



## **TRAVEL INFORMATION FOR KENYA**

**IMPORTANT:** To help you prepare for your safari, we offer the following information. We ask you to carefully review this and pay special attention to the section on TRAVEL CONDITIONS.

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### **AIRLINE RESERVATIONS**

Please reconfirm your international flights, both outbound and return, at least 72 hours prior to your trip. Call the actual carriers you fly on to reconfirm your booking and make sure that there are no changes in check-in and departure times. If it is an airline that offers pre-assigned seating, check on your seat assignment, keeping in mind that if there is an aircraft change your seat assignment will change. If you want your mileage recorded, make sure your number has been given to the airlines. Please remember that many airlines now have numerous partners for which you can receive mileage credit.

### **PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION**

Each traveler must be in possession of a valid, signed passport that will remain **valid for at least six (6) months beyond his/her scheduled departure date from Kenya**. United States and Canadian passport holders also require tourist visas for entry into Kenya. Citizens of countries other than the United States and Canada should check with their consulate or visa service for requirements pertaining to their citizenship, as entry requirements can vary. **Please be advised that the cost of a Kenya visa and the government rules regarding obtaining a visa upon entry or acquiring one before leaving the U.S. change frequently.** If your itinerary calls for entering Kenya more than once, please note that multiple entry visa rules and regulations can also be complex and do frequently change.

**Express Visa** in Washington, D.C. is an excellent visa service company and using them, while a little more expensive than going directly to the Embassy, saves a lot of trouble and is much safer and faster. You can phone them at **1-800-794-8687 to receive current visa information**. We have included a visa application form from Express Visa for your convenience. If you have any questions about this form please contact Express Visa. Always send your passport to the visa service via a traceable method of delivery.

It is imperative that every traveler arrive on tour with the proper documentation. While we will advise you of our most current information concerning passports, visas, and other entry requirements, please be aware that it is the traveler's responsibility to obtain all documents that are necessary for admittance to the countries visited on his /her itinerary.

### **HEALTH INFORMATION**

While we will try to advise you of most of our current health information, you should be aware that requirements and recommendations can change, sometimes on short notice. **ONCE AGAIN IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU CHECK WITH A QUALIFIED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL FOR THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR EXACT TRAVEL ITINERARY AND PERSONAL HEALTH HISTORY.**

We provide the following information here just as a guideline, as health precautions are constantly changing. We urge you to read the health requirements and or recommendations given here carefully and to discuss health precautions for your exact travel itinerary with your physician at least 6 weeks before you depart. In addition to your physician, a good source of health information for travelers is the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (the CDC) in Atlanta. You can contact their Information Hotline by calling **1-888-232-3228** or looking on their website at [www.cdc.gov/travel/](http://www.cdc.gov/travel/) You can also obtain information from your local public health department.

No vaccinations are currently required for entry into Kenya when arrival is directly from North America or Europe. (However, please read the following information on the conditional requirement for yellow fever vaccination.)

**Yellow Fever:** If you are traveling in Kenya (or planning to re-enter) from a country where yellow fever is endemic (such as Burundi, Rwanda, Sudan, **Tanzania**, Uganda or Zaire), you are required to have a

yellow fever vaccination; and it must be administered at least ten days before your arrival (or re-entry) into Kenya. If your travel itinerary requires you to have a yellow fever vaccination, you must ask your doctor to provide you with an “International Certificate of Vaccination,” which should be carried with you at all times while traveling, to serve as proof that you have fulfilled the vaccination requirement. If proof of vaccination is required and you do not carry it with you, you may be denied entry into Kenya. Please note that **even if you are not required to obtain a yellow fever vaccination for your safari in Kenya, the CDC recommends vaccination if you are traveling outside of urban areas.**

Please be aware of the following important recommendations currently in effect for all travelers and check with your doctor for any updates to this list. Young children, pregnant women and people with altered immunocompetence should pay particular attention to protective options offered by their doctors.

**Malaria:** Anti-malarial medication is strongly recommended by the CDC for all travelers to Kenya. The CDC recommends one of the following prophylactic drugs: malarone <sup>TM</sup>, mefloquine or doxycycline. Please discuss the details of these different drugs with your doctor and decide on the best choice of treatment for yourself.

