

#### **DESTINATION GUIDE**

# REPUBLIC OF KENYA

Wilderness is delighted to host you in Kenya. We've compiled this guideline with facts and useful information, also available to you on our website <a href="www.wildernessdestinations.com/">www.wildernessdestinations.com/</a>. Additionally, the Kenya Tourism Board can be accessed at <a href="www.magicalkenya.com/">www.magicalkenya.com/</a>

Acclaimed as one of Africa's premier safari destinations, Kenya is a vast country that offers some of the most spectacular landscape, scenery and wildlife on the continent. The country is almost the size of Texas and slightly larger than France, and packs a significant punch in biodiversity, with endless savannah plains, scorched deserts, snow-capped mountains, cool highlands and equatorial forests.

The remarkable wildebeest migration is the single biggest movement of land animals on the planet, and promises thrilling year-round safari adventures. Kenya is also home to the pristine coral reefs along the coast, and Lake Victoria — the second-largest freshwater lake in the world.



### **GREAT-TO-KNOW FACTS**



The black stripe represents the population of Kenya.

Red is for the lives lost during the freedom struggle.

Green is to highlight the natural wealth, while white represents peace.

The Masai shield with two spears symbolises the defence of freedom.

#### Government

Kenya's government is a multi-party democracy.

## **Economy**

Agriculture continues to dominate the economy through the production of tea, coffee, sugarcane, wheat, rice, sisal, pineapples, dairy products and meat, and employs 75% of the country's workforce. Natural resources are oil, gas, limestone, gypsum, soda ash, diatomite, gemstones, fluorspar, zinc, wildlife, and hydropower.

## Currency

The Kenyan Shilling (KES) is the official currency.

# Language

Kiswahili and English are the official languages.

#### **Time**

Three hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+3) or Central European Time (CET) +2 hours.

#### Climate

Kenya's diverse geography means that temperature, rainfall and humidity vary widely. There are four distinct zones:

- the plateau of western Kenya has rainfall throughout the year;
- the Rift Valley and Central Highlands have two rainy seasons in March to early June, and October to November;
- northern and eastern Kenya have violent storms, with July being the driest month and November the most wet;
- it's consistently humid along the coast, and rainfall depends on the monsoon between October and April.





#### **NAIROBI**

Temperature Average (°C) (°F). These are the average lows and highs. Average Rainfall (mm) & (inches). This varies according to the year and location.



### **Public Holidays**

Kenya's official public holidays are listed below. Mondays are declared a holiday if the public holiday falls on a Sunday.

| New Year's Day                                | 01 January             | Eid al-Adha                           | Varies in July |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Good Friday                                   | Varies in April or May | Utamaduni Day<br>(formaly Huduma Day) | 10 October     |
| Easter Monday                                 | Varies in April or May | Mashuiaa Day                          | 20 October     |
| Labour Day                                    | O1 May                 | Jamhuri (Independence Day)            | 12 December    |
| Eid al-Fitr (celebrating the end of Ramadhan) | Varies in May          | Christmas Day                         | 25 December    |
| Madaraka Day                                  | 01 June                | Boxing Day                            | 26 December    |

#### **USEFUL TRAVEL INFORMATION**

## Visas & entry requirements

The Kenya tourist visa is a single-entry visa. Foreign nationals who require visas to enter the country may have to apply for these in advance. Costs vary depending on the nationality of the passport holder. Visit the following websites for additional information <a href="https://www.immigration.go.ke">www.immigration.go.ke</a> or <a href="https://www.evisa.go.ke">www.kenya.org.za</a>. Visitors can log on to the <a href="https://www.evisa.go.ke">www.evisa.go.ke</a> portal to apply for an eVisa.

#### **Vaccinations**

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required for travel to and from Kenya.

# **Payment**

Visitors to Kenya should change foreign currency at banks, Bureau de Change or authorised hotels. The easiest currencies to exchange are US Dollars, GBP sterling and Euros.

#### Credit cards

Credit cards are accepted in all major establishments. MasterCard, Visa and American Express are the most recognized, while smaller shops will only accept cash.

## Shopping

Nairobi has a near-endless variety of places to shop. The City Market on Muindi Mbingu Street is a good source of inexpensive souvenirs. Bargains may be found at street stalls on many of the major thoroughfares, with local traders offering an assortment of mementos. Major streets in Mombasa have numerous souvenir shops and galleries, and trader stalls are abundant on Moi Avenue and Nyerere Street.

# Value Added Tax (VAT)

Goods and services in the Republic of Kenya are priced to include value added tax (VAT) of 16%.

#### Dress code

Although there is no strict dress code, do note that the coastal areas are predominantly Muslim. We recommend conservative attire when away from the tourist resorts and hotels in these areas.

## **Power Supply**

In the major cities, all electrical appliances run on 220/240V with 3-prong square sockets. The associated plug type is G, which is the plug that has three rectangular pins in a triangular pattern. We recommend that you carry your own adapters. Most safaris are situated in remote areas and generate their own electricity through solar power or generators.

# Map of Kenya

