

Kenya

MAKE THE JOURNEY TO KENYA...



There has never been a safer, better and more exciting time to visit the most spectacular and friendliest place on earth. No other country can offer visitors as much to see and do. Within the borders of a single country, you will find savannahs rich with game, timeless cultures unchanged by the modern world, pristine beaches and coral reef, equatorial forests and mighty snow-capped mountains, searing deserts and cool highland retreats and endless opportunities for culture, action and relaxation... more than you would ever expect.

Experience a different safari everyday!

Where is Kenya?

Kenya is one of 53 countries on the African continent and is located in East Africa, with 500km of the Indian Ocean to the east and Lake Victoria to the west. It is bordered by Tanzania to the south, Uganda to the west and Ethiopia and Somalia to the north and is roughly the size of France (at 582,000 sq.km or 225,000 sq. miles).

Kenya is approximately 8 hours flying time from London and straddles the equator, making the north of Kenya in the northern hemisphere and the south in the southern hemisphere!

What is the climate like and when is the best time to go?

In a country as large as Kenya, with such diversity of landscape and with the growing unpredictability of the weather, it is very difficult to make general assumptions about the climate. Although there are two rainy seasons – the long rains between May and early June and the short rains in November – the rain rarely lasts long enough to spoil the day, mostly falling early in the morning or later in the evening.

The coastal region, including Mombasa, has a constant year round temperature of approximately 28°C and tends to be warm and sunny throughout the year with a refreshing cool sea breeze. The highlands climate is compared to that of the South of France, with mild daytime temperatures combined with cooler nights. Kenya's location on the equator means that the sun rises and sets at similar times each evening, with little change in its year round temperatures.

Most people will travel to Kenya to enjoy a safari from late June to October and December to March. Travelling at this time greatly increases the chances of seeing game - the grasses will be shorter and more game is likely to head to the waterholes in search of a drink during the evenings. Kenya is also a perfect winter sun destination owing to the warm climate along the coast and is a truly special place to spend Christmas.

Price conscious travellers should be able to take advantage of lower prices during the shoulder seasons of April and May and October and November, due to greater accommodation availability – and with fewer people they will enjoy a more exclusive experience. Early spring also benefits from being the time of the year when many offspring are born, making the chances of seeing baby cubs even greater.

What is the time difference?

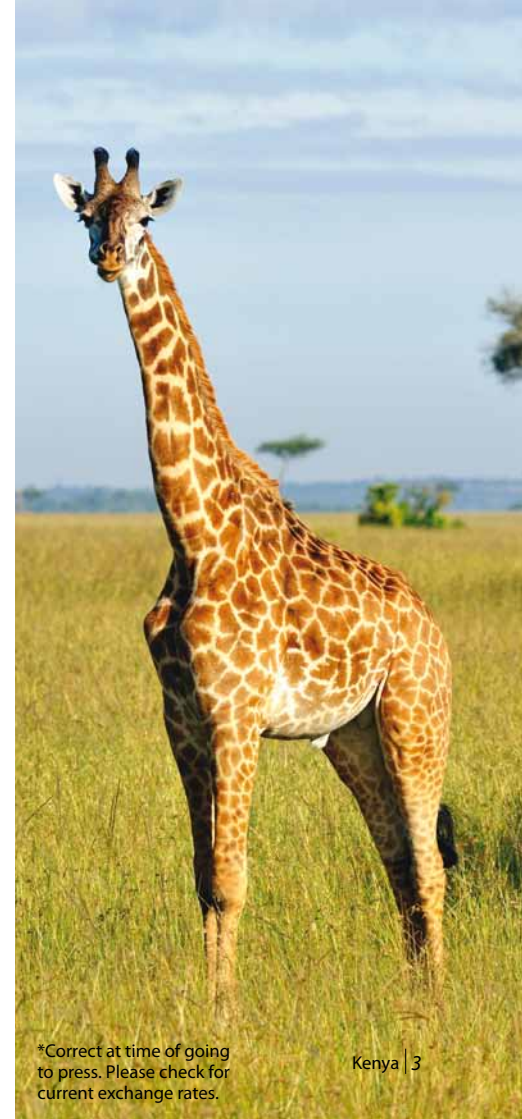
Kenya is GMT +3 hours, which means only two hours time difference in the summer and three hours in the winter. This is a great selling point for Kenya, as it means that it is a fantastic destination for short breaks, for children and for any travellers who want to avoid jet-lag.

What is the currency and what currency should I take?

Kenya Shillings is the local currency, with approximately 155 Kenya Shillings to the pound / 139 Kenya Shillings to the Euro*. Kenya Shillings are widely available at UK departure airports or at local banks and foreign exchange bureaus in Kenya.

Most people will take a mixture of Kenya Shillings and US Dollars, Pounds or Euros in currency. Kenya Shillings are useful on arrival for taxis, drinks, snacks and tipping; the more major currencies, credit / debit cards, or travellers' cheques, can be used to settle hotel or larger restaurant bills. Whilst major currencies are widely accepted in Nairobi and Mombasa, away from the coast on safari it is much more convenient to carry US dollars or Kenya Shillings in small denominations.

