

# SAFARI IN KENYA



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# GENERAL INFORMATION

Geographically Kenya sits halfway down the East Coast of Africa, astride the equator. It is the most accessible country in the region. Home of the classic safari, Kenya has been a prime safari destination for many years.

Kenya's appealing world of attractions ranges from stunning landscapes, cultural diversity, adventure sports, and beautiful beaches to unique wildlife. It is fascinating from the sheer diversity of its many game parks. Kenya boasts as the only country in the world with a national park in the capital.

Kenya is a well-developed safari destination and most of its attractions are relatively easy to get to. There are regular flights into even the most remote destinations, although some isolated reserves may be hard to reach if you are hoping to travel by road and self-drive adventures are best left to experienced travelers who are familiar with Kenya. Bear in mind that the Equator divides Kenya and the weather tends to be hot and humid, especially in summer.

## Currency

Banking hours at most commercial banks are Monday to Friday from 09h00 to 15h00 and on the first and last Saturday of the month.

ATMs are found throughout Kenya's major city centres and shopping complexes.

The currency is the Kenyan Shilling, where KES1 is made up of 100 cents. Please check with your hotel for daily exchange rates. 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.

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.

## Safety

The usual safety guidelines apply – don't leave your luggage unattended and always keep your valuables close by or locked away. It is advised you check with your tour operator or hotel concierge - they will know if there are any potentially unsafe areas along your travel route. It is wise to avoid deserted areas, particularly at night. Dress-down (i.e. don't wear excessive jewellery) when exploring Africa's diverse cities. Concealed travel wallets are recommended.



## Photography

Please be sensitive when photographing people. Kenyans are renowned for being friendly; however it is courteous to ask permission before snapping away.

## Passport & Visa Requirements

As of 02. July 2015, anyone who requires a VISA to enter Kenya must apply for an eVisa via  
<https://immigration.ecitizen.go.ke/index.php?id=5>

This includes visas previously obtained at port of entry into Kenya. 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.

Where visas can be obtained at port of entry (excluding Kenya), fees are payable in USD or EUR cash only; we recommend small denominations as officials are not in the position to give change. Depending on nationality and country of origin, visa requirements may vary or change without notice. We advise checking with the appropriate consular authority prior to departure. Should the appropriate authority confirm that visas can be obtained on arrival, please ensure you have the applicable fee available.

## Plastic bag ban

Please note that since 2017 producing, selling and using of plastic bags in Kenya will risk imprisonment of up to four years or fines of \$40,000. Travel with an alternative bag or buy a nice basket in one of Kenya's hand craft market.

## Kenya's Climate

Kenya is located in East Africa on the equator and the weather is generally hot throughout the year, with humidity rising in the summer months. The climate along the coastline is tropical and characterized by higher rainfall and temperatures throughout the year. Further inland, the climate is described as arid and hot with less rainfall.

