

***Our safari operator looking after you in Kenya is - Bush and Beyond**

Tel: +254 (020) 6000457, 6005108, 6005980
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Pre departure safari notes:

Travel Documents:

Passports: should be valid for at least six months after your date of entry to Kenya, and have at least two blank pages for the visa and entry / departure stamps.

Visas: All visitors from countries that require a Visa to enter Kenya should now apply for the Visa online from the E-Visa portal - <http://evisa.go.ke/evisa.html>. As of 1st November 2017, it is still possible to obtain a Visa on arrival.

Applicants are required to follow the three stages indicated on the E-Visa website, namely:

- 1 Register in order to activate their account.
- 2 Fill the application form (includes providing a photo and passport copy) and pay online using a debit or credit card.
- 3 Download and print the E-Visa (PDF form) for presentation at the Port of entry.

Key Points to note: -

- 4 The 90-Day Visa Validity commences from the date of E-Visa approval. Not of date of arrival into Kenya.
- 5 The E-Visa Portal is mobile enabled and one can complete the application from a mobile phone – including taking and uploading a picture from the phone.
- 6 It should take between 12 - 48hours to receive the E-Visa approval.
- 7 Applicants can upload their tour itinerary and not necessarily an “invitation letter”.
- 8 The Single Entry Visa to Kenya allows for **free re-entry to Kenya** as long as one is travelling within the East African Community countries.
- 9 The EAC Tourist Visa allowing travel to Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda is not available online. This can only be applied for and issued on arrival at the Airport.

Plastic Bag Ban: Kenya banned the use of plastic bags in August 2017 and the regulations are very strict with heavy penalties for not adhering to the law. You are **NOT** permitted to leave the Arrivals area of any Kenyan

International Airport with any plastic bags, and this includes bags in which Duty Free goods are packed. On arrival, please ensure you remove everything packed in plastic and pack them in your bags.

Immunisation Card: with all vaccinations recorded (The Yellow International Immunisation Card) should be carried with your passport. Visitors continuing their safaris to Tanzania and Zanzibar, or South Africa are also required to have a Yellow Fever vaccination by those countries.

Travel Insurance Policy: keep with your travel documents.

We recommend a photocopy of each of these travel documents be kept in a separate place, just in case the originals are lost on safari.

Weather in East Africa

Because of Kenya's location on the equator, there are no extremes of winter and summer. The elevation of Nairobi is 5,500 feet with most of your safaris conducted at elevations of 4,500 feet or more above sea level. The nights are cool, (15 - 20 C) and days ranging 25-30 C. The rainy season is from April to the end of May with the short rains in November. The coolest months are July and August and the warmest months are the end of December to mid-March.

Guest Body Weight and Luggage

The luggage limit on internal flights for both checked luggage and hand luggage is 33 pounds or 15 kgs. Bring one medium size *soft* duffel bag (or two small to medium size duffel bags). Your hand luggage should include your camera equipment, toiletries and one change of clothes. **Important:** Please *do not bring hard suitcases as these are difficult to pack in small aircraft*. For safety reasons, it is important that we have guests' body weight when travelling on internal flights. As each aircraft has a specific payload, the airline may ask a heavy guest to buy a 'freight' seat.

Clothing

What to pack: Kenya is casual. As there is lots of dust, khaki is always a good colour to bring.

The best method of dress is layering. Early morning and evening game drives call for a sweater/fleece or windbreaker over a cotton long-sleeved shirt. A T-shirt or short-sleeved cotton shirt is good for mid-day. Hats are a must. Cotton trousers, shorts, trainers or comfortable hiking shoes are recommended. Should you be interested in walking then light weight hiking boots would be useful. Sandals will work in lighter terrain. Evenings can be cool and dress is casual. A fleece with a light-weight turtle neck and jeans are perfect. Safari style jackets/vests are convenient for photographers with their many pockets for film, lenses etc.

