



General Information about Kenya

Kenya is located in East Africa and is one of the continent's most diverse travel destinations. Vast savannahs, highlands, volcanoes, lakes, forests, desert landscapes and the tropical coast of the Indian Ocean shape the country. Its best-known natural areas include the Masai Mara, Amboseli National Park with views of Kilimanjaro, the lakes of the Great Rift Valley, Mount Kenya, and the coast around Diani, Watamu and Lamu.

Kenya is also exceptionally diverse culturally. More than 40 ethnic groups live in the country, including Kikuyu, Luo, Luhya, Kalenjin, Kamba, Samburu and Maasai. The official languages are Kiswahili and English. Historic Swahili towns such as Lamu and Mombasa reflect Arab, African, Indian and European influences.

Entry requirements

For tourist travel, Austrian citizens need a passport that is valid for at least six months upon entry and contains at least one blank page. An electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) is generally required before departure. This also applies to children and infants.

The eTA must be applied for exclusively through the official Kenyan portal:

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

The standard eTA currently costs from USD 30. Processing usually takes about 72 hours, although it may take longer in individual cases. We recommend applying early after receiving your travel documents and no later than a few days before departure. Have your passport, a passport photo or selfie, flight and accommodation details, and a suitable means of payment ready.

Important

Use only the official eTA website. There are numerous intermediary websites on the internet that charge significantly higher fees. The final decision on entry is always made by the Kenyan border authorities.

Health & medical care

A consultation with a tropical medicine specialist or your family doctor about six to eight weeks before departure is recommended. Commonly recommended routine and travel vaccinations include hepatitis A, hepatitis B where appropriate, typhoid, tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis, polio, measles and, depending on the type of trip, rabies. The specific recommendation depends on your itinerary, travel duration, season and personal health.

A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is required on entry if you arrive from a country with a yellow fever risk or have had a relevant transit there. It is generally not required when travelling directly from Austria. For trips combining Kenya with other African countries, however, this rule may become relevant.





There is a risk of malaria in many regions of Kenya, especially along the coast, in the west and at lower elevations. The risk is lower in Nairobi and at high altitudes. Discuss preventive medication or carrying emergency medication with your doctor based on your individual circumstances. Consistent mosquito protection using long clothing, repellent and a mosquito net remains important.

Other possible health risks include dengue fever, African tick-bite fever, diarrhoeal illnesses and strong sun exposure. Drink only safe water, pay attention to food hygiene, and check yourself for ticks after spending time in grassland.

There are good private clinics in Nairobi and Mombasa. Medical care is much more limited in rural areas and remote protected areas. A well-equipped travel first-aid kit and travel health insurance including medical repatriation are therefore particularly important.

Safety & conduct

Kenya is a well-established travel destination, but increased awareness is still required. Do not display valuables openly, use hotel safes, avoid isolated areas after dark, and if possible do not travel overland at night. In Nairobi, Mombasa and other cities, use only reputable taxis or pre-booked ride services.

Special travel warnings apply to the border area with Somalia and to certain regions in the north and northeast. Before departure, check your current itinerary against the travel advice of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Demonstrations and large gatherings should be avoided.

Same-sex sexual acts are illegal in Kenya. Discreet behaviour is advisable for safety reasons. Along the predominantly Muslim coast, especially in Mombasa Old Town and on Lamu, shoulders and knees should be covered outside hotel and beach areas.

Insurance

We strongly recommend taking out travel cancellation insurance as well as travel health insurance including medical repatriation. Treatment in private clinics or evacuation from remote safari areas can be very expensive.

We work with Europäische Reiseversicherung. Depending on your needs, different plans such as StornoSchutz, ReiseSchutz or KomplettSchutz are available.

Further information and purchase via our partner link: www.europaeische.at





Currency & payments

The national currency is the Kenyan shilling (KES). US dollars are also accepted in tourist lodges and for some services, but payment in Kenyan shillings or by card is more common. Visa and Mastercard are accepted in many hotels, lodges and restaurants; outside larger towns, cash is important. Card payments may incur fees.

ATMs are common in cities and larger towns. If possible, withdraw cash during the day from guarded ATMs or inside bank branches. Kenya also makes extensive use of the M-Pesa mobile payment system, which can be useful for travellers with a local SIM card. Small-denomination cash is recommended for tips and minor purchases.

Tourism charges

National park and reserve fees as well as contractually agreed accommodation charges are generally included in the price of our package tours unless stated otherwise in the offer. Optional activities, personal expenses or services booked additionally on site are not automatically included.

Technology & communication

Kenya uses 240 V at 50 Hz. British Type G sockets are standard, so an adapter is required. In remote camps, electricity is often generated by solar power or generators and may only be available at certain times. A power bank and a torch or headlamp are useful.