### Average summer temperatures (September to April)

Maximum: 34°C/194°F

Minimum: 20°C/68°F

### Average winter temperatures (May to August)

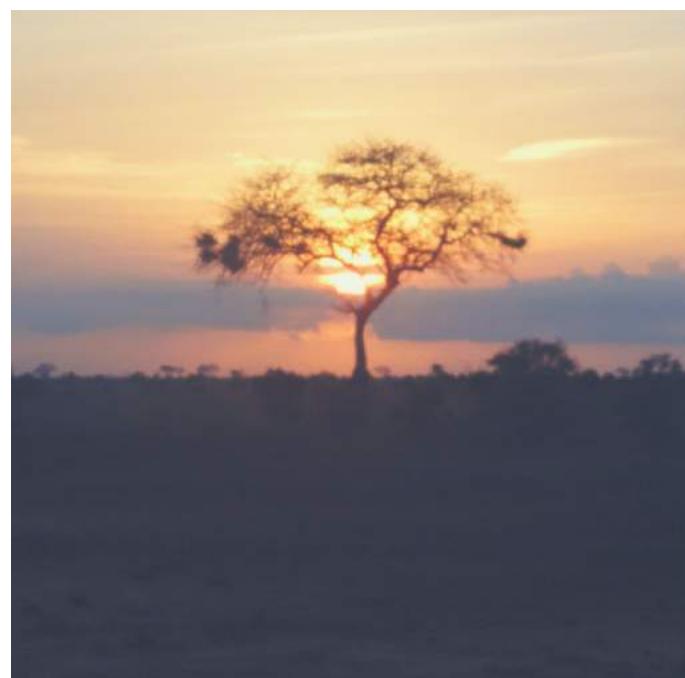
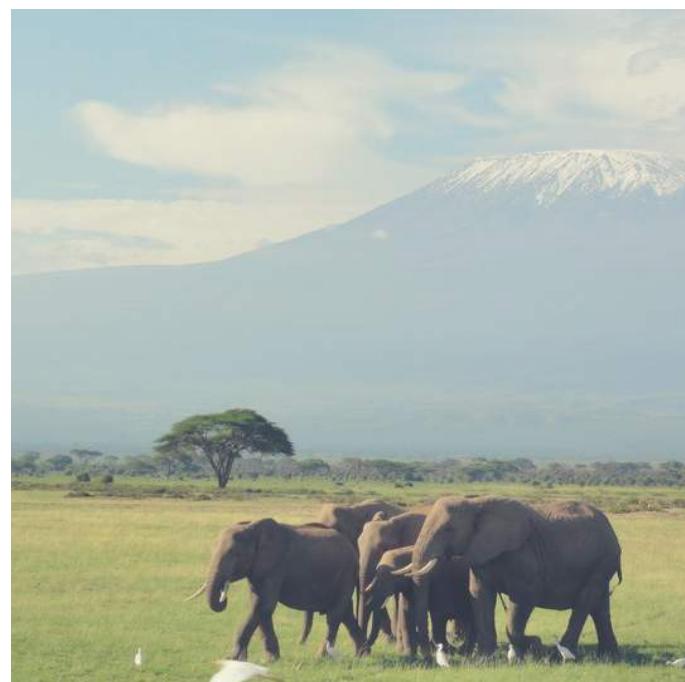
Maximum: 25°C/77°F

Minimum: 11°C/52°F

### Rainfall:

Long rains: April – May

Short rains: November



## **Clothings**

It is a good idea to bring mosquito repellent, sun cream, a hat, sunglasses, and malaria medication. Kenyan supermarkets are quite well stocked, but it never hurts to come prepared with these essentials. However, if you are going on Safari, as you get into the highlands, it gets cooler, and during the early morning and late evenings you may need a sweater and trousers/jeans. If you are in Mombasa, it is always warm so bring shorts, short sleeves, and your swimming gear. It is also advisable to have some smart clothes. Generally, in Mombasa you will not be expected to wear a tie, but some restaurants still require long trousers and shirt sleeves. Nairobi also gets quite cold in the evenings during the rainy season, making a sweater a welcome garment. Once again, it is advisable to bring some smart clothes for the evening.

## **June Travel**

In Kenya the “long” rains arrive with the south east monsoon winds. A wonderful time to be on safari – clear spectacular skies, fewer tourists, and the baby boom with many species giving birth in time for the lush vegetation. Birds are in their mating plumage, and wild flowers are in abundant bloom.

## **Electricity**

If you are depending on electric equipment, remember that electricity in lodges and camps may be generated locally, and generators switched off at night.

Electricity output is 250V and Kenya uses the British 3 pin plugs

## **Communications**

The Kenyan networks for mobile phones have expanded a lot during the last years, and cover most of the prime safari areas. Coverage may not be 100 %, though, and may vary depending on which mobile operator you have at home. Network failures do happen, even though they are not very common.

Most lodges and camps in the bush have phone connections via wire or satellite; calling is usually possible, if expensive. Since mobile phones were introduced, the radios used in safari vehicles mostly have limited range, usually not enough to get in touch with the cities.

## **Food**

Most of the hotels and lodges serve a buffet menu, served with desert to complete your meal. There are a few lodges and hotels that serve a set menu. Food in all the facilities is of international standard, prepared by well qualified chefs.

While water in major towns is chlorinated and relatively safe to drink, it is safer to drink sealed bottled water, available from most hotels, lodges and also sold in the local supermarkets.

## **Day Sample**

An average day begins at dawn with tea and a sunrise game drive. Back to the lodge for a wonderful breakfast with fresh baked breads, local coffee, and your choice of entrée. During the heat of the day when the wildlife is at rest you too may wish to relax around the pool. In the afternoon when the wildlife again comes alive, go out on an afternoon game drive. In certain areas full day game drives, a bush walk, night drive or other activity may be planned. In the evening, everyone gathers to exchange stories of the bush while enjoying beverages. Retire early, as tomorrow will bring...well we just don't know, but we can assure you it will be exciting!