To give an idea of general costs a litre bottle of water costs approximately 155 Kenya Shillings (£1.00) whilst an evening meal for two with three courses including a bottle of wine will cost somewhere in the region of 4,500 Kenya Shillings (£29.00).



*Correct at time of going to press. Please check for current exchange rates.

KENYA... GETTING THERE



Do I need a visa?

EU passport holders require a visa to enter Kenya. An entry visa can be arranged either prior to travel through the Kenya High Commission in the UK or the Kenya Embassy in Ireland, or at the entry airport on arrival.

Arranging visas prior to departure

A visa takes between three and five working days to process and the cost is £30 for single entry from the UK or €40 from Ireland. Completed visa forms should be returned to the Kenya High Commission in London or Kenya Embassy in Dublin along with the traveller's passport, a passport photo and postal order for the relevant cost.

An application form can be downloaded from the Kenya High Commission - www.kenyahighcommission.net or from www.magicalkenya.com

Multiple-entry visas cost £60 / €52 and are valid for one year allowing re-entry to Kenya as many times as you like.

Arranging visas on arrival

A visa can simply be arranged upon arrival at Nairobi and Mombasa airports, although this method is not recommended if you have a connecting flight. If you decide to arrange your visa on entry, please have US\$50 available for visa payment.

Please note that visa requirements can change, so please check with the Kenyan Immigration Authorities before travelling.

Transit Visas

Seven day transit visas are issued for people with connecting flights and cost £10. Travellers visiting Uganda or Tanzania on a visitors pass do not need to purchase another visa if they return to Kenya within the validity of the visa.

What vaccinations will I need?

There are no legal requirements for compulsory inoculations for visitors arriving into Kenya but The World Health Organization recommends that all travellers be covered for diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and polio, as well as for hepatitis B, regardless of their destination. A vaccination for yellow fever is not a legal requirement if travelling from a non-infected country such as the UK. Some parts of Kenya are malarial and tablets are usually recommended but individual requirements will depend on previous medical and travel history, age and other personal facts. Please refer customers to their GP or a specialist travel clinic as the Kenya Tourist Board is unable to give any medical advice.



KENYA... THE ULTIMATE SAFARI DESTINATION



Having two rainy seasons in Kenya dramatically increases the abundance of animals and fauna. There are more than 80 major animal species in Kenya, but most people come to see the **Big Five** – lion, elephant, rhino, buffalo and leopard. Visitors tend to focus on this coveted group of animals but for the avid wildlife watcher Kenya is a prime location to see a vast array of animals roaming free in their natural habitats in wide open unfenced parks. Great efforts are being made by the Kenyan authorities to save many of the endangered species previously illegally poached and even animals such as chimpanzees which are not native to Kenya have been rescued and re-habilitated in sanctuaries.

As fascinating as the big cats are, no visit to Kenya would be complete without the other animals that roam the plains and forests of the national parks and reserves, including giraffe, zebra, crocodile, hippopotamus, hyena, warthog, baboon, gazelle and wildebeest.

The famous **wildebeest migration**, when millions of the animals migrate from the Serengeti in Tanzania across the border into the Maasai Mara, is one of the most spectacular natural phenomena in the world and usually occurs from July to the end of September every year. As the migration depends upon rainy seasons, no exact dates can be given. It is a truly unique and mind blowing experience and monthly updates on the progress of the migration can be found by visiting www.atta.co.uk

Kenya is also considered the greatest country in Africa for bird watching, with over 1,000 recorded bird species. Head on-line for an A-Z of the Kenyan species of bird at www.magickkenya.com

What can my customers expect on a safari?

The safari experience tends to start very early in the morning, before dawn. An early safari increases the chance of seeing game as they, are as a rule, most active in the cooler mornings. Most safaris will then return to the lodges or camps for a leisurely breakfast, restarting late afternoon for the second outing. Many lodges will offer the opportunity for an additional mid-morning safari, walking safari or visit to a local village.

As Kenya is equatorial, the sun generally sets at approximately 18:30 each evening. Public parks do not allow people to keep travelling after sun-down for fear of disturbing the animals, so the safari vehicles return to the lodges or camps for dinner and, if located near a waterhole, a fantastic chance of night viewings – where the animals come to you!

The vehicles used are purpose built for safari, with each seat located next to a window. Most are fitted with roofs that will lift up, allowing all passengers to stand to get a better view of the game. Binoculars, good cameras and lots of batteries are recommended. Please remind customers that Kenya is equatorial, so high factor sun cream, mosquito repellent and light, neutral coloured daytime clothing are all holiday essentials. On most safaris luggage is limited, so seasoned travellers will take a smaller case or bag that will hold their safari essentials, enabling them to travel light.





