



## USEFUL SAFARI HINTS

**CURRENCY:** You can import and export Kenya Shillings but converting them into other currencies can be a big problem.

**MONEY EXCHANGE:** Do not exchange money on the street. We would advise you to cash your foreign currency as the need arises through banks and Forex Bureaus.

**SAFEKEEPING OF PASSPORT & VALUABLES:** Please keep your passport and money ON YOU at ALL times. Never leave money or valuables in your room or in your vehicle unattended. You can check valuables into security boxes at the hotels and lodges. Be especially careful whilst in camps and lodges and on special excursions such as boat rides. Avoid wearing expensive jewelry (necklaces, etc.).

**BANKING HOURS:** Banking hours are 0900-1500hrs. Mondays to Fridays and 0900-1100hrs on the first and last Saturday of each month. Outside of these hours your hotels will change money at any time (on safari, the same applies for the reception desk at Lodges). Banks at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport Nairobi and Moi International Airport, Mombasa, remain open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Remember that you must produce your passport when changing either notes or travellers cheques. Dollars, Euros, and Sterling Pounds are widely accepted but travellers cheques more difficult.

**CREDIT CARDS:** Credit Cards such as American Express, Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted in most parts of the country, hotels and in most camps and lodges. There are ATM machines in Nairobi, Mombasa and all major towns across East Africa.

**SECURITY:** Nairobi is relatively safe; however you are advised to take precaution especially at night. Please always take a taxi. Always let a tour member know where you are going when you go off to do your own thing. Please take the same care and common sense precautions that you would do in any other part of the world.

**SPECTACLES AND CONTACTS:** On safari, be prepared for bumpy and dusty roads. These can be an irritant to contact lens wearers. Eye drops and a spare pair of glasses are a sensible precaution.

**BAGGAGE:** Remember your 20kg limit (40 kg for first and 30 kg Club Class travellers) on your return from East Africa. Excess luggage will be charged accordingly. If your itinerary includes any flying in light aircraft on safari, you are restricted to a maximum of 15 kg including hand luggage.

**PLASTIC BAGS BAN:** Please note that plastic bags have been banned in Kenya. Any person who contravenes against any provision of this Act or of regulations made thereunder for which no other penalty is specifically provided is liable, upon conviction, to imprisonment for a term of not less than one year but not more than four years, or to a fine of not less than two million shillings [about US\$19,417] but not more than four million shillings [about US\$38,835], or to both such fine and imprisonment [,] or to both such fine and imprisonment. (Environmental Management and Co-ordination Act, No. 8 of 1999, §144 (Jan. 14, 2000), KENYA LAW website.)

**CLOTHING:** Clothing should be practical, comfortable and informal. Lightweight cotton clothing such as shirts, shorts, trousers or skirts are ideal on safari, while a warm sweater or jacket (and socks) may be needed for early morning game drives and cool highland evenings. It is unlikely that a jacket and a tie will be needed unless you are on business. Bring your swimwear, sunhat, sun cream, sunglasses, a small flash-light (torch), alarm clock and comfortable dustproof shoes. Lip balm, insect repellent, money belt and reading materials are also useful. Leave valuable jewelry at home.

**CLIMATE:** The climate in East Africa is strongly influenced by altitude and proximity to the sea. The coast has a hot and humid tropical climate. Inland (Nairobi), a more temperate climate prevails, usually with warm, sunny days and cool nights. As a general rule the cool season runs June to August and hot season January to March. The long rains occur during mid- March to May, and the short rains from end October to mid – December.

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**HOLIDAY  
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"Have a break. have a Holiday"



**DRINKING WATER:** We recommend that you purchase bottled water throughout your stay in Kenya. Use it to brush and wash your teeth and mouth with. Ice is generally frozen from boiled water.

**FOOD:** Food in Kenya is delicious, varied and plentiful: Succulent crayfish from the Indian Ocean, smoked sailfish, (Kenya's equivalent to smoked salmon), English roast beef, Molo lamb, and many more besides. Kenya's famed fruits abound - pineapple, paw paw, mangoes, avocados, passion fruits, bananas, pears, and strawberries to name but a few. Fresh vegetables are equally abundant. The hotels, lodges and camps in which you stay are renowned for their high standard of cuisine. However, a change of climate and travelling, can, in a few instances, cause travellers' diarrhoea, a minor complaint not comparable in severity with 'gypie tummy'. Eating in moderation, avoiding cold buffet lunch tables that have been exposed to the mid-day sun, and fasting for a day (whilst drinking plenty of bottled water) should you be stricken, are sensible precautions.

