

DESTINATION INFORMATION FOR KENYA AND TANZANIA

What You Need to Know Before You Go

PASSPORT & VISAS

In order to enter **Kenya** and **Tanzania** as a citizen of the United States, you will need:

A signed, valid passport and a tourist visa for both Kenya and Tanzania. Your passport must remain valid for at least 6 months beyond the completion of your trip.

It is also imperative that your passport has at least 4 blank visa pages available for entry and exit stamps. Additional blank pages are always a prudent precaution.

Contact our partner, VisaCentral for easy, efficient passport and visa processing. Call 844 823 1224 or use our widget to connect to VisaCentral website and apply for your visa.

If you are not a citizen of the United States, your entry requirements may vary. Please consult your nearest diplomatic or consular office of the country or countries you will be visiting.

The government of **Kenya** has implemented an electronic visa application system, commonly known as an eVisa. To obtain an eVisa you must apply online. More information regarding the eVisa system can be found at evisa.go.ke/evisa.html. If the application asks you to provide an email address for your host tour operator in Kenya you can use contact@a2asafari.com. Please read and follow all instructions carefully to avoid any possible complications on arrival in Kenya. Please also be aware that eVisas are valid for 90 days after the date of approval, not the date of arrival in Kenya. Therefore do not apply for an eVisa too far in advance. Kenya is currently waiving visa requirements for children aged 15 or younger. Children in this age group need only present a valid passport upon arrival.

Note: Single-entry visas for Kenya allow re-entry into Kenya for up to three months after visiting other East Africa countries without having to purchase a multiple-entry Kenya visa. Therefore, if your itinerary includes travel between Kenya and Tanzania, Rwanda or Uganda for example, simply inform the immigration official who stamps your passport on arrival of the length of your initial stay and your plans to return to Kenya later in your tour.

Tourist visas for **Tanzania** can be purchased either on arrival or by applying in advance through a visa processing service. While there are additional costs involved in using these services, we encourage you to obtain your visa ahead of time, as long lines can be common. The current cost for obtaining a Tanzania visa is USD \$100 (subject to change without notice). Tanzania currently only issues multiple-entry visas to U.S. passport holders. For those planning on obtaining their visa upon arrival, the visa fee must be paid in cash and can be paid in U.S. currency.

CONSULAR INFORMATION

The U.S. State Department provides Country Specific Information sheets for every country in the world, as well as Travel Alerts and Warnings. Find this information by calling 888 407 4747 or 202 501 4444 or online at travel.state.gov

CURRENCY

Kenya's unit of currency is the Kenya Shilling. The country has a cash-based economy. U.S. dollars are widely accepted. Major credit cards are generally accepted by merchants in the stores of Nairobi and other major cities, though they are useless in street markets and can't be used to

obtain cash advances. ATM access is available in larger city centers like Nairobi, but less frequent in remote areas.

Tanzania's unit of currency is the Tanzania Shilling. The country has a cash-based economy. U.S. dollars are widely accepted. Major credit cards are accepted on a very limited basis, mainly only in the largest shops, hotels and lodges. ATMs are available in larger city centers like Arusha and Dar es Salaam, but less frequent in remote areas.

In both countries, exchange money only at authorized outlets such as currency exchange kiosks, banks and hotels. Only exchange what you feel you will need while visiting. Save all receipts from any currency transaction. You may be asked to produce them when you exit the country, and they are required if you intend to reconvert local currency.

We suggest travelling with some U.S. dollars to be exchanged for local currency and at least two major credit cards. Because of Kenya and Tanzania's cash-based economies, we suggest you bring enough cash in USD \$ (in smaller denominations), to finance your gratuities, purchases and other incidentals. If you have a "Chip and PIN" card, be careful to shield your number from view while entering it on a keypad; never disclose your PIN verbally. Notify your credit card company of your travel plans prior to your departure to avoid any fraud concerns.

We do not recommend traveller's checks as they are no longer widely accepted.

Of Special Note: When travelling in Africa it is recommended that you use only U.S. currency that was printed within the last 5 years. Many merchants and service providers will not accept currency that is more than several years old. Extremely wrinkled, torn or faded bills are also generally not accepted.