What are the main National Parks to visit?

Maasai Mara Game Reserve

The Maasai Mara is the most popular game reserve in Kenya and understandably so with some of the best game viewing in Africa. The 'Mara' is 200 sq miles of reserve, in southwest Kenya that extends southwards to the Serengeti in Tanzania. Made up of wide savannahs, woodlands and Acacia forest, the 'Mara' is home to an abundance of wildlife, including the Big Five, zebra, giraffe, gazelle and monkeys. It has been the setting for several BBC series of "The Big Cat Diaries" – which famously documents the life of a family of cheetahs and the threats which they have to face on a daily basis. The 'Mara' is also famous for its Migration when

over 1.5 million wildebeest accompanied by hundreds of thousand of zebra and gazelles, head north from the Serengeti to the Maasai Mara across the Mara River.

Tsavo National Park

The Park is about the size of Wales and is split into Tsavo East and West, divided by the Nairobi - Mombasa highway. It is Kenya's largest national park and has the highest concentration of elephants in the country. It benefits from being just 3 - 4 hours drive from Mombasa to the edge of the park, making it an ideal safari experience from the coast. Tsavo East is the location of two Elephant Rehabilitation Centres, where elephants who are orphaned and nursed back to health in Nairobi, are reintegrated into the wilderness.

Chyulu Hills

The Chyulu Hills are considered to be some of the youngest volcanic mountains in the world, born out of the earth only 500 years ago. The beautiful hills are bordered by an expanse of black lava flow known as Sheitani, the source of many local legends. This is a paradise for viewing elephant herds, cheetah and remote Maasai villages.

Amboseli

Amboseli is renowned for its elephant populations and large herds, including some impressively tusked bulls that are drawn to a series of large, lush swamplands. The reserve consists of wide open plains crowned by Mount Kilimanjaro across the border in Tanzania. It benefits from being easily reached from Nairobi and its relative small size

makes game viewing excellent and the perfect destination for families.

Laikipia

Located in central Kenya, Laikipia is one of the best examples of wildlife conservation and ecotourism in Kenya. There is a large population of game in the area and the park supports eight heavily protected rhino sanctuaries, which together hold a high percentage of Kenya's black rhino population. Other game includes the endangered Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe and significant numbers of other large predators such as lions, leopards, buffalo and the very elusive packs of African wild dogs.

Samburu

Found within the north central Great Rift Valley area towards the North of Kenya, Samburu is visited by large herds of elephants, drawn by the promise of water in this otherwise arid landscape. In the dry season the elephants use their tusks to dig into the dry river beds, unearthing precious water. These waterholes become a focal point for other game and a great place for viewing a variety of animals.

Shaba and Buffalo Springs

Across the Ewaso Nyiro River close to Samburu, both Shaba and Buffalo Springs show a spectacular area of Kenya, with the backdrop of the mighty Mountain Ol Doinyo Lengai. The river flows through both reserves and is where Joy Adamson, the author of Born Free spent her final years. More recently, Survivor USA the hit TV series was filmed in Shaba.

Nairobi National Park

Located in the capital of Nairobi, Kenya's first national park is home to herds of zebra, giraffe, lions and rhinos. There is an abundance of birdlife within the park with over 400 species and a large butterfly house. Few realise that the park is not entirely enclosed and that many animals migrate in and out of the park with the rainy seasons.

Mount Kenya & Ol Pejeta Conservancy

Mount Kenya is Africa's second highest peak standing at 5,199 metres. The forests around the base of Mount Kenya are rich in game, particularly buffalo and elephants. The area is also known for sightings of black panthers. It is possible to climb slopes of Mount Kenya with some assistance and a trek to the summit can take between 3 and 5 days! The conservancy, Ol Pejeta, close to Mount Kenya is home to both Morani, a tame local Rhino, and also a Chimpanzee Sanctuary, taking care of East African chimps previously harmed in the wild.

Meru

Meru is a savannah park in the North eastern lowlands located close to the Tana River and close to Mount Kenya. The Hills and Kopjes make good game spotting outposts, and getting up high is the best way to scan the horizons for herds of game. Lions are known to also take advantage of this opportunity, and can be seen hunting on these slopes for buffalo or Oryx.





Lewa

Home to the world famous Safaricom Marathon, this conservancy, north-west of Mount Kenya is the perfect location to spot black rhino with outstanding game viewing.

Shimba Hills

A quieter and smaller park set in the cool highlands overlooking the Indian Ocean, it has the benefit of being close to Mombasa and ideal for younger visitors. Shimba Hills is a great park for game and the forest is excellent for bird watching, whilst the waterholes and salt licks make great viewing areas. Nearby is the Mwalunganji Elephant Reserve which is a newly established sanctuary for several herds of elephant.

Aberdares

The Aberdares is the third highest range of mountains in Kenya, well known for its thick forests and prolific game. The forest is rich in game and large herds of buffalo. Rare species include giant forest hog, Bongo antelope and Colobus monkeys. Night time here is truly spectacular with elephant herds surrounding the waterholes, drinking and then fading away back into the forest.