In addition to anti-malarial drug regimes, personal protection measures against mosquitoes should be taken by all travelers to areas of malaria risk. These measures include using an insect repellent containing 30% but not more than 35% (or for children < 10%) of the active ingredient DEET. Keep your arms and legs covered as much as possible, especially during the early and late hours of the day. Avoid the application of perfumes, hair spray and other scented products which may attract mosquitoes.

**Cholera:** The cholera vaccination that was previously used has been determined to only offer moderate and short lived protection and was thus discontinued. There is currently no vaccine that exists for cholera in the United States and the CDC states that it is not necessary to have the inoculation for entry into foreign countries.

Be aware that, since cholera is a water-borne disease associated with areas of poor sanitation, the best protection against the disease is the practice of good personal hygiene and the avoidance of tap water (see section on FOOD and DRINK).

In general avoid possibly contaminated food, particularly seafood and unwashed vegetables; and avoid fruits that are already peeled when they are served. In warm tropical settings exercise caution in eating foods that can spoil from lack of proper refrigeration (such as salads containing mayonnaise, cream filled pastries, and dairy products).

**Meningitis:** It is generally suggested that travelers visiting Kenya consider a meningococcal vaccine, especially if travel is scheduled between December and June. Some countries affected or threatened by meningitis may require evidence of a meningococcal vaccination as a condition of entry. The CDC currently recommends that travelers visiting Kenya receive the meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine because of recent outbreaks of the disease in the region.

**Tetanus:** Coverage against tetanus should be considered mandatory for travel to any developing country. A tetanus booster is now recommended every ten years for adults.

**Measles:** Measles is endemic to most developing countries, and if you have not had a case of measles, you should be immunized. Those born and immunized between 1965 and 1980 should consider another dose of measles vaccine; the prophylaxis at that time has been found to be less than totally effective.

**Polio:** You should review your polio vaccination record and check with your physician or the public Health Department where you grew up to be sure you have been fully immunized. Even if you were fully immunized as a child, the CDC is currently recommending a booster in adulthood.

**Hepatitis A:** There is only a small risk of contracting hepatitis A if you follow the food and water precautions. However, the CDC advises inoculation against type A infectious hepatitis, a series of two shots, for visits to remote areas.

**Typhoid:** The CDC recommends this immunization for travelers to many areas of Africa, Asia and Central and South America, especially if prolonged exposure to contaminated food and water is anticipated.

It is also suggested that you assemble a traveler's medical kit appropriate to your destination, length of trip, and general health. Your physician can advise you on specific items to include (such as remedies for minor stomach ailments or motion sickness). You should include an adequate supply of any prescribed medications you may require while traveling. Prescription medicines should always be carried in your hand luggage (not in checked bags), in their original, labeled containers only. It is advisable to include some sterile syringes, needles and a suture kit along with an I.V. needle in case of emergency,

**Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT):** A rarely known condition that long distance travelers should be aware of. The condition is the formation of a blood clot in veins usually within the calf muscle area. The danger arises if these blood clots break loose and then lodge in the lungs causing a pulmonary embolism. Preventative measures can be taken, which include keeping fully hydrated, limiting the intake of alcohol, caffeine and sleep medications, moving around the cabin every couple of hours and not sitting in a cramped position. Special support stockings are also now available that reduce the likelihood of this problem developing.

People who should be especially careful are: women on hormone replacement therapy or birth control pills or that are pregnant or have recently been pregnant, people that have a family history of the condition, that are overweight or have varicose veins. Please consult with your doctor if you have any further questions about this condition.

**Travelers with physical disabilities and those who require frequent and ongoing medical attention should advise us of their health situation at the time of booking.**

#### **ARRIVAL AND CUSTOMS INFORMATION**

When you arrive at Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi you will proceed through passport control before continuing to the baggage claim and customs area. Please be advised that regulations at most international points of arrival do not permit passengers to be met inside secured passenger areas (such as the Customs area). If our representative is scheduled to meet you on arrival (at an airport, for example), you will be met immediately after you have passed through the secured passenger areas. There may be some confusion by arriving passengers, especially if more than one international flight arrives at the same time. We recommend acquiring a visa before arrival to make passing through customs an easier process.