# NATIONAL PARKS

## Tsavo East & West

The sight of dust-red elephant wallowing, rolling and spraying each other with the midnight blue waters of palm-shaded Galana River is one of the most evocative images in Africa. This, along with the 300 kilometer long Yatta Plateau, the longest lava flow in the world, make for an adventure unlike any other in the Tsavo East.

From the sight of fifty million gallons of crystal clear water gushing out of from the under parched lava rock that is the Mzima Springs to the Shetani lava flows, Tsavo West is a beautiful, rugged wilderness. The savannah ecosystem comprises of open grasslands, scrublands, and Acacia woodlands, belts of riverine vegetation and rocky ridges including the Poacher's Lookout where visitors can see the teeming herds in the plains below. Mzima Springs offers you the opportunity to watch aquatic life crocs, hippos, fish from the glass house.

## Amboseli

Amboseli with the majestic backdrop of Africa's highest mountain and the world's highest free standing mountain - Mt. Kilimanjaro- captures your imagination with it's huge herds of free roaming elephants. Despite its dry nature,- Amboseli means "salty dust" in Maa language there are numerous underground springs that keeps it's swamps filled throughout the year. Other than the wildlife, take time to sample the rich culture of the Maasai people.

## Maasai Mara

Land of the Big Cat diaries and Disney's Africa Cats, the Maasai Mara is at the top of most people's Africa Safari wish list. Apart from the 8th Wonder of the World – the annual migration of over 2 million animals through the plains - , Mara's mysteries are continuously unfolding to realize the kind of African dream we all dream of, watching a roaring lion, capturing a hunting Cheetah, listening to the hyena hunting calls at night plus the over 450 species of birds.

### **Samburu**

Dry, rugged and stunning. Samburu's landscape is wide and open extending all the way to the iconic Ololokwe mountain and hills ringing it. Life along the Ewaso niro river is both abundant and diverse. Here you will see some of the rare mammals like Gerenuk, Sable antelopes in addition to the big five. It is here where the chances of seeing a leopard in the wild is highest.

### **Laikipia**

Lying entirely in Northern part of Kenya. Laikipia extending from Mount Kenya is rich with wildlife, spectacular scenery running to the edges of the Great Rift Valley and extraordinary cultural diversity. Within it's ranges are the big five, as well as some of the worlds large population of endangered species like the Grevy Zebra and reticulated giraffes. It is here that we have the last remaining 8 individuals of the Northern White Rhino.

### **Meru**

Brilliant on a magnificent scale, the Meru and Kora sister parks feature luxuriant jungle, coursing rivers, verdant swamp, khaki grasslands and gaunt termite cathedrals all under the sky's great blue bowl. Little visited and utterly unspoilt, few places are comparable to the remote and rugged atmosphere found here. Visitors can see Grevy's zebras, elephants, Bohor reedbucks, hartebeests, pythons, puff adders, cobras, buffalos and more than 427 recorded species of birds.

# SAFARI EXPERIENCE! THINGS TO NOTE...

The reason for going on a safari is to experience the bush and the animals. Wild animals Some African mammals may become aggressive when faced, for example elephants, buffalos, hippopotamus, lions and leopards. Incidents involving these (or other) mammals do happen, but are very rare and can mostly be avoided by behaving wisely. When inside your safari vehicle, you're safe. When on foot, the basic rules are staying away from areas if you aren't sure that there are no animals, and staying away from animals that you do see. Any animal of some size may get aggressive if threatened, or if young ones or food are threatened. An animal may behave non-aggressive even though it knows you are there. If you are far enough away, it doesn't feel threatened by you. But if you move closer, this may change.

## **Animals in lodges**

You may meet animals, mainly such as monkeys and mongoose, on foot in lodges or tented camps. These animals are rarely dangerous, but they are wild, so keep your distance to them. Even if they behave as were they tame, they may use teeth and claws if feeling threatened. Also keep unattended doors and windows to your room closed, to prevent monkeys and ground squirrels from entering searching for food. Never venture outside the lodge or camp area. If you move within the lodge area at night, for example to see if you can spot some nocturnal animals, you may ask a watchman to escort you (tip him afterwards). Nights are less safe for you, even within the lodge (unless the lodge is fenced). Wild animals from the surrounding bush may enter the area at night, when the lodge is quiet.