Lake Turkana

Kenya's ultimate destination for the adventure wildlife safari, the lake supports the largest population of Nile crocodiles in all of Africa with around 22,000! Lake Turkana also houses a large hippo population and boat trips are the best way to see both. The rocky Central Island houses many water-birds and is home to some

very large crocodiles. Sibiloi National Park on the northern shores plays host to seasonal populations of zebra, gerenuk, kudu, lion, hyena and cheetah.

Lake Naivasha

Lake Naivasha is a beautiful freshwater lake, fringed by thick papyrus, only a short drive from Nairobi. Parts of the shore-line have recorded more than 400 bird species and the Acacia forest teems with birdlife. Lake Naivasha is also famed for its hippo population. The lake and its surrounds are rich in natural bounty, and the fertile soils and water supply have made this one of Kenya's prime agricultural regions.

Lake Nakuru

Lake Nakuru is world famous for its flamingos as well as being a sanctuary for rhino – both black and white. Nakuru means 'place of the waterbuck' and lives up to its name. It also plays host to buffalo, zebra, the rare Rothschild giraffe, lions and leopards.

Lake Victoria

At Kenya's Western frontier lays the great expanse of Lake Victoria. This massive (67,493 sq kms) lake, commonly known as Nyanza, forms a natural boundary between Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. This mighty body of water is rich in fish life, with shimmering shoals of colourful cichlids and large Nile Perch. Kisumu is a quiet port town on the Lakeshore, with wide streets and fine colonial architecture.



KENYA... THE COAST



Kenya's coastal towns

Kenya offers over 500km of spectacular white sand Indian Ocean beaches to enjoy. Mombasa is synonymous with the white sand beaches that line the Kenyan coast which is largely due to it being the international landing point for many UK and European flights, for cruise ships and for internal flights from Nairobi. Mombasa itself is an island, reached by a short ferry ride from the mainland, steeped in history and culture. A walk through the old town is like a walk through time from Arab rule, to Portuguese and back to the modern time.

Kenya's Indian Ocean offers a truly tropical beach experience.

- Fine white sand beaches
- Crystal clear azure waters
- Balmy breezes
- Protected coral reefs
- Broad range of hotels and resort facilities
- Water sports and diving opportunities
- Choice of charter flights from the UK
- Good all year round warm temperatures
- Local culture and history
- Great local cuisine including locally caught seafood
- Plenty of off-hotel activities including sports, safari and culture

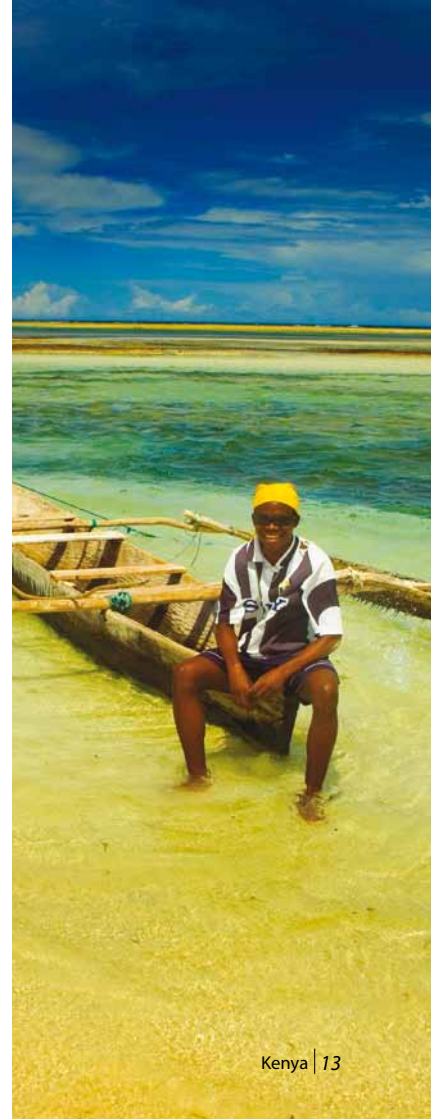
Mombasa - The city of Mombasa, Kenya's second largest metropolis, is spread out across Mombasa Island and prides itself on its relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The northern half of the island comprises the main dockland and industrial area, while the

heart of the city revolves around the southern end and Mombasa Old Town. Definitely worth exploring, the Old Town reflects Mombasa's rich history as a settlement, which dates from the 13th Century.

The South Coast – The coastline south of Mombasa is a tropical paradise of palm fringed white sand beaches, turquoise Indian Ocean waters and beautiful coral reefs. Popular beaches along the south coast include Diani (one of the most popular with a short airport transfer time) and Tiwi (for a more secluded getaway). The protective reefs have created ideal beaches with calm, inviting waters, which are alive with coral, tropical fish, sea turtles and dolphins. Both outer and inner reef walls offer world class diving with spectacular coral gardens and drop offs.