If you arrive in the early morning, there is a possibility that you may have to wait a short time for your hotel room (unless you have booked the room for the night before to ensure early availability. This will depend on how fully booked the hotel is on the day you arrive. If there is a wait you can enjoy breakfast while your room is prepared.

If you favor a particular brand of spirits, you may want to use your duty-free liquor allowance to purchase a bottle en route to Kenya for your personal consumption.

Please note that uncut, raw stones require formal government approval for exportations from Kenya. (This also applies to cut stones totaling more than 300 carats.) Please note that the purchase of “national treasures” for export from any country is strictly illegal and that the onus rests entirely on the buyer. In addition, U.S., Canadian and Kenyan Customs prohibit importation of any products made from endangered species of wildlife. If you are approached by someone offering this type of “curio” for sale, do not buy it. International agreements are such that, if you are caught with such a restricted item, it will almost certainly lead to prosecution.

Under no circumstances should sheathed knives or small arms be taken on safari. If you are taking foreign-made possessions on your trip abroad, consider registering them with the Customs Office before you leave your country of residence. This includes cameras and other items that may readily be identified by serial numbers or other markings. If you fail to do this, the article may be subject to duty each time you re-enter your country of residence. Alternatively, you may carry copies of documents such as bills of sale, insurance policies, or receipts for purchase/repair as proof of prior possession.

**DEPARTURE TAX INFORMATION**

In Kenya, travelers are required to pay airport taxes for International Departures, Domestic Departures and Landing and License fees for charter aircraft. These are now sometimes included with the price of your ticket or trip. However, government or airline regulations frequently change. **Please see the Inclusions and Exclusions of your Costs and Terms for your trip for further details on this.**

**WEATHER**

Generally, **coastal areas** of Kenya tend to be hotter and more humid than inland areas. North of Nairobi it becomes cooler as altitude increases. During the months of June, - October it can be cold in these areas and warrant a warm sweater or jacket. The northern frontier district is an arid, desert region with slightly higher temperatures than the rest of the country. In the lower inland plateau areas temperatures are also warm and rainfall is spread fairly evenly throughout the year.

**December – March:** These are the warmest months of the year (Kenya’s “summertime”). Temperatures do not often exceed 90 degrees Fahrenheit (F), however, and morning and evening temperatures are refreshingly cool with low humidity.

**April and May:** This season is normally characterized by heavy, intermittent rains.

**June – August:** Kenya’s weather is coolest during these months, with lows in the upper 40’s(F) and highs in the low 70’s (F).

**September – November:** This is a delightful time to visit East Africa – comparable to springtime in America. The days are warmer, with lows in the mid 50’s (F) and highs in the mid 70’s (F). Short scattered rains fall in November refreshing the country and reducing the dust, although sometimes the rain can be heavy.

**Average daily high/low temperatures in Fahrenheit and average number of days with rain:**

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Nairobi	77/54-5	79/55-6	77/57-11	75/58-16	72/56-17	70/53-9	69/51-6	70/52-6	75/52-6	76/55-8	74/56-15	74/55-11
Highlands	77/45-3	79/47-5	77/49-9	74/51-17	73/50-13	74/48-7	72/47-7	73/47-8	76/46-7	75/47-9	73/49-11	74/47-6
Masai Mara	80/46-8	81/46-7	79/48-12	76/51-13	73/53-14	71/49-7	0/46-3	72/46-4	76/46-4	76.45-47	77/47-9	78/46-9

The above is not an exact weather forecast. Unseasonable weather can occur, and you should pack with a degree of flexibility in mind.

## **CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES**

Dress on safari is entirely casual. Because it can be dusty, neutral colors are most practical for game viewing. (Please note, however, that it is illegal to wear actual “camouflage” clothing in Kenya’s parks and game reserves). Some travelers prefer to wear older clothing on game drives because of the heavy dust that is sometimes encountered. In general, you should dress for outdoor comfort in Kenya, where there are no occasions for dressy or formal attire.

**Do not over pack:** There is no need to bring a great deal of clothing. Efficient and inexpensive laundry service is available in Kenya (see section on LAUNDRY). By using it, you can limit yourself to just four or five outfits and not be inconvenienced by an overabundance of luggage.

Temperatures tend to be cooler in the early morning and after sunset, but warm up considerably by midday. We recommend layering lightweight clothing in order to be prepared for the change in daily temperatures. Casual clothing of “breathable” fabric (such as cotton) is the most comfortable.