## **Don't run from predators**

If you meet a large predator while on foot, don't run. Running may trigger the predator to give chase, and is also quite pointless, as the animal runs twice as fast as you. If there are two of you or more, move together closely; the predator may then see you as one big opponent, instead of a couple of small ones. In lodge and camp areas, a predator appearing is usually just passing through. Let it pass. Slowly back off. Then inform a watchman or other staff that there are predators around. A predator closing in on you should be told that you don't like it. Shout at it. Be dangerous. Pelt it with stones if it comes too close.

## **Walking safaris**

Meeting animals on foot is part of the walking safari concept. Most animals move away when they become aware of you, which usually happens at some distance. Walking safaris in wildlife areas should always be escorted by an armed ranger. If on foot close to lakes or rivers where crocodiles may be found, you should stay at least 5 m/yd away from the water's edge. Crocs have good camouflage, and may be hiding in the water to ambush prey approaching on land.



## **Snakes**

It is rare seeing snakes on safaris. Most snakes try to get out of your way when they notice you, so they are gone before you have a chance seeing them. But all don't, and as some East African species have strong or even deadly venoms, you should always look where you are walking and use a flashlight when walking outdoors at night.

Snakes don't bite because they are evil, but because they are frightened or feel threatened. For safety reasons, you should stay at least two snake lengths away from any snake you can't identify as harmless. For the reason of not disturbing the animal, you should back away even further.

Never try to handle a snake unless you know what you are doing. Seemingly dead snakes may not be dead at all, and should not be approached. And so on. In short, stay away from snakes. The only snakes that may regard humans as prey are very large pythons, but they are not seen very often. Don't leave children unattended where there are pythons around.

## **Other reptiles and amphibians**

There are no poisonous lizards or frogs in East Africa. The largest lizard, the Nile monitor, is shy but is capable of biting if cornered.

Wash your hands after handling reptiles or amphibians (but rather leave them alone).

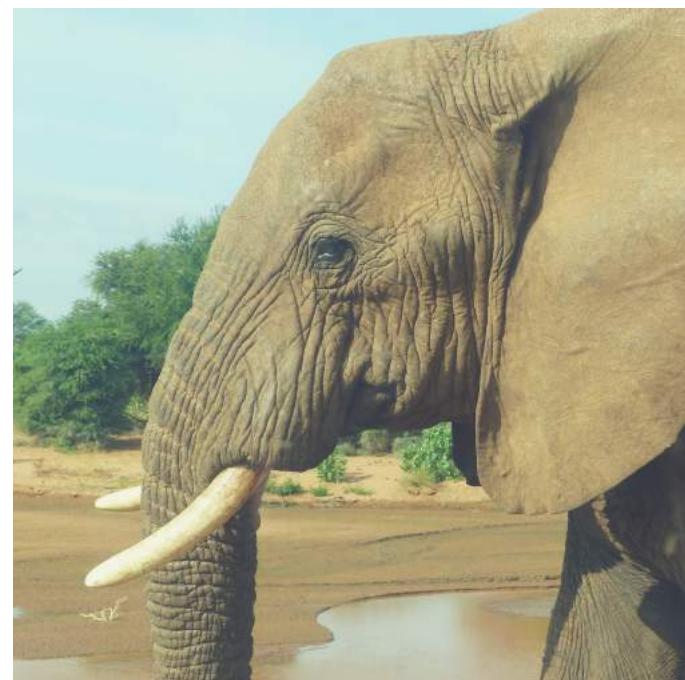
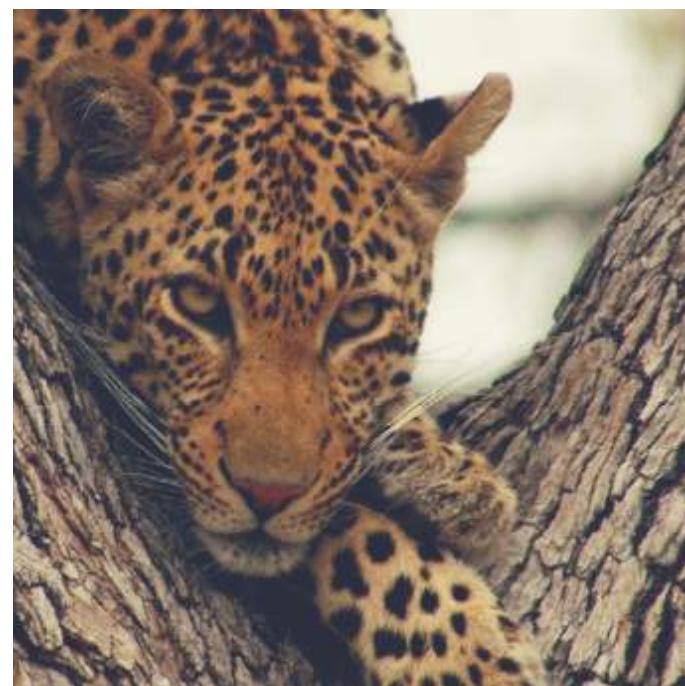
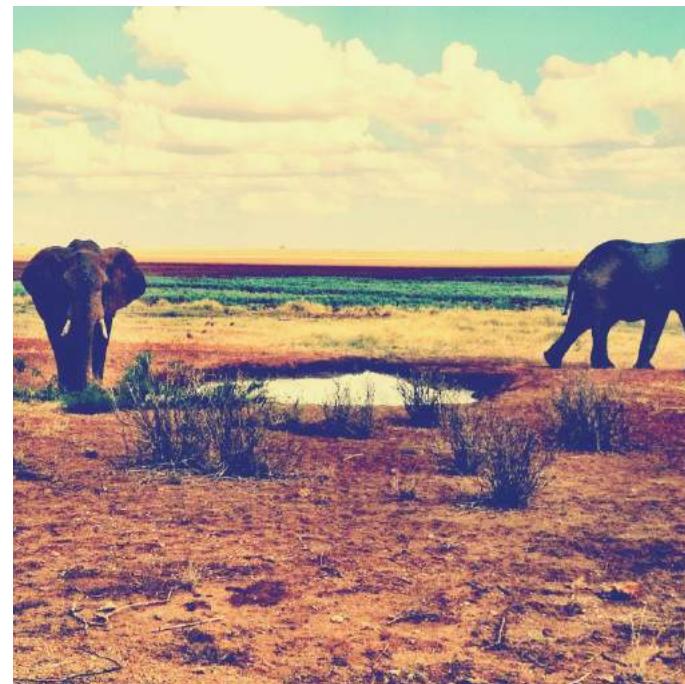
## **Insects and creeping things**

