

Masai Mara & Western Kenya

Includes ➔

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Narok | 112 |
| Masai Mara National Reserve | 112 |
| Kisumu..... | 124 |
| Ruma National Park | 129 |
| Mbita & Rusinga Island | 130 |
| Mfangano Island..... | 131 |
| Kisii..... | 132 |
| Kericho..... | 133 |
| Kakamega Forest | 136 |
| Mt Elgon National Park | 142 |

Best of Nature

- ➔ Conservancies surrounding the Masai Mara (p120)
- ➔ Masai Mara National Reserve (p112)
- ➔ Kakamega Forest Reserve (p136)
- ➔ Saiwa Swamp National Park (p145)
- ➔ Mt Elgon National Park (p142)

Best of Culture

- ➔ Learning about Maasai culture at Maji Moto Group Ranch (p120)
- ➔ Bullfighting near Kakamega (p122)

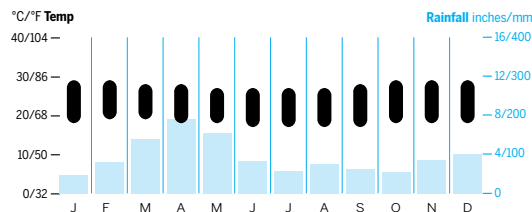
Why Go?

For most people, the magic of western Kenya is summed up in two poetic words: Masai Mara. Few places on Earth support such high concentrations of animals, and the Mara's wildebeest-spotted savannahs are undeniably the region's star attraction. Drama unfolds here on a daily basis, be it a stealthy trap coordinated by a pride of lions, the infectious panic of 1000 wildebeest crossing a river, or the playful pounce of a cheetah kitten on its sibling.

But there's much more to western Kenya than these plains of herbivores and carnivores. The dense forests of Kakamega are buzzing with weird and wonderful creatures, the rain-soaked hills of Kericho and their verdant tea gardens bring new meaning to the word 'green', and amid the boat-speckled waters of Lake Victoria lies a smattering of seldom-visited islands crying out for exploration.

When to Go

Kisumu



Mar–May The 'heavy rains' fall at this time, particularly in the cooler Western Highlands.

Jul–Oct With the arrival of the wildebeest migration, the Masai Mara groans with herbivores.

Nov–Dec The 'lesser rains' appear briefly before things really dry out in January.



Western Kenya Highlights

1 Getting caught up in the swirling wildebeest traffic jams of the **Masai Mara National Reserve** (p112), the greatest animal show on Earth

2 Having the world's finest safari experience – and benefiting the locals – in one of the **conservancies** (p120) surrounding the Masai Mara

3 Scouring leaf litter for creepy-crawlies and searching for thumbless colobus in **Kakamega Forest Reserve** (p136)

4 Wading through the backwaters of **Saiwa Swamp National Park** (p145) in a hunt for paddling antelope

5 Throwing away your watch

and making plans to stay forever on Lake Victoria's idyllic islands, including **Rusinga Island** (p130)

6 Brewing a proper cuppa in **Kericho** (p133), the tea capital of Africa

7 Searching for salt-loving elephants in the caves of **Mt Elgon National Park** (p142)