Kenya has a large Muslim population in the coastal areas and modesty of dress should be observed. Slacks are acceptable, but short skirts and bare arms should be avoided. Scarves must be worn over the head (and shoes) removed when entering a mosque.

Unless you have booked a walking safari, you will not need heavy footwear. A pair of comfortable shoes with soft soles will be adequate. Beach sandals are useful as slippers and also for walking around camp.

**Please see the PRE-DEPARTURE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST for further clothing suggestions.**

## **BAGGAGE INFORMATION**

There are several different sets of baggage allowance regulations in effect for international and regional flights. Baggage allowances can vary depending on which airline(s), class of service, and routing is used. Despite the information given here, we urge you to check with the airline for the exact baggage regulations pertaining to your specific itinerary.

**International Flights:** While two checked suitcases weighing up to 70 pounds are generally allowed on trans-Atlantic flights from North America to Europe, elsewhere the weight limit of 44 pounds of baggage per person is still in effect for scheduled international flights and is adhered to very strictly. We urge travelers to adhere to the lower baggage limit (two pieces weighing up to 44 total pounds, plus one carry-on bag) because that amount of baggage should be accepted on most scheduled international flights.

**Regional Charter Flights or Scheduled Flights:** If flights aboard any chartered or scheduled aircraft are included in your itinerary, your baggage will be restricted to one checked bag plus one small carry-on bag with a maximum weight allowance of 22 pounds. This special weight restriction is strictly adhered to and also applies to all chartered flights between Tanzania and Kenya. (If your international flights are into AND out of either Nairobi (Kenya) or Arusha, you will have an opportunity to store any bags not needed during your safari at your hotel in either Nairobi or Arusha).

**Any baggage in excess of airline limitations may be subject to substantial freight charges by the airline. These charges are the entire responsibility of the traveler.**

Every piece of checked baggage should be locked and contain identification **inside** (as well as outside) stating your home address and phone number. While every precaution will be taken with your baggage, we cannot be held responsible for any damaged or lost baggage, and we strongly recommend the purchase of adequate baggage insurance by each traveler.

On safari, it is preferable to use two smaller suitcases rather than one large one. In addition, soft-sided pieces are most easily stored in safari vehicles than hard-frame cases. You will need a daypack or shoulder pack to conveniently carry the items you will need during game drives. **Please do not pack valuable items (such as your camera) in checked baggage.**

### **LAUNDRY**

If you choose to have laundry done, remember to check the hotel's/lodge's/camp's individual laundry return policy and pricing schedule. It is also suggested that you request laundry service only where you have at least a two-night stay to help ensure that your laundry is returned before you check out. Most laundry is dried outdoors; therefore clothes may not become completely dry depending on the weather. Please be advised that women's undergarments are excluded from the laundry list of most lodges. You may want to launder these items yourself.

### **ELECTRICITY**

Electricity runs on 220/240 volts. If you do bring electrical appliances, you must take along an international converter kit complete with a set of adapter plugs. (Three square prongs are used in the United Kingdom). These are available from electrical appliance and hardware stores in the US and Canada. We do, however, suggest that you take battery operated appliances wherever possible, and a supply of extra batteries. Please see **International Electrical Supplies** for further information [www.traveloasis.com/international.html](http://www.traveloasis.com/international.html).

### **FOOD AND DRINK**

The food served has greatly improved in recent years. Emphasis can be on quantity rather than on variety, and meals can become a bit monotonous. Food in private camps is usually superior to that found in lodges.

Several types of local beer can be found that are quite good. Occasionally lack of refrigeration power will mean that supplies of ice, ice cream and ice –cold drinks may not be available or limited. There are some imported wines, though specific brands cannot be guaranteed. Limited supplies of soft drinks are available, including cola and ginger ale. Hard liquor, decaffeinated beverages, and diet (sugar free) drinks, are in short supply. Those with a preference for decaffeinated coffee or tea may want to carry packets of these beverages. For variety, you might also carry some packets of hot chocolate or other beverages.

**Do not drink (or brush your teeth) with the tap water in Kenya.** Additionally, do not accept ice in drinks unless assured by your guide or host that the water used in the ice has been purified. It may be necessary to exercise caution when using “purified” water that is directly from a can, bottled or any other beverage from a questionable container. We suggest that you drink only, boiled, bottled or carbonated water that is commonly available for purchase.