HEALTH

It is important to familiarize yourself with any potential health issues or concerns related to your destination, and so we strongly recommend consulting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for up-to-date information on required and recommended vaccines and medications. Visit them online at wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel or call 800 232 4636. Plan to visit your doctor or local travel clinic at least 4-6 weeks before departure to allow time for any vaccinations to take effect or to fill any prescriptions.

Required Vaccination

A yellow fever vaccination is required to enter Kenya and Tanzania only if you are arriving from or have transited through a yellow fever endemic area in South America or Africa - including the countries of East Africa. As your journey includes travel between Kenya and Tanzania, you may be asked to show proof of yellow fever vaccination when entering either or both countries. The CDC provides a current list of all affected countries. If vaccination for yellow fever is necessary, you must carry an International Certificate of Vaccination provided by your physician; without it, you may be denied entry. If your physician advises against receiving the vaccination because of your personal medical history, he or she can provide you with the necessary documentation for the country(ies) that you are visiting.

WEATHER

East Africa has a tropical climate. It is hot and humid in coastal and in low lying areas, temperate inland and very dry in the north and northeast areas. The region receives a great deal of sunshine and daytime temperatures are generally warm year round. However, it is very cool at night and early in the morning. The coolest months are generally from mid-May through early-September. East Africa has two rainy seasons – long and short. The long rainy season occurs from

approximately March/April to May/June. The short rainy season occurs from October to December.

Use a website such as weather.com to find average temperatures and rainfall during your travel times.

ELECTRICITY

Kenya and **Tanzania** supply electricity at 220-240 volts / 50 hertz.

Be sure to pack a universal travel adapter. You can purchase one at Amazon or any electronic store.

Electricity at some safari camps and lodges is turned off for the night at 10 or 11 pm, so packing a flashlight will come in handy. Remember to pack some extra batteries.

WHAT TO PACK

Comfortable and casual clothing in natural, "breathable" fabrics. Choose versatile styles that can be layered—temperatures may vary considerably in the course of the day. For game viewing, wear neutral colors (though not camouflage, which is illegal in game parks and reserves). Bright colors or whites can startle animals into hiding, and black, navy or other dark colors tend to attract insects.

Somewhat smarter, but still casual, clothing is appropriate for evening dining in big-city or resort restaurants. Formal clothing is not necessary.

An inflatable pillow or stadium cushion can help make bumpy roads more comfortable. Women may also want to equip themselves with a supportive sports bra.

A sweater or lightweight jacket for evenings and fiercely air-conditioned interiors.

If you are travelling during Africa's winter months of mid-May, June, July, August and early September, bring warm clothing—a heavy sweater, gloves, lined jacket and substantial slacks—to protect against chilly morning and evening temperatures, which often drop into the low 40's (Fahrenheit). A lined jacket is needed year-round when visiting the Ngorongoro Crater.

Comfortable walking shoes with low or no heels and textured soles. Heavy boots are not necessary for vehicle-based safaris.

A pair of rubber beach sandals to use as slippers.

Sunglasses and sun block. Safari hat or baseball cap.

A swimming suit.

A small tote or pack to carry the items you want to keep with you during days in the bush.

A small pack of toilet tissue; antiseptic towelettes.

Low-suds detergent for washing small items of personal laundry.

Lightweight binoculars, useful for wildlife viewing. If you plan to purchase a pair especially for this trip, a compact model with magnification of 8x32 is ideal.

Insect repellent with a high percentage of DEET to protect against flying insects such as mosquitoes and tsetse flies. (Note: many properties provide insect repellent in rooms/tents. However you may wish to bring your own preferred brand.)

A small, powerful flashlight (make certain to pack some extra batteries as well).

If you wear eyeglasses or contact lenses, be sure to pack an extra pair(s).

Simple first-aid kit.

Prescriptions and medications (We recommend you carry these in their original bottles and/or packaging.)

Charging cables for electronics.

Voltage converter and adapter plugs.

Note: Laundry Service is available at most hotels, lodges and camps. Because some laundries in Africa do not accept any underclothing, be prepared to wash your own smalls. Laundry techniques may not be suitable for delicate and/or synthetic fabrics.

