

Asilia
GENUINE SAFARIS | GENUINE DIFFERENCE



PRE-DEPARTURE TRAVEL GUIDE FOR

Kenya



CONTENTS

General information	3
Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA)	4
Health care	4
Food and water	5
Money	5
Climate	6
Dress code	7
Flights and luggage	8
Keeping in touch	8
Public holidays	9
Electricity	9
Tipping and gratuities	10
National parks	10
Contact details	13

GENERAL INFORMATION

Located in the heart of Africa, Kenya shares borders with the Indian Ocean to the east and five countries: Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania. The Great Rift Valley runs through the country from north to south.

The country is named after Mount Kenya, Africa's second-highest peak, and is also home to Lake Victoria, the second-largest freshwater lake in the world.

Thousands of visitors flock to Kenya every year, attracted by the stunning landscapes that sweep the country, from the beautiful white sand beaches of the Indian Ocean to the arid deserts on the lakeshores to the rolling plains of the Masai Mara.

The national parks of Kenya are home to thousands of animal species and The Great Migration of millions of wildebeest from the Serengeti in Tanzania into the Masai Mara in Kenya, across the pulsing Mara River, is one of the greatest spectacles on earth.

The predominant religion in Kenya is Christianity, however, other faiths practised include Bahá'í, Hinduism, Islam and traditional African religions. Swahili and English are the official languages of the country, however, the many indigenous languages are still spoken widely.

Throughout the country, old cultures meld with new, and ancient traditions sit alongside modern customs in a country that truly is a thriving multi-cultural centre.

FACT BOX

Capital City:	Nairobi
Landmass:	528 000 km ²
Population:	c. 45 million
Currency:	Kenyan Shilling (Ksh) & US\$
Dialling code:	+254
Time zone:	GMT + 3 hours

If you are interested in learning Swahili, we can recommend *The Rough Guide Phrasebook: Swahili*. It will always come in handy and your efforts will be appreciated by those you meet. Alternatively, ask the people you meet along the way — they will be more than happy to teach you some of the local phrases.

PLASTIC BAGS

Kenya has made it illegal to produce, sell and use plastic bags. Please pack eco-friendly bags for your trip.

Please note, if you are planning to travel to Tanzania from Kenya, Tanzania has also implemented a plastic bag ban.



ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORISATION

All travellers, including infants and children, are required to apply for Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) online via the official website before their arrival. Only citizens of Kenya and East African Community (EAC) partner states are exempted.

The eTA fee is US\$32.50 per traveller, plus bank and processing fees. US\$34 in total. Submissions for the eTA can be made up to 90 days prior to travel. They cannot be obtained on arrival.

If clients are transiting in Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta Airport on international flights, we recommend booking all the flights on the same ticket to ensure that their luggage can be checked all the way through. Should clients be required to pass through

immigration in Jomo Kenyatta Airport to collect their luggage, and check in again for their second flight, we recommend applying for the ETA as this does not constitute as airside transit. In this case, the Asilia Nairobi office can be used as their accommodation location.

To find out more, please see:

<https://www.etakenya.go.ke/en>

Entry requirements:

- a passport that is valid for a minimum of six months beyond your intended departure date and with two blank consecutive pages
- onward travel documents

HEALTH CARE

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 repellent, sleep under a mosquito net and wear a long-sleeved shirt and long trousers with closed shoes in the evenings.

VACCINATIONS AND YELLOW FEVER

For all vaccinations, please consult a medical professional at least six weeks before your date of departure. The rules change regularly and Asilia cannot be held responsible for this information.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

Good medical facilities and pharmacies are available in the major cities, however we advise that you bring your own small medical kit as camps and lodges may have limited supplies (painkillers, cough drops etc). Asilia automatically organizes for all guests to be covered by a medical evacuation scheme and, in the case of a medical emergency, you will be evacuated to a nearby hospital.



FOOD AND WATER

Hotels, camps and lodges should provide either bottled water or filtered water for drinking. Please do not drink the tap water. Avoid food and drink from

backstreet vendors and under no circumstances should you bathe in rivers or lakes.

MONEY

The currency in Kenya is the Kenya Shilling (Ksh), however US\$ can be used as a currency as well. Please note that dollars printed before 2006 are not accepted. 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, and at all Asilia Camps, 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 9 am to 3 pm, Monday to Friday.



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. The below charts can be used as a rough guideline for temperature and rainfall in Nairobi and Mombasa, but please be aware that climate can vary dramatically depending on altitude and proximity to the ocean.

Average monthly rainfall (inches) – varies according to location												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Nairobi	2.1	2	3.9	9	7.5	1.8	0.7	1	1.2	2.1	6	4.2
Mombasa	1.2	0.5	2.1	6	9.5	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.4	4	4	3.5

Average monthly temperature (°F) – highs and lows												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Nairobi	50/77	50/80	55/80	57/78	54/75	52/72	50/70	50/70	50/75	55/77	58/77	57/79
Mombasa	75/90	75/90	75/90	75/88	73/83	70/82	65/81	65/81	65/81	68/85	72/88	72/90



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 fine to wear shorts and shirts or beachwear.

