

Kenya Culture & Wildlife Safari: Samburu to Maasai Mara

Pre-departure information for your tour



Passport, visa & entry requirements

- In order to enter Kenya, U.S. and Canadian citizens need a valid passport with an expiration date extending at least six months beyond the date of reentry.
- We recommend having at least two blank passport pages for entry stamps.
- U.S. and Canadian passport holders must purchase an individual visa from the Kenyan government's Electronic Travel Authority website (etakenya.go.ke/en) prior to departure. You can also purchase your ETA by using a visa provider, such as our partner [VisaCentral](#).
- If you are not a U.S. or Canadian citizen, you must contact each destination country's consulate for your specific entry requirements.
- You can see the most up-to-date entry requirements for the destination(s) you'll visit on tour by going to goaheadtours.com/entry-requirements and searching the code KEG.

Tour pacing & mobility

- You will walk for about 45 minutes daily across mostly flat terrain, including some paved roads, unpaved trails, and dirt paths.
- Travelers should be healthy enough to participate in all included walks without assistance.
- You should feel comfortable managing your own baggage at times. This tour also includes long bumpy rides in safari vehicles. You should feel comfortable stepping up and down to get in and out of the vehicles, standing for long periods of time, and maintaining your balance.
- Go Ahead Tours and the Tour Director who accompanies your group are unable to provide special, individual mobility assistance to travelers on tour. The responsibility of the Tour Director is to ensure the group as a whole enjoys an immersive and informative journey, and they cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing, individualized assistance to any one traveler.
- If you have any mobility concerns or physical restrictions, please contact our Customer Experience Team.

Driver Guides & Tour Director

- For the duration of your tour you will be assigned to your own Driver Guide and their vehicle in groups of four-six. There will also be one Lead Driver Guide for the whole group.
- You will have different Driver Guides in each country and they will be leading your group throughout your journey through Kenya and Tanzania.
- Your Driver Guide will provide commentary during your game drives which builds on each day's activity of the course of your tour.
- The role of the Lead Driver Guide is not only to provide information and context on the destinations you visit, but also to confirm services, coordinate inclusions, prepare each day's activities and support travelers while on tour. As such, they must focus on the success of the group, and cannot provide individualized assistance to any one traveler.
- On some departures, you will have a dedicated Tour Director in addition to your Driver Guides if your group size is over twenty.

Transportation & arrival information

- Round-trip flights booked through Go Ahead Tours arrive in and depart from Nairobi. A representative from Go Ahead Tours will meet you at the airport and take you to your hotel. Please remain in the arrival lounge, as the representative might be escorting one of your fellow travelers to the bus at the time of your arrival.
- Transfers to and from the airport at your destination are included for travelers who have purchased their flights through Go Ahead Tours. Travelers who purchase their own flights may request airport transfers with Go Ahead Tours for an additional cost.
- During your game drives, you'll travel in a specially equipped four-wheel-drive safari vehicle. The vehicle is open, allowing for panoramic views. Window seats are guaranteed for all travelers. Transfers between parks are long and cross bumpy terrain, so we recommend bringing a small pillow to ease the ride.

Baggage allowance

- Airlines have varying weight restrictions on baggage. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage; be advised that you are responsible for any such costs.
- Contact your airline for baggage size and weight restrictions for your flight, but please note that our travelers are restricted to one checked bag per person due to storage limitations on safari vehicles.
- You'll need one overnight bag, such as a backpack or small collapsible duffel bag.
- One small carry-on bag is also permitted (which can double as your overnight bag).
- Make sure you label your baggage and keep valuables, medication, and documents in your carry-on bag. Safari luggage restrictions are strict and strongly enforced. It's essential that your baggage meet the following requirements:
- Your luggage must be a soft, flexible duffel bag. Absolutely no hard suitcases or bags with hard sides are permitted.
- Your bags can be no larger than 34" W by 17" H by 15" L.
- The total weight cannot exceed 44 pounds (including your camera equipment and carry-on bag).

Clothing & packing tips

- Loose-fitting, layered clothing that can accommodate varying temperatures will be most comfortable. Quick-dry material is best for hot days outside and a warmer layer may be needed for chilly evenings and early mornings.
- Wear muted colors for game drives, as bright clothing may scare animals away and blue or black clothing attracts tsetse flies.
- Comfortable closed-toes shoes, such as sneakers or lightweight hiking boots, are best for walking during the day.
- Pack a swimsuit, as many of the hotels have pools that you are free to use at your leisure.
- Sun protection is very important. Bring sunscreen, sunglasses, and a broad-brimmed hat to protect your face and the back of your neck from the sun.
- Occasional rain showers are common during certain seasons, so lightweight rainwear may

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be necessary depending on the timing of your trip.

