



## **General Tour Information**

### **Geography & People**

***The Heart of East Africa:*** Kenya lies directly on the equator, bordering Tanzania and Uganda. It is roughly the size of Texas or Spain.

***A Rich Cultural Tapestry:*** Kenya is home to over 42 distinct ethnic communities, each with its own language. While tribal dialects are spoken widely, Kiswahili and English are the official languages. English is universally spoken in major towns, hotels, and safari lodges.

### **Climate:**

When to Visit:

Kenya offers a highly pleasant climate year-round, though varied altitudes create distinct regional contrasts:

***The Highlands:*** Cool and refreshing, offering a crisp escape from the tropical sun.

***The Coast:*** Humid, balmy, and classic beach weather.

***Lowlands & Northern Eastern:*** Warm, with daytime temperatures reaching 30°C and above.

The Seasons:

***Warmest Period:*** December to mid-March.

***Cooler Months:*** July and August (often overcast in the mornings).

***The Rains:*** The -Long Rains- occur from late March to May, and the -Short Rains- span late October through November. Tour travel during the rainy seasons is a challenge that should be entirely avoided.

### **Health, Safety & Insurance**

***Low-Risk Travel:*** Inland Kenya is considered a generally low-risk destination. Due to the high altitude, malarial transmitting mosquitoes are rare in the interior highlands.

***Health Precautions:*** Malaria risks increase along the coast and lower altitudes; we highly recommend taking a malaria prophylaxis. While there are no mandatory inoculations for standard entry, we recommend consulting a travel clinic regarding Hepatitis A, B, and C.

***Yellow Fever Note:*** A Yellow Fever vaccination certificate is mandatory if you are arriving from a Yellow Fever-endemic region (including parts of South America, India, Singapore, or the tropical belt).

***Travel Insurance:*** Visitors are responsible for their own medical expenses. All clients must provide Tekwa with their overseas travel insurance details, passport number, nationality, date of birth, blood group, and an emergency contact prior to departure.

**Emergency Evacuation Protection:** As an exclusive inclusion, Tekwa requires that you pay for your medical evacuation insurance for all our tours. While your overseas policy may cover international repatriation, our local backup ensures immediate medical evacuation by air via the Flying Doctor Service from the nearest airstrip directly to a premier hospital in Nairobi.

**Drinking Water:** To ensure a healthy trip, please drink bottled mineral water only throughout your stay (unless specified as treated and safe by high-end luxury accommodations).

## Currency, Banking & Tipping

**Local Currency:** The monetary unit is the Kenyan Shilling (KES).

**Card Acceptance:** International credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, American Express) are widely accepted at major hotels and restaurants. ATMs dispensing Kenyan Shillings are widely available in cities and fuel stations. Please note that card transactions at major establishments are frequently processed in US Dollars. Small local shops accept only cash.

**Exchanging Cash:** You can easily convert foreign currency (USD, EUR, GBP) at airports (JKIA Nairobi / Moi International Mombasa), banks, or foreign exchange bureaus. Avoid black-market exchanges.

**Crucial USD Cash Rules:** If carrying US Dollars, bills must be dated 2013 or later- Banks and local businesses strictly reject older, torn, or dirty notes. High-denomination bills (\$50 and \$100) receive significantly better exchange rates.

**Tipping Guidelines:** Tipping is a proud safari tradition to reward excellent service, though it remains entirely discretionary.

**Note:** Travelers Cheques are obsolete and no longer accepted anywhere in Kenya.  
Your credit card should be **authorized by your home bank** to transact in Kenya.

## Luggage & Wardrobe

**Pack Smart, Pack Soft:** For all safaris, luggage must be packed in soft-sided bags (duffels) to fit vehicle compartments.

**Weight Limits:** The weight limit is a strict 15 kg to 20 kg per person. For itineraries involving domestic bush flights, the limit is strictly 15 kg (33 lbs) inclusive of hand luggage. Excess luggage can be securely stored at our Nairobi head office free of charge.

**Strict Plastic Bag Ban:** Kenya enforces a strict nationwide ban on all single-use plastic carrier bags and secondary plastic packaging. Do not pack plastic bags, including transparent zip-lock airport bags, in your luggage. Please leave them on the aircraft before disembarking in Nairobi to avoid heavy local fines.

**Clothing Essentials:** Casual, lightweight cotton clothing is ideal. Pack T-shirts, shorts, and long trousers. Mornings and evenings in the bush are surprisingly cold-bring warm sweaters, fleece layers, and a wind/rain jacket. Comfortable walking shoes or sneakers are required.

Neutral safari colors (khaki, beige, olive) are highly recommended; avoid bright whites or dark blue/black.

## Electricity & Communications

**Voltage:** Power runs on 220-240V AC. Sockets require the Square 3-pin British standard adapter (Type G).

**Bush Power:** Many wilderness camps and lodges operate on solar power or generators, meaning power may only be available during specific hours of the day. Bring extra camera batteries.

**Vehicle Charging:** All Tekwa custom safari vehicles are equipped with a 12V power inverter free of charge upon request so you can charge devices on the go.

**Connectivity:** Some safari lodges now offer excellent mobile network coverage and Wi-Fi. For affordable local rates, you can purchase a Safaricom or Airtel SIM card at the airport for roughly KES 500/- to 1,000/- for data and international calls. Alternatively, the Tekwa team can pre-purchase and register a SIM card on your behalf before you land as a complimentary service.

## The Safari Experience & Vehicles

**Premium Transport:** You will travel in custom-built, safari-equipped 4WD Land Cruisers or Overland truck. Our vehicles feature viewing hatches, or open-sided designs. and come fully equipped with HF radios for seamless communication.

**Tailored Itineraries:** On a Tekwa safari, your schedule is beautifully flexible. Our staff and vehicles are dedicated exclusively to your party. Our standard routine involves an early morning tea or coffee. We explore the communities and the sites, or opt for a thrilling full-day expedition complete with a luxury picnic lunch. The Tekwa sundowners are an epic moment of the day with drinks and snacks. Some of these sundowners are on the shows of lake Turkana.

## Responsible Travel & Regulations

**Photography Etiquette:** Taking photographs of State House, military barracks, airports, police stations, border posts, or uniformed personnel is strictly illegal. Furthermore, always consult your guide before photographing local tribal communities; respect their privacy and always request permission first.

## Souvenir & Wildlife Protection Laws:

*Kenya enforces draconian wildlife protection laws. Do not purchase any items made from ivory, rhino horn, wild animal hides, fur, coral, or turtle shells. Trafficking these items carries severe prison sentences. We also discourage the purchase of souvenirs made from endangered woods or marine shells.*

***Ethical Giving:*** As part of Tekwa's strict responsible tourism policy, please do not hand out cash, candy, or gifts directly to local children or individuals on the roadside, as this fosters dependency. If you wish to support the communities we visit, do it through Tekwa. Donations of books, pens, pencils, and clothing are incredibly welcome-please coordinated with your guide to distribute these responsibly.

***Local Time:*** Kenya operates in a single time zone: **GMT + 3.**