

# Karibu Kenya

- *Welcome to Kenya* -



Short Travel Guide - by Africa Safari Trips

*The best preparation for your safari...!*

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# Introduction

You are about to embark on a wonderful safari to Kenya - the country of savannahs full of lions, zebras and giraffes and endless white beaches on the coast. It is also an uprising country where things are a bit different (adventure!) to what the average Western traveller is used to. In this booklet, we give you some tips and information that will help you prepare for your trip!

# Background



Kenya can be found in East Africa, in between the Indian Ocean and neighbouring countries Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan. The country has a population of 54 million people, who belong to 43 different tribes and many times speak their own tribal language. The main tribes are [Kikuyu](#) (22%), [Luhya](#) (14%), [Luo](#) (13%), Kalenjin (12%), [Kamba](#) (11%), [Kisii](#) (6%) and Meru (6%). The Kikuyu are the leading tribe, with many influential people. But in general a balance between the tribes is maintained.

Kenya has two official languages: English and Kiswahili. In addition, many tribes have their own mother tongue. Kiswahili is not only spoken in Kenya, but also (partially) in

Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Kiswahili belongs to the so-called Bantu-languages, but it also incorporates English and Arabic words. In Kenya, most people speak both English and Kiswahili, and one or more tribal languages.

## Cities

[Nairobi](#) is the largest city with 4.4 million inhabitants. It's also the capital. Another well-known city is [Mombasa](#) on the coast, which is much smaller and more historical. Even though the cities are usually busy and loud, they do make for an interesting visit and are good to get a feel for modern day African life.



## Putting some facts together

- Capital: Nairobi
- Currency: Kenyan Shilling
- Population: 54 million
- Language: Kiswahili and English
- Area: 592.000 km<sup>2</sup>
- Neighbouring countries: Tanzania, Uganda, Somalia, Ethiopia, South Sudan.
- Highest point: 5,199 metres (Mount Kenya)
- Time difference: in summer, Kenya is two hours ahead of the UK, while in wintertime the difference is three hours. The time difference with the USA is 7–10 hours.
- Most popular places: [Masai Mara National Reserve](#), [Samburu National Reserve](#), [Tsavo East](#) and [Tsavo West National Park](#).

# Going on a safari in Kenya

In the Western world, *safari* usually means the observation of wild animals in their own habitat. Originally, however, it's a Swahili word that refers to a trip or journey. The good thing is that with us, you go on a safari (trip) to see lots of wildlife!

The most popular safari-animals are the Big Five: lions, elephants, buffaloes, leopards and rhinos. But the national parks in Kenya also host countless other impressive animal species and hundreds of beautiful, colourful species of birds. You can see them all with Africa Safari Trips! Be aware that animals are most active at sunrise and sunset. Around that time, temperatures are pleasant and animals are looking for food. The chance to see the animals in action is best during that time. But in the middle of the day, there is still plenty of wildlife to see.

## The Great Migration



The yearly migration of enormous herds of zebras and wildebeests in the [Masai Mara National Reserve](#) (the so-called [Great Migration](#)) is connected to the rains. Because of drought in the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania the herds start to come to Kenya come July every year. Here they find green pastures and make the famous crossing of the Mara River. From November on they go back to Tanzania, all the way to the south of

Serengeti (an area called Ndutu) where they normally have their young. This is why July to November is the best time to visit the Masai Mara National Reserve if you want to witness this world-famous natural phenomenon.

Your private guide will be happy to tell you all about this and of course about the animals, birds and plants you encounter once you are on your safari with a 4x4 Land Cruiser Jeep with foldable roof from Africa Safari Trips. We only offer private safaris, which means you do not share the car with other people. You decide when the safari starts and ends. In consultation with your guide, you can decide the schedule for the day. For example, if you suddenly feel like ending the day at the pool, that's no problem. With a little luck, you can even spot some wild animals from there.

**Visit local tribes**



During the safari in Kenya, it is possible to visit a traditional tribe. The most famous tribe to visit is probably the Maasai tribe. These are nomadic people who live off their cattle. They adorn their bodies with beautiful bead jewellery, carry long spears in their hands and wear bright red shukas (blankets). They live in semi-permanent huts - called manyattas - that are made of grass and dung. In their traditional dance, they challenge each other to jump as high as possible while keeping their bodies straight. Another interesting tribe to visit is the Samburu tribe, who are similar to the Maasai but live around Samburu National Reserve whereas the Maasai live closer to the Tanzanian border.