### **CURRENCY**

In Kenya, the unit of currency is the Kenya Shilling, which is divided into 100 Cents. Notes are in denominations of 20, 50, 100, 500, 1,000 Shillings. Coins are issued in denominations of 5, 10, and 50 Cents and 1 and 5, 10 Shillings. Please check **Currency Calculator** for up to date exchange rates, <http://finance.yahoo.com/m3?u>

There are no restrictions on the amount of foreign currency that may be taken into Kenya, and the declaration of foreign currency is no longer required. It is, however, suggested that you save ALL receipts from your currency exchange transactions in Kenya.

If you exchange foreign currency into Kenya Shillings at the airport upon arrival, we suggest you only change a small amount. **We also urge you to spend all of your shillings while you are in the country**

**as no more than 100 Kenya shillings per person may be taken out of the country**, and it is difficult and lengthy process to change Kenya Shillings back when you leave the country. Also, Kenya Shillings are not accepted as payment for non-resident hotel accounts, which must be settled in foreign currency.

Kenya has a cash-based economy, and the U.S. dollar is one of the most preferred currencies. Cash is more readily acceptable than travelers' checks, which can be difficult to exchange, and it is suggested that you carry a suitable amount of cash in notes smaller than U.S. \$50.00. Approximately \$20.00 in smaller denominations \$1.00 or \$5.00 bills is always handy for tips etc. Travelers checks should be better-known brands and also in smaller denominations. While limited it may also be possible to receive cash from a cash machine in the airport, banks and money exchange houses. We recommended bringing along a few blank checks and credit cards, as they are accepted at more and more places. Fear of forgery means that it may be difficult to exchange large bills or checks.

### **SHOPPING**

Woodcarvings, batiks, carved figurines of people and animals are among Kenya's most popular souvenir items. Locally woven sisal baskets are durable and attractive, and they are sold at much lower prices than you will find in the American and European shops that import them.

Some of the best indigenous artwork is found in Nairobi's smaller galleries, and Nairobi is also a good place to purchase tailored safari clothing and colorful African fabrics. African jewelry is also popular with overseas visitors, particularly the beaded adornments of the Maasai people and pieces made of amber, Tanzanite, and Tsavorite. Soapstone carvings from the Kisii District are available in polished black (as well as their natural shades of gray and pink). Tribal artifacts (such as spears, shields, masks, and gourds) are widely sold in shops and by street hawkers.

In places where prices are not marked, bargaining is usually an accepted practice. Please note: We assume no responsibility for any purchases made by our clients while traveling. **This includes shipping costs, which may be considerably higher (even several hundred dollars more) than quoted at the time of purchase.** We urge every traveler to heed the following shopping guidelines, based on our own experiences, to avoid disappointment over purchasing decisions:

1. **Bring your purchases home with you.** Unless you are prepared to wait up to a year to receive your merchandise, do not have it shipped – not even by air freight.
2. **Do not purchase expensive goods of supposed high quality unless you are absolutely sure of what you are buying.** (Or unless you like the item enough to buy it even if it is not authentic or as valuable as you thought). Unless you are an expert in gems, antiques, artifacts, etc., do not assume that the quality and/or value of your purchase is as represented by the vendor.
3. **Always take the time to read the charge slips for credit card purchases before you sign them.** This may seem obvious, but in the excitement of making a foreign purchase travelers sometimes overlook this and they are unpleasantly surprised when they return home and are billed by the credit card company. Taking a few moments to review the charge slip before signing and computing the exact rate of exchange can save headaches later.

For purchases made abroad that are being hand-carried home, keep all sales receipts with you in your hand luggage. It is also suggested that you pack all of your foreign purchases together in one bag separate from your personal belongings.

### **VALUABLES, SAFETY AND TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Exercise the same safety precautions throughout your travels as you would at home. In larger cities (such as Nairobi), do not leave your hotel to walk around at night. Be especially careful of your passport. If you leave your passport in your room or tent, which is not recommended, always keep it in a locked bag. Memorize your passport number, its date of issue, and its place of issue. **It is also a good idea to travel**

with a copy of your passport information pages and leave another copy at home. Follow the security measures included with your travelers checks and leave an additional record of the numbers at home.

