

# Kenya Wildlife Safari: Mount Kenya, Maasai Mara & Amboseli

Pre-departure information for your tour



## Passport, Visa & Entry Requirements

- In order to enter Kenya (and Tanzania on the tour extension), 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](https://etakenya.go.ke/en)) prior to departure. You can also purchase your ETA by using a visa provider, such as our partner [VisaCentral](#).
- U.S. and Canadian passport holders must obtain a visa in order to enter Tanzania on the tour extension (U.S. citizens must apply for a multiple entry visa). While it is possible to obtain a visa at the border, we strongly recommend purchasing your visa in advance as wait times upon arrival can exceed 2 hours. You can purchase an electronic visa on the [Tanzanian Electronic Visa Portal website](#). You may also submit a request for a paper visa by visiting your local embassy or purchase your visa in advance by using a visa provider, such as our partner [VisaCentral](#). You will need to have your visa receipt with you upon arrival in Tanzania.
- 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](https://goaheadtours.com/entry-requirements) and searching the code KES.

## Arrival & Departure Information

- Round-trip flights booked through Go Ahead Tours arrive in and depart from Nairobi.
- 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 if they are arriving or departing on the

standard day.

- When you arrive in Nairobi, a Go Ahead representative will be waiting for you in the arrivals hall with a Go Ahead sign or a sign with your name(s). If you don't see a representative immediately, please be patient and stay in the arrivals area. They may be assisting another traveler who has also just arrived and will be back shortly.

## Transportation on Tour

- Most of the transportation on this tour will be via 4X4 landcruiser safari vehicle.
- The vehicle is open, allowing for panoramic views. Window seats are guaranteed for all travelers.
- 4x4 landcruiser's have high step(s) to board the vehicle.
- Transfers between parks are long and cross bumpy terrain, so we recommend bringing a small pillow to ease the ride and the impact that may have on a body.

## Baggage Allowance & Expectations

- Safari luggage restrictions are strict and strongly enforced. It's essential that your luggage meet the below requirements:
- Travelers should bring a soft, flexible duffel bag. No hard suitcases or bags with hard sides are permitted.
- Bags can be no larger than 34" W by 17" H by 15." Total baggage weight cannot exceed 44 pounds.
- One small carry-on bag is also permitted.
- 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.
- Make sure you label your baggage and keep valuables, medication, and documents in your carry-on bag
- Travelers must manage their own luggage throughout tour as porters are not guaranteed. This includes at hotels and airports.

## Clothing & Packing Tips

- We recommend packing loose-fitting,

layered clothing that can accommodate varying temperatures. 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 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 other 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.
- Transfers between parks are long and cross bumpy terrain, so we recommend bringing a small pillow to ease the ride.
- 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.
- We recommend packing your Insurance Card (from your primary insurance provider) in your carry on luggage.

## Meals & Cuisine

- This tour includes 9 lunches and 9 dinners. Included meals may be plated set menus, buffet or family style depending on the location. Dinners include one glass of beer, wine, or soft drink and water, coffee and tea.

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- Breakfast each morning is also included at the hotel and is typically buffet style with hot and cold options.
- Included lunches may be picnic style during some longer driving days.
- 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.

## 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.

## Currency

- You will use the Kenyan shilling on this tour as well as USD (and the Tanzanian shilling on the tour extension).
- 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 (and cannot export more than \$5,000 in Tanzanian shillings from Tanzania on the tour extension).
- We recommend that you carry small amounts of U.S. dollars (only crisp bills printed in 2004 or later, \$1, \$5, \$10 bills are ideal).
- 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.
- Plan ahead and bring cash to tip your tour director, local guides, and bus drivers.

## Responsible Travel

- When you travel with EF Go Ahead Tours, you'll make a positive impact on the places you visit, and the people and animals you meet along the way. That's because our three core Responsible Travel commitments—protecting the environment, supporting local communities, and promoting animal welfare—are at the heart of every tour we offer.
- Travel, when done responsibly, can make an enormous socio-economic impact to communities. To maximize your impact, eat at locally owned restaurants and shop at local businesses. Ask your Tour Director to point out restaurants they recommend.
- Prepare for your trip: be aware of the monetary norms such as tipping and negotiating in a market, learn about the destination's forms of etiquette, and take some time to learn a few words in the local language.
- When interacting with locals, make sure to ask people for permission before you take their picture, and approach cultural differences with empathy and an open mind.
- EF Go Ahead Tours encourages our travelers to limit their waste while on the road, especially single use plastics. You can avoid single use plastics by packing your own toiletries, using electronic documents, and bringing a reusable water bottle and

shopping bag. If you need to use plastics or paper, please recycle.

- Environment: When visiting national parks, reserves, or other protected areas, please do not remove anything from the natural environment or leave any litter. Carry out what you carried in.
- Animal Welfare: Take the philosophies of World Animal Protection to heart during included tour activities and your free time. Do not touch, do not feed, and maintain a respectful distance from wild animals. Wild animals encountered on tour should be able to exhibit natural forms of behavior. If you feel we are not meeting these commitments, please share your feedback with us.
- Animal Welfare: Avoid buying any exploitative wildlife products such as tortoise shell or shark fin soup.