“Kenya’s Masai Mara – Africa’s most famous safari destination.”

National Parks in which we operate:
Masai Mara
Kenya - home to the famous Masai Mara Game Reserve

The country is named after Mount Kenya, a significant landmark and the second highest peak in Africa. From the coast on the Indian Ocean Kenya's plains rise to central highlands which are bisected by the Great Rift Valley; a fertile plateau in the east.

Kenya is known for its striking wildlife and National Parks. These vast game reserves span one-tenth of Kenya's surface, spanning desert, grassland and also mountain forest. There are around 40 tribes that live in Kenya and many still live a semi-nomadic lifestyle of cattle-herding and local farming.

Masai Mara Game Reserve

The Masai Mara is fabulous for seeing big cats, their prey and all the Big Five. It is also the stage for the greatest show on Earth - the wildebeest migration. From around July to October grunting herds of wildebeest and zebra cover the plains, often crossing the river between Tanzania and Kenya, attended by crocodile, lion and cheetah. Guests can meet the Maasai people in their distinctive dark red clothing. The people have retained their age-old customs and welcome visits to their villages to experience their culture, traditions and lifestyle.
Kenya

General information

- Time zone: GMT +3 hours
- Capital city: Nairobi
- Population: Estimated 38 million

Currency

- In Kenya, the unit of currency is the Kenya shilling, which is divided into 100 cents. Notes are issued in denominations of 50, 100, 200, 500, and 1000 Shillings. Coins are issued in denominations of 10, 50 Cents and 1, 5, 10, 20 and 40 Shillings

Credit Cards

- MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in Kenya and ATM machines are available in Nairobi. We suggest you carry sufficient local currency and additional US dollars to cover the cost of any additional purchases at the lodges and camps. At Sanctuary Olonana we accept Visa, MasterCard or Amex, as well as cash and travellers cheques.

Flying times

- Nairobi Wilson Airport to Masai Mara (KTC Airstrip): 45 mins

Road transfers

- Jomo Kenyatta International Airport to Nairobi Wilson Airport: 20 mins
- KTC Airstrip to Sanctuary Olonana: 20 mins
- Nairobi to Masai Mara: 6 hrs
The Great Migration

Although the migration depends on variable factors (such as weather and the availability of water and grasses), it does follow a seasonal pattern. From approximately mid-July through late September, the migration is generally concentrated in the Masai Mara. From December through March, the migration is generally concentrated in the southern Serengeti in Tanzania. Migratory animals include wildebeest, zebra, and Thomson’s gazelle; and migratory distance varies by species.

What to pack

Clothing on safari should be comfortable and colours should blend in with nature as much as possible. Greens, browns and khaki coloured clothing are advisable. The most practical items to pack for safari are:

- Fleece, sweater or warm jacket for morning and evening game drives
- Light cotton shirts
- Blouses and shirts with long sleeves
- T-shirts
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Swimwear (for lodges and camps with swimming pools)
- Shorts, trousers and chinos
- Sun hat and sun block
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Evening dress in the lodges and camps is ‘smart casual’, there is no formal wear required.
- We advise guests to dress in a way they feel most comfortable

Kenya’s seasons

There are three seasons in Kenya:

- **December to March**
  The hot summer season
- **April to May**
  The rainy season
- **June to November**
  The cooler dry season

Baggage restrictions

- A maximum of 15kg of luggage per person is allowed for light aircraft flights, including hand luggage and camera equipment. It is important that you carry soft-sided bags.
- It is highly recommended that you lock your luggage. It is also advisable that you do NOT pack valuable items in your checked luggage.

Laundry service

- We offer a complimentary overnight laundry service on all clothing at Sanctuary Olonana.
Communication

- The international country code for Kenya is +254.
- The mobile phone service in Kenya is rather unreliable and signal coverage in rural areas does vary.

Electricity

- Electricity in Kenya is 220/240 Volts. If your appliance is not designed for 220/230 Volts, you can use the adapters that will be provided at Sanctuary Olonana.
- Electrical sockets used in Kenya are the same 3-pin UK plug.

Internet

- Complimentary wireless internet access is available for all guests in the main areas of Sanctuary Olonana.
**Passport and visa information**

- Foreign visitors must pay for a visa to enter Kenya. Please check with us whether your nationality is eligible to obtain a visa on entry.
- Passports must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the completion of this trip.
- Please Note that immigration requires you to have two blank visa pages in your passport per entry; without this you will be denied entry.

**The cost of your visa will be:**

- US$ 50.00 fee for single entry and US$ 100.00 for multiple entry.
- International Departure Tax is required by all passengers departing from Kenya. In most cases the tax is included in your international air ticket. If tax has not been included then it must be paid at the airport prior to departure.
- Please visit www.kenya.visahq.com for a full list of nationalities which require visas for entry into Kenya.

**Health precautions**

- We advise all travellers to take precautions against malaria and we recommend speaking with your GP or personal physician four to six weeks before departure. You must ensure all appropriate vaccinations are up-to-date.
- Always carry a simple travellers' first-aid kit containing any basic items that you feel may be needed.

**Flight access**

- Various airlines fly into Kenya from Europe, the United States, the Middle East and other African countries.
- Most visitors arrive in Nairobi at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (NBO) which is about 30 minutes’ drive to the city (depending on traffic).
- Some flights from other parts of Africa may arrive at Wilson Airport in Nairobi.
- Some international fights land in Mombasa (MBA).
Tipping and Gratuities Guide

If you enjoyed your stay with us the guidelines below can be used as a reference. Tipping is a very personal matter and it is not included for staff at our lodges and camps.

Drivers and Guides

US$ 8.00 per person per half day tour
US$ 12.00 per person per full day tour

Rangers and Trackers

Ranger – US$ 15.00 per person per day
Tracker – US$ 8.00 per person per day

General Lodge and Camp Staff

This is at your discretion, but we advise US$12.00 per person per day and this will be divided amongst the staff.

Contact details for reservations at Sanctuary Olonana, Kenya
Tel: +254 (0)20 248 7374 • +254 (0)20 356 8987 • Email: kenya@sanctuaryretreats.com

This country guide is intended for advice only, and while every care has been taken to ensure that the descriptions, facts or opinions are accurate, please ensure you make your own enquiries before travelling. Passports, visas and travel insurance are the traveller’s responsibility.