Shimoni and Wasini - At the southern part of the Kenyan coast and once the headquarters of the Imperial British East Africa Company, Shimoni is 76 kilometers south of Likoma and the launching point for Wasini Island. Shimoni is both idyllic and fascinating with stunning coral caves, dusty streets and a beautiful market. Five kilometers long and only one kilometre wide, Wasini is sparsely populated and underdeveloped with no cars or even roads.

The North Coast – North of Mombasa the coast is equally lined with palm fringed beaches offering quiet havens for rest and relaxation, broken by the Kilifi Creek. Popular beaches include Nyali, Bamburi and Shanzu.





Malindi and Watamu – Just a two hour drive from Mombasa, the small town of Malindi is at the centre of a strip of idyllic tropical beaches on the north coast offering the visitor a range of world class resorts and quiet relaxing hideaways. Further south, the sleepy village of Watamu is fronted by wide white beaches. This tranquil haven is home to several well established resorts, and many private guesthouses scattered through the forest along the deserted shore.

Just outside Watamu, a Marine National Park has been established which offers an ideal day trip for divers and snorkellers alike. The

coral gardens are only 300 metres from the shore and home to over 600 species of sea-life.

Lamu Island - The town of Lamu began life as a 14th century Swahili settlement, but the island has seen many visitors and influences, including Portuguese explorers, Turkish traders and the Omani Arabs, all leaving their mark and creating a place of unique culture and traditions. The narrow streets remain unchanged, and in the markets and squares around the fort, life moves at the same pace as it always has. There are no vehicles on this island and the donkey and dhow remain the dominant forms of transport. Lamu and the neighbouring islands of

Manda and Kiwayu not only offer five star luxury, but also beautifully decorated old Swahili guest houses and beach front hotels which allow guests to sleep on the beach under an endless blanket of stars.

What water activities are available?

The Indian Ocean provides a large range of water sport facilities, giving visitors the option to enjoy sailing, kayaking, snorkelling and diving over pristine coral reefs and amidst an incredible variety of marine life. Many of the properties on the coast (especially the all-inclusive hotels) will include non-motorised water sports with the stay. A nominal charge is made for motorised activity.

Fishing

For those interested in a different angle for their holiday, head out on one of the many fishing boats that are available for some world class fishing! Fish are plentiful and with the fishing season from August to March, there are plenty of opportunities for serious fishing enthusiasts. Fresh water fishing is also abundant and especially popular in the areas of Mount Kenya, Aberdares, Turkana, Naivasha and Victoria.

Whale Watching

For the more active water baby, preferring to actually swim with the sea life than catch it, dolphin, turtle and whale watching are all possible. Watamu is the most famous place for whale watching and they can be seen in the largest numbers in October. Turtle watching is also available in the Watamu and Lamu areas year round but the best place to see them is on Shanzu Beach where water sports are banned. Dolphins can be seen all along the coast year round although diving and snorkelling trips to Wasini Island are a popular way to encounter them.

White Water Rafting

Readily available for those seeking thrills on the water! As is to be expected, the best white water rafting is during and straight after the rainy seasons when the waters will be at their highest and fastest. Gentler rafting is however,

available year round. The main place for white water rafting is in the River Tana – the largest river in Kenya.

Scuba Diving

There is diving for all abilities in Kenya... there are several dive centres along the coast catering for more experienced divers that offer a variety of dives to explore the long, fringing reefs in the Indian Ocean. The elusive whale shark and graceful manta rays are regular visitors to the Kenyan waters between December and March which combined with drift dives and drop-offs firmly put Kenya as a key dive destination. Those seeking a more relaxed and fun dive can be escorted by a guide to a depth of 6m.

South of Mombasa, scuba dive sites range along the coast between Tiwi to Shimoni. The Kisiite Mpunguti Marine Reserve around Wasini Island covers 39 square kilometres of ocean and has some of the best dive sites on the coast including the Nyulli Reef, a deep coral dive with tidal currents and Kisiite Point, a 12 metre dive ideal for an encounter with bottlenose dolphins and hawksbill turtles. The beaches are bordered by lush green coastal rainforests with prolific birdlife and a variety of wildlife including baboons, rare colobus monkeys and leopard.

Kite Surfing

Another water and air based activity not to be missed is Kite Surfing, especially in Che-Shale, (20KM north of Malindi) with its empty beach and powerful breezes. Using a powerful traction-kite leaps you into the sky whilst being stood on a small surfboard – as if you are being pulled along by a speed boat in the sea.



KENYA FOR... ADVENTURE



Kenya is an adventurer's paradise with a variety of sporting and discovery activities from camel treks to river tubing and excellent golf facilities for the more discerning sportsman.