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 tsetse flies and are best avoided, as are bright colours like yellow, red and purple if you are going on safari.

WHAT TO PACK

- Layers — long and short sleeve shirts and trousers
- Warm fleece or jumper
- Lightweight waterproof jacket
- Comfortable but sturdy shoes
- Flip-flops
- Swimming costume
- Hat or baseball cap
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen — a must
- Toiletries — most camps will provide shampoo, shower gel and soap
- Small torch
- Spare batteries, plug adaptors and charging equipment
- Good pair of binoculars
- Books or a fully loaded Kindle/iPad for siesta time





INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

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.

LUGGAGE

Many international airlines have a luggage allowance of 20 kilograms (44 lbs.) or more per person, but please check this with your individual airline. Please be advised that on light aircraft flights, luggage is limited to one soft-sided bag per person with a maximum weight of 15 kilograms. (33 lbs.) No hardshell bags are permitted.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Email, internet and fax facilities are available in the bigger towns and at major hotels. City hotels will also have an international dialling service. Some of the lodges and camps may have limited internet access but this is not always guaranteed, and most will not have cell phone signal.

If you intend to stay for a longer period of time in Kenya, our advice would be to buy a local sim card, which you can top up with local currency. These cards can be bought almost everywhere and we recommend Safaricom or Zain as providers. However, we also recommend that you enjoy the bush and forget about time and all modern ways of communication.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS *(dates below are from 1 June 2024 - 31 May 2025)*

• Madaraka Day	1 June	• Christmas Day	25 Dec.
• Eid al-Adha	16 June	• Boxing Day	26 Dec.
• Utamaduni Day	10 Oct.	• New Year's Day	1 Jan.
• Mashujaa Day	21 Oct.	• Good Friday	18 April
• Diwali	1 Nov.	• Easter Monday	21 April
• Jamhuri Day	12 Dec.	• Labour Day	1 May

ELECTRICITY

Electricity is available at 220/240 volts AC, 50 Hz. Primary Socket Type: British BS-1363 (British Standard). Adaptor plugs will be available in some lodges but we advise that you bring at least one with you. Please be aware that the power supply is subject to cuts and voltage fluctuation even in major cities.

On safari, most of the lodges are powered by generators or solar panels and these are often

turned off during parts of the day and night to reduce noise and fuel consumption. Due to the high power usage, many safari camps do not allow use of hairdryers.

Please also note that in some camps and lodges, power sockets for charging are only available in the main area. Please ask if you require more details on this.



TIPPING AND GRATUITIES

In Africa, it is customary — but not obligatory or mandatory — to give tips to service staff in gratitude for good service. Gratuities can be increased or decreased depending on the level of service you are given. If you are pleased with the service you receive, you are more than welcome to tip our staff or your guide in our various camps and lodges.

A guideline for tipping:

- US\$10 for a transfer per couple per day (consider increasing if you have had extensive help with your luggage)
- US\$25 per couple per day for general staff at the camp or lodge
- US\$25 per couple per day for a guide
- US\$20 per couple per day for a host

Tipping is usually done at the end of your safari, and you are welcome to tip individual staff or place tips in the gratuity box, usually located in the main mess area. Tips from the gratuity box are distributed among all camp staff. Tips for guides should be directly handed to them at the end of the safari.

Tips can be made in the local currency, US Dollar, Euro or Pound Sterling.

NATIONAL PARKS IN KENYA

Kenya has 54 national parks and game reserves. The national parks are managed by the Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS), who are also responsible for protecting all Kenya wildlife animals and species.

Kenya's national reserves, on the other hand, are managed by the local county councils within their jurisdiction.



MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

The most visited of Kenya's reserves is the Masai Mara National Reserve. It offers breathtaking views and world-class game viewing opportunities year-round. Situated in the southwest of Kenya and forming part of the Serengeti ecosystem, The Mara is the best park in Kenya from which to enjoy the spectacular the Great Migration.

Asilia Camps: Rekeru

THE MARA NABOISHO CONSERVANCY

Located adjacent to the Masai Mara National Reserve, this private conservancy is a ground-breaking example of tourism benefiting conservation and community. With its high concentration of wildlife and generous personal space on offer, visitors can enjoy exceptional wildlife encounters whilst also contributing to the conservation of the ecosystem.

Asilia Camps: Naboisho and Encounter Mara

OL PEJETA CONSERVANCY

The Ol Pejeta Conservancy is a 360 km² non-profit wildlife conservancy in Central Kenya's Laikipia County. It is situated on the equator

west of Nanyuki, between the foothills of the Aberdares and Mount Kenya. The Ol Pejeta Conservancy works to conserve wildlife, provide a sanctuary for great apes and to generate income through wildlife tourism, conservation and community development.