# A day on safari - do's and don'ts

Many people are unsure what to expect on a day of safari and wonder what their transport will look like, what a guide does and if there are any rules and regulations. Below, we put together the most important information.



During the safari, you drive around in a 4x4 Land Cruiser or Jeep with a liftable roof. You are going on a private safari with a personal guide, which means you have a lot of freedom. You decide what time the game drives start and what time you want to be back in the lodge. You can decide this on the day itself, but it's good to discuss it with your guide. He can advise you on things to see or do. But if you feel like relaxing at the lodge in the afternoon while gazing over the savannah and enjoying a drink, by all means do so.

Even at the camps you will be able to spot the animals you would during a game drive. So feel free to spend your day as you like, but keep in mind park fees only allow you to enter the park once. So if you sleep outside the park, it's not advisable to go back to the lodge for lunch.

## The role of your guide

Your guide is one of the most important people during your safari. It's his job to assist you to the best of his ability and make sure you are enjoying the trip. Please keep in mind that not all clients are the same, and that he might misjudge your needs. This is why it's good for you to be open about your wishes and needs - it will allow him to do a better job. If you for example want more stories about the country, the people or the animals - be sure to tell him. If you want fewer stories, don't hesitate to let him know that you want to take breaks as well.

### Talking to other drivers

Guides tend to keep each other posted about special things they have seen. If a driver coming from the opposite direction saw something that might be of interest, he will surely want to let you know. This is why your guide will stop regularly if he sees a car coming from the opposite direction - he will talk to the other guide to make sure you get to see all the special animals.

Guests many times don't understand this, since the guides are speaking Swahili to each other and at first glance seem to just have a nice chat. While in fact, they are trying to give you the best experience possible...! It's good to keep this in mind if you notice your guide stopping to talk to other drivers. Don't hesitate to inform us if you have any special needs, medical or other, we'd be happy to assist you in making the most out of this trip.

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## Official safari rules

It's good to be aware of some of the national park's official rules, when going on a safari.

1. The national parks are open from 6am until 6pm and game drives are allowed only within this period. Even when sleeping inside the park, you can only do game drives between these hours. This is to ensure animals can keep their natural rhythm. There are some exceptions; night game drives (allowed in only some parks) come with special permissions to enter the park after 6 PM, and balloon safari operators are allowed to be in the park from 5 AM on.
2. Parks only issue 24-hour permits. When spending two nights in, for example, Amboseli National Park, you will have two permits that allow you to stay 48 hours in the park. The Masai Mara National Reserve even limits the permits to be valid from 6 AM to 6 PM, and people sleeping in the park need to be out before 10 AM the next morning. If you reach the gate after your permit has expired, the guide will have to pay a fine, so it's good to listen to him when he advises leaving for the gate.
3. A permit allows you to enter the park only once. This means it's not possible to leave the park during the day and come back later. This is why we provide our clients with lunch boxes, which you can open at picnic places in the park or at a beautiful spot your guide will find for you.



## Unofficial safari rules

Except for the official rules, there are a few unofficial rules that we ask our guests to adhere to during safari to make sure dangerous situations are avoided and things go smoothly. And of course out of respect for the country, its people, and your guide:

1. Always listen to the rules and advice your guide gives you.
2. Make sure you show up on time at the agreed-upon place.
3. Never leave the car without the permission of your guide.
4. No more than five cars (and sometimes less) are allowed to stop around one animal. This means your guide can decide to drive on if there are too many cars.
5. Try to be as quiet as possible when getting close to animals. Avoid unexpected movements and whisper as much as possible. Don't move if someone is trying to make a picture. The guide will also switch off the engine to avoid movement if you are taking a picture. Might he forget, please remind him.
6. Don't litter, not even cigarette buds. Keep your trash separate inside the car, and throw it out once you are back in the lodge.
7. Give presents you might have taken for local people to your guide. He will make an effort to distribute them fairly.

## Before you fly

Before you fly to Kenya, there are a few things you need to take care of. You need a visa for starters, you need to book your flight tickets, get your shots, and arrange your (travel) insurance. Read on for all practical information that can help you prepare.