**SPIRITS, BEERS, WINE AND CIGARETTES:** Are all available in Kenya. The price of soft drinks and beers are reasonable, whilst imported spirits, wine and cigarettes tend to be on the expensive side.

**ANTI-MALARIA MEDICATION:** Yellow fever and cholera vaccination certificates are required for visitors arriving from infected areas. There are a number of other inoculations recommended to visitors. Clients are advised to contact their own doctor or medical advisory center for up to date information. Malaria is endemic in East Africa and visitors should follow a course of Malaria prophylactics according to doctor's advice.

**MEDICAL SERVICES:** The larger towns in Kenya have drugstores and hospitals, but you should carry with you adequate supplies of your own medicines and toilet items as in the smaller towns these cannot be obtained. There are several hospitals in Nairobi and Mombasa staffed by doctors with internationally recognized degrees. Most Nairobi and Mombasa hotels have their own in-house doctors for emergencies and appointments can be made at the many surgeries / clinics in the cities. Ensure that you have adequate travel & health insurance cover. Please consult your local doctor or travel clinic for advice prior to departure for appropriate medication.

**ELECTRICITY:** Most hotels and lodges outside Nairobi and Mombasa generate their own electricity. However, take a small light weight flashlight as some generators are usually run for short periods in the early morning and again in the evening from 1830 to 2230hrs. The electricity supply in Kenya is 240v / 50Hz. Sockets are usually 3 pin square (British type). In tented camps and lodges it is usually possible to re-charge video camera batteries at reception on request.

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Bring plenty of film or digital storage with you. Most of the common types of film or memory cards can be bought in the cities or in hotels and lodges on safari. Useful items include telephoto (zoom) lenses, filters, mini tripods, dust proof bags and of course spare batteries. Binoculars are an invaluable aid to spotting distant animals or birds.

**DO NOT** take photographs of the locals without their permission. **NEVER** take photographs of the military, military institutions, armed forces barracks, policemen, the President, Government officials or airports.

**WILD ANIMALS:** Do please remember that our animals are wild and should never be approached on foot. Please be alert and cautious in the lodges and camps when walking from your room to the public areas.

**LAUNDRY:** Most hotels and lodges offer laundry services.

**SAFARI GUIDES:** Get to know your driver / guide and your professional guide. Their knowledge of Africa is a bottomless treasure trove! Be friendly. Sometimes, at the outset of a safari, the driver / guides can be shy and need encouragement to open up. Ask a lot of questions. Don't be afraid to make requests of your driver / guide and your professional guide.

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**AIR TICKET RECONFIRMATION:** Air tickets must be reconfirmed for all domestic and international flights. We would be delighted to assist. In order for us to do this, we must be able to personally check your tickets. We will do our utmost to secure your specific seat requests but this cannot be guaranteed. Most airlines now have online check-in facility which you can access through the hotels business centers.

**VISAS:** For most nationalities a Visa is required. Valid passport must have sufficient blank visa pages adjacent to each other for endorsements. Passports must be valid for a minimum of six months beyond the date of travel. It is recommended that travelers contact the relevant Consulate/Embassy prior to travel for current visa requirements.

**AIRPORT DEPARTURE TAX:** Airport departure taxes are now included in the price of the international flight ticket except for Zanzibar.

**FLYING DOCTORS SERVICE:** Membership of the FDS is strongly recommended. In the event of serious accident or illness while on safari, patients will receive emergency treatment and an air ambulance to hospital. The current cost for 14 day cover is USD 15 (max 500km from Nairobi) or USD 30 (max 1000Km). Cover for 2 months is USD 30 and USD 50 respectively.

**THE SAFARI EXPERIENCE:**

Please look at any inconveniences with a positive attitude. Flat tyres and a few unexpected delays are all part and parcel of the safari experience.

**TIPPING:** Tipping is optional and dependent on the level of service. Although it is customary and considered an insult if you do not. As a guideline, a minimum of 10% should be added to restaurant bills. For guides and/or drivers please calculate USD 5-9 per person per day (or equivalent). For rangers and trackers when on safari please calculate USD 5-9 per person per day (or equivalent). Porterage ranges between USD 1 -2 per person per service (or equivalent). For helpful petrol attendants, USD 1 (or equivalent) is perfectly acceptable. When assisted by a car guard, it is a custom to tip USD 1.

**DEPARTURE:** Ensure that you print your onward flight boarding pass at your hotel after the On-line Check In, to facilitate your smooth baggage drop off upon arrival at the Airport.

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