



Kenya

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Why Go?

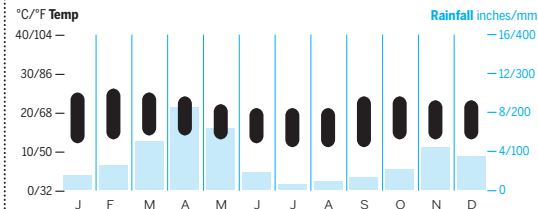
Kenya is the Africa you always dreamed of: a land of vast savannah, immense herds of wildlife and peoples with proud traditions rooted in the soil where human beings emerged.

The Maasai, the Samburu, the Turkana, the Swahili, the Kikuyu: these are the peoples whose histories and daily struggles tell the story of a country and of a continent – the struggle to maintain traditions as the modern world crowds in, the daily fight for survival in some of the harshest environments on earth, the ancient tension between those who farm and those who roam.

Then, of course, there's the wildlife. From the Masai Mara to Tsavo, this is a country of vivid experiences – elephant families wallowing in swamps in the shadow of Mt Kilimanjaro, the massed millions of pink flamingos bathing elegantly in lake shallows, the landscape suddenly fallen silent and brought to attention by the arrival of an as-yet-unseen predator. There's nowhere better than Kenya to answer Africa's call to the wild.

When to Go

Nairobi



Jul–Oct The annual wildebeest migration arrives in the Masai Mara in all its epic glory.

Jan–Feb Hot, dry weather with high concentrations of wildlife in the major parks.

Nov–Mar Migratory birds present in their millions throughout the country.

AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** Kenyan shilling (KSh)
- » **Languages** English and Swahili; other tribal languages also spoken
- » **Money** ATMs in major towns; credit cards widely accepted
- » **Mobile Phones** Local SIM cards widely available; mobile coverage extensive but patchy in wilderness areas
- » **Visas** Issued on arrival at Nairobi's international airport; valid for three months

Fast Facts

- » **Area** 580,367 sq km
- » **Capital** Nairobi
- » **Country code** 254
- » **Population** 41.07 million

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	KSh88
Canada	C\$1	KSh83
Euro	€1	KSh109
Zone		
Japan	¥100	KSh102
New Zealand	NZ\$1	KSh67
UK	UK£1	KSh130
USA	US\$1	KSh83

Set Your Budget

- » **Budget hotel room** US\$5–10
- » **Double room in mid-range hotel** US\$50–200
- » **Full board in safari lodge** US\$200 and up
- » **Independent safari with car rental** US\$75–100 per day

Itineraries

One Week *Safari njema* – have a good trip! Kenya's rough-and-ready capital, Nairobi, is where you begin; it's the only capital city with a national park on its doorstep – watch lions, leopards and cheetahs against the backdrop of distant skyscrapers. This is just a taster for the next stop, the world-renowned Masai Mara National Reserve. Between July and October, the Mara hosts the annual wildebeest migration, an iconic slice of safari Africa and one of the greatest wildlife concentrations on earth.

Staying in Maasailand, head to Amboseli National Park, where you can get closer to elephants than almost anywhere else in Africa. The views of Mt Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak, are without rival.

Three Weeks Start your search for the 'Big Five' – elephant, lion, leopard, rhino and buffalo – at Lake Nakuru National Park, a stunning alkaline lake in the Rift Valley. Its population of many thousands of pink flamingos and pelicans is one of Kenya's signature images. This vitally important national park also protects the country's largest population of endangered black rhinos, as well as large herds of buffalo; sightings are almost guaranteed.

From Lake Nakuru, your next stop is the obligatory safari in Masai Mara National Reserve.

TRANSPORT IN KENYA

Kenya has a reasonably extensive and well-developed transport network. Things to remember:

- » Transport options and road quality are excellent in central and western Kenya and along the coast, but take what you can get (and be prepared to shake and rattle) in the north.
- » You'll need a private vehicle (usually a 4WD) for most safaris inside national parks.
- » Distances in Kenya can be considerable and travel times invariably longer than you expect; consider flying to make the most of your time.
- » If you decide to travel by train, do so to experience a colonial-era relic rather than to arrive comfortably or quickly or in any great comfort.
- » If you're travelling by land, *never* do so by night.
- » If travelling on a matatu, *never* sit next to the driver if you value your life.

Cultural Tips

- » Linger over greetings; they play an important societal role.
- » Learn a few words in Swahili.
- » Don't eat or pass things with the left hand.
- » If asked for a bribe, ask for ID from the official in question and a receipt.