You don't see that many insects or creeping things during dry seasons. More appear during rainy seasons (including beautiful ones, such as butterflies). The same goes for mosquitoes, which by biting may infect you with malaria, a life-threatening disease unless properly treated.

Mosquitoes thrive in moist and warm areas, and are most common during rainy seasons, near rivers and lakes, and by the coast. The mosquitoes that may carry malaria are active at night.

Tsetse flies, which are active during daytime, may infect you with sleeping sickness. This is very rare to safari-goers, though. The bites hurt a lot, and are reason enough to kill or chase flies out of the vehicle.

Avoid storing food in your room or tent, as it may attract ants.



## Safari Wildlife Checklist



<b>Carnivores</b>	
Lion *	
Leopard *	
Cheetah	
Spotted Hyena	
Black-backed Jackal	
Golden Jackal	
Bat-eared Fox	
Banded Mongoose	

<b>Raptors</b>	
Tawny Eagle	
Fish Eagle	
Long-crested Eagle	
Martial Eagle	
Black Kite	

<b>Antelopes</b>	
Thomson's Gazelle	
Grant's Gazelle	
Impala	
Wildebeest	
Waterbuck	
Topi	
Hartebeest	
Dik Dik	
Reedbuck	
Eland	
Steinbok	
Klipspringer	
Kudu	
Oryx	

<b>Reptiles</b>	
Nile Crocodile	
Monitor Lizard	
Leopard Tortoise	

<b>Other hooved animals</b>	
Maasai Giraffe	
Zebra	
Elephant *	
Hippopotamus	
Buffalo *	
Warthog	
Rock Hyrax	
White Rhinoceros *	

<b>Birds</b>	
Ostrich	
Kori Bustard	
Bustard	
Secretary Bird	
Maribou Stork	
Crowned Crane	
Guinea Fowl	
Cattle Egret	
Hamerkop	
Yellow-billed Stork	
Saddle-billed Stork	
Sacred Ibis	
Flamingo	
Egyptian Goose	
Fisher's Lovebird	
Giant Kingfisher	
Grey-headed Kingfisher	
Lilac-breasted Roller	
Red & Yellow Barbet	
Ground Hornbill	
Masked Weaver	
Superb Starling	
Ruppell's Griffon Vulture	
Lappet-faced Vulture	
White-headed Vulture	
White-backed Vulture	

<b>Primates</b>	
Baboon	
Vervet Monkey	
Sykes/Blue Monkey	
Black & White Colobus	
Bushbaby	

\* The Big 5