



Travel Tips

The Radical Giraffe Bespoke Tours Led by Donnalee

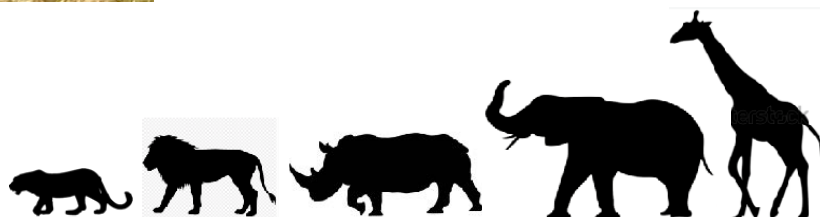
Passport/Visa

Ensure that your passport is valid 6 months beyond your return. Make sure you have at least 2 blank pages in your passport. Please make a photocopy of your passport, and if you have any extra passport photos, bring them as well. Keep them in a different place than with your passport in the event of loss. I usually have a copy of my birth certificate, and marriage license with me as well. Kenya now only offers online visa application. Go to: <http://www.evisa.go.ke> allow 3 business days for processing, it is valid for 3 months after it is issued. If you plan a European excursion during your trip, you must now apply for a visa beginning in early 2024.

Medical

No vaccinations are required. You may see in your reading that Yellow Fever is required. Not true, unless you are coming from a country where it is endemic. - Feel free to go to cdc.gov and/or check with your personal Healthcare Provider. It is important to obtain an anti-malaria prophylaxis.

Historically, I've told my family Dr. when I'm traveling to a 3rd world destination, and he/she has given me an RX for a broad spectrum antibiotic. With any meds that you do take - bring in their original bottle, in your carry on. OTC meds: keep in original packaging as well. Another good source for info is the World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int>





Money Matters

Tell your credit card company /bank where and when for travel. In most larger shopping spots, plastic is readily accepted, with the exception of the Discover Card and AmEx. Visa or MasterCard are generally preferred.

The currency in Kenya is the shilling, (KES) - We can exchange USD Cash at Change Bureaus in Kenya, as well as use your bank card for cash withdrawals. Your USD should be larger bills, less than 10 years old, no tears or markings on them,

in good shape. I do not recommend travelers checks. You can usually convert a bit of USD for Kenya shillings at your home bank, but overall I'm not impressed with the exchange rate that they give you.

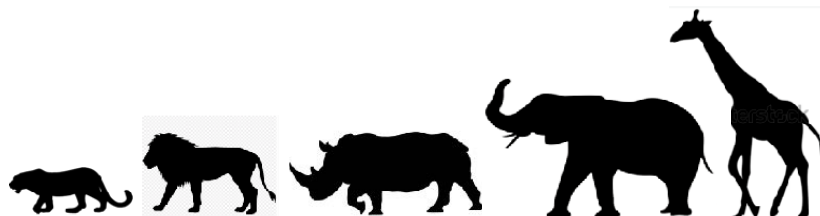
Though most everything is included, there are people we will want to tip as we go along ... Driver guides, wait staff, room/tent staff, askari (guard) I've found that personally, I'm delighted to give these people who work so incredibly hard, a tip. Never has a little generosity and kindness been more appreciated than when I'm in Africa. I would budget approximately \$50 per person, per day for this ...

Weather/Climate

One of the old promotional/tourist nicknames for Kenya was 'A World In One Country' ... this, still holds true today in many ways, certainly - pertaining to the climate.

Kenya's Elevation goes from sea level, to the summit of Mt Kenya, at 17,058 feet.

Kenya straddles the equator, so there are no real seasonal changes as in the more temperate zones. Defined more by the annual wet seasons, the "long rains" from mid March to early June, and the "short rains" of November and December - another factor is the altitude. Humidity is not significant anywhere but the coast. One of the things that surprises travelers is how temperate, comfortable the weather is on safari.





Nairobi - Sits at an altitude of 5,452 feet. We can expect very pleasant daily high temp of low to mid 70s - low to mid 50's at night.

Samburu National Reserve - along with Buffalo Springs and Shaba are the 3 National Reserves which group around the Uaso Nyiro River. They were created with the help of the Adamson Family, who used most of their proceeds from the Born Free books and film to protect this special place. This is a semi-arid plain, with some woodland. Really, quite striking. I truly adore Samburu. It sits at around 3000 feet. This will be the warmest place we will visit. Daytime highs into the low 80's - lows in the 60's

Nanyuki/Timau - The highlands of Kenya. The *Mt Kenya Safari Club* straddles the equator at 7000 feet. Daytime highs will be upper 60's - low 50's at night. *Olepanji Farm* sits at a bit lower elevation than *Mt Kenya Safari Club*, and should be a few degrees warmer.