Suggested packing:

Day –:

- * 2 to 3 pairs of shorts
- * 5 to 6 cotton short sleeved shirts or T-shirts,
- * bathing suits
- * 2 sweaters and 1 sweatshirt
- * cotton turtleneck very useful
- * enough underwear and socks
- * sunglasses
- * sunscreen
- * comfortable walking shoes
- * hats or caps

Evening – warm clothes for the cool:

- * 1 safari jacket, or 1 light weight jacket, or a fleece jacket or a windbreaker
- * 2 long sleeve shirts
- * 2 pairs casual trousers

Extras:

- * insect repellent (for the body)
- * any special medications or prescriptions (bear in mind that you may not find your prescriptions in Kenya so bring enough)
- * extra pair of prescription glasses and sunglasses
- * contact lenses – as it is dusty bring ample cleaning solutions
- * small, lightweight flashlight
- * lotions, kleenex, moisturisers, chapstick
- * personal cosmetics, toiletries
- * scarves
- * money belt for cash and travel documents
- * **binoculars** – *extremely important!*

Laundry

Laundry in Africa is surprisingly good! Most of the safari destinations provide laundry for no additional cost, however, they prefer for you to wash your own undergarments. There is a nominal fee at the lodges and hotels while in Nairobi. Turn around time at most places is 24 hours or less.

Lost Luggage: in the event of any of your luggage not arriving on your airline flight, please fill in the “missing baggage report” with the airline’s representative, giving our details as the contact address:

Bush and Beyond Ltd, 2nd Floor Cara House Karen Road, Karen Nairobi.

Telephone: 6000457, 6005108, 0723-580330, 0733-614703

Give the report to our Bush and Beyond driver / representative meeting you, so we can monitor the arrival of the missing bag. It can take up to a few days for missing bags to get to Nairobi as the airlines have only one daily arrival at best. When received, we shall forward this to you on safari, but any costs arising will be on your account. There are some places the airline will deliver missing luggage to themselves, at their cost, but there are safari destinations that they can’t arrange delivery to. Bush and Beyond are not responsible for any costs of forwarding missing luggage to you.

Don’t pack cameras, medications, or valuables in your checked luggage, just in case it does go missing, and takes some time to catch up with you on safari.

Money

The currency in Kenya is the Shilling and it fluctuates in value from between 95 – 105 Shillings to one US Dollar. We suggest carrying some cash in \$20’s and \$50’s - \$5 dollar bills are handy for tipping and gifts. Credit cards are less widely accepted but can be used in some shops and restaurants; Visa is the most commonly accepted with some establishments accepting Mastercard and American Express. For cashing Travellers cheques you will need the “proof of purchase” receipt from the issuing bank where you purchased them, to identify you as the correct bearer. **Note:** We strongly recommend keeping your passport, all moneys, vouchers, and international air tickets in a money belt or pouch – especially when in large population centres and, if possible, out of sight.

We suggest you change some money on arrival at the airport, as you won’t have ready access to banks whilst on safari.

As a guideline we suggest US\$ 300 to \$ 500 per person, depending on the length of time you are here. As with many countries in Africa, Kenya does not allow you to export their currency. Plan your safari so you are left with as little local currency as possible before your departure.

Excess Kenya shillings can be changed back to your currency at the banks at the airport on departure, against the initial bank receipt where you purchased Kenya Shillings on your arrival.

Tipping

It has been a custom since safaris first began to consider tips for your guide/driver and support staff. Tipping is a difficult subject at best, even for the most experienced traveller. It is a very personal and individual matter and the decision to tip and how much to give is entirely yours. However, some general guidelines might be helpful. Please bear in mind that tips are gifts in Kenya whereas in the United States and Europe they resemble payments/ wages.