For mobile internet, local SIM cards are suitable, especially Safaricom or Airtel. Registration requires a passport. Alternatively, eSIMs can be used. Wi-Fi is available in many accommodations, but in remote safari regions it is often slow or temporarily unavailable.

Transport & apps

Traffic in Kenya drives on the left. Distances often look shorter on a map than they really are: traffic, road conditions and park tracks can significantly extend journey times. Self-driving is possible, but for safari routes, transfers with an experienced driver or guide are much more relaxed and safer.

Ride services such as Bolt and Uber are common in Nairobi and Mombasa. Google Maps and Maps.me are useful for offline navigation. Other useful apps include XE Currency, a weather app and the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs app.





Sustainability & respectful travel

Kenya has strict rules against single-use plastics. Plastic bags are banned, and single-use plastic items are not permitted in national parks. Use refillable drinking bottles and reusable fabric bags. Do not leave any waste behind and do not take shells, coral, plants or animal products with you.

Wildlife must never be fed or touched. Please also do not hand out sweets or money to children by the roadside. Supporting reputable local projects or community-based initiatives is a more sustainable option.

Food & cuisine

Kenyan cuisine is varied and strongly influenced by its regions. Typical dishes include ugali, sukuma wiki, nyama choma, chapati, pilau, githeri and samosas, while the coast features dishes with coconut milk, fish and Swahili spices. Kenya is also well known for coffee and tea.

Vegetarian meals are usually readily available in lodges; vegan diets or medically necessary dietary requirements should be communicated in advance.

Arrival in Kenya

After passport control, baggage claim and customs, proceed to the public arrivals area. Our transfer driver or a representative of our local partner will be waiting there with a name sign and will take you to the first accommodation on your itinerary. In the event of delays, the driver will remain informed via the flight details provided.





Safaris in Kenya

Kenya is one of the world's best-known safari destinations. Its most important protected areas include the Masai Mara, Amboseli, Tsavo East and West, Samburu, Lake Nakuru, Meru, Aberdare and Nairobi National Park. Depending on the itinerary, you may see the Big Five - elephant, lion, leopard, rhino and buffalo - as well as numerous antelope species, giraffes, cheetahs, hippos and birds.

The Masai Mara is particularly famous for the Great Migration. However, the exact timing and course of the migration depend on rainfall and natural conditions and can never be guaranteed.

Game drives often start early in the morning and/or in the late afternoon. In many KWS parks, gates open at around 6:00 a.m. and close at around 6:00 p.m. Depending on the rules, private conservancies may also offer night drives or guided walks. We arrange the required park entries, transfers, accommodation and guides in accordance with the confirmed itinerary.

Photograph people, especially members of local communities such as Maasai or Samburu, only with their explicit permission. Religious sites, ceremonies and private residential areas should be treated with particular respect.

In the parks, the following rules apply: remain in the vehicle unless you are in a designated area or taking part in a guided activity; drive slowly; keep your distance from animals; do not feed them; keep noise to a minimum; leave no litter; and use only permitted tracks. Drones may not be used without prior permission from the relevant Kenyan authorities and the individual protected area.

Our safari vehicles usually have a pop-up roof for wildlife viewing and photography. The exact vehicle size and maximum occupancy depend on the booked programme. At least one pair of binoculars is generally available per vehicle; nevertheless, bringing your own binoculars is recommended.

The driver-guide speaks English, knows the route and has experience in wildlife viewing and natural history. A safari is still a nature experience and always involves an element of luck: sightings of specific animals cannot be guaranteed. Discuss preferred start times, breaks or particular wildlife interests directly with your guide.

Overnight stay in a lodge or camp

You will reach your lodge or camp in the late afternoon or early evening. After a short briefing, you will be shown your room or tent. In unfenced camps, wild animals may move through the grounds. Always follow staff instructions and do not walk alone between your accommodation and the main area after dark.





Accommodation ranges from comfortable lodges to exclusive tented camps. Some camps have only a small number of units and sell out early in high season. If a confirmed accommodation unexpectedly becomes unavailable, a suitable alternative of comparable standard will be arranged along the route whenever possible.

Meals

Depending on the booking, breakfast, a lunch box or lunch, and dinner are included on safari. Please inform us in writing of allergies, intolerances and special dietary requirements as early as possible, ideally no later than four weeks before the start of your trip.

Drink only safe water from sealed bottles or approved refill stations. Use drinking water for brushing your teeth as well. A reusable bottle helps reduce plastic waste. For game drives, plan on roughly two litres of water per person per day, and more in hot conditions.

Tipping

Tipping in Kenya is voluntary, but in tourism it is commonly expected as recognition of good service. As a guideline, around USD 20 to 30 per vehicle and day can be budgeted for a private safari driver-guide. Tip boxes are common in lodges, allowing tips to be distributed among the team. The amount always remains at your discretion and should reflect your satisfaction.

