

Weather & Destination Specific Information

For any questions or concerns about your upcoming tour not addressed here, please call 1-800-826-2266

PREPARING TO TRAVEL

Weather: East Africa is warm by day and cooler in the evening. Even though Kenya is on the equator, the climate is pleasant throughout the year due to the high altitude of most of the area. Humidity is low and daytime temperatures average 70- and 90-degrees year around. Evening temperatures seldom drop below a cool 55 degrees. The warmest months are November through February.

Visa: United States citizens are required to have a visa for entry into Kenya. Holiday Vacations will assist you in obtaining your visa. The fee is included in the tour cost. Visa applications and instructions will be sent to you by Holiday Vacations prior to the tour.

Vaccinations: Inoculations are not required for Kenya when arriving from the U.S. However, inoculations for yellow fever are frequently recommended by health services. It is highly recommended that you begin taking malaria prophylaxis before your departure and continue to take it after your return. Your doctor will prescribe the option best for you. As entry requirements can change, contact your doctor, local health department, or the Center for Disease Control.

Medical Emergencies on Tour: Every Holiday Vacations safari includes membership in the Flying Doctors Society, an emergency medical care group. Should you require emergency medical care while on safari, the Flying Doctors will come to your side and fly you, at no cost, to a hospital in Nairobi.

Language: English and Swahili are the official languages of East Africa. Most people you meet will speak English, but you may want to try out a few phrases in Swahili.

Currency: The standard unit of currency for Kenya is the shilling, which is divided into 100 cents.

Currency exchange rates are subject to change on a daily basis. A helpful website for referencing current rates is www.oanda.com.

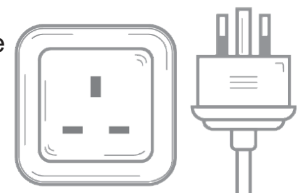
Generally, most hotels are now cashless and will accept VISA and MasterCard credit cards. Cash will be used mainly for tipping and when making purchases from small vendors. The US Dollar is readily accepted in most shops and for driver/guide gratuities. Please note that US Dollars cannot be torn or more than 10 years old.

Packing: Holiday Vacations will provide you with one soft-side “collapsible” bag that can be used throughout the safari. There is limited space on the safari vehicles, but these bags will fit comfortably in the rear of the minibus. Keeping the weight of the bag under 40 pounds will make it much easier to transport. In addition, a small, soft-side bag or backpack may be carried aboard the safari vehicles.

For clothing, we recommend light, short-sleeved cotton shirts with shorts, skirts, or pants for midday. In the early mornings and at night you may need a sweater or jacket and long pants, or a skirt. You can be comfortable all day by dressing in layers. We suggest lightweight, wash-and-wear materials in neutral colors. Avoid any clothing that may imitate military/army. You will spend most of your time on safari in a minibus, but you will need comfortable shoes for occasional walking. Some people like to take along a mask or scarf to protect their face from dust. Bring a raincoat that packs in a small container and take a swimsuit since most lodges have pools. You can make extra room in your soft-side “collapsible” bag for souvenirs by packing some old clothes to leave along the way or to donate to a charitable organization. We suggest bringing a hairdryer as the majority of lodges don't supply them.

Please note there is a ban on all single-use plasticbags in Kenya including Ziploc bags.

Included with your tour on arrival in Nairobi is an Essentials Pack, which contains a hat, reusable water bottle, lotion, mosquito repellent, a map, and an animal checklist.



Electrical Current: The electric current in Kenya is 220 volts, 50 cycles. Electric outlets and plugs are different from those in North America. An adapter is required to plug your device into an electrical socket. However, a voltage converter is only required if your device is not compatible with 220 volts. Check the voltage of any device that you are thinking of bringing. If the tag on your device lists 110-220 volts, then you will not need a converter. Adapters and converters are available at luggage, department, and electronics stores.

ON TOUR

International Driver/Guides: Holiday Vacations has arranged for International Driver/Guides to provide commentary for the regions you will be visiting. Guides will also discuss customs, traditions, language differences, and history. Your African Driver/Guide has firsthand experience with every stop on the itinerary.

Gratuities: The following are NOT included in the tour and may be provided by you at your discretion. If you feel that each person has met your expectations, please tip accordingly.

The suggested gratuity for your Holiday Vacations Tour Director is \$7 per person, per day. Any tipping is on an individual basis and is given directly to the Tour Director at the end of the tour.

Driver/Guide: The recommended amount for your safari driver/guide is \$10 per person, per day of service – to be given at the farewell dinner or the last day. US currency is acceptable.

Transportation On Tour: Transfers, game drives, and all safari transportation are via modern safari mini-buses. These mini-buses have “pop-up” roofs, comfortable seats, and cold water on board. Although each mini-bus seats nine, we take no more than six guests per vehicle. Everyone is guaranteed a window seat and plenty of elbow room. Please note that roads in Kenya are generally in poor state of repair. Potholes and unpaved road surfaces are quite common.

Cellphones: Cell phones can be used almost anywhere service is available. However, you may want to contact your cellular provider for information on coverage and any fees that may be incurred. Cell phone use in East Africa is unpredictable and unreliable. Internet access may be available at some hotels. There may be additional charges for internet access.

Meals: All meals are included while you are in Nairobi and on safari. You will savor everything from African delicacies to international specialties. Your meals in Kenya will be plentiful, deliciously prepared, and beautifully served.

Water: We recommend you always drink bottled water on safari. All safari vehicles are well stocked with safe drinking water dispensed into a reusable water bottle provided to you with our compliments upon arrival in Kenya.

Souvenirs: Your Tour Director can suggest places to find souvenirs. Look for jewelry made from local semiprecious stones, leather goods, and traditional handicrafts. Attractive, inexpensive articles such as baskets, beads, necklaces, bracelets, soapstone, and wood carvings can be found in any number of small shops and at street stalls. Other good buys include brightly patterned local fabrics. Expect to bargain in Africa – it’s part of the fun. You will know you have hit the bottom price when the vendor lets you walk out the door empty-handed!