

WildEarth Adventures Travel Guide

Best time to travel

Many travelers ask when the best time to travel is, but this is not easily answered because different reserves have different peak seasons for game viewing, even within the same country, and because climate and game viewing conditions vary from year to year.

With that in mind, we'd say, generally speaking, the dry months of July through October and mid-December through February are the best game viewing times in East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda), when shorter grasses make animals easier to find. An exception to this would be the Serengeti, where the migration of wildebeest and zebra occurs from November through June, centered on different sections of the reserve as the animals make their way north to Kenya's Maasai Mara, where the migration generally peaks from July through September. Heavy annual rains fall from late March through May in East Africa and are good for observing calving, and for fresh green appearance and dust-free conditions. Just after the rains, June and early December are beautifully green and dust free.



Weather

Although Kenya straddles the equator, the climate is mild and pleasant with sunny days and temperatures averaging 80°F (27 C) during the day and 55°F (13 C) at night. The coastal areas are humid and you have the annual long rains from March to June and the short rains from October to November.

Visas

Members of the Commonwealth countries do not require Visas but the Nationals of most other countries do. Please check before departure with the appropriate Consulate in your country. All travelers must carry valid passports (Normally the passport should be valid for at least six months) for any further information contact please contact us. Visitors to the Republic of Kenya can now apply for their eVisa services in a simple, secure, and convenient way.

Electricity

The power supply is at the UK/European Standard voltage of 220/240, and power Sockets are the U.K. Square pin type. Remember if you want to use U.S. appliances you will need a voltage converter as well as a plug convertor. Mains Power supply is subject to cuts and voltage fluctuation. On Safari, some lodges' power supply is from generators and these are often turned off during parts of the day and night to reduce noise and fuel Consumption.

Insurance

WildEarth Adventures requires that all clients arrange personal travel insurance to cover their medical, property and other personal risks for the duration of their safari. Advice on policies or actual cover can be arranged if required



Health

Inoculation against Yellow Fever and Cholera is advisable, but not mandatory, According to Indian Health Authority, Yellow Fever vaccination is required upon return to India. It is imperative that anti - malarial prophylactics be taken before, during and after your visit. Changes of diet and water often cause mild stomach upsets, so a supply of anti- diarrhea pills is advisable. Do not drink tap water, but it is safe to use the water supplied in flasks in your hotel room and bottled mineral water is readily available. It is recommended to enroll with the Flying Doctors Society through us so that in the unlikely event that a medical emergency occurs whilst on safari, you will be flown to the nearest medical center.

Clothing & equipment

Clothes for safari should be light, comfortable and not too brightly colored. There is little or no requirement for anything formal. A light jacket or sweater may be needed in the evenings at higher altitudes; comfortable walking shoes are essential, as is a hat to keep off the sun, and sunglasses. Don't forget a swimming costume for use at the lodge pools.

Most people bring binoculars and / or cameras and video equipment with plenty of tape or film. Zoom or telephoto lenses are likely to be useful. Film Digital camera Chips (memory cards) are available at the lodges.

There will be no television or radio in most places, so you might want to bring a little shortwave radio or walkman if you want to keep up with world events or listen to some music.

Communication

WildEarth Adventures drivers can communicate with their base by cell phones however more remote lodges and camps are likely to rely on radio for communication. Most game parks are now within cell phone range & you can purchase local Sim cards at reasonable costs.

Food & drinks

It is generally recommended to drink only bottled mineral water which is readily available everywhere. There are no restrictions on the sale or consumption of alcoholic drinks in Kenya. A good selection of local beers and soft drinks are available everywhere, and you will find a range of imported wines, beers, and spirits in many places, although these can be expensive. The quality and value of food in Kenya is generally very good. We can cater for special meals on request.

Language

The official language of Kenya is Kiswahili. This is spoken and understood by the great majority of the population, many of whom also speak a tribal language. There is a wide usage and understanding of English and virtually everyone the average tourist is likely to meet in the course of the safari will be fluent.

Tipping & Porterage

Although hotels and lodges include a service charge, it is customary to tip porters, waiters, taxi drivers and safari drivers/guides.

Luggage

One normal-sized suitcase and an overnight bag is the usual baggage allowance on most safaris. On internal charter flights, only 15 Kg of baggage is allowed. Remember that safari vehicles and light aircraft have tight limits in the size and weight of luggage carried. Depending on your itinerary it may be possible to leave some luggage in your hotel in Nairobi for the duration of your safari. Traveling with light & soft baggage is recommended.



Currency & exchange

The local unit of currency is the Kenya Shilling which these days is freely convertible within Kenya for the U.S. \$ and other currencies. There are numerous banks and bureaux de change in towns, and most lodges and hotels will exchange currency at reasonable rates.

Credit cards are accepted at an increasing number of establishments in Kenya but not everywhere. It is not generally possible to obtain cash on a credit card in Kenya, so it is recommended that visitors carry sufficient funds.

US Dollars or Pounds Sterling are recommended. It is advisable to carry some US dollars cash in small denominations. Well-known credit cards such as Visa, MasterCard, and American Express are accepted at many hotels and tourist shops.

Souvenirs

Wood Carvings are plentiful throughout the continent and range in price from a few dollars to several hundred dollars, especially the now famous Makonde carvings, originating from Tanzania. Spears and shields are thrust at every tourist. Local handicrafts and beadwork screen-printed fabrics are common.



Safari Do's & Don'ts

Do's

- Do wear muted or neutral colors, like Khaki, tan or beige.
- Do move slowly and fluidly in the vehicle minimizing sudden movements.
- Do encourage your driver to move the vehicle as little as possible and to drive slowly, respecting the personal space of animals.
- Do encourage your driver to turn off the engine in the presence of animals and not to rev the engine when starting or to attract the attention of animals.
- Do encourage other travelers who are not behaving appropriately to change their behavior.
- Do avoid walking after 6:00 pm in the city. Preferably take a taxi.
- Do drink mineral water or bottled water.

Don'ts

- Don't wear bright-colored or high-contrast clothing.
- Don't wave your arms.
- Don't throw anything out of the vehicle.
- Don't yell at animals.
- Don't pound your hands on the side of the vehicles or clap your hands in order to get the attention of or scare the animals.
- Don't feed the animals.
- Don't leave any valuables in the vehicle or in your hotel room, keep the safety deposit at the Hotel / Lodge / Camp.
- Don't wear expensive jewelry during the day in the city.
- Don't photograph tribes, if photos are required, seek the driver's advice.
- Don't carry excess baggage only 15 kgs are allowed in scheduled and charter flights.
- Don't sound the horn, or play the radio or cassettes while in the park.