- Mosquito repellent, binoculars, and a flashlight are highly recommended.
- A small bottle of hand sanitizer may be helpful when facilities are not readily available while on the road.
- The Kenyan government has a strict ban on plastic bags. It is illegal to use, sell, or carry plastic bags anywhere in the country under the new law, and violators will face charges including high fines or imprisonment. Please bring reusable cloth bags if you plan to go shopping on tour, and do not pack any plastic bags, including small resealable bags.

Health

- At least 60 days prior to departure, check with your doctor or healthcare provider for the latest updates and entry requirements, or visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).
- Local governments may require proof of a yellow fever vaccination (often referred to as a yellow card) or a statement of medical exemption from the vaccine. This is only required of travelers arriving from a country with a risk of yellow fever virus transmission (Please note: This does not include the U.S. or Canada). Visit [cdc.gov/yellowfever](https://www.cdc.gov/yellowfever) for more information.
- Drink bottled water only. Refrain from ingesting tap water, including when brushing your teeth.
- Avoid eating fresh fruits and vegetables unless they're cooked or washed in clean water and peeled.
- Bring a small first aid kit, including antacids, anti-diarrhea medication, motion sickness medication, and any prescription medications in your carry-on luggage.
- If you have medication that you take daily, be sure you have enough for each day of the tour and any possible delays encountered.
- If you have dietary restrictions and/or food allergies please notify Go Ahead Tours at least 30 days prior to your departure by logging in to your account and updating your traveler info. To update this information closer to your departure date, please call our Customer Experience Team.

- You can see the most up-to-date entry requirements for the destination(s) you'll visit on tour by going to goaheadtours.com/entry-requirements and searching the code KEG.

Cuisine

- Cuisine in your game lodges reflects the region's British colonial influence—you may find that many locals pause for afternoon tea. Most restaurants offer curries and other South Asian cuisine brought over by the many Indian immigrants. Maize, sweet potatoes, and pineapple were brought over by the Portuguese, and beef has been a staple since the 1600s.

Electricity & air conditioning

- Kenya operates on the British standard 240 volts and uses a Type G plug with three large, flat pins.
- We recommend packing a universal adapter, as well as a voltage converter if you plan on using your own hairdryer or other device without a built-in converter.
- Not all of the hotels on this tour will have air conditioning.
- Your hotels may provide hairdryers, irons, and other small appliances. However, these amenities cannot be guaranteed.
- Power outages are common. In some of the camps, power is turned off in the late afternoon as well as in the early morning.

Connectivity

- Wi-Fi is available in some hotels, though charges may apply.
- There is no Wi-Fi on any of the motor coaches or safari vehicles.
- Please contact your mobile service provider for information on roaming charges.

Time zones

- Kenya is three hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and eight hours ahead of U.S. Eastern Standard Time (ET).
- When it's noon in New York, it's 8pm in Nairobi.

Currency

- The currency you'll be using on your tour is the Kenyan shilling.
- You may be able to purchase Kenyan shillings in advance from your local bank or a foreign currency exchange retailer, such as Travelex. There is no limit on importing currency into Kenya, but please note travelers are restricted from carrying more than \$100,000 in Kenyan shillings out of the country.
- We recommend that you carry as little local cash as possible as well as small amounts of U.S. dollars (only crisp bills printed in 2004 or later).
- ATMs are most readily available in Nairobi; while there, we recommend taking out cash in small bills to have on safari.
- Major North American credit cards are accepted but can be difficult to use in remote locations (Visa is the most widely accepted).
- International banks and businesses primarily accept debit and credit cards that work with the EMV chip system. If you do not already have at least one debit or credit card with a chip in it, we strongly recommend requesting one from your bank prior to your tour.
- We suggest that you inform your bank and credit card company of your travel plans, so that they won't confuse your international purchases for fraudulent charges.

Tipping

- At the conclusion of your tour, it is customary to offer your Driver Guide (and Tour Director if your group has one) a gratuity in US dollars.
- We recommend tipping \$10USD to \$12USD per person per day for your Driver Guide and \$2USD to \$3USD per person per day for your Tour Director (if your group has one).
- If applicable, we also recommend tipping \$2USD per local guide.
- Tips can only be paid in cash.
- The cost of portage is included in your tour price, and it is not necessary to tip baggage handlers.

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Shopping

- You will have the opportunity to shop for local handicrafts, such as wood carvings and textiles, at outdoor markets and roadside stalls. Some lodges will have boutiques on the premises as well.
- Prices at most markets are negotiable, so don't be afraid to bargain—it's a great way to strike up a conversation with a local.