



Kenya, Beyond the Guidebook Tour

FAQs



First time to Africa?

We'll get you all set for an unforgettable journey. Here are answers to questions you may have.

How strenuous is this tour?

A moderate level of fitness is essential. Unless you enjoy unimpaired mobility and are reliably sure-footed, this tour may not be for you.

You must be able to walk comfortably and without assistance at a moderate pace for 20-minute stretches. A moderate pace of walking is 100 steps per minute. Visits to archeological sites and villages involves walking on uneven ground. Unruly traffic and the busy streets of urban areas require vigilance. This tour involves private transfers by Landcruiser on some urban roads and many dirt roads. The longest transfer can last 5 hours with a couple of breaks.

The sun can be strong, even in the cooler seasons.

Please bear in mind our tours are group events. The presence of even one person who is not fit enough to cope can spoil the experience for everyone else, and stress group leaders and guides.

Please assess your fitness level as objectively as possible. Should you decide to join the tour and later develop immobility, please let us know immediately. We can best minimize your financial exposure the earlier we know.

What will the weather be like?

Temperatures in Nairobi range from 16 - 26 C. The parks in Kenya range from 13 – 24 C (55-75 F).



Caveat: Climate change is scrambling weather patterns all over the world. Expect unpredictable conditions and pack accordingly.

Do I need visas?

Visas for Kenya and Tanzania are available for Canadian and U.S. nationals online <https://evisa.go.ke/> and <https://www.ca.tzembassy.go.tz/services/category/visa-information> (recommended) and at the airport upon arrival.

What can I legally bring into Kenya and Tanzania?

Personal effects, including cameras, binoculars, may be brought in free of duty. A customs bond **may** be demanded for camcorders, radios, tape recorders, and musical instruments. Firearms and pocketknife require special permits. There is a duty-free allowance of 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars or 250 grammes of tobacco, and one pint of spirits. Visitors buying local handicrafts must keep their sales receipts for presentation to customs officials on departure. Cannabis and products are not allowed.

What about money matters?

The unit of currency in Kenya and Tanzania is the shilling, available in notes and coins.

You will have paid all lodging, transport, and game park fees in advance to secure your reservation on this tour. However, you need to carry some local shillings for tipping, shopping, restaurant and bar visits, and incidental expenses that might occur (see below **Additional cash**). Mastercard and Visa credit cards are accepted in most establishments, although a fee of 3-4% may apply.

If you're carrying cash, the easiest currencies to exchange are U.S. dollars, British pounds, and euros. Try to carry bills that are relatively new, as banks in Kenya are known not to accept older U.S. bills.

Foreign currency may be exchanged at banks, authorized dealers, and at the bureau de cheques are not recommended. ATMs are available in major urban areas.

Kenya: Bring in or take out up to KSh500,000 of Kenyan currency and a foreign currency equivalent to a maximum of US\$6,250 without declaration.

Tanzania: amount exceeding the equivalent of USD 10,000 must be declared to customs upon arrival.

Try to limit the amount of local currency you're left with at the end as exchanging back into foreign currency is difficult.

Additional cash requirement/Tipping

Meals you purchase on your own will cost an average of \$20-30 plus tax. Bottled water in the rooms and on safari is provided free of charge, but at meals will cost \$2-3 depending on size of bottle. Most restaurants and all lodging will accept credit cards for meals and incidentals.

Kenya

We will run a **USD \$175 pp kitty** for tipping guides, and hotel and restaurant staff while on safari (\$120 for Samburu + \$55 for Watamu). Tipping will be administered collectively. Any leftover amounts will be dispensed democratically.

Tanzania

We will run a **USD \$150 pp kitty** for tipping guides, and hotel and restaurant staff while on safari. Tipping will be administered collectively. Any leftover amounts will be dispensed democratically.



Carry small denomination dollar bills for individual or top-up tipping in rooms. \$1-2 equivalent local currency is recommended.

Staying in touch and cellphones

Unlocked cellphones accept prepaid SIM cards for cellular use. Cellphone usage is inexpensive in both countries. During your tour, not all areas will have reception at all times. Hotels and camps should have wifi in the common areas.

Health and Immunization

Modern emergency medical services are available in big cities and towns. Please check with your local travel health clinic for additional precautions.

See below for emergency evacuation insurance under [Insurance](#).

