EST. 1989
GAMEWATCHERS SAFARIS

ESSENTIAL PRE-TRAVEL INFORMATION

Kenya

Everything you need to know before your journey into the wild



— Award-winning eco-luxury safaris
— Conservation at heart
— Primate trekking specialists

Before you travel

We are delighted to welcome you to Kenya.

This guide brings together everything you need to travel with confidence, from the few things the Kenyan government requires of every visitor, to the details that make a good safari unforgettable.

We've kept it concise on purpose. Any question at all, our team is only a message away.

YOUR ESSENTIAL CHECKLIST

Mandatory government requirements are marked in gold.

- **Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA)** *approved before departure, most nationalities*
- **Kenya inbound health insurance** *every traveller incl. children, before you fly*
- **Passport valid 6+ months** *with at least one blank page*
- **Yellow fever certificate** *if arriving via an endemic country*
- **Comprehensive travel insurance** *medical treatment + emergency evacuation*
- **Malaria prophylaxis** *begun before arrival, per your doctor*
- **Soft-sided bag, 15 kg** *hard suitcases not allowed on light aircraft*
- **No plastic bags** *single-use plastic bags are banned by law*

SECTION ONE · MANDATORY

Entry requirements

Set by the Government of Kenya. Airlines may deny boarding without them, so please arrange these well ahead of departure. Kenya's mandatory inbound health insurance is on the next page.

Passport

Valid for at least six months beyond arrival, with one or more blank pages. Carry a copy separately from the original.

eTA

Most visitors need an approved eTA before travel, USD 30 pp via the official etakenya.go.ke only. Nationals of most African countries are exempt. Apply 3+ days ahead (up to 3 months). Approval in 24–72 hrs.

Yellow Fever

Yellow fever vaccine is not needed direct from non-endemic countries (UK, USA, Europe). It is required if arriving from — or transiting 12+ hrs through — an endemic country.

Combining Kenya with Tanzania, Uganda or Rwanda? Ask us about the East Africa Tourist Visa (USD 100) — one authorisation across Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. And note a yellow fever certificate is often required when travelling onward to Tanzania or home to South Africa or India.

SECTION ONE · MANDATORY

Kenya inbound health insurance

Required for every non-Kenyan visitor staying under 12 months, for arrivals from 5 October 2026. Airlines check cover at check-in, and immigration verifies it on arrival.

Who needs it

Every visitor, including children, needs their own policy. Existing travel insurance is not accepted. Not needing an eTA does not exempt you. Exempt: Kenyan citizens, residents, EAC citizens, diplomatic, official and service passports, and transit passengers.

How to buy

New eTA: buy it within the application at etakenya.go.ke. Already hold an eTA, or don't need one: buy at insurance.ecitizen.go.ke, with no new eTA needed. USD 44 per person, about USD 52 with fees.

Validity & proof

Valid 90 days, for multiple entries within that period. An electronic policy document is issued on payment, so keep it for check-in and immigration. For medical help under the policy, call Minet on +254 719 044 777.

Your own travel insurance is still essential. The Kenyan policy covers emergency medical costs only, up to USD 50,000, not cancellation, delays or baggage. Travelling on to mainland Tanzania? It requires its own USD 44 inbound policy.

SECTION ONE · MANDATORY

Ebola health screening

Introduced by Kenya's Ministry of Health after the first imported Ebola case on 6 October 2026. Screening is quick, but a missing form can mean delays on arrival. Rules can change at short notice, so we will confirm them before you fly.

The health form

Arriving from Tanzania (incl. Zanzibar), Uganda, Rwanda or another listed country? Complete Kenya's free UHAI Ebola screening before you fly, at chat.nphl.go.ke/screen or on WhatsApp by sending "Hi" to +254 716 717 717.

On arrival

Show your Traveller Health Pass and its QR code to Port Health. Every traveller has a temperature check, and arrivals from listed countries are screened at JKIA Gate 16.

