

Nairobi

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Includes ➔

History	55
Sights	57
Activities	65
Tours	65
Festivals & Events	68
Sleeping	68
Eating	74
Drinking & Nightlife	76
Entertainment	79
Shopping	79
Around Nairobi	85

Best of Nature

- ➔ Nairobi National Park (p60)
- ➔ David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (p63)
- ➔ Giraffe Centre (p63)
- ➔ Acacia Camp (p86)

Best of Culture

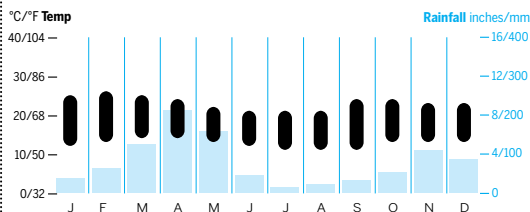
- ➔ Bomas of Kenya (p65)
- ➔ National Museum (p57)
- ➔ African Heritage House (p65)
- ➔ Karen Blixen's House & Museum (p64)

Why Go?

Telling people that you like Nairobi is like voicing a guilty secret. Yes, Nairobi's reputation precedes it. And yes, it's a city where it pays to keep your wits about you. But there are many people who don't just like Nairobi but who wouldn't want to live anywhere else. For those who call it home, the city's muscular, cosmopolitan charms include a vibrant cultural life, fabulous places to eat and exciting nightlife. If you're just passing through, this melting pot of people and attractions has the intriguing National Museum, an unlikely national park (black rhinos and all), an irresistible elephant orphanage, the ground zero for the Rothschild's giraffe, Karen Blixen's former home and so much more. Welcome to one of Africa's most dynamic cities, a place you'll almost certainly pass through and one that you could just learn to like if you give it half a chance.

When to Go

Nairobi



Jan & Feb, Jun–Sep The driest months; Nairobi National Park is at its best

Oct & Nov The rain cools things off without causing more than the usual traffic jams

Mar–May You don't want to be here when it rains, and rains, and rains...



Nairobi Highlights

- 1 Searching for wildlife in the most incongruous of places at **Nairobi National Park** (p60)
- 2 Bottle-feeding a gleeful group of baby elephants at the **David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust** (p63)
- 3 Indulging your inner Meryl Streep at the Railway Museum and **Karen Blixen's House & Museum** (p64)
- 4 Deepening your understanding of all things Kenyan at the **National Museum** (p57)
- 5 Learning how much of Nairobi lives by taking a tour of **Kibera** (p73)
- 6 Making the essential foodie pilgrimage to **Carnivore** (p75)
- 7 Tangling tongues with an endangered Rothschild's giraffe at Langata's **Giraffe Centre** (p63)
- 8 Listening for the echoes of tall tales told by colonial types at **Lord Delamere Terrace & Bar** (p77)
- 9 Taking to the hills to learn about tea at **Kiambethu Tea Farm** (p86)
- 10 Trying to take a selfie while riding an ostrich at the **Maasai Ostrich Resort** (p86)

History

Nairobi is a completely modern creation, and everything here has been built in the last 115 years. As the tracks of the East African Railway were laid down between Mombasa and Kampala, a depot was established

at a small stream known to the Maasai as *uaso nairobi* (cold water). The Maasai were quickly removed from the land, as the British East Africa protectorate had ambitious plans to open up the interior to white colonial settlement.