Baggage Restrictions

On flights within East Africa, each passenger is limited to a maximum baggage weight of 33 pounds (15 kilograms). This includes the weight of purses and camera equipment in addition to regular luggage. Luggage restrictions are adhered to very strictly and passengers should pack their bags accordingly. Soft-sided luggage or duffels are preferable to hard luggage for storage on safari vehicles and also on aircraft used throughout East Africa. Dimensions should not exceed 23 inches (58 centimeters) long x 13 inches (33 centimeters) high x 10 inches (25 centimeters) wide.

As a preventative measure, it is recommended that all luggage be secured with a TSA approved lock.

What You Need to Know When You Arrive

TIME ZONES

Kenya and **Tanzania** operate on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) + 3 hours.

At 9:00 a.m. in these countries, it is:

EST	1:00 a.m. the same day
CST	12:00 a.m. the same day
MST	11:00 p.m. the previous day
PST	10:00 p.m. the previous day

LANGUAGE

The official language of **Kenya** and **Tanzania** is Swahili, which originally developed in coastal regions where local Bantu, Arab and English speakers created this “trade language” rooted in all their tongues. Many people whose work brings them into contact with overseas visitors speak fluent English, though locals appreciate an effort to speak even a few words in (easy-to pronounce) Swahili.

Please consult with your guide on translations, if needed.

AIRPORT INFORMATION

At international airports in East Africa, passengers cannot be met inside secured areas. This includes Immigration, Customs halls and Baggage Claim. Your A2A Safari representative will greet you as you exit these restricted areas; look for the person holding the distinctive A2A Safari signboard. On departure you will be escorted to the doors of the main terminal building. This is due to airport security regulations for arrivals and departures and is beyond A2A Safari's control.

Before departing, remember to tag your checked luggage with the A2A Safari luggage tags provided. These brightly colored markers help identify you and your luggage quickly.

Note: The government of Kenya has implemented a ban on plastic bags. The ban applies to "carrier and flat bags," primarily targeting bags from shops and grocery stores, but also extending to Ziploc bags, duty-free bags and bubble wrap. If tourists have those types of bags visible while in the airport, they are likely to be confiscated. Bags designed for multiple use, such as zippered cosmetic bags, are not included in the ban. Please also be aware that wooden carvings are not permitted in hand/cabin baggage on all international flights departing Kenya. Any wooden carvings purchased as souvenirs should be packed in your checked baggage.

PROTECTION AND PRECAUTIONS

Use the safes where available in your accommodations to secure your valuables, especially passports, medications, jewelry, money and electronics. If you must carry valuables, keep them on your person at all times. Be mindful of your surroundings and take extra caution in crowds.

Photocopy the personal information pages of your passport; leave one copy with a family member or friend and pack another separately from the passport itself. You may want to scan and email a copy to yourself for easy, online access. This will help you to quickly secure a replacement should the need arise.

As a preventative measure, it is recommended that all luggage be secured with a TSA approved lock.

ETIQUETTE AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Unless you are shooting a crowded public scene, it is considered courteous to ask permission before taking pictures of local people, especially small children. Please be respectful of local people who do not care to be photographed.

Please be particularly sensitive in photo situations involving members of the Maasai tribe. Always ask for permission and determine if your intended subject expects to be paid.

Photography is not permitted at some locations, which may include government buildings, museums, art galleries, private houses, etc. These areas are usually clearly marked. If in doubt, please ask; this will avoid having your camera confiscated. Flash photography is prohibited in some nighttime situations.

While game viewing, be respectful of animal life and your fellow travelers. Don't startle or otherwise disturb animals or birds for the sake of a good photo, and please remember to share good lines of sight with your vehicle mates.

Many travelers, viewing this as their "trip of a lifetime" for animal photography, bring more than one camera in case of a malfunction. Experts suggest a camera with a minimum 200mm telephoto lens for wildlife photography. Sun filters will help block glare and heat haze; a wind

reduction filter may be useful for video cameras. Tripods are impractical, since most photos will be taken from your safari vehicle.

