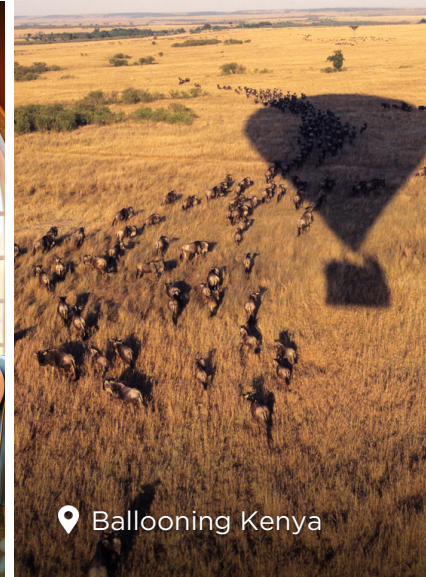
Kenya is on East Africa Time which is 8 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time and 11 hours ahead of Pacific Standard Time.



📍 Maasai Safari



📍 Giraffe Manor



📍 Ballooning Kenya

POWER

Africa uses 240 volt electric current. Plugs vary from the UK standard square pin to European standard round pin. Some remote lodges and camps generate their own electricity and may not generate 24 hours per day, which will impact CPAP machine users. The electric current is subject to voltage fluctuation and power cuts are possible, even in larger cities. For detailed information, images and links to purchase adaptors, please consult <https://www.power-plugs-sockets.com>

SAFETY & SECURITY

During the safari, the driver-guide will offer instructions concerning safety. This includes advising tour members when it is safe to exit the vehicle. At lodges and camps, the staff will often escort guests to and from the rooms to ensure safety. In National Parks, guests must be back in the lodge or camp by 6pm; this Park rule will be enforced by your driver/guide.

Always use the safe in your room to store cash, important documents and other valuables. Larger items can be left in the lodge or camp safe at the front desk.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Dial 999 for police, ambulance, or fire.

CLIMATE

Kenya has a tropical climate that varies by altitude and region. It features warm temperatures year-round, two distinct rainy seasons (long rains from March to May and short rains from October to December), and a cool, dry season from June to October.

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

For a Kenya trip, pack neutral-colored, lightweight clothing for layering (long sleeves/pants for sun/bugs), a warm fleece/jacket for cool mornings/evenings, a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and insect repellent; essential toiletries, a first-aid kit, comfortable walking shoes, binoculars, camera, adapter, and US dollars; importantly, avoid camouflage clothing, use soft-sided luggage for small planes, and bring copies of your passport.

ETIQUETTE

warm greetings, respect for elders, modest clothing, and mindful use of the right hand. Always start interactions with a polite hello, use your right hand for eating or passing items, and dress modestly, especially in rural or coastal Muslim areas.

SINGLE USE PLASTICS

Kenya has outlawed single-use plastic for citizens and tourists, and imposes fines on those who ignore this rule. Polypropylene, paper and jute bags, and refillable water flasks are accepted alternatives.



Maasai Tribe

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

1 January – **New Year's Day**
10 March - **Idd ul-Fitr (Tentative)**
26 March - **Good Friday**
29 March - **Easter Monday**
18 April – **Independence Day**
1 May – **Labor Day**
1 June – **Madarka Day**
10-11 October – **Mazingira Day**
20 October – **Mashujaa Day**
13 December – **Jahuri Day Observed**
25 December – **Christmas Day**
26-27 December – **Boxing Day**

OTHER USEFUL LINKS

[US State Department Travel Advisories](#)

[U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Kenya](#)

[Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#)

[US Passports](#)

[International Travel Guidance](#)

This information is provided by Travel Answers as a guideline to the country you will be visiting. Further information is available to you at <https://travel.state.gov/en/international-travel/travel-advisories/kenya.html>. While Travel Answers endeavors to provide current information, regulations and requirements can change without notice and we are not responsible for travelers whose trips are interrupted due to documentary or medical non-compliance.

AFRICA



ASIA



EUROPE



SOUTH PACIFIC



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answers