### International flight tickets

Book your return ticket to and from Nairobi if you are only going on safari. If you've added a beach holiday or have a route with national parks between Nairobi and Mombasa, it might be easier to book your return ticket from Mombasa. Mombasa is not connected to all destinations, however, so in some cases, you will first take a domestic flight to Nairobi before heading home.

### Visa

To enter Kenya, you need a passport valid for at least six months beyond your expected return date and an approved eTA (electronic Travel Authorization). The eTA can be obtained online, on [the official government eTA website](#), for a fee of 35 USD.

#### East Africa Community Visa (EAC visa)

You might have heard about the EAC visa. This is a visa you can apply for if you travel to several East African countries in one holiday. The EAC visa is a so-called joint tourist visa for people travelling to Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya (but not Tanzania), and it's issued in the first country you enter.

However, if you start your holiday in Kenya, you cannot apply for the EAC visa. Even though it's accepted as a valid visa when coming from Uganda or Rwanda, the Kenyan government gives no possibility to apply for it. If Kenya is the first destination of your trip, you have to apply for an eTA for Kenya first and apply for a visa per country or an EAC visa afterwards.

The EAC visa allows single entry into the East African Community and multiple trips between the countries. The cost is USD 100.

#### Children travelling with one parent

If one of the parents travels with a child below the age of 18, he or she will need a parental consent form from the other parent. Make sure you download and fill out a parental permission form if this applies to you.

## Embassy addresses

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# Healthcare and Insurance

Health care in Kenya is of varying quality. Cities like Nairobi and Mombasa have some decent hospitals, but it's always better to prevent getting sick. Make sure you have proper health insurance when travelling to Kenya, and check if you want to take malaria medication or the recommended vaccinations. Except for health insurance, we also advise a few other insurances, like for example the Flying Doctors insurance (see below).



## Vaccinations

Kenya is a tropical country and some vaccinations are recommended when visiting. We advise you to be on time by asking your physician or local health centre for up-to-date advice on vaccinations (at least two months before your trip, to be on the safe side). Some health insurance plans will cover the cost of various vaccinations, so it may be wise to check with your insurer.

Make sure all your vaccinations are recorded in your yellow vaccination certificate. If you don't already have one, get it while getting your first vaccination. Don't forget to take your vaccination certificate with you on your trip. The customs officer may ask you to show the vaccination certificate. It also contains important information a doctor might need in case of an emergency.

We have collected information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) webpage to give you a summary of all their recommendations regarding vaccinations needed when travelling to Kenya. However, we are not doctors and we are not, in any way, encouraging or forcing you to follow these instructions. You can use these information pages to go to your family doctor and see what are his/her specific recommendations for your case.

<b>Routine vaccines</b> Chickenpox, tetanus, pertussis, flu, measles, polio, shingles, etc.	<b>Recommended</b> To be up-to-date on all of them
<b>COVID-19</b>	Travelers can enter without any restrictions.
<b>Cholera</b> In Kenya, there are some areas of active cholera transmission	<b>Recommended</b>
<b>Hepatitis A</b>	<b>Recommended</b>
<b>Hepatitis B</b>	<b>Recommended</b>
<b>Malaria<sup>1</sup></b>	No need for a vaccine, but malaria medication is recommended
<b>Rabies</b>	<b>Recommended</b>
<b>Yellow Fever<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Required</b>

#### <sup>1</sup> Malaria

Malaria used to be a problem in Kenya, but has been mostly eradicated in recent years. However, most visitors take malaria medication to be sure, and protect themselves at night with mosquito repellent. Make sure to pack some long sleeved tops and trousers in case you want to be outdoors at night. All lodges are equipped with mosquito nets to avoid contact with mosquitos.

#### <sup>2</sup> Yellow Fever

Only required if you come from or pass through a country with a risk of yellow fever or if you are traveling to Kenya from Tanzania. Please note that Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Austria, and Spain have no risk of yellow fever.

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## Useful insurances

Make sure to have good health and travel insurance when travelling to Kenya. On top of that, we advise having a few other insurances.

### Travel Insurance

We advise our customers to get good travel insurance. A travel insurance usually covers medical costs, as well as damage to or loss of luggage. We gladly recommend [Chapka Insurance](#) (for EU citizens only). It covers any travel and can easily be subscribed to online. Please be aware that you need to take out the policy for Chapka Insurance within 48 hours of finalising your booking with us (when your travel dates are fixed). Also note that Chapka focuses on travel and/or cancellation insurance only, and does NOT facilitate swift evacuation from remote areas during medical emergencies. For this purpose, we recommend the below-mentioned Flying Doctors insurance.