Consult each host as to a suggested amount to give the staff. Generally the camps and lodges have a “tip box” which is divided amongst all the staff. If there is no “tip box” the host / manager will advise who tips should be handed to. Most tipping should occur at the end of your stay:

- * For guides suggest US\$ 15 -20 per day.
- * General camp/lodge staff: suggest US\$ 10 – 15 per guest per day in total for all staff.
- * While in Nairobi, suggest 10% for meals in restaurants.
- * Hotels and lodges: \$0.50 - \$1 for carrying bags, room service, etc.

Electricity / Voltage:

East Africa operates on 240 voltage so converters/ adaptors may be necessary, for charging your own equipment. Most safari destinations are run on generators which are only run in the evenings, or on solar power charging battery banks during the day. These power sources generally do not support hair driers. Please consult with your hosts for the optimum time to recharge your equipment.

Mobile phones and internet : these operate in most (but not all) of the safari areas you may visit, though signal coverage varies with terrain. In consideration of other guests, please don't use mobile phones in the common areas of the camps and lodges.

Time

Kenya has a single time zone- which is GMT+3.

Health

Parts of Kenya are considered Malaria areas and as such it is imperative that you take prophylactics for it. It is best to consult your General Practitioner. The most suitable choice of medication depends on many individual factors, and travelers need careful, professional advice about the advantages and disadvantages of each option. Prevention of malaria consists of using effective protection against bites as well as taking anti-malarial medication. The best choice of vaccines for your trip depends on many individual factors, including your precise travel plans. Vaccines commonly recommended for travelers to Africa include those against:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| • Tetanus | Hepatitis B |
| • Yellow fever* | Diphtheria |
| • Rabies | Typhoid |
| • Meningitis | Hepatitis A |
| • Polio | |

* Certificate required for entry into, or travel between, some African countries

Several of these vaccines require more than one dose, or take time to become effective. Vaccine shortages also occur from time to time – particularly with yellow fever. So it is always best to seek advice on immunisation well in advance, if possible around 6 weeks before departure.

Cameras & Video

Our best advice with regards to photography is to know your camera and/or video camera *before* you go on safari. We suggest you take the owners manual with you, along with lens cleansing fluid and tissue, dust spray and spare batteries. Remember, in general, you will be in high altitudes where batteries do not last as long. **Important:** bring protection covers for all equipment against dust, etc. We also suggest you bring an 8” x 5” beanbag to use as a tripod whilst photographing from a vehicle.

Lenses – If using a 35 mm camera, we suggest a wide angle lens of 25mm or 35mm and two additional lenses allowing a range between 35mm to 300mm.

Film - Most of your game viewing is in the early morning and mid to late afternoons. Use professional film that ranges between 100 to 400 ASA. Film and batteries are not available in the bush. You will find them in Nairobi, but they are expensive.

Digital Cameras – extra memory cards and spare batteries is a must for those bringing digital cameras. Most camps/lodges will have facilities for you to charge your batteries but always handy to have a spare or two – just in case!

**Note:* Always ask before photographing people. It is not permitted to take pictures of military installations, police stations, airports, soldiers, police or border posts.

Cuisine

At all the safari destinations, you will enjoy “table d’hôte” cuisine – three and four course meals.

Beverages & Alcohol

While on safari in East Africa, always drink bottled water. The cost varies between \$0.50 and \$4. Most of our safari destinations offer local beers, wines and spirits before lunch and dinner, and wine with meals. Most will only charge for imported spirits, cellar wines and champagne.

International flight departures: upon departure from Nairobi, the airlines require check-in three hours prior to flight departure to allow for security screening which is done before getting to the airline check in desk. There is no “fast track” for first or business class passengers through security screening. This is particularly pertinent to night time departures when a number of airlines leave at similar times. It is in your interest to arrive at the airport early.

Enjoy your holiday!

Bush and Beyond Contact Details.

You may want to print or forward this page to family or friends at home, giving our contact details should they need to contact you while you are on safari:

After office hours – Kenya is GMT + 3 hours, - duty mobile phone number:

In emergency only, please: Duty person: +254 723 580 330.