Clothing

For safari, lightweight, loose-fitting clothing in muted colours such as beige, olive, khaki or brown is suitable. Mornings and evenings can be surprisingly cool in the highlands and higher-elevation areas. Bring a fleece or light jacket, long trousers and closed shoes. For the coast, light clothing, sun protection, a hat and swimwear are important.

Camouflage clothing should be avoided because military-style clothing can be misunderstood. Sturdy footwear and long trousers are recommended for hikes or walking safaris.





Mountaineering and Trekking in Kenya

At 5,199 metres, Mount Kenya is the highest mountain in Kenya and the second-highest mountain in Africa. Its highest summits, Batian and Nelion, are demanding climbing objectives. Point Lenana at 4,985 metres, by contrast, is a popular trekking destination that can be reached without technical climbing. Frequently used routes include Sirimon, Chogoria and Naro Moru.

Depending on the route, acclimatisation and combination, a trekking tour usually takes four to six days. It is accompanied by licensed guides and - depending on the programme - porters and cooks. Weather and temperatures can change quickly; frost, wind and very early starts are common on summit day.

Team

Guide

The guide leads the tour, knows the route and weather conditions, controls the pace and monitors participants' health. The guide's safety decisions are binding.

Assistant Guide

For larger groups, an assistant guide supports the lead guide, accompanies slower participants and helps with health or organisational matters.

Cook

On camping programmes, the cook prepares the meals and ensures an energy-rich diet as well as good hygiene in camp.

Porter

Porters carry group equipment, food and the agreed personal luggage. The permitted weight is specified before the trip begins. Your daypack with water, rain gear, camera, sun protection and personal medication stays with you.

Equipment

Recommended basic equipment includes well-broken-in waterproof hiking boots, layered clothing, rain and wind protection, a warm sleeping bag, headlamp, trekking poles, gloves, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and a daypack.

Head and hands

- Warm hat and sun hat
- Neck scarf or Buff
- Sunglasses with UV protection
- Warm, preferably water-resistant gloves





Upper and lower body

- Thermal underwear
- Breathable hiking shirts
- Fleece or insulated jacket
- Waterproof and windproof hardshell jacket
- Lightweight hiking trousers and waterproof overtrousers
- Comfortable underwear and spare clothing

Feet and luggage

- Several pairs of hiking socks
- Waterproof trekking boots with ankle support
- Light shoes or sandals for camp
- Daypack approx. 20-30 litres
- Soft travel bag for porter-carried luggage; weight according to the travel documents

Sleeping and hydration system

- Warm sleeping bag, suitable for temperatures well below 0°C depending on the season
- Sleeping mat, if not provided
- At least 2-3 litres of drinking capacity
- Thermos or insulated bottle for summit day

Other items

- Headlamp with spare batteries
- Sunscreen and lip balm with high UV protection
- Personal medication and a small first-aid kit
- Wet wipes and biodegradable toiletries
- Power bank
- Waste bags for personal rubbish
- Energy or protein bars

General

Pack functionally and as lightly as possible. Which equipment can be provided or rented depends on the specific trekking programme and will be stated in your travel documents.

Altitude sickness

Altitude sickness can affect even fit and experienced hikers. A slow walking pace, adequate hydration, energy-rich food and sensible acclimatisation are essential.





Symptoms such as severe headaches, nausea, dizziness, shortness of breath at rest or coordination problems must be reported to the guide immediately. In the event of serious symptoms, descending is the most important measure.

Tipping on trekking tours

Tips for guides, cooks and porters are customary, but should be handed over transparently and collectively at the end of the tour. The exact recommendation depends on team size, route duration and the scope of services. Before the trek begins, the local partner will provide an appropriate guideline so that tips can be distributed fairly.





Important Contacts & Current Information

Entry requirements, the security situation, health regulations and fees can change at short notice. Please check them again before departure.

Topic	Official information
Kenya eTA	https://www.etakenya.go.ke
Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Kenya	https://www.bmeia.gv.at/reise-services/reiseinformation/land/kenia
Kenya Ministry of Health - Port Health	https://porthealth.health.go.ke/entry-requirements
Kenya Wildlife Service	https://www.kws.go.ke
Europäische Reiseversicherung	https://www.europaeische.at

Disclaimer

Our travel information is based on the information available at the time of preparation and is intended as general guidance. Despite careful review, we cannot guarantee completeness, accuracy or continued validity. Entry, health, safety and park regulations may change at short notice.

The decision to undertake a trip is yours. Follow the current advice of the relevant authorities, comply with the instructions of local partners and take out suitable travel insurance and travel health insurance including repatriation.