Trekking

Trekking is Mount Kenya's main attraction – with four main trekking routes on the mountain top. Other trekking destinations include: Mount Elgon, Cherangani Hills and Mount Longonot. The impressive Ol Olokwe, just north of Samburu, has some excellent climbing routes and rates alongside Hell's Gate National Park which has some of the best Kenya climbing. Trekking is not limited

to inland areas as there are also walking trails through the Arubuko Sokoke Forest along the coast.

Mountain Biking

The areas of Laikipia and Loita Hills are perfect areas for cycling and mountain biking – although keen cyclists aiming high should be aware of the effects of altitude – around 1525m.

Horse Riding & Camel Trekking

Horse riding is readily available on private ranches for game rides or long distance riding across the Maasai Mara, Meru & Laikipia. This is the perfect experience for those who truly want to

be amongst nature with the added exhilaration of galloping through spectacular landscape.

A more unusual mode of transport and discovery is a camel trek through the northern part of the country – a traditional method of travelling used by the nomadic tribes. Taking a camel safari is an extremely unique way to discover more remote parts of Kenya following ancient routes through valleys and arid plains. Camel trekking is especially suitable for bird watching – another bountiful species of wildlife in Kenya.

Ballooning

If you prefer to view wildlife and scenery from up above, you can have a bird's eye

view of the glorious landscape by taking a dawn-break balloon ride over the plains of the Maasai Mara. A particularly popular choice for honeymooners, and also during the summer months of the wildebeest migration, the one hour balloon ride glides you across the Mara, with spectacular views below, to a champagne breakfast in the bush.

Walking Safaris

Enjoy a different way of experiencing a huge range of ecosystems and geographical locations in Kenya. Walk through the Samburu region and the northern Great Rift Valley Mountains guided by a Samburu warrior. Relax and unwind on a stunning wildlife reserve and get to know the world's most northerly black rhinos. Or join a walking safari with Maasai warriors through the beautiful Lewa Conservancy. Walk along the foothills of Mount Kenya and through the wild and remote Laikipia plateau and experience the spectacular wildlife and forest scenery of the Ngare Ndare river valley.

Rock Climbing

The impressively stark mass of Ol Olokwe, 30 kilometres north of Samburu Reserve, has some excellent climbing routes. The summit is located at 1.853 metres and visitors are advised to hire a knowledgeable local guide before ascending. Ropes and safety equipment are necessary.

Golf

Kenya has long been considered one of the world's great undiscovered golfing destinations with 39 golf courses, of which 12 are championship standard. All courses offer equipment hire, pro-shops, driving ranges and a resident golfing pro. As Kenya boasts 12 hours of sunshine a day, little rainfall (even in rainy season it rarely rains after 10am and before 5pm) and with many courses over 5,000ft elevation, the ball will go further too (apparently 10% extra yardage with each 1500 metre elevation!!)

The Kenya Open Golf Championship is held annually in Nairobi attracting both local and international competitors. Day or temporary membership at Kenyan Golf Clubs can be readily organized by visitors themselves or through a travel agent or tour operator. A specialised golf operator can arrange transfers to the golf courses and book tee-times. More details can be found on the Kenya Golf Union website at www.kgu.or.ke



KENYA FOR... ROMANCE



Can I get married or have my honeymoon in Kenya?

Kenya is a growing destination for those looking for a great wedding and honeymoon venue – and with fabulous hospitality, who can blame the bride and groom for heading to this great destination? Most of the beach properties will have wedding coordinators who will arrange everything for the perfect day.

Kenyan weddings can be informal and relaxed-barefoot on the beach or relaxing under canvas. Alternatively any clients may opt for a more formal, traditional ceremony, with black ties and wedding gowns in the bush! Some beautiful settings for wedding ceremonies include: the foot of Mount Kenya or right on the equator – an appropriate setting on which to exchange vows and rings. Hot air balloon rides are also an optional stage for a wedding ceremony. Other unusual weddings can be arranged on safari, with Maasai attendees in a spectacular wilderness setting. Several national parks offer a perfect romantic setting in luxurious lodges with star gazing beds under the moonlight sky....

A beautiful beach setting is still the favourite for most when choosing a wedding venue in Kenya, and understandably so with such an azure strip of ocean lying in the distance within the protective shelter of reef.

Wedding accommodation can range from a small, romantically secluded camp for two, or guests can choose to take over a whole lodge for the family. Honeymooners will not be disappointed either;

whether they choose a relaxing, idyllic beach getaway or a more active, first class safari, there is sure to be something to meet everyone's needs.

With UK and Irish Tour Operators able to organise weddings in Kenya and liaison with on-site wedding co-ordinators, the normal associated stress of organising a wedding evaporates with the assistance of trade specialists and the ultimate magical location and setting waiting for your clients.

As a guideline, the legal requirements for weddings in Kenya include:

- Valid passport & visa
- Birth certificate
- Decree absolute (in the case of divorced persons)
- Death certificate (in the case of widowed persons)
- Affidavit declaring single status authorized by notary/solicitor declaring eligibility for marriage
- In case of name change by Deed Poll or adoption, proof of this authenticated by a notary or solicitor

To find out what is needed by those planning to tie the knot in Kenya, please visit www.kenyahighcommission.net





Is Kenya a family destination?

