



PREMIER AFRICA


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# KENYA

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PERSONAL TRAVEL GUIDE





# Your Personal Travel Guide to KENYA

Home of the classic safari, Kenya has been a prime safari destination for many years. Undoubtedly its most famous attraction is the renowned Masai Mara, home to rich resident wildlife and magnificent Maasai warriors. However, Kenya also has a range of other wildlife attractions, ranging from perennially popular and easily accessed reserves to more remote and secluded retreats. Our travel advice will ensure that you get the most out of your safari to Kenya.

Bear in mind that the Equator divides Kenya and the weather tends to be hot and humid, especially in summer.





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Foreign currencies such as the USD are widely accepted. However, please note that dollar bills printed before 2003 are **NOT** accepted in Kenya, as there was a large amount of illegal processing of dollar bills in the country at that time. **High denomination notes may also not be accepted.**

## BEST TIME TO TRAVEL

Kenya is a year-round safari destination with excellent game viewing throughout. Guests wanting to witness the famous Great Migration must plan their travel to Kenya well in advance, as the migration path does vary from one year to the next depending on rainfall.

## LANGUAGE

The official languages in Kenya are English and Swahili.

## USEFUL PHRASES IN SWAHILI

<i>Hello</i>	<i>Jambo</i>
<i>How are you?</i>	<i>Hujambo?</i>
<i>I am fine</i>	<i>Sijambo</i>
<i>You are welcome</i>	<i>Karibu</i>
<i>Thank you</i>	<i>Asante</i>
<i>Beautiful</i>	<i>Nzuri/Mzuri</i>
<i>Goodbye</i>	<i>Kwaheri</i>

## CURRENCY

The Kenyan shilling is divided into 100 cents. Notes are issued in denominations of 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1000 shillings. Coins are issued in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 20 and 40 shillings. 50 cent coins are available, but not commonly used.

Visa, MasterCard, Diners Club and American Express are accepted by most restaurants, shops and hotels. Proof of identity may be requested, so be sure to carry a passport or some form of photo identification at all times.





## TIME ZONE

Kenya standard time is GMT + 3 hours

## CLIMATE



The climate in Kenya is mainly characterised by warm days and cool evenings.

December to March are usually the warmest months of the year, while June to August are the coolest. April and May often see intermittent rains, and from September to November the days are warm with short scattered rains falling in November.



Temperature (F) - These are the average highs and lows

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
NBO	55/80	55/82	57/81	58/78	57/76	54/74	52/72	52/73	53/78	56/79	57/76	56/77
MARA	54/73	54/77	55/75	57/72	55/72	55/68	52/68	54/68	55/72	57/73	55/73	55/73

Average Rainfall (inches) - This varies according to the year and location

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
NBO	1.8	1.9	3.6	7.5	5.6	1.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	1.9	5	3.1
MARA	3.7	3.9	5.7	8.3	6.1	3.7	2.4	3.1	3.7	3.9	6.1	4.5

Rainfall Periods:

Apr - May

LONG RAINS

Nov - Mid Dec

SHORT RAINS

NBO

Nairobi

MARA

Masai Mara



# MASAI MARA SEASONS

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## RAINY SEASON

The wet season begins in November and goes on until May, but there are a couple of dry months in January and February. Days are often overcast, with showers in the afternoon, and chilly mornings with temperatures that hover around 55°F.

November & December – You will experience “short rains” throughout these months. Average afternoon temperatures are 81°F.

January & February – While there will be typically less rainfall in these two months, you can still expect some showers. The timing of this dry period varies but falls around this time.

March, April & May – These months are known for their long rains, with April as the wettest month thanks to the regular showers. Tracks become slippery and are not easy to navigate. Early mornings have an average temperature of 55°F.



## DRY SEASON

The dry season from June to October offers weather that's perfect for your safari and it's one of the best times to visit. You'll enjoy warm weather during the day, although there may be a shower or two at times and cold weather at night, given the different altitudes of Masai Mara. Visitors on early morning game drives will need warm clothes.

June, July & August – There are chances of rain in June, but mostly it's sunny and dry. Afternoon temperatures reach 77°F, but colder weather sets in during the evenings and early mornings when temperatures of around 54°F are normal.

September & October – It's still dry this time of year, with a chance of rain on some days. Temperatures can get a little warmer in October and hover around 81°F and higher but can decrease with rain. Expect chilly early mornings in these months as well.





## HEALTH

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For up to date information on the latest health and vaccination recommendations, please consult with a qualified health professional at least 6 weeks before your intended departure.

Anti-malarial medication is strongly recommended for all visitors to Kenya.

No vaccinations are currently required for entry into Kenya however if you are arriving (or planning to re-enter) from a country where yellow fever is endemic, then you are required to have a yellow fever vaccination. This vaccination is also recommended if you are travelling outside of urban areas.

Packing Tip:

- Malaria tablets
- Antihistamine tablets if you suffer from any allergies.
- Anti-nausea tablets if you suffer from motion sickness.
- Moisturizing cream, Lip balm and suntan lotion – SPF 20 or higher recommended.
- Basic medical kit (aspirin, band aids, Imodium, Pepto Bismol capsules, antiseptic cream and anti-histamine cream etc).