Onward travel

Tanzania, Zanzibar and Uganda now require a health form from every arrival, and from 3 November all flights to the USA need a signed Ebola declaration.

Connecting via Addis Ababa, Kigali, Entebbe or Dar es Salaam? We recommend completing the form as well, as the rule for transit passengers is not yet clear. Kenya remains open to visitors, and the WHO advises against restrictions on travel to Kenya.

SECTION TWO

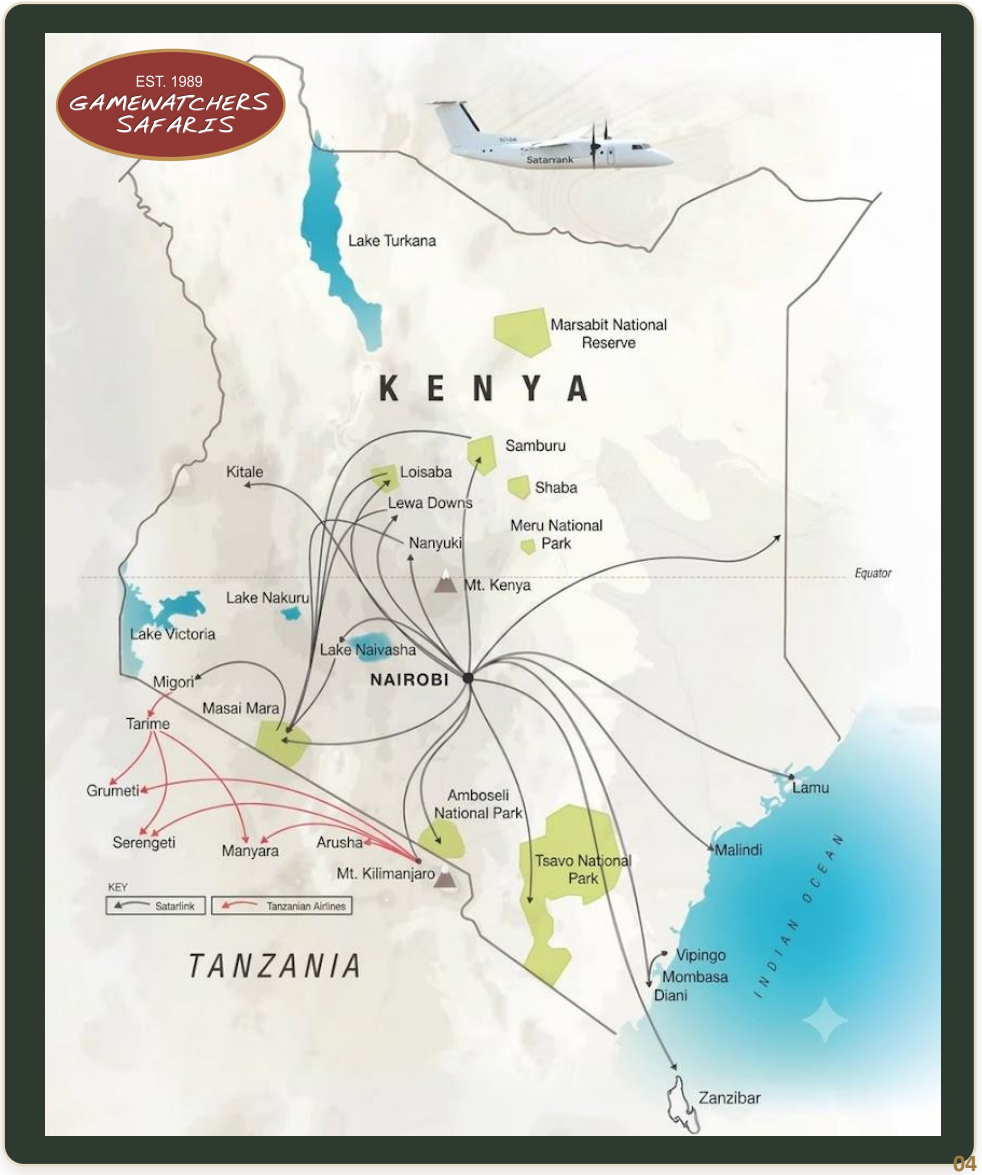
Your arrival in Nairobi

At the airport

Clear Passport Control and collect your luggage at Jomo Kenyatta International (JKIA) — quick and simple with your eTA approved. Beyond Customs you may be offered taxis; there's no need to engage. Our representative waits outside with a Gamewatchers signboard bearing your surname.