- Ebola update July 2027

- Kenya: There are currently no confirmed cases of Ebola within Kenya's general population. The country has heightened surveillance and strict entry protocols.
- Tanzania: Tanzania currently has zero confirmed cases of Ebola. While neighboring countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda have battled recent outbreaks of the Bundibugyo virus, the Tanzanian government has implemented strict health screening and surveillance protocols at all points of entry to prevent the virus from crossing its borders.

Food and Drinks

Generally, meals in hotels and good quality restaurants are safe. For sensitive stomachs, eat as close to your normal diet as possible for the first couple of days. Eat only piping hot foods and fruit that can be peeled. Drink only bottled water, which is readily available everywhere. There are no restrictions on the sale and consumption of alcoholic drinks in East Africa. There are plenty of imported beers, wines, and spirits in many places.

Shopping

Opportunities are limited while on safari. Some lodgings may have gift shops. In Nairobi, visit [Masai Market](#) for inexpensive handicrafts. Watamu town has an area with stalls you can walk through. Be prepared to bargain and watch your valuables.

Shipping home

Opportunities to ship home are limited to purchases made at large tourist stores. Fedex and UPS do not operate for small scale shipping in either Nairobi, Samburu or Watamu.

Insurance

We recommend travel cancellation, interruption, medical, property, and other personal insurance. E.Y.H.O.'s business insurance does **not** cover the cost of your tour. Please refer to last page on [T&C](#) for more information.



Medical Emergency Evacuation Insurance

While we have an enviable track record of no medical emergencies in close to 15 years, that doesn't mean the worst can't happen. For peace of mind, purchase emergency evacuation services from [AMREF Flying Doctors](#). US\$ 56 pp Kenya or write info@flydoc.org for more info.

Language

The official languages of Kenya and Tanzania are Kiswahili and English.

Security

Primarily in urban areas, please be cautious of your surroundings. Avoid wearing precious jewelry, walking in the dark, and in deserted lanes and streets. Keep an eye on your purses, wallets, handbags, and cameras. Never accept food or drinks from strangers.

Electricity

Kenya uses the UK/European standard power supply of 220/240 voltages. The type of socket in Kenya is the three-pin square type, like the ones found in the UK. Surge protectors are recommended for high amperage items like hair dryers. 110 Voltage U.S. will need a voltage converter as well as a plug converter.

Example of a universal plug converter: click [here](#).

Clothing, accessories, and laundry

It never gets really cold in Kenya, so lightweight clothing is the norm. However, the start of the rainy season will begin in March, so a waterproof light jacket is recommended.

Caveat: Climate change is scrambling weather patterns all over the world. Expect unpredictable conditions and pack accordingly.

While on safari, long sleeve shirts/blouses, and shorts or light weight cargo pants are ideal. Select neutral colours to avoid attracting insects. Pack a fleece jacket/sweater for early morning and evening game drives. Sensible walking shoes, a hat to keep off the sun, and sunglasses are essential, as is a good bandana to minimize inhaling safari dust.

No need to dress up for dinner; good casual clothing for evenings is fine. Some of the restaurants at the fancier lodges prefer long pants for evening meals.

Hairdryers are available in most establishments. However, mobile camps have limited electricity supply. Natural drying may be the best option.

Closer to travel time, a comprehensive packing list will be sent.

