



Masai Mara National Reserve Extension

PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION



Wilderness Travel

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PASSPORT

A valid passport is required for your trip. Be sure to check the expiration date. Your passport must be valid for six months after your date of exit from Africa and must contain at least three completely blank visa pages. It is very important that the blank pages say “Visas” at the top. The last few pages of your passport, which say “Amendments and Endorsements,” and the final page of your passport, which may not have a page number, are not considered to be legitimate visa pages. You can request a new passport through [US Passport Services Office](#) (the service of adding pages for visas was discontinued as of January 1, 2016) or use a visa service agency, which can take care of your passport renewal and expedite the process, if needed. We recommend [Passport Visas Express](#). Be sure to allow sufficient time to acquire this before your trip. It is a good idea to carry a photocopy of the photo page and the entry stamp page of your passport as an additional piece of identification, as well as two extra passport photos.

The following documents are required when traveling to Africa with children under the age of 18:

In addition to a valid passport, children under the age of 18 are required to travel with an unabridged birth certificate. If they are not traveling with both of their parents, a notarized letter of consent from the non-traveling parent(s) is also required. Even though it is possible that a copy of the birth certificate would suffice in some countries, the authorities worldwide have become stricter about this requirement so we recommend you bring an original birth certificate. If you have questions about entry requirement details for child travelers, please contact the relevant embassy or consulate.

VISAS & ENTRY NOTES

As of January 2024, US citizens no longer need a visa for Kenya. However, all travelers to Kenya are required to obtain an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA), in advance of their trip (cost is \$32.50, payable electronically by credit card). Travelers will be asked to produce a printed copy of their ETA at check-in. Customers without the required Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) will not be accepted for travel. You can apply for and purchase your ETA [here](#), as well as check the status of your ETA application once submitted. It is mandatory to use the Government's official website to submit your application. Applications submitted via third party websites will be automatically denied. **Note: you must apply for your ETA within 3 months of your arrival in Kenya, no earlier.** Allow at least two weeks for this process. For children under the age of 18, the legal guardian, parent, or accompanying adult is responsible for filling out their application. For additional information and instructions on how to apply, visit: <https://www.etakenya.go.ke/en/pages/FAQS> and https://www.etakenya.go.ke/en/pages/WHAT_DO_I_NEED

When prompted with any questions asking about your hotel/accommodation booking confirmation, please reach out to us so we may provide you with a letter of invitation to Kenya. Should you need further assistance with regards to your ETA application, please contact support@etakenya.go.ke as well as the numbers below.

Telephone: +254 110 922 062 or +254 110 922 064

WhatsApp: +254 110 922 063

Kenyan immigration authorities require a minimum of three blank (unstamped) visa pages in your passport to enter the country. Evidence of yellow fever immunization is required if you are coming from a country where Yellow Fever is endemic; some travelers have been denied entry at immigration for not having sufficient proof of immunization. See the Inoculations section of this packet for more information.

If you are a citizen of any country other than the US, check with a local consulate for entry requirements.

MONEY

The unit of currency in Kenya is the Kenyan shilling (KES), though US dollars are widely accepted. Important: Your US bills must be new (printed post-2006) or they will not be accepted! They also must not be ripped, soiled, or faded. Be sure to bring an ample supply of US cash with you; traveler's checks are not accepted.

You will need to budget spending money for gratuities, for any meals not included in the trip itinerary, and for personal items such as snacks, phone calls, etc. Beer, wine, spirits, and sodas are complimentary at our private campsites but not at hotels. There are many beautiful goods for purchase, such as Makonde wood carvings. If you buy gems, be sure to get a receipt to show customs officials on your departure.

We recommend you bring approximately \$300-\$400 in cash in small bills and one or two major credit cards (Visa or MasterCard) for shopping and lodge extras. To use an ATM internationally, you must have a four-digit PIN. There are no airport departure taxes.

If you plan to use your credit cards abroad, inform your credit card company before your departure that you will be using the card in a foreign country.

TIPPING

Tipping is completely discretionary, but over the years, clients have asked us for tipping guidelines to reward outstanding service. If you are traveling with a private safari guide during your entire safari, we suggest the following:

We recommend that each trip member budget \$20-\$25 USD per trip member per day, which should be given to your private guide at the end of the trip. Tips can be given in USD or KES, though USD in small denominations (\$20 bills and smaller) is preferred.

If you are flying or transferring by land between lodges (and do not have a private guide accompanying you) we suggest the following:

- For your Driver/Guest Representative (to and from the airport): \$3-\$5 per person per transfer
- For Camp, Game Lodge, and Specialist Guide(s)/Driver(s): We recommend \$20 USD per guest per day.
- For the General Safari Camp/Lodge Staff: \$15 USD per guest per day for safari camps. This should be placed in the communal tipping box to be distributed equally among all the staff.
- For Trackers (if applicable): We recommend each camp/lodge tracker receive \$5 USD per guest per day.

FOOD

We will do our best to accommodate special dietary needs, however, please keep in mind that certain cultural differences or limitations due to logistics can make it extremely difficult and at times impossible to accommodate dietary restrictions. Please inform us at least eight weeks before your trip if you have a restricted diet. It is important to bring a flexible attitude.

COMMUNICATIONS

Telephone

The international dialing code for Kenya is 254. Please contact your cell phone company for specific instructions for international use. Smartphones with roaming capabilities on a GPRS or 3G cell network work extensively in Kenya. We discourage purchasing a local sim card as the security checks associated before it's activated can be lengthy.