**We recommend that all travelers purchase adequate trip cancellation/interruption, medical, and baggage insurance and carry the details of their coverage with them.**

### **GRATUITIES**

Many travelers view tipping as a difficult subject, though this need not be the case. The first thing to remember is that tipping is not compulsory, nor are there any fixed amounts. The bottom line in determining whether and how much to tip is to ask yourself how much the individual did to make your travels more enjoyable. It is with this in mind that we offer the following information.

**Hotel Staff:** We recommend that you leave \$10.00 - \$15.00 per person per day to be divided amongst the hotel or lodge staff. If you have any questions about this please consult with the hotel manager or your guide. Unless a hotel staff member performs a special service for you (or one that is not included in the tour price, such as in the bar or room service) you need not tip any hotel staff. As a guideline, the customary gratuity for any special or extra services is about 10% of the cost of the service, but do check your bill first to make sure a gratuity was not already included.

**Driver-Guides:** One driver-guide accompanies each land vehicle. It is customary to tip your driver-guide on the last day you are with him or her. Approximately U.S. \$20.00 – 25.00 per driver per day is considered a good tip. This amount should be divided amongst the passengers.

**Safari Escort:** In addition to a driver-guide, some trips are accompanied by a professional safari escort. It is also customary to tip your safari escort on the last day you are with him or her, and the recommended tip is U.S. \$25.00 – \$35.00 per day divided amongst the passengers.

**Camp Staff on Tented Safaris:** If you are traveling on a tented safari you will be served by a camp manager and several camp staff, for whom an overall tip of U.S. \$10.00 per traveler per day in camp is recommended. This should be given to your guide on the last day in camp for distribution among all camp staff. Smaller groups (in this case 5 or less) might consider raising this amount to U.S. \$12.00-\$15.00 per traveler per day in recognition of the individual attention given to a smaller size group.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** If you are traveling to both Tanzania and Kenya, you will have a different driver-guide (and possibly safari escort, if applicable) in each country.

### **LANGUAGE**

Even though Swahili is the official language in Kenya, English is widely spoken and understood. A few useful Swahili words and phrases follow:

Hello.....	Jambo
Good-bye.....	Kwaheri
How are you?.....	Habari?
Good, fine.....	Mzuri (like the state Missouri)
Please.....	Tafadhali
Thank you.....	Asante
Yes.....	Ndiyo
No.....	Hapana
Very Much.....	Sana
May I come in?.....	Hodi?
Come in, near.....	Karibu
How much? How many?.....	Ngapi?
How many shillings?.....	Shilingi ngapi?

What time is it? (How many hours?).....	Saa ngapi?
Is there tea (coffee) ready?.....	Iko chai (kahawa) tayari?
Bring drinking water, please.....	Lete maji ya kunyua tafadhali
Buffalo.....	Nyati
Cheetah.....	Duma
Elephant.....	Tembo
Giraffe.....	Twiga
Hippo.....	Kiboko
Leopard.....	Chui
Lion.....	Simba
Rhino.....	Kifaru
Wildebeest.....	Nyumbu
Zebra.....	Punda Milia

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Kenya operates on Greenwich Mean Time plus three hours. When the U.S. is operating under Standard Time, it is eight hours later in Kenya than in the Eastern U.S. Time Zone. Please be advised that some hotels impose surcharges that can be more than double the cost of normal international calls. Please check the hotel policy before placing a call. Many lodges and camps now have satellite phones that can be used for emergencies and placing important calls out. Radios are used extensively for communications and are often the only reliable means of communicating from the bush. Cell and mobile phones will not work outside of major cities.

**TRAVEL CONDITIONS**

Although Kenya is one of Africa’s more developed countries with regard to tourism, it is still a somewhat adventurous destination by western standards. Bureaucratic procedures can sometimes cause delays, and selections may not always be as varied as one would like. You are likely to encounter some bad road conditions. Long drives without available restroom facilities) are possible. We ask for your flexibility and tolerance should you encounter these situations. We believe that the wildlife and African landscape you have traveled so far to experience will more than compensate for any inconveniences.