Luggage restrictions

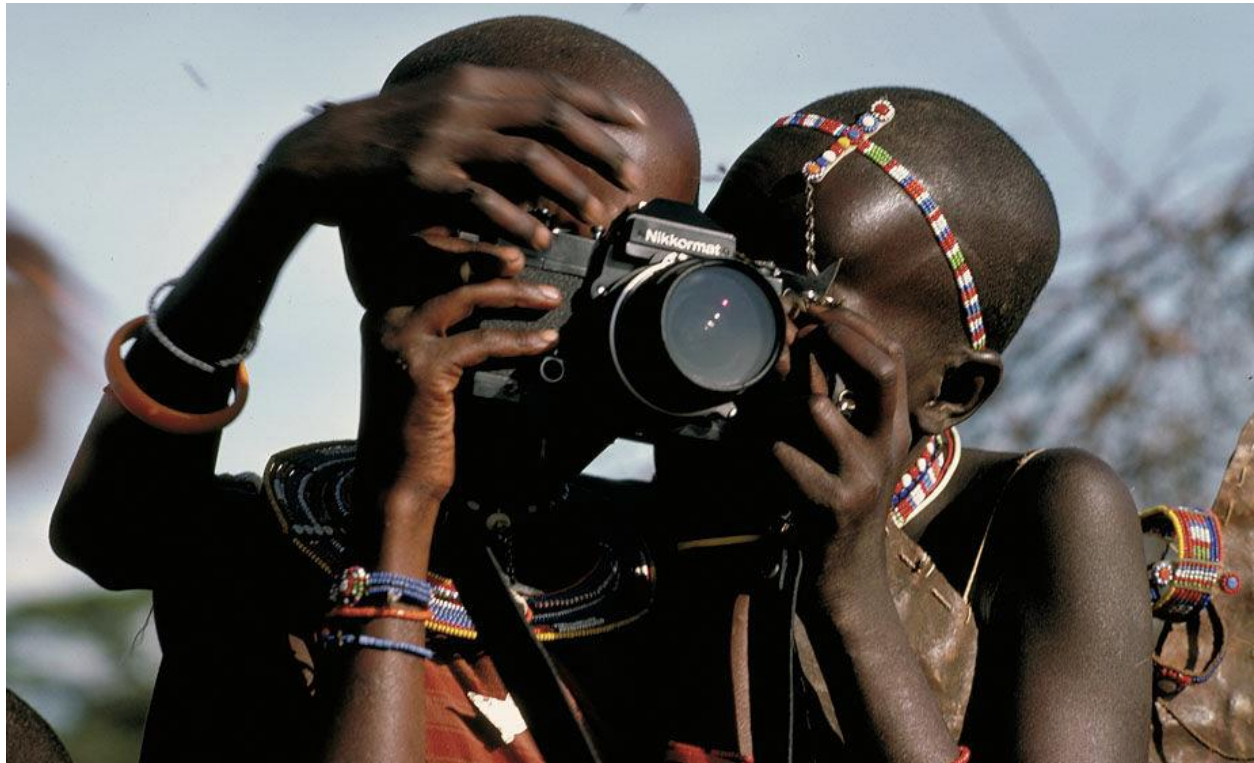
Tanzania: On small aircraft flights from Serengeti to Arusha, baggage allowance is 15 kgs per in soft-sided bags as the baggage hold is quite small and located near the wheels of the aircraft. Inside the plane, you may carry a backpack, camera case, laptop etc. provided not too heavy and bulky as there are no overhead lockers and all the carry-on has to rest either near the feet or on your lap.

Kenya: safari vehicles have restricted luggage space. Around 15 kg in soft sides bags will help our staff with loading/offloading.



Photography

Traditionally, Africans believe that the click of a camera captures their soul. Although most indigenous people are happy to be photographed, it's extremely important to ask before doing so. If in doubt, please ask your guide.



Arrivals and Departures

Please visit [Arrivals/Departures](#) on tour page.

Early arrivals and late departures

Nairobi

Arrivals Ubers are cheap and convenient but pick up points can be puzzling at JKIA. For Uber, you will need a cell phone connection. Alternately, we can arrange airport transfers for a fee.

For additional nights, we recommend the following accommodation options: Tamarind Tree Hotel for quality, service, and location close to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, as well as Nairobi Wilson. Good onsite restaurants and access to nearby suburb of Karen.

OR Trademark Hotel, the hotel we will be based at for the main tour. It is located within a shopping mall, so you have easy access to forex bureaus, restaurants, spas and gym.

Book online for best rates or we can book for an admin charge. See [Arrivals/Departures](#) for more info.



Excursions: Karen Blixen Museum, Sheldrake Elephant Orphanage, and Giraffe Centre are popular. For a nominal charge, we can assign a trusted driver so you can set your own schedule.

Internal flights

Q: Early arrival or late departure - can you book a hotel for us in Nairobi?

A: Yes, we can book accommodation for you for an admin fee.

Q: Can you get us a transfer from the Nairobi airport to our hotel for a fee no matter what time we get in?

A: Yes. Once you book international flights, we will arrange a transfer for you for a fee. Rates will vary between USD 15-40 depending on the number of vehicles required.

Q: Do you book internal flights for us?

A: Yes, for the main tour, we will book the only internal flight from Nairobi to Malindi for you.

Q: What about for Tanzania optional add on? Should we book flights from Tanzania to Nairobi? What about accommodation extra night 25th Feb?

A: If you are joining optional add on trip to Tanzania, flight Arusha to Nairobi is included, as is extra night in Nairobi. We will book both.

Questions? Happy to help! shila@eyhotours.com or visit www.eyhotours.com

Great! How do I sign up?

Please contact shila@eyhotours.com for registration details.

Questions?

Don't hesitate to reach out. shila@eyhotours.com