Connecting to your safari

Most camps are reached by scheduled light aircraft from Wilson Airport, a short transfer we arrange for you. Same-day connections are given comfortable time; prefer to overnight in Nairobi first? We're glad to arrange it.



OVERLAND ARRIVALS

Crossing from Tanzania by road

For guests returning overland from the Serengeti to the Masai Mara, via Sirari in Tanzania and Isebania in Kenya.

Your Kenya eTA

Apply at etakenya.go.ke at least two weeks ahead, USD 30 per person plus a small card processing fee. Your Kenya inbound health insurance is bought in the same application. There is no visa on arrival.

At the border

Exit stamp at Sirari, then Kenyan Immigration at Isebania. Allow 45–90 minutes. Carry a printed copy of your approval — connectivity at the border is not always reliable.

Returning to Kenya

A single-entry eTA stays valid for re-entry from Tanzania, provided it has not expired and you have visited no country outside East Africa. A second application is not required.

Yellow fever. Tanzania is not on the WHO list of risk countries, so a certificate is not officially required when entering Kenya. Officers at land borders do ask on occasion, however, so please carry your yellow booklet alongside your passport.

BORDER CROSSING BY AIR

Masai Mara to the Serengeti by air

For guests connecting between the Masai Mara and the Serengeti by scheduled light aircraft, with an immigration stop at the Isebania border.

Leaving the Mara

Your flight departs your Masai Mara airstrip and lands at Migori Airstrip, on the Kenyan side of the border.

At the border

A shared van or bus covers the road transfer from Migori to the Isebania border, roughly 35 minutes, where you clear Immigration on both sides.

On to Tanzania

Back aboard the vehicle for a short transfer of about 15 minutes to Tarime Airstrip, then your onward flight into the Serengeti.

The same route in reverse. Coming the other way, you fly Serengeti to Tarime, transfer 15 minutes by road to Isebania, then 35 minutes on to Migori for your flight into the Mara. Timings are approximate and depend on the day's flight schedule and queues at the border.

SECTION THREE

Health & wellbeing



Malaria & vaccinations

Anti-malarial medication is strongly recommended and should be started before arrival. Most vaccinations are advised rather than required, so see a travel clinic 6–8 weeks ahead.



Medical care & insurance

Comprehensive cover for treatment and emergency air evacuation is a condition of travel, in addition to Kenya's mandatory inbound health insurance. Providers may require payment upfront, reclaimed later. We can arrange cover via JW Seagon.



Ebola update

Kenya has confirmed nine Ebola (Bundibugyo) cases since 6 October 2026, all in one cluster of known contacts (WHO, 20 October). Entry screening and a health form apply to some arrivals, see Ebola health screening. The WHO advises no travel restrictions, and we will update you before you travel.



Food & water

Cuisine in our camps meets an excellent international standard. We recommend bottled or filtered water throughout, provided at all our camps.

SECTION FOUR

Money matters

Currency & payment



Kenyan Shilling (KES)
Approx. USD 1 ≈ KES 130, GBP 1 ≈ KES 172. Carry some shillings for tips and incidentals.



US Dollars accepted
Notes must be in good condition and issued after 2006. Banks give better rates than hotels.



Cards & ATMs
Widely accepted in towns and hotels; less so at remote camps. ATMs at JKIA and major towns.

A GUIDE TO TIPPING

At your discretion, most appreciated in shillings.