Travel advisories may exist for Kenya and can frequently change. We will do our best to inform you of any urgent advisories and provide the following State Department link for your convenience [http://travel.state.gov/travel\\_warnings.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel_warnings.html)

You will discover that Kenyan’s are generally very friendly, courteous, and honest. Never be shy about asking questions of your driver-guide or safari escort. They are extremely knowledgeable and are eager to share their country with you. If you are initially understanding and tolerant of your Kenyan hosts, they will respond in kind to you. We know you will have memorable experiences in Kenya, but do remember that a safari is an adventure – don’t forget to pack your sense of humor!

**SMOKING**

We ask that you refrain from smoking while in sightseeing vehicles and at meals during your safari.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

**Giving Gifts:** Many travelers take pleasure in passing out little gifts, such as pens and candy, to the children they encounter on safari. This is something which, although well intended, has created a begging problem of serious consequences to the children. Village elders are very disturbed by the truancy rate among their school-aged children, who sometimes skip classes so that they can stand around tourist areas and wait for presents. They are also disturbed by the overall effect that begging has on their cultural traditions. We therefore, urge travelers to refrain from passing out any gifts directly to any children in

Kenya and would ask those inclined to do so to give their gifts to their guide instead. They can then be given to a school, village elder, or local charitable organization. We also run school projects and would be happy to discuss with you ideas about items that are most useful in Africa.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

We recommend that you bring all the photographic equipment you will need from home, including an ample supply of film and additional camera batteries. **(Film and batteries may not be available in Kenya and if found will be expensive).** It is also suggested that you check the working order of your camera and have your equipment insured before you depart. For reference, take your owners manual with you in case of malfunction. For most travelers, an African safari is a “trip of a lifetime”, therefore consider bringing more than one camera in case one malfunctions.

Generally a 35mm camera is considered the best type although there are now some good digital cameras coming on the market. For photographing birds and game, a telephoto lens of at least 200mm or more is recommended. We usually use one that is 300mm, with a polarizing filter, as the mid day sun can be quite strong. Tripods are impractical and usually not necessary as photographs are usually taken from the vehicle where the camera can rest on something. A dust proof camera bag (or Ziploc plastic bag) and an air brush will help protect your equipment from dust.

We recommend carrying several speeds of film, including ASA 100 for outdoor photographs in full bright light and ASA 400 for early morning and evening photography. Much of the new film produced is more versatile than film in the past so please check the manufacturer’s suggestions or with your camera shop. Keep your film as cool as possible while traveling and NEVER leave it in direct sunlight or on the hot floor of a vehicle. We do not recommend having your film developed in Africa as the quality of development can be poor.

If you are planning on taking a video camera this is a wonderful way to capture wildlife activity. Be sure to bring along long lasting batteries and realize that you may not be able to charge the batteries in all of your locations. Bringing an adapter for vehicle cigarette lighters is sometimes a good idea but will only be helpful for charging while the vehicle is running. Many camps will be able to charge batteries at night but be sure to bring adapters for 220-240V power sources. A surge protector is also recommended as most camps run on generators that do not have an even output of power.

**Photographic Etiquette:** When photographing people, especially members of the Maasai tribe, always ask permission first. Because so many local people are asked for permission to be photographed, many will expect a tip or an outright fee for the picture to be taken. (In fact, some “professional posers” make a living this way). Always be considerate of anyone’s desire not to be photographed. There are some places where photography is prohibited, and these areas are usually clearly marked. If you are uncertain about whether or not photography is permitted please ask. **Under no circumstances should you take photographs of airports, government buildings and installations, or military or police personnel.** Taking photographs when permission is not granted is inadvisable and may result in the confiscation of your film.

While game viewing in parks and reserves, some travelers get caught up in the excitement of the moment to the point of losing their sensitivity to the wildlife they are observing and the other people sharing their safari vehicle. Please be careful not to disturb the animals by making unnecessary noises or commotion, and be conscious of sharing the best photographic views with others in your vehicle. **It is not considered good practice to whistle, pound on vehicles or otherwise try to draw the attention of an animal for a photograph.** Remember that you are in the animals’ element and it will take patience to get a good photograph of an animal looking in your direction or engaged in an interesting activity. Remember to be respectful of wildlife and fragile ecosystems you have entered, and realize that it is the duty of the visitor to ensure that these remain undisturbed by their presence.