

Kicheche Camps

Pre-Departure Information



For visitors coming to Kenya for the first time, there are many unanswered questions – what do we pack, what are the entry requirements and so on. To make your visit a truly relaxing and well-prepared one, here are the answers to all those questions. All the information contained herein is given in good faith and has been carefully compiled. It must be accepted that details will change from time to time! And of course, please feel free to contact us with any questions you may still have.

Passports & Visas

An entry visa is required but this **must now** be issued in advance online via www.evisa.go.ke. The online E-Visas will normally be issued in less than 3 working days but we recommend that Online Applications should be made at least 7 working days prior to travel to give plenty of time for the application process to be completed.

Vaccinations Assistance

Please consult a medical practitioner for the complete up-to-date requirements. Due to the low to moderate malaria risk at our camps, it is advisable that you take malaria prophylaxis. Once again consult a medical practitioner on which prophylactic is recommended.

Climate in East Africa

The long rains are from early April through May, and the short rains are in November. As with many parts of the world weather patterns have become unpredictable so you may encounter any type of weather on your visit. Dry seasons offer excellent visibility and more reliable road conditions whilst wetter times offer dramatic skies and less dust. Temperatures are generally pleasant 20-25C on average though cold in the mornings June – Sep and in Laikipia be prepared for cold mornings year round.

Clothing

Generally speaking, East Africa is cooler than most people expect for a region on the equator this is due to the altitude (1500-2000 metres) over much of the area. Therefore, it is highly recommended to have a warm jacket or jumper for cold mornings and cool evenings, **especially in Laikipia**. If you would like to pack light, we have fleeces on sale at our shop. During the day however, it is usually quite warm. Light long-sleeved shirts and trousers are recommended for the evenings to avoid mosquito bites. Natural safari colours are recommended especially if you are game walking, they are also ideal to conceal the African dust! Good walking shoes/ boots will be useful. A sun hat, sunglasses, lotion, lip balm and skin moisturiser are important to counteract the sun, wind and dry conditions. A good insect repellent is essential to bring (brands with 50% DEET content are very good). Most toiletries and pharmaceutical products are available in the larger cities however rural areas only have a very limited selection therefore you should bring any items you may need.

Equipment

It is highly recommended to bring a camera with a zoom lens of at least 200mm for wildlife shots. A bean bag or jumper is useful to rest your camera on for shooting in low light (tripods are too cumbersome for use in a vehicle). We have several locally made bean bags at the camp. Don't forget to bring a spare camera battery, although charging points are available in our vehicles. Please remember to bring sufficient memory cards or alternative data storage for your video and images. Another important item to bring is a pair of binoculars. It is worth buying a pair if you are unable to borrow one. Small compact binoculars are fine and handy to carry around however a larger (e.g. 7x50) pair will be superior in the low light conditions in the morning and evening when most game drives take place. If you wish to reduce your toiletries all our camps provide good quality soap, shampoo and body lotion made in Kenya from natural products.

Guest amenities

Each tent is equipped with natural and biodegradable body wash, lotion, shampoo and conditioner. There is washing powder to wash the sensitive undergarments, cotton swabs, a torch, and insect spray. Wet weather boots and umbrellas in the event of rain are also provided.

Laundry

Laundry services are provided free of charge to all guests at Kicheche Camp. Please note due to cultural reasons women's underwear is not included in this service.

Power

Sockets are 3 pin UK style, with USB. Voltage is 240V/ 50Hz. Charging points are provided in the camp lounges and in our vehicles. Lighting is supplied 24 hours; charging facilities in the tent. The solar system does not allow hair dryers in guest tents, however, one can use the public area sockets in Mara and Valley camps only.

Baggage

It is recommended to bring a soft bag rather than a suitcase as our domestic airlines require soft bags for smaller aircraft. On internal flights, the baggage limit is 15Kgs per person, inclusive of hand baggage. If you have extra space in your international luggage and would like to assist our communities, please visit <https://kicheche.com/your-impact/> and see "what to bring".