Kenya is an exciting destination for families offering an amazing experience of African culture and its wildlife. It is a fantastic opportunity for children to view these magnificent animals in their natural environment. Staying on the coast also offers families the chance to relax together on the beach or around the pool. It is also worth pointing out that there is little jet-lag to affect small children, as the time difference in Kenya is GMT +3.

Many operators will not take very small children (usually under the age of 8) on safari so please check age restrictions prior

to booking. However, some lodges do offer excellent activities for children giving the parents the opportunity to enjoy a game drive whilst the children enjoy more of an educational experience by getting close to wildlife in their natural environment.

Cultural Safari

A Cultural Safari offers visitors the chance to experience 'living history' and a range of unique cultures as diverse as Kenya's geography. Kenya has over 42 unique cultural groups each with their own language and dialects and traditions making the country a richly diverse multi-cultural society.

The largest ethnic groups are the Bantu who speak Kikuyu, Luhya and Kamba. Yet, even though the average Kenyan is getting further and further away from tribal traditions, the tribe that each person is born into is still a very important factor of a Kenyan's identity.

One of Kenya's most colorful and well-known ethnic groups is the Maasai, who number approximately 250,000 and live in southern Kenya and northern Tanzania. They are nomadic, seeking grazing and water for their cattle. Cattle are the center of Maasai life - the group's only recognised form of wealth.

The Samburu tribe are closely related to the

Maasai, speaking the same language but occupying an arid area north of Mount Kenya. Families tend to live in groups of huts and livestock, which are fenced in at night, are used for milk rather than meat.

Numbering around 284,000, the Turkana tribes are camel and cattle herders. Living in the western coast of Lake Turkana they have retained their strong traditional identity and attire. Kenya's smallest tribe, the El Molo live on the lake's southern shore.

Along the coast the Swahili peoples still thrive with their history of trade. Their cultural origins come from intermarriage between the Arabs and Persians with African slaves but, despite the common language, the Swahili peoples are in fact divided into subgroups.

Kenya for... Bird watching

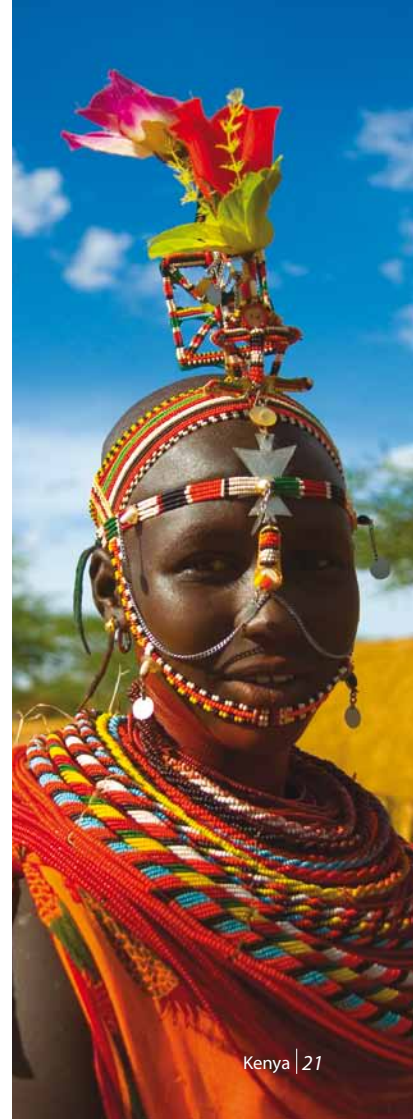
Kenya is not only rich in animals of the four legged variety – the National Parks offer an extraordinary range of bird life, especially focused around Lake Nakuru, Lake Bogoria and Lake Baringo. Boasting over 1300 varieties the country more than qualifies as one of the great bird spotting areas of the world.

Kenya for... City and Short Breaks

Kenya's capital city, Nairobi, is the main tourist hub for visitors travelling to the country for a safari holiday. Not only a must for holiday makers starting their trip, the city itself is a worthy destination for a short break especially with several scheduled night flights to and from the UK and with only a 2-3 hour time difference. Boasting a National Park running through its centre, tea and coffee plantations within an hours drive, animal sanctuaries, museums and

an abundance of restaurants - the city boasts a wealth of activities for every type of holiday maker.

Visitors can take a trip to the Daphne Sheldrick Orphanage, a haven for orphaned elephants or visit the museum of Out of Africa author, Karen Blixen. Enjoy feeding and breakfasting with giraffes at Giraffe Manor or wander amongst the markets and pick up some Kazuri beads. The bustling Maasai markets found throughout central Nairobi should not be missed, particularly on the weekends, to buy local handicrafts and works of art. The National Museum is housed in an imposing building just outside the centre and holds a wide range of cultural and natural history exhibits. Finally, a visit to Nairobi would not be complete without a trip to Bomas of Kenya, where all the wonderful diversities of the cultures that make up Kenya are on display with the original traditional architecture of an African home, as built by the ancestors.