Safari guide & Spotter / Driver	USD $10–$15 per guest / day
Camp staff (tip box)	USD $10–$15 per guest / day
Restaurant & bar	10% of the bill
Porters	From USD $5

WEATHER & SEASONS

Rainy seasons at a glance

An outline of when the rains usually fall, and what that means for your time on safari.

Long rains

Mid March, April and May. The heaviest and most sustained rains of the year, most often falling in the late afternoon.

Short rains

Mid October and November. Shorter, lighter showers, usually between longer spells of clear weather.

Green season

March to June, and November. The greenest months. Showers tend to be short and heavy rather than all day, and rarely cost you a morning's game viewing, though some tracks are slower going after heavy rain.

A general guide. Seasonal patterns are shown as a guide only. East Africa's rainy seasons have become less predictable in recent years, with rains starting later, ending early, or arriving out of pattern. Pack for both dry and wet conditions whenever you travel, and we will advise on current conditions closer to your departure date.

SECTION FIVE

Packing for safari

The luggage rule



Soft-sided, lockable bag

15 kg per person incl. hand luggage

Max 55 × 35 × 25 cm. Hard suitcases can't fly on light aircraft. We'll store any surplus free at head office.

What to wear

Kenya is on the Equator, yet mornings and evenings can be genuinely cold — layer up. Choose natural, earth-toned colours (khaki, olive, brown). Camouflage is best avoided. Comfortable walking shoes & hat for escorted walks. Torch. Binoculars, and camera with telephoto lens. Please use our Packing list as a guideline on what to pack when on Safari.

- **Binoculars** — *one pair per guest*
- **Camera** — *telephoto + spares*
- **Sun protection** — *high SPF, hat, lip balm*
- **Layers** — *fleece for dawn drives*
- **Adapter** — *240V, UK Type-G plug*
- **Personal meds** — *in original packaging*

SECTION SIX

Travelling responsibly

Kenya's wild places are protected with care — a few simple courtesies help preserve them and enrich your experience.

No plastic bags

Single-use plastic bags are illegal. Remove them from luggage before you fly; reusable fabric bags are ideal.

Wildlife & souvenirs

Collecting any animal trophy is illegal. Buy only what you can carry home rather than shipping via curio shops.

Drones

Not permitted in conservancies or parks without special authorisation. Please leave them at home.

A note on courtesy

Ask before photographing people. Modest dress is appreciated in towns and at the coast, especially near places of worship.

SECTION SEVEN

Safety & practical notes

Safety & security

A member of the Kenya Tourism Federation Safety Centre. Kenya is rewarding and generally safe — take the sensible precautions you would anywhere: valuables out of sight, care after dark, and keep copies of key documents.

Staying connected

Most camps offer Wi-Fi in the main areas — gentle by design; part of the pleasure is disconnecting. Mobile coverage reaches many, though not all, safari areas. We'll advise on your specific camps.

KENYA AT A GLANCE

Time zone

EAT (GMT+3)

Languages

Swahili & English

Electricity

240V · Type-G plug

Climate

Warm days, cool dawns

TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO CONTACT US

Reaching us, at any hour

Our team is on the ground throughout your journey. The lines below are staffed 24 hours a day, every day of the year, and are answered in Nairobi.

Customer Service

Officers on duty, 24 hours a day
+254 733 718 904
+254 736 888 500
+254 723 979 370
+254 791 365 044

Service Manager

Customer Service Manager
+254 733 888 570
For anything that needs escalating while you are travelling.

Dialling in

From outside Kenya, dial the numbers exactly as shown, including the +254 country code. Within Kenya, drop the +254 and dial a leading 0 instead, for example 0733 718 904.

Please save these before you fly. Add the numbers to your phone and keep a printed copy with your travel documents, in case you are without signal or battery on arrival.

EST. 1989
GAMEWATCHERS SAFARIS

We look forward to welcoming you

Any question at all, our team is here at every stage of your journey. We wish you a wonderful safari.

www.porini.com · Head office on the ground in Kenya, throughout your trip