The Conservancy boasts the largest black rhino sanctuary in East Africa. It also houses the two remaining northern white rhino in the world as well as a population of southern white rhino. The Sweetwaters Chimpanzee Sanctuary is situated here, and provides a haven for orphaned, abandoned and rescued chimpanzee. It is also the only place in Kenya where these great apes can be seen.

Asilia Camps: Ol Pejeta Bush Camp

AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK

Amboseli is Kenya's most popular park after the Mara. Located 258 kilometres from Nairobi, it offers a stunning view of both Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Meru. In addition to the beautiful sunsets and sunrises, guests can enjoy an eclectic array of animals and wildlife habitats from atop The Observation Hill.



NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK

Nairobi National Park is a major attraction for visitors to Nairobi, offering them a chance to enjoy Kenya's wildlife from within the city. Located less than 16 kilometres from the city itself, the national park is also a rhino sanctuary and guests can enjoy buffalo, zebra and wildebeest sightings as well as a host of birdlife.

TSAVO EAST NATIONAL PARK

Now separated from the original Tsavo, Tsavo East is popular with tourists from Kenya's coast. Less than 160 kilometres from Mombasa, it is served by several airstrips and guests can see the infamous "Man-Eaters of Tsavo" lions, as well as elephant, rhino and a variety of other bird and wildlife.

TSAVO WEST NATIONAL PARK

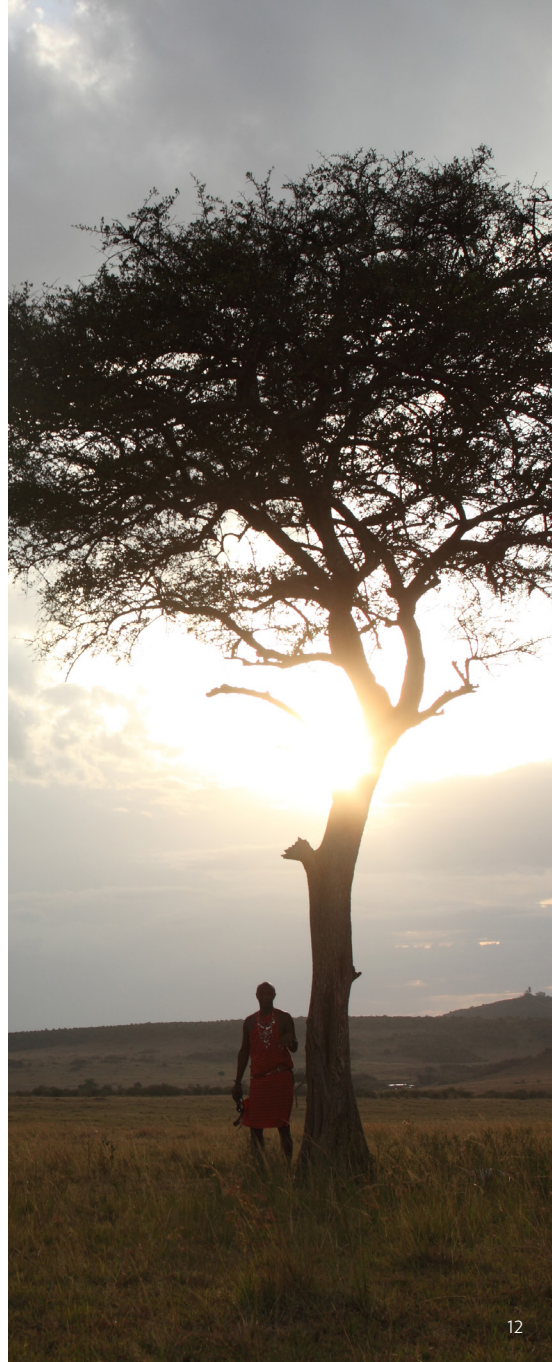
Occupying 30 percent of Kenya's total park area, Tsavo West is one of the largest parks in Kenya. It is easily accessible from the Mombasa-Nairobi highway and borders Tanzania to the south. Tsavo West offers tremendous views of a landscape packed with diverse wildlife habitats: rocky ridges, acacia woodlands, isolated hills, semi-desert scrubs and mountain forest.

LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

153 kilometres northwest of Nairobi, Nakuru is famous for the pink flamingoes that inhabit the lake, alongside white rhino and over 400 bird species.

SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE

Located in the Samburu District, the Samburu Reserve is a rugged, semi-desert park that has remained almost undisturbed by mankind. The reserve is home to the rare northern rhino, gerenuk, Grevy's zebra and reticulated giraffe.





CONTACT DETAILS

We hope you have found this information on Kenya useful. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your travel consultant or visit our website

www.asiliaafrica.com

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Below are our emergency contact numbers for when you are travelling in Kenya. You can call these numbers 24 hours a day for any issues. Please take them with you when you travel.

SAFARI OPERATIONS KENYA

Emergency Numbers: +254 790 406 230 or +254 713 399 018

And of course, you can also reach the Cape Town office on +27 21 418 0468 during office hours.