

TRAVEL PLANNING FOR KENYA

Stress free travel

We have a dedicated sales team at our head office in Nairobi who can help you plan all aspects of your travel around **Kenya**. This document offers further advice on **health planning** as well as **what to pack**.



Passport and visas

Visa requirements may be subject to change at any time - check before you travel!

A **return ticket** must be shown and your passport must be **valid for 6 months** after your stay. Only a few small Commonwealth countries are exempt from visas. All other nationalities requiring a visa (including European Union, British, Australians and US citizens) are also advised to have **at least three blank pages** available in their passport on arrival.

It is possible to obtain a visa ahead of time through Kenya's online e-visa system www.evisa.go.ke. Otherwise, all eligible nationalities can obtain a tourist visa on arrival at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, and the country's border crossings with Uganda and Tanzania, although you may have to queue for a while. Visas cost US \$50 / €40 / £30 and are valid for 3 months from the date of entry (try and have the exact amount ready for payment and note that credit cards are **not accepted**).

Your health

If you are planning to travel to East Africa, you should consult your GP before travel.

IMMUNIZATIONS AND VACCINATIONS: No vaccinations are mandatory for entry into Kenya, however certain inoculations and malaria tablets are recommended and you should consult your medical practitioner **at least 6 weeks** before you travel. For further information, please see the latest recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (www.cdc.gov)

Yellow Fever vaccinations (supported by a certificate) **are required** for travel if you are traveling from/between a Yellow Fever endemic country/ies. We strongly recommend seeking information from Yellow Fever a health authority in your country of residence well before your travel dates.

MALARIA PREVENTION: Protect yourself from the risk of malaria in two simple ways:

Physical prevention: Always wear long sleeved shirts, trousers, socks and closed shoes after sunset. Use a mosquito repellent with a minimum of 30 percent DEET after sunset on any **exposed** areas of your skin. Your room stewards will spray your room/tent after sunset to kill any mosquitoes that may have entered. Sleep under a mosquito net (note that our safari tents act as large enclosed mosquito nets and we therefore don't require additional nets over the beds). You will find a cannister of insect spray in your room/tent at all our properties, should you need it at any stage.

Drug prevention: If you will be traveling to a malarial zone, it is advisable to take anti-malaria pills. Please follow the prescription as given to you by your doctor.

We have a **full time** camp doctor based at Governors' Camp in the Masai Mara should you feel ill at any point. If you fall ill whilst staying in our other properties please inform the manager who can call a nearby doctor.

Health tips

Remember to keep hydrated by drinking plenty of water and apply a **high factor** sunscreen whilst on safari.





Security

Your safety is of utmost importance to us. Whilst you travel with us you can rest assured that you are in good hands. Our camps and lodges all employ a team of day and night guards who are always on call and will escort you to and from your rooms to keep you **safe**.

Water

All of our camps and lodges have systems of **reverse osmosis** filtration installed and it is from these systems that all of your **drinking water** is derived. We would strongly encourage you to pack your own **reuseable** water bottle which can be refilled as often as you like. Alternatively you will be provided with a Governors' Camp Collection branded metal bottle at the first of our camps/lodges that you arrive at.

Tipping

Tipping is customary in Kenya though not mandatory. Please speak to the camp manager if you would like advice on tipping guidelines for the camp/lodge staff or for your safari guide (guides are usually tipped separately from the rest of the staff).

Photography

We understand that you will want to take as many pictures of your holiday as possible, but before you begin to take pictures of houses or people, ask for their **permission**. In some cases, you may be required to offer a tip for those pictures. Your guide is the best person to ask for advice.

Wild animals

Never approach or attempt to feed a wild animal, even if they appear harmless. You may hear sounds outside your tent or room during the night - do not be alarmed! Animals do not understand the concept of a hollow tent and they will simply move around it as if it were a boulder or mass of another kind. Please do not step outside your tent or room at any stage to investigate, during the night.

Charity and donations

Many visitors to Africa feel a strong urge to help the less fortunate whom they encounter on safari, or when visiting a local village or school. It is best to seek an appropriate opportunity to buy gifts or supplies while you are traveling, rather than carrying them along from home.

Many of our camps and lodges are actively involved in working with their local communities to sustain schools, clinics and other projects. Ask about this when you are there and visit the school, clinic or project if you can. A donation to something you have seen on the ground will bring you more satisfaction (and directly help the neediest).

Resist the temptation to offer 'hand outs' to kids on the side of the road. This only encourages dependency on such generosity and teaches these children that begging brings reward. There is no dignity in begging and the harassment it fosters will not endear you to the next group of tourists either! A rather fun idea is to gift a football (soccer ball). Africans love soccer yet not all the children have a ball with which to play.

Voltage

Voltage in Kenya is 220/240 volts AC, 50Hz. All rooms/tents have electricity for lighting and universal electrical sockets in the tents which can charge mobile phones and camera batteries. The sockets in tents will **not** support hairdryers - please ask a manager about this.