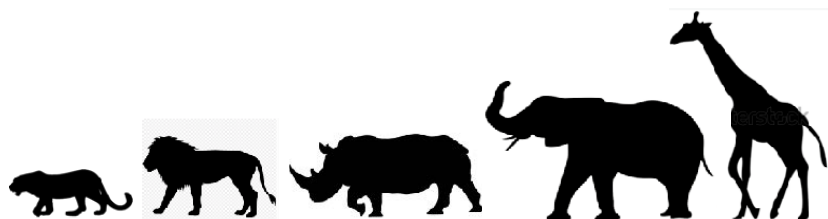
Lake Naivasha - Sits at an altitude of around 6180 ft. Daytime high around 70, low at night in mid 50's.

Masai Mara National Reserve - the area we will be visiting is going to be around 5200 feet. Low 70's daytime - mid 50's at night.

Amboseli National Park - One of Kenya's smaller National Parks, but it is part of a large ecosystem that spreads across the Kenya-Tanzania border. Amboseli is most famous for a significant elephant population, and the beautiful backdrop of Mt Kilimanjaro. Amboseli is a mostly dry ecosystem, (dotted with seasonal swamps) sitting at around 3800 feet. Most of the year you can expect daytime temps in the high 70s, low 50s at night.

What to pack

On the international flights, we are allowed 2 checked bags, not to exceed 50# each in weight. Plus, typical carry on restrictions. However, when we are flying in country, our luggage, all of it cannot exceed 32#. We recommend a lightweight duffel bag for your primary piece of luggage. Once you check your bag in at your US gateway, you will likely not handle it again until back from Kenya.



The duffel we like is made by Eagle Creek, and it is called the "No Matter What" Duffel. The large size is ideal - Amazon sells it, or go to [Eagle Creek | Luggage, Travel Backpacks & Travel Gear](#) - Packing cubes work really well in a duffel bag.

In Kenya, electricity is 240 volts AC. You'll need a "g" plug adapter (3 rectangular pins in a triangular pattern). We recommend bringing a converter for charging, as well as a portable charger to bring on game drives. Available on Amazon.com adapters are very inexpensive.

Binoculars - there is usually a pair in the land cruiser. Field guide books are in the vehicle as well.

Flashlight/torch - a small, pocket size LED flashlight is a good idea.

Sunscreen is advised.

"Mossie" spray - A small pocket size repellent with a decent amount of "DEET" is not a bad idea.

Camera - unless you are an avid photographer, most people take wonderful pictures with their phone. If you are a photography enthusiast, keep weight of the equipment in mind.

RX meds and OTC meds in original packaging, bottles..

Xerox copy or photo of your passport with info page...

Sunhat - wide brim, securable type.

Bring a small stainless water bottle. Kenya has banned the use of plastics, like water bottles, and even plastic grocery type sacks.

Walking shoes... closed toe, comfortable, lace up. You do not need to invest in a hiking type boot... Merrill, Moab, Columbia, Brooks all make a decent walking shoe.



For day to day....

1-2 pairs of long pants, a cozy pair of sweats isn't a bad idea for early AM game drives. Leggings, yoga pants are great!

1-2 pair of Capri type pants.

1-2 pair of shorts (if you are a shorts person) otherwise, Capris are fine.

1 -2 long sleeve shirt maybe a Henley, and a lightweight long sleeve t-shirt.

1 button up short sleeve shirt...

1-2 short sleeve shirts.

Safari Vest, and/or windbreaker type jacket.

Bathing suit.

It is all about layering for the am and pm game drives.

Evening

1 or 2 simple dresses, outfits, sweater or shawl to wear over...

or— a pair of "traveler" type slacks, with 1 or 2 tops and a jacket that can alternate for dinner wear.

We cannot check hard sided bags on the commuter flights.

Remember to weigh your luggage. Flights in country restrict weight to #32 pounds including hand luggage, purses, and/or camera bag.

Be creative about clothing - you can toss, or donate as you go along, it will make room in your bag for purchases!

Remember, it is very easy to get clothes laundered, but no dry cleaning.

I try to build a wardrobe around natural colors - tan, olive, dusty shades are great. Camouflage is not allowed.

Reading

Born Free - Joy Adamson

The Great Safari - Adrian House - Fascinating insight into the lives of Joy and George Adamson.

Love, Life and Elephants - by Daphne Sheldrick

West with the Night - Beryl Markham

Out of Africa - Karen Blixen