### Flying Doctors Insurance

The [AMREF Flying Doctors](#) have been conducting medical evacuation flights in Tanzania, Zanzibar (including Mafia and Pemba), Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi since the 1950s. This Flying



Doctor Service is a flying ambulance service with its doctors and pilots on standby 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Flying Doctors insurance adds to your regular travel insurance and is not compulsory. In an emergency, however, they can immediately evacuate you from remote areas and fly you to a hospital in Nairobi / Kenya. Africa Safari Trip is a member of the Flying Doctors, which means we can arrange this for you.

The costs for Flying Doctors Insurance are 40 USD per person for 30 days.

**Please note:** The price covers your trip to one or more countries mentioned above. The service does not include hospital costs, medical treatments and medicines, so adequate travel health insurance is still needed next to the Flying Doctors Insurance.

### Travel cancellation insurance

Travel cancellation insurance is also recommended in case you need to cancel your holiday before departure or during the trip. Be aware that some insurances only partly reimburse the amount in the event of a cancellation, so be sure to check this carefully!

# Luggage and travel essentials

Our vehicles have limited space for luggage during the safari. Therefore, we request you leave your hard-case suitcases at home, and advise you to travel with soft-case bags that are easy to stow away in our vehicles. Soft-case bags are also less likely to get damaged on the road.



## Baggage during your flights

Please check with your airline to know the size, weight and number of pieces of baggage permitted on your international flight. Also, make sure you carry essential items in your hand luggage during the international flight, in case your suitcases are delayed or get lost during the flight.

Domestic flights (for example from Nairobi to Mombasa) have a baggage limitation of 15 kg to 23 kg per person including hand luggage (depending on the airline), **and allow soft case bags only!** If your luggage exceeds this limit, the flight company might charge between 3,50 USD and 10 USD for each extra kilo, which you can pay directly at the check-in desk. Please note that if you travel with hard-case suitcases, the domestic airline can block you from flying.

Africa Safari Trips cannot be held liable in case your hard-case suitcases get damaged during the safari or if the airline blocks or charges you when the above luggage regulations are not followed.

To protect your luggage from dust and/or moisture, we recommend you bring suitcase- or laundry bags as additional covers. Most lodges and tented camps offer a laundry service for your (outer) clothing, but only for a minimum stay of two nights.

## What to wear during your safari

It is common practice in Kenya to cover shoulders and wear skirts and pants that reach below the knees. Mombasa and the coastal regions are dominantly Islamic, and women typically cover their hair as well. It's respectful to adhere to these customs, but don't feel obligated to do so. Especially in hotels and on safari, shorts or skirts are no problem.



**Safari clothing**

During the safari, it's best to wear casual clothing, preferably cotton clothing in safari colours (examples above). We advise against wearing dark or bright colours during the safari (black, blue, red) - these will attract flies and insects. Colours that don't stand out, like khaki or olive green, are best.

Keep in mind that the equator runs straight through Kenya, which means the sun can be very hot. It is therefore advisable to wear long sleeves, a hat, dark sunglasses and/or put on sunscreen.

Too much sun can lead to dehydration, nausea, dizziness, or headaches. After sunset, it is advisable to wear long trousers (and possibly long sleeves) because of the mosquitoes. Bring a sweater or jacket for the early mornings and cooler evenings, since especially in the mountainous regions of Kenya it can get chilly. We also recommend comfortable (sports) shoes, and swimwear for swimming pools and days on Kenya's beaches.

**Plastic bags**

As of June 2020, the Kenyan government has officially banned plastic carrier bags, regardless of their thickness. They can no longer be imported, exported, manufactured, sold, stored, supplied, or used on the mainland. However, plastic or plastic packaging for medical products, industrial products, the construction industry, agriculture, food, sanitary- and waste management are not banned.



Please consider this prohibition when packing. Plastic carry bags used specifically for carrying toiletries are permitted, as long as they remain in your possession at all times and will not be disposed of in-country. Ziplock bags required by airlines for carrying liquids are also allowed, as long as you take them back home. Plastic bags for duty-free purchases may not be imported.