Donations can be given to your transfer driver in Nairobi to be dropped at our Nairobi office.

Food

Meals at the camp are mostly Western in style and hygiene standards are high. Please advise us of any special dietary requirements in advance.

Water

Mineral water is provided daily in each tent. Do not drink from the taps in your bathroom.

Language

The official languages are Kiswahili and English. English is widely spoken except in some rural areas.

Currency

The currency is Kenyan shillings which is preferred by all outlets. The easiest hard currencies to exchange into Shillings are US dollars, UK pounds (not Scottish pounds), Euros. Other major currencies are accepted but only at foreign exchange bureaus in cities which also offer the most competitive rates of exchange followed by banks then hotels/camps. There are 24-hour Forex bureaus and ATMs at Nairobi's International Airport. One can withdraw Shillings from ATM machines which are widely dispersed in cities.

Kicheche Camps accepts Visa, MasterCard and AMEX at all camps.

Extra Expenses

International and domestic departure taxes are included on your tickets. Please allow for tips and if you visit a Masai Village you will need cash (\$30 or equivalent in Kenya shillings) for entrance or any souvenirs.

Security

Do not carry valuable items unnecessarily; always use safe deposit facilities at your hotel or camp. Do not wander on the streets of towns or along the beach at night. Violent crime is rare but petty crime is quite common.

Insurance

Travel insurance is essential. It is advisable to take out your policy well in advance as most policies cover cancellation fees in the event of an emergency preventing you from travelling.

Tipping

It is customary in East Africa to tip your lodge/camp staff. As a guideline allow approx. \$10-\$15 per person per day, to be split between your guide and camp staff. However, it is not compulsory and tips should only be given if you are satisfied with the service provided. Unfortunately, we can't accept tips through credit cards.

Time zone

Kenya, Tanzania & Uganda are all GMT+3 hours and do not have summertime/daylight savings.

Contact Address

E-mails can be passed on to you via our office when possible. C/o Kicheche Camp Ltd. Tel: 254.20. 2493512. Out of hours contact +254736888055

E-mail: sales@kicheche.com

Communications

Mobile phone signals are available at all our camps however connections are sporadic and unreliable. In order to retain the safari atmosphere of the camp please keep your mobile phones on silent mode. Mobile use is not permitted in camp public areas and in vehicles on the game drive.

There is Wi-Fi available in all our camps, and usage is limited to designated areas only.

CAMP	WiFi SPEED	COVERAGE
Kicheche Bush	15 mbps	Guest tents
Kicheche Valley	5 mbps	Guest tents
Kicheche Mara	30 mbps	Guest tents
Kicheche Laikipia	20 mbps	Guest tents

Things to buy

There are numerous handicrafts available such as a wide selection of carvings in wood and soapstone, textiles, jewellery and leather goods. In our shops, there are also books to buy for the schools we support.

Photography

Always ask permission before taking photographs of people. It is quite common to be asked to pay a fee for the privilege. Agree on a fee before taking any photographs. When in doubt check with your safari guide.

Game Viewing

When close to wildlife it is important to remain silent and not make any sudden movements so as not to startle the animals. Please remember wildlife is just that and the animals you will see are wild and unpredictable despite appearances. You are very safe in a vehicle but on foot you must keep a respectable distance. It is forbidden to leave your vehicle when in the National reserve except in a few authorised areas.

Reading List:

Guidebooks

The Rough Guide to Kenya (Travel Guide)

Lonely Planet Kenya (Country Guide)

Insight Guide to Kenya

Wildlife

Creatures of Habit, Peter Apps, Richard Du Toit

Pocket Guide to African Mammals - Jonathan Kingdon

The Safari Companion, Richard Estes

Useful Websites:-

Kicheche Community Trust - www.kichechetrust.com

Naboisho Conservancy - <https://naboisho.com/>

Mara North Conservancy - www.maranorthconservancy.com

Olare Motorogi Conservancy - <http://olaremotorogiconservancy.com/>

Ol Pejeta Conservancy - www.olpejetaconservancy.org

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