KENYA FOR... GETTING AROUND





Which airlines fly to Kenya?

There are three daily, direct scheduled carriers to Kenya operating out of London Heathrow; Kenya Airways, British Airways and Virgin Atlantic Airways. Emirates and Qatar Airways also offer scheduled services via the Middle East.

In addition there are currently two charter carriers who fly from the UK to the coastal city of Mombasa during popular holiday seasons - Monarch Airlines and TUI. From Mombasa it is easy to head inland so not to miss out on the ultimate safari experience.

Kenya offers a large number of options for those looking to travel around the country and many ground handlers and tour operators will organise comfortable transfers for those heading off on game drives into safari parks.

Air

Kenya has a good network of domestic flight carriers and small airstrips which allow ease of access by air to the coast, major game parks and Western Kenya. Domestic air taxes are included in ticket or charter costs. Internal domestic flights are dominated by Kenya Airways, Safarilink, and Air Kenya. Fly 540 is a Kenyan low-cost carrier offering flights between the most popular destinations. Mombasa Air Safari offers flights from the coastal cities of Mombasa, Malindi and Diani to Lamu in the north and some parks including Tsavo, Amboseli and the Mara.

There are also many domestic air charter operations in Kenya which cater for individuals and groups and prove an ideal way to visit remote areas, or avoid long drives between parks. Most charter companies will charge a set rate for a journey, regardless of the number of passengers.





Land

Driving

Visitors to Kenya require an international driver's license. Kenyans drive on the left hand side and distances are measured and signposted in kilometres, with petrol/diesel sold by the litre. Most visitors to Kenya do not hire cars owing to the long distances between regions when it is just as easy to be driven by one of the many companies offering air or land transfers.

Taxi

In Nairobi, Mombasa and other large Kenyan towns, taxis are widely available and convenient. Often parked in the street around hotels, restaurants and other popular tourist areas they can also be ordered on your behalf. Taxis are not metered and a price should be agreed with the driver before departure.

Bus

Within Nairobi and Mombasa the large Kenyan buses operate on set routes and schedules and can be boarded at any stop and tickets purchased on board. Buses also regularly run between most cities and towns. There are several bus companies with extensive inter-country networks connecting most cities and towns. Buses also run across borders into Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia.

Train

The most popular train service is between Nairobi and Mombasa, an overnight service that allows passengers to travel through the unspoilt landscape without missing a day of their holiday.

Visit www.eastafricashuttles.com/train.htm for more information.



What next?

For more information on this fantastic destination visit:

www.magicalkenya.com

www.kenyahighcommission.net

www.kenyaembassyireland.net

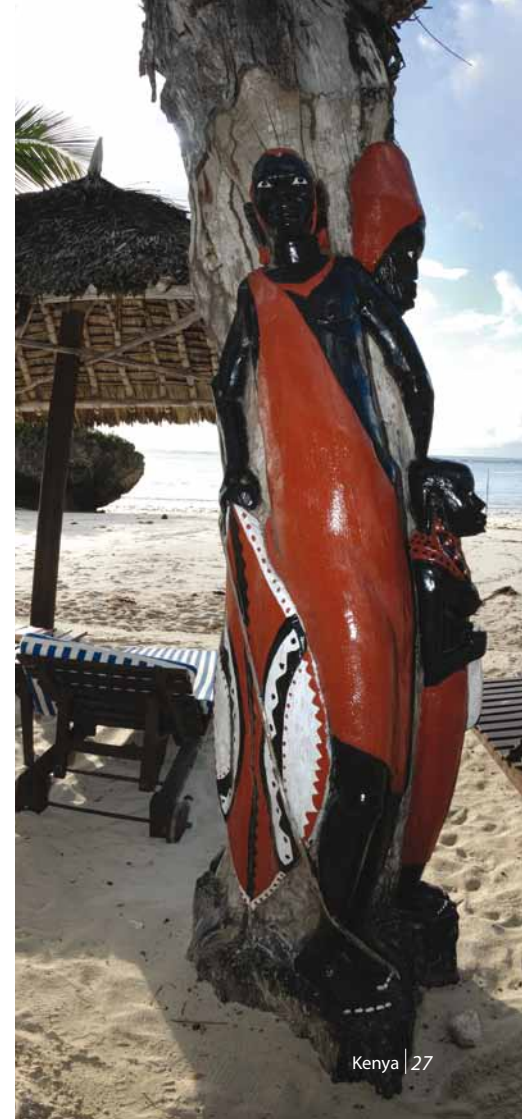
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To register simply email **kenya@hillsbalfour.com**
making the subject line: Newsletter

*Asante sana... we look forward
to welcoming you to Kenya!*





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