## First Aid kit

It is advisable to bring your own First Aid kit. This should include plasters, (sterile) gauze, anti-blistering agents, iodine, and medicines for common ailments such as headaches and bowel problems. It is also good to bring sanitary towels and tampons since these can be difficult to obtain in some areas.

## Medical equipment and special needs

If you use (electrical) medical equipment, it's important to inform us in advance. We in our turn will inform the lodges where you will be staying. The power supply is not consistent everywhere and voltages might fluctuate, so it's advisable to take extra chargers or batteries.

Be aware that for some medication or medical equipment you need a medical certificate from your doctor stipulating these are for your personal need only and that the amount is adequate for the duration of your stay. Furthermore, we advise you to **carry important medication in your hand luggage** and not in your check-in baggage. This way, you won't miss your medication if your baggage is late or gets lost.

If you have allergies or other special needs, please inform us in advance so we can let the lodges know.

## Photography and video

If you are passionate about photography and intend to take some amazing shots of Kenyan animals and landscapes, we have some tips to help you prepare:

- Bring enough memory cards and extra batteries. It's possible to buy them in Kenya but it's best to avoid the hassle of going into town and finding them.
- Bring lens caps, cleaning cloths, and a tight-fitting camera bag to protect the camera from dust.
- Bring a UV- or light filter for the highlands and to protect the lens.
- A zoom lens (e.g. 300 mm) is recommended for photographing wild animals.
- Note that many tented camps use solar power or a generator and offer limited power. Usually, it's a restricted number of hours per day and voltages (220 - 240V) may fluctuate. We advise taking a plug adapter (Kenya uses UK 3-pin sockets) and a voltage converter.
- When taking pictures of locals, always ask for permission. Nowadays, people are more used to cameras, but not everyone likes to have their picture taken. Especially in remote areas, it shows respect to ask for permission first.
- The use of drones is only allowed for licensed citizens, businesses, and government officials. It is possible to apply for a temporary license in advance. Ask our sellers for more information.
- Professional photographers and videographers can book our special safari car. This is an open-windows, pop-up open-roof safari jeep that offers maximum shooting experience, with the flexibility to position your tripod and other equipment.



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## Smart packing

- (Copy of your) passport
- Money belt for money and papers
- Vaccine passport
- Warm sweater and long trousers
- Memory card, spare batteries and charger for your camera
- Swimsuit
- Rubber shoes (in case of a beach extension)
- Headgear
- High-factor sunblock and lip balm
- Body lotion
- Wetties for hands and face
- Sanitizer
- Sunglasses and if needed spare glasses or contact lenses
- Mosquito repellent (preferable with DEET)
- First Aid kit
- (Phone with) flashlight and alarm clock
- Linen bags for laundry or as protection from dust and moist
- Binoculars
- Travel adapter

## When in Kenya...

Africa for many people is still a very unfamiliar continent, and chances are this is your first time travelling to the continent. Kenya is a beautiful and modern African country, but things are different here. Foodwise, culture-wise, money-wise. We help you with the most important information about Kenya and explain how things are done here, so you know what to expect once you get off that plane.

### Food & drinks

Food and drinks in the lodges, camps, and resorts in Kenya are mostly European style, but with a selection of Kenyan dishes. Think chapati and samosa (picture) for breakfast, and rice, beans, fresh veggies, curries, fresh fish, and roast meat for lunch and dinner.



Hotels usually serve this together with a full English breakfast with eggs, bacon, tomatoes, cereal, and delicious tropical fruits served in the mornings. Lunch then often consists of hot meals and both lunch and dinner can be a three- or more-course meal. In smaller lodges and camps, meals are often served as a set menu, whereas in larger lodges they offer lunch and dinner in buffet form. During the safari, you can have a packed lunch, which you can enjoy at special picnic areas along the way.

### Drinks

The local beer (the most famous being Tusker and White Cap) is good and most hotels offer a choice of wines. Tap water is not suitable for consumption in Kenya. During the safari, we provide you with plenty of bottled drinking water and there is always a bottle or jug of purified drinking water in the rooms. You can also buy bottled drinking water at each lodge and at small shops on the way. Make sure you drink enough water. The heat in Kenya can cause you to dry out before you know it.