## PLASTIC BAN

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The government of Kenya has implemented a ban on plastic bags. The ban applies to “carrier and flat bags,” primarily targeting bags from shops and grocery stores, but also extending to Ziploc bags, duty-free bags and bubble wrap. If tourists have those types of bags visible while in the airport, they are likely to be confiscated. Bags designed for multiple use, such as zippered cosmetic bags, are not included in the ban.



## TRAVEL INSURANCE

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It is highly recommended that you take out adequate travel insurance at the time of confirming your booking. This should cover any medical situation (such as hospitalisation), as well as cancellation or curtailment of arrangements and loss of your baggage. When you travel with Premier Africa, you are automatically covered by our emergency evacuation insurance. This provides emergency medical services/evacuation to hospital should you suffer either severe illness or an injury whilst travelling with us. As this is for emergency evacuation only, it does not cover the cost of treatment once in hospital and in no way replaces your normal travel insurance, which must be purchased prior to travel.



## GRATUITIES



If you are travelling on an independent itinerary, the cost of your program may not include gratuities. Tipping is a very personal matter and should only be considered when our staff have gone above and beyond for you. Should you feel you would like to acknowledge their service, the below serves as a rough guide. An amount equivalent to the below scale is in US dollars, per person per day.



<b>Travelling host (if hosted trip)</b>	<b>\$15 per person per day</b>
<b>Safari driver-guides</b>	<b>\$15 per person per day</b>
<b>Local safari / City guides</b>	<b>\$20 per person per (full) day</b>
<b>Hot air balloon pilots</b>	<b>\$10 per person per day</b>
<b>Airport transfer drivers</b>	<b>\$5 per person per transfer</b>

<b>Hotel porters</b>	<b>\$2 per bag</b>
<b>Housekeepers</b>	<b>\$2 per person per night</b>
<b>Safari lodge staff*</b>	<b>\$10 per person per day*</b>
<i>*Gratuities shared among staff</i>	





# PASSPORT & VISA REQUIREMENTS

## PASSPORT

All foreign citizens wishing to travel to Kenya will need an evisa, which includes the USA and Canada.

Passports are required by all foreign visitors and must be valid for 6 months after the intended length of stay. Please ensure that you have at least 2 consecutive blank visa pages (not endorsement pages) in your passport. Our recommendation is 3 or even 4 blank pages if you are travelling through more than one country. If there is insufficient space in the passport then entry could be denied.



It is a good precaution to make copies of all your important documents such as the first pages of your passport and air tickets and keep these in a separate place for safekeeping.



## E-VISA

Please apply for an eVisa before arrival in Kenya. 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 will get it or not at the point of entry.

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 a dedicated website:

**<http://www.evisa.go.ke>**. Visa approval is done in real-time.

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.

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

The online payment of visa fee is in US dollars. Single entry visa USD \$51.





## PHOTOGRAPHY

Many travellers, viewing this as their “trip of a lifetime” for animal photography, bring more than one camera in case of a malfunction. Sun filters will help block glare and heat haze. A dustproof camera bag and an air brush will help protect your equipment from heavy dust. If you plan to travel with digital photographic and/or video equipment, make certain to pack the specific charging apparatus for each piece of equipment (as well as the appropriate socket plug adaptor and voltage converter if required).

When photographing people, especially members of the Maasai tribe, always ask permission first. Because so many local people are asked for permission to be photographed,

many will expect a tip or an outright fee for this. There are some places where photography is prohibited, and these areas are usually clearly marked.

The use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones) is not allowed in any of the conservation areas until such time as their impact on wildlife and anti-poaching initiatives can be assessed. This rule will apply throughout Africa, as our partners in various countries and regions have adopted a similar stance.



## LUGGAGE RESTRICTIONS



Maximum of 33 lbs of luggage per person is allowed for light aircraft flights, including hand luggage and camera equipment. It is important that you carry soft-sided bags (bags without wheels are allowed). It is highly recommended that you lock your luggage and do NOT pack valuable items in your checked luggage.

## WHAT TO PACK

As a general guide, comfortable and casual clothing that you can wash and wear is recommended while on safari. Muted colours are best for game viewing. Game drives are generally conducted in the early morning and the late afternoon, which can be cold, especially in winter. The temperature often warms up during the day, so it is best to dress in layers.

Clothing on safari should be comfortable and colours should blend in with nature as much as possible. Greens, browns and khaki coloured clothing are advisable. Evening dress in the lodges and camps is 'smart casual,' there is no formal wear required. We advise guests to dress in a way they feel most comfortable.

The most practical items to pack for your Kenya safari are:

- Clothes in khaki, green, beige and neutral colours
- Light cotton long sleeves shirts that offer protection from the sun and mosquitoes
- T-shirts
- Shorts or a light skirt
- Jeans or safari trousers for evenings and cooler days
- Jackets and sweaters for early morning and late afternoon game drives
- A lightweight waterproof jacket in case of rain
- Swimwear (for lodges and camps with swimming pools)
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat, insect repellent, moisturiser and lip salve
- Binoculars and camera equipment
- Fleece, sweater or warm jacket for morning and evening game drives

A complimentary laundry service is available at all safari lodges in Kenya.



It is best to avoid white clothing and dark colors for bush activities as they tend to attract certain bugs. Formal wear is not required at any of the lodges.