Be sure to pack ample amounts of batteries and memory cards or film for your camera and video equipment, along with the appropriate charging cables. A dustproof case and lens brush are also recommended.

FOOD AND DRINK

Do not use tap water for drinking or brushing teeth. It is always preferable and safer to use only bottled water. However, in order to promote eco-tourism, many safari lodges and camps will provide guests with BPA free (Bisphenol A) containers and filling stations during their stay. This treated water is potable and safe to drink.

Regardless of precautions, changes in water and diet can result in mild abdominal upsets and nausea. To prevent serious illness, avoid suspect foods such as uncooked vegetables, peeled fruit, unpasteurized milk and milk products. Beware of any food or drink sold by street vendors.

SHOPPING

Many A2A Safari guests enjoy the chance to purchase items that reflect their destination, and so as a courtesy, your guide may recommend a particular shop or arrange a shopping visit. Please note, however, that these recommendations should not be taken as A2A Safari's endorsement of the shop, merchandise and/or pricing. You assume all responsibility for any transactions that take place, including shipping arrangements that are made.

The decision to shop while travelling is a personal choice and shopping is never compulsory. If at any point during your journey you feel pressured to shop or make purchases, please immediately discuss the matter with your A2A Safari representative.

When prices are not marked, bargaining is the accepted practice. Barter is still an accepted (though declining) marketplace practice, with western clothing the usual currency. Cash will earn you a better deal, but you might want to see what you can negotiate in trade for your t-shirt or baseball cap.

To avoid disappointment, we suggest the following guidelines:

- Compute the exchange rate and thoroughly review credit card receipts before signing.
- Take your purchases home with you whenever possible. Airfreight can take many months and actual shipping charges can be excessive. Customs delays, fees and regulations can further complicate the issue. If you choose to ship purchases, we suggest taking a picture of the item(s) and/or marking them in some way to ensure you receive what was purchased. For example, you could write your name on the backside of a rug. Determine if your shipment will be delivered door-to-door or to the nearest customs facility, as is often the case. Most goods shipped from other countries to the United States are subject to Customs duty.
- Duty taxes, if applicable, are paid as you re-enter the United States. Regardless of assurances by merchants, these cannot be prepaid on your behalf. Currently, each person is entitled to an \$800 duty-free exemption, however, may only bring one liter of alcoholic beverages, 200 cigarettes and 100 cigars.
- Keep all sales receipts for items purchased throughout your trip and try to pack all items that you will need to declare together. This will ease the Customs process upon re-entry into the U.S.

Consult the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website for more details. <http://www.cbp.gov/>

COMMUNICATIONS

Contact your cellular telephone provider to determine if your phone operates on the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) and what, if any, activation may be required.

If your phone is not GSM-enabled, you may find that renting a phone specifically designed for use overseas is the most practical option.

Wi-Fi internet access is available at some safari camps and lodges, however service can be slow and intermittent.

TIPPING GUIDELINES

While decisions regarding tipping rest entirely with you, we suggest the following gratuities (noted in U.S. dollars) depending on the type of journey:

	All Small Group Journeys and Pre/Post Tour Group Extensions	Tailor Made and Signature Journeys
Resident Tour Director or Group Extension Guide	\$15 per person, per day	Not applicable
Safari Driver-Guides	\$10 per person, per day	\$15 per person, per day
Local Safari or City Guides	Not applicable	\$20 per person, per day (full day)
Hot Air Balloon Pilots (if applicable)	\$10 per person	\$10 per person
Airport Transfer Drivers	Included	\$5 per person, per transfer
Hotel Porters	Included	\$2 per bag
Bush Lodges and Permanent Tented Camps	Included	\$10 per person, per day – Gratuities are accepted at each property and shared among the staff.
A2A Safari Exclusive Lewa or Masai Mara Camp (if applicable)	Included	\$20 per person, per day – Gratuities are accepted at each property and shared among the staff.
Housekeepers	Included	\$2 per person, per night
Included Meals	Included	10-15% unless already added
Restaurants or Room Service on own	10-15% unless already added	10-15% unless already added

For extra nights or Tailor Made services added to a small group journey, please follow the Tailor Made Journey guidelines for these days only.