



REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAVEL AND ENTRY INTO KENYA

REQUIREMENTS

Passports, VISAs & Permits

When entering Kenya, you need a valid American or Canadian Passport; Valid for at least six months from the date of your return date. Passport must have least two blank pages.

You will also need to have a recent passport picture, contact details (home address, telephone, email), travel information and flight itinerary (arrival flight number, date of departure of initial flight in case of connecting flights), proof of booking for the hotel you will be staying at (if staying with friends, a letter of invitation is accepted). Also you will need yellow fever vaccination certificate if coming from endemic countries (please check the WHO website for the updated list of countries)

As of January 1, 2024, tourists are required to apply and pay for an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) prior to their travel. You can still use issued valid tourist visas until they expire.

You must obtain your visa or eTA online prior to your departure. Be sure to check the visa validity immediately after issuance. To apply, click here: <https://www.etakenya.go.ke/en>

If you don't have a valid visa or eTA, you could be detained, taken to court and charged for being in Kenya illegally. You could be subject to a fine or deportation.

Useful links: <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/kenya>

Immunizations

A yellow fever inoculation certificate is required. The certificate only becomes valid ten days after vaccination after which it remains valid for ten years.

For more information on immunizations and detailed country-specific recommendations on vaccinations and other health precautions for travellers to Kenya, visit: <https://www.health.go.ke/travel-related-faqs> and the CDC's Travellers' Health website: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/kenya>

CUSTOMS

Visitors, including delegates staying in Kenya for up to 3 months, are entitled to duty exemptions of up to \$500 worth of non-consumable and consumable goods for personal use that they will take back at the end of the visit. These include non-alcoholic beverages and tobacco in quantities consistent with their visit intentions. For more information, please see the Kenya Revenue Authority Passenger Terminals FAQs attached below (from page 4). Please see also the list of goods that are PROHIBITED or RESTRICTED.

Important Notes on What to Declare

Items bought in duty-free shops, on the ship, or on the plane beyond the allowed limits.

Currency above US\$10,000 or its equivalent MUST be declared at customs upon arrival.

List of Necessary Documentation

- Valid passport and photocopy of front two pages (in case of loss)
- Kenya Electronic Travel Authorization or VISA and photocopy
- Other forms of picture identification (driver's license, state issued identification card, etc.)
- Immunization Records
- Details of medications you are taking or any pre-existing illness/allergy which might require medical treatment

VISITORS' ORIENTATION MANUAL

Life in Kenya: People and Language

Kenya has an estimated population of 52 million. This comprises of more than 40 ethnic groups, each with its own unique dialect. Kenya is a multilingual country with the two official languages being Swahili and English. Peri-urban and rural dwellers are less multilingual, most speak only their native languages.

Some major cities in Kenya include Mombasa, Kisumu and Nairobi, the capital city.

Currency

The currency in Kenya is the Shilling (KES). Its advised to convert your dollars to the local currency for transactions.

Culture, traditions and values

Kenyans are a friendly and hospitable people. Greetings are an important part of social and business interaction. Hand-shaking is the customary mode of greetings. Eye contact is important to build trust. A smile and friendly conversation, even in the midst of difficulty, can make fast friends of strangers. Most Kenyans are excited by your interest in their country, and love to help you learn about it. They enjoy attempts, however feeble, at speaking their language.

Kenyans are a jovial lot. They love stories and jokes.

Greetings

The formal greetings are: good morning or good afternoon (Swahili general greeting: habari yako? To which you answer: Njema)

Shake hands firmly when greeting people.

Way of Life

Kenyans also place great importance on family. Kenyan families are often large and usually include the extended family. Kenyans honor collective responsibilities and traditional values, which include treating the elderly with respect.

Most people are laid back and the concept of time has a more relaxed and less rigorous approach especially in the rural areas. Punctuality is often the casualty of this mind-set.

Religion

The predominant religion in Kenya is Christianity, with an estimated 85% of the total population. Islam is the second largest religion in Kenya, practiced by approximately 11 percent of Kenyans. Other faiths practiced in Kenya include; traditional religions, Hinduism, Buddhism and Baha'i.

Kenyans are receptive to the Gospel message. Feel free to share your testimony, distribute Bibles or other Christian materials. You will be amazed by the opportunities you will have to be a witness for our Lord Jesus Christ regardless of the type of trip you are on. Bibles, tracts and other Christian materials are prized possessions. Christianity is allowed in schools.

Food and Drink

Kenyans are generous people. They will always offer food and drinks to guests.

Cultural Experience

The experience will definitely be different and you are encouraged to ask questions. The culture of the people is not necessarily good or bad, it's just different.

It's natural for visitors to express sympathy for human suffering they may encounter and offer basic assistance to meet the needs.

WHAT TO PACK

Passport and Immunization Papers

Your passport and visa/eTA to gain entry into the country. A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required.

Clothes for Variable Temperatures

Kenya has a warm tropical weather with temperature ranges of between 15°C to 30°C. Pack light clothes for the warm weather and some warm clothes for the chilly early mornings and late evenings. Long sleeved shirts and trousers will keep off mosquitoes and for layering in case it gets cold.

Toiletries and Medical Supplies

Pack sufficient toiletries to last the entire visit. Carry some medical supplies and a first aid kit. Remember to include mosquito or bug repellents.

Carry enough sunscreen to last your entire trip. The tropics may at times reach 40°C during the dry season. Remember to include sunburn relief medication in case you do get sunburn.

Other Essentials

Sunglasses, lip protectant, water bottle, mosquito netting, etc

Camera with extra batteries

Kenya is a magnificent country with beautiful flora and fauna. Carry a camera and enough batteries to capture all the great memories.

Extra Cash for Souvenirs

Kenya has a lot to offer. There are so many artefacts that one can buy as souvenirs. Carry some cash to buy curios, cultural clothing, arts and crafts.