

Amazing Africa

Bespoke Safari Specialists

PREPARE FOR SAFARI

From the combined experience of guide and clients we have put together some useful formation to help planning your safari to East Africa.

KENYA VISA

Visa for entry into Kenya can be obtained at the airport where forms are available on arrival at Immigration. All one is required to do is fill out the form and present it to the Immigration Officer along with your passport and cash US\$50.00 (Ensure you have the exact change.) Cash US\$ notes below 1999 are not accepted in Kenya.

CURRENCY

The local currency in Kenya is shillings. US dollars are also widely accepted at hotels, camps and lodges. US\$ notes below year 1999 are not accepted in Kenya. If you are bringing US\$ make sure they are from year 2000 up. It is very easy to exchange your cash dollars for Kenya shillings at the forex bureaus in Nairobi, which will give a better rate than exchanging at a bank or at the airport.

CREDIT CARDS

The only credit cards accepted in Kenya are Mastercard and Visa. However, these usually incur a surcharge.

CLOTHES

Carry a change of clothes in your hand luggage in case your bags get lost during air travel. Comfortable, casual, cotton clothing is recommended for your travels in tropical Africa as the organic material allows your skin to breath, in the hot, humid climate. While on safari try to avoid bright colours. Trousers or long skirts are recommend after dark to stop the mosquitoes biting. And a sweater is also advisable as evenings and early mornings can be chilly. Many hotels, lodges and camps have swimming pools so be sure to carry some swimwear. A packet of 'wet-ones' and a sun proof hat can protect you from the heat and dust. A pair of sturdy, comfortable walking shoes are highly recommended, with sandals for time by the pool and around the camp. While in East Africa always remember you are a guest in another country so please respect the culture and religion by wearing appropriate clothing.

PERSONAL ITEMS

- 1 litre water bottle (essential)
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Shampoo & hair conditioner
- Deodorant
- Comb/ hair brush, nail brush
- Razor & blades (preferable battery operated shaver)
- Sun lotion/ After Sun
- Lip balm with sunscreen
- Hand cream & Moisturising Cream
- Insect repellent
- Tissues or disposable moist tissues (eg Wet Ones)
- Large Plastic bag to pack wet/ dirty clothing *Please note plastic carrier bags are banned in Kenya.
- Sunglasses or Spectacles (if worn)
- Pen for immigration formalities
- 1 note book
- Map of Kenya (Normally available at local shops)

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LUGGAGE

Luggage Space for luggage is very limited on safari. Weight allowance on local internal flights is 15 kilos. Soft duffel bags are ideal as hard bodied suitcases make packing in vehicles and light aircraft a nightmare. A small handbag or day pack is essential for holding money, digital cameras, water, and travel documents inside the safari vehicle.

MEDICAL

We suggest that you take along the following:-

- Plasters
- Aspirins/ paracetamol
- Anti-diarrhea pills and laxatives (consult your pharmacist for advice)
- Antiseptic cream
- Insect bite cream
- Eye drops
- Anti-malaria tablets (consultant your local travel clinic)
- Any other medicines & toiletries you regularly use
- Re-hydrate powder/ sachets

CAMERA & VIDEO

A camera or video camera is considered an essential part of any safari. With digital cameras one can take hundreds of pictures at very little cost. When planning on how much film or what size memory card to take always double it then double it again. The same goes for the batteries. Before recharging batteries at camps and lodges always check with the Camp Manager first as many camps run on generator which may harm your equipment.

Taking pictures of people in East Africa usually is OK but always ask permission before taking a photograph of the locals (eg the Maasai) as in many cases, payment is expected.

Kindly ensure you keep all your equipment (camera, video camera, mobile phone) with great safety from theft.

BINOCULARS

A pair of Binoculars is suggested when on safari, though not a must.

WATER

Water is a very precious commodity in Africa, therefore please use it sparingly, especially for baths.

It is advisable to always drink mineral water from sealed bottles as tap water may be untreated from bore holes. All camps and lodges provide bottled water for drinking and brushing your teeth.

VOLTAGE

In Kenya the standard voltage is 240 V and the frequency is 50 Hz. You can use your electric appliances in Kenya, if the standard voltage in your country is in between 220 - 240 V (as is in the UK, Europe, Australia and most of Asia and Africa). Manufacturers take these small deviations into account. If the standard voltage in your country is in the range of 100 V - 127 V (as is in the US, Canada and most South American countries), you need to use a voltage converter. Sockets in Kenya are the 3-pin square type sockets. You can also consider a combined power plug adapter/voltage converter.

IMPORTANT

- Please dress appropriately (no bare feet, bare chests, no bikini tops)
- While on a game drive, please be very silent as noises can disturb/intimidate animals.
- Greetings can be expressed with Jambo (hello) or Habari Gani (How are you)
- Kindly understand or ask all rules & regulations while on safari from your tour guide
- Tips can be offered and considered generous but please do not attempt to bribe as it is considered a crime
- Plastic carrier bags (including plastic bags from Duty Free) are banned in Kenya. Please do not bring any plastic bags.