Money

The local currency is Kenya shillings but US dollars are widely accepted, and are accepted at all hotels, lodges and camps. Most properties (including Governors' Camp Collection) will accept card payments from **major credit cards** - Visa and Mastercard. We suggest that you carry a combination of cash (preferably US\$ and Kenya Shillings) as a 'just in case'. Small notes are helpful for paying bills or tipping porters etc.

International telephone + WiFi

The dialling code for Kenya is +254. Kenya has quite a widespread mobile network with an extensive range of 4G and 3G. Our properties all have WiFi in the main areas.

Cimate

In the Masai Mara and Lake Naivasha, the mornings and evenings can be quite chilly. During the day it can warm to 30 degrees and, being near the equator and at altitude, the sun can feel quite strong. Do bring sunscreen and a hat. A light long sleeve shirt will provide good protection from the sun.

Laundry service

Governors' Camp Collection offers **complimentary** laundry services throughout our properties with a 12-24hr turnaround. This is **not a specialist service** and garments requiring special care should not be sent to the laundry. ** Note that we do not wash any underwear due to cultural reasons but bras will be laundered if needed. Laundry powder is provided in guest bathrooms incase you need to wash your own underwear.

Luggage restrictions

When travelling between our camps you will most likely find yourself on a light aircraft at some point. Due to **strict weight and space restrictions** airline staff must insist that you comply with the following:

- **Baggage allowance is strictly 15 Kgs (34lbs) per passenger, inclusive of hand luggage in soft bags.**
- **Excess baggage will be charged at prevailing rates and only carried subject to space availability.**

If you arrive with oversized/overweight baggage you will be asked to repack into suitable bags which comply with internal airline regulations. Please bear this in mind when you are packing for your trip with us as failure to do so may result in a delayed departure or even a missed flight. When flying with Governors' Aviation we offer **storage facilities** for any **excess** luggage at our office at Wilson Airport, for collection on your return to Nairobi.





Suggested packing list

The dress code on safari is relaxed and the secret to successful safari packing is 'less is more'.

We recommend that you wear long trousers and take a light long sleeved sweater on the game drives as it can get chilly - it's best to make use of **layers**! In the evenings it is wise to cover up so as to protect yourself from any mosquitoes or bugs. Depending upon how long you are travelling for, you may wish to adjust quantities and items to suit your needs. The below is an outline of what we **suggest** you bring.

CLOTHING

2 x pair lightweight trousers (khaki or similar muted colors).

1 x pair of jeans or 'smart casual' evening attire trousers.

2 x pairs shorts.

3 x t-shirts.

1 x long sleeved t-shirt or turtleneck.

1 x or 2 short sleeved shirts or blouses.

1 x light to medium weight cardigan, fleece or pullover for evenings/early mornings.

1 x wind breaker or light jacket.

1 x pair of comfortable closed-in shoes (trainers or similar), flip flops (optional).

Underwear and socks for 3 - 5 days

Sleep wear (light weight sweats double up nicely).

Sunglasses and sunhat.

Swimwear - if visiting Loldia House, Mfangano Island Camp or Mugie House.

**** Please note** that we provide the following in rooms: towels and dressing gowns.

TOILETRIES: Sunblock, face cream and lip balm with a good SPF, mosquito repellent. **Please note** that we provide the following across **our** camps and lodges: shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, body wash, hand wash, cotton buds, cotton wool & laundry powder (Please bring your own toothbrush, toothpaste and ladies sanitary items).

ELECTRONICS: A small flashlight or torch (we do provide these in your room), power bank and various charging cables that you require (you can also charge your electronics in your room - through USB and multi-socket charging ports), camera, spare batteries and extra memory cards, and binoculars (especially if you have a keen interest in birds). Binoculars are available for hire at USD 10 per day from Governors' Camp & Little Governors' Camp. Guests at Il Moran will be issued with one pair per tent for the duration of their stay. **Please note** that we provide hairdryers in guest rooms where they can be supported eg Loldia House & Sabyinyo (Rwanda). In all our other properties, we provide hairdryers from the main reception desk to be used in **specific areas** which can support high powered appliances (please ask a manager).

OTHER ITEMS TO CONSIDER: A good book to read, a deck of cards or other travel friendly sized games, your own **reusable** water bottle (please help us minimise plastic!)

Please note

We can help with any other safari or beach destinations as part of your wider itinerary in East Africa. We can also book your 'meet and greet' at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, your road transfers within Nairobi as well as your transfers to Wilson Airport - the domestic airport serving most regional flights within Kenya. We are more than happy to book your city hotels and excursions on your behalf - just enquire!

If you have any questions or concerns about travel to Kenya or your stay with us, please do not hesitate to email us on info@governorscamp.com