## Money

In Kenya, you pay with the local currency, US dollars, euros and/or credit cards. The local currency is the Kenyan shilling, which is available in 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1000 Kenyan shilling banknotes, and in 1, 5, 10 and 20 Kenyan shilling coins. One euro is approximately 130 Kenyan shillings, whereas one dollar is approximately 115 Kenyan shillings (Feb 2022).

The Kenyan shilling is not available outside the country, but it's good to have it on you for local purchases and tips. You can find ATMs at the international airports as well as in cities and villages near the national parks. We advise you to take money out of the ATM upon arrival and along the way, and only take a little cash (EUR/USD) from home as backup. Be aware that taking money out of the ATM costs a small fee and that your credit or debit card needs to be enabled to withdraw money worldwide.



Some places might not accept dollar notes printed before 2020. Please, bear this in mind when taking USD for your trip. Besides, euros are not accepted everywhere.

### How much cash to take?

How much cash you should have in your pocket depends of course on your personal needs and wishes. It might be good to realize that the prices in the tourist areas are comparable to those in Europe. Then again, your accommodation, meals, and pre-selected activities are already paid for, and cash money will mostly be spent on additional activities, drinks in the hotels, souvenirs and tips (see below to know how much to tip). Make sure you have enough cash on you to last for a couple of days because ATMs are not always close-by.

### Credit cards

Mastercard, Visa and American Express are usually accepted by ATMs, as well as in lodges and hotels. Some remote camps might have difficulty processing your credit cards, due to their remote location and poor connections.

## Tipping

Tips are appreciated, but not mandatory in Kenya. We recommend tipping local staff if possible, knowing that wages are generally low. If you are satisfied with the service, please don't hesitate to show your appreciation by for example giving a dollar or 100 Ksh to the person carrying your suitcase to the room. Many times it's also possible to leave a tip for the complete staff when checking out. Receptions usually have a box, especially for this purpose.

### Tip your guide

We highly appreciate it if you also tip your personal guide at the end of the safari, as we trust you will be satisfied with his service. You are free to decide what amount to give him, but as a general guideline we would say to give 10 USD per day per person in your group, for the duration of the safari. Our guides earn decent salaries, but these tips are often used as savings for the extended family (and can for example help a cousin finish school).

## The weather

[The climate in Kenya](#) is characterized by dry and wet seasons. The temperatures are pleasant throughout, but temperatures in the highlands are usually cooler than on the coast, with a significant difference between day and night temperatures. The coastal region is always warm and humid. On average, the temperature lies around 35 °C/95 °F during the day.

Kenya has long and short rainy seasons. The short rainy season is typically in November, while the long rainy season runs from the end of March to the end of May. But even during the rainy season it's possible to visit Kenya. Most of the roads are passable, the parks are lush and green, and there are fewer tourists. The rain usually falls in the afternoon while the mornings are sunny. Some dirt roads in the parks might become impassable due to heavy showers, but in those instances our drivers always look for alternative routes!

## Safety while traveling

Kenya is definitely a safe country to visit, especially for people going on organised game drives with private guides, as you will do with us. There are of course some places to avoid in big cities like Nairobi or Mombasa, but - as with all big cities - by taking some precautions, you will be fine. Also, during safaris, there are a few things to keep in mind:

- Never leave your passport, money or valuables in the room, unless there is a safe.
- Put your valuables in a safe or leave them in special lockers at the reception.
- Do not leave important items (such as money or your bag) unattended in the safari vehicle, even for a short time.
- Leave valuable jewellery at home. Wear a (simple) necklace, watch, or wedding ring, but avoid flashy jewellery (that also monkeys might steal).
- Be wary of pickpockets during the day.
- Avoid walking alone at night, especially in urban areas. Always take a taxi.
- If you need a taxi, only use registered taxi companies that you can order at the hotel reception.

## Handing out gifts or money

Sometimes clients ask what they can bring for local people when booking a safari. We recommend donating to small local NGOs that have a real impact on people’s lives. However, if you prefer to bring gifts, that can also be a great option. You can visit [Pack for a Purpose’s website](#) to check if any hotels on your itinerary could use some items for their projects. Additionally, we suggest you take a look at our blog post titled [Gifts for locals? These are our tips!](#) to explore some excellent gift options.

## Taxis and other forms of transport

You have your own safari jeep, so all transport is included in your journey. But if you need to hire a taxi, please ask your hotel to call a reliable company. In many places it’s also possible to order a tuktuk - these are popular ways of transport and relatively cheap. They carry up to three people. In some cities, you can also order Ubers.



Local mini-buses (matatu) and motortaxi’s (boda boda) are for adventurous people. In general, the matatu don’t have the safest drivers and are cramped up. Boda boda’s are not safe (e.g. drive like crazy).

## Phone calls

Kenya's country code is +254 and usually there is no problem getting cell phone coverage. However, signals might not be very strong in the national parks, and some camps offer Wi-Fi in designated areas only. It's fairly easy to buy a local SIM card if you want to avoid roaming charges. For emergencies, lodges and camps in the national parks typically have a hand radio.

## Electricity

Many camps in the national parks run on solar power and generators and don't offer power 24/7. Often power is available from 05:00 - 09:30 am and from 7:00 - 11:00 pm (when guests are using facilities at the camp). The voltage in Kenya is not the same as in Europe or the United States. Hotels in Kenya offer a voltage of 220-240V that fluctuates regularly. The sockets are three-pin (UK). It's advisable to bring an adapter for the sockets and a voltage converter for sensitive equipment.



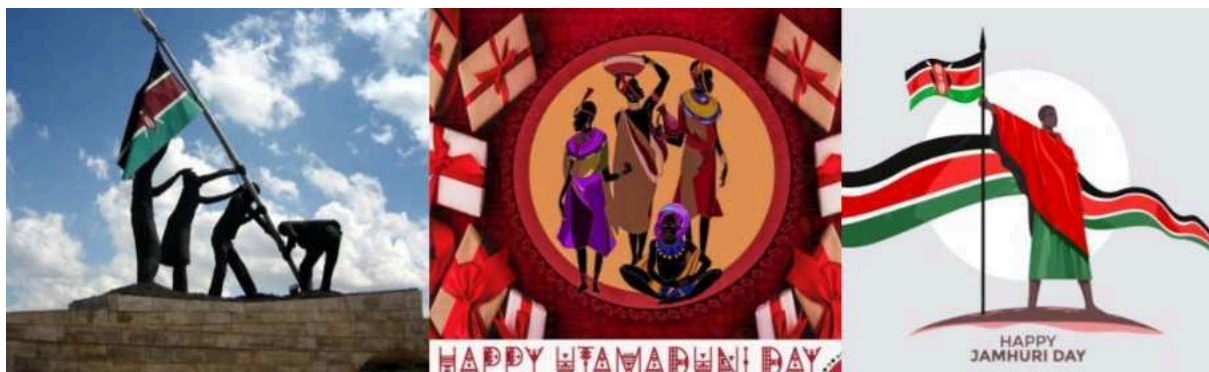
## Souvenirs

In Kenya there are a multitude of beautiful, mostly handmade, souvenirs. In shopping malls and supermarkets prices are fixed, but stalls along the road are used to bargaining. Typical souvenirs are: jewellery with beads, carvings, paintings, shoulder bags made of natural materials and African fabrics, coffee and tea. Don't take anything made of skin, shells or coral – exporting these is not allowed.

## National holidays

In addition to the Christian holidays, Kenya has several national and Islamic public holidays:

- **1st of January:** New Year's Day
- **1st of May:** Labour Day
- **April:** Idd-ul-Fitr (end of Ramadan, exact date depending on the lunar cycle)
- **1st of June:** Madaraka Day (commemorates the day Kenya attained self-rule on the 1st of June 1963, before gaining full independence from the United Kingdom on December 12, 1963)
- **June:** Idd-ul-Azha (sacrifice feast, exact date depending on the lunar cycle)
- **October 10th:** Utamaduni Day (national culture day)
- **October 20th:** Mashujaa Day (or Heroes Day, to collectively honour all those who contributed towards the struggle for Kenya's independence or positively contributed in the post-independence Kenya).
- **December 12th:** Jamhuri Day (Independence Day)



## Preserve Kenya's nature with us!

Africa Safari Trips invests in, and lives from, the beautiful nature that Kenya offers. This is why we do everything in our power to preserve the environment to the best of our ability. We ask you, as our guest, not to leave waste in the cities, on the beaches, or in the national parks. Instead, please keep it with you until you or your guide can dispose of it properly when arriving back in the hotel. It's just a small gesture, but it will help future generations to enjoy this beautiful country just as we do!



*We wish you safari njema (safe travels) and warmly welcome you: karibu Kenya!*