Email & Internet Access

Email access is available at all of our hotels and is usually complimentary. At the safari camps, internet access may be available but is not guaranteed.

ELECTRICITY

Kenya has a 220/240-volt current. If your device doesn't run on 220-240 volts (the US runs on 120 volts), you will need a plug adapter. Plugs usually have three rectangular prongs (plug adapter type "G") or three round pins (plug adapter type "D"). We recommend you bring a converter and plug adapter kit for appliance use. Also note that if your device isn't dual voltage, you will need a power converter to convert the voltage from 220-240 volts to the correct voltage on your device. Most phone/computer chargers these days however, ARE dual voltage.

LAUNDRY

Laundry service is available at most camps.

Medical Information

The following recommendations should be used as a guideline only; consult your physician for medical advice. It is vital that you let Wilderness Travel know of any medical problems, allergies, or physical limitations you may have. Please fill out and return the personal medical questionnaire, and feel free to consult us if you have any questions about your ability to undertake this particular trip.

Wilderness Travel is not a medical facility and has no expertise or responsibility regarding what medications or inoculations you and your physician decide are necessary for your safe participation in the trip.

Traveler's health information is available from the Centers for Disease Control ([cdc.gov/travel](https://www.cdc.gov/travel)). Medical travel products are available from Magellan's Travel Supplies ([magellans.com](https://www.magellans.com)).

INOCULATIONS

Entry requirements and international health situations are subject to change; check with the Centers for Disease Control for updates. All shots should be entered on your International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICVP), also referred to as the "yellow card," which is provided by the facility giving the shots. Keep it with your passport while traveling. It provides an important personal record for you to refer to when making future travel plans. We recommend you discuss the following with your physician:

Typhoid

A shot or oral vaccine are available. You may not be able to take the oral vaccine simultaneously with mefloquine (for malaria prevention).

Yellow Fever

There is a risk of transmission of yellow fever in parts of Kenya, so the CDC recommends the inoculation. Proof of a yellow fever inoculation is currently required for entry to the following countries: Kenya (only if traveling from somewhere where Yellow Fever is endemic), Rwanda (only if traveling from somewhere where Yellow Fever is endemic), Tanzania (only if traveling from somewhere where Yellow Fever is endemic), and Uganda (for all travelers). Have the shot recorded in your International Health Card and carry the card with your passport as proof. Health officials at borders often (but not always) request proof of the shot. The vaccination is valid for life. For more information, refer to the CDC website.

Polio

People who have received the primary series of at least three doses of polio vaccine are considered fully immunized. People who are unsure of their status should receive the vaccine.

Hepatitis

The vaccines HAVRIX and VAQTA (two injections, six to 18 months apart) give long-term protection against Hepatitis A.

Tetanus Booster

It is very easy to get a small cut. A booster is strongly recommended (effective for 10 years).

MALARIA PREVENTION

Malaria is a serious but preventable disease spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. All travelers are urged to take antimalarial medications, available only by prescription. Please discuss antimalarial medication with your doctor. In addition to medication, a further precaution against malaria is to wear long sleeves and long pants at dusk. Thin clothing should be sprayed

with insect repellent, especially around the elbows and ankles. Use repellent containing DEET. For further malaria information, consult your doctor or the [CDC Malaria Hotline](#) or by phone at 888-232-3228.

COVID-19

The Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 declared by the World Health Organization and the US Department of Health and Human Services expired in 2023. As of March 2024, we no longer require guests who exhibit cold or flu symptoms to test for COVID-19. Guests who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to follow local health protocols, wear a mask in group vehicles and during indoor activities for the remainder of the trip, and may be asked to dine separately. Any travel companion sharing a room with them will also be required to wear a mask at all times in the shared group vehicles for the remainder of the trip.

We encourage all travelers to actively monitor their own well-being and to use common-sense preventative measures such as regular handwashing (or use of hand sanitizer) and/or wearing a face mask. If you are feeling sick, we encourage you to self-isolate and/or wear a mask to protect your fellow travelers. Guests may be required to wear a mask if the Trip Leader believes the situation warrants it.

Leading up to the trip, we encourage you to do everything possible to stay healthy, including avoiding close contact with anyone displaying cold or flu symptoms and washing your hands often. As always, by traveling with Wilderness Travel, guests agree to be accountable for their own well-being. If you are worried about a fellow traveler's cold or flu-like symptoms, you may opt to wear a mask or distance yourself as needed. It's important to remember that there are inherent risks associated with travel and group settings.

These protocols will be reviewed and adjusted as guidance evolves.

STAYING HEALTHY

Please do not drink tap water and only take the bottle drinking water provided by the hotel or carried in the vehicles. Ice is not advised in local bars and cafes where water may not have been boiled first. The safari crew is well trained in hygienic practices.

Helpful Information

RECOMMENDED READING



Elevate your travel experience by delving into this curated collection of books tailored to your upcoming adventure. They will not only entertain but also provide invaluable insights into the history, culture, cuisine, wildlife, mountain trails, or even folklore of the places you're about to explore. Discover the perfect companions for your journey ahead by [following the link](#) or scanning the QR code.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Camera Recommendations

With the many advances in digital technology, a simple compact digital camera or even your smartphone is capable of taking pictures suitable for the needs of most people. For higher quality images and the ability to use long lenses for closer wildlife pictures, a DSLR camera is well worthwhile, though heavier. Most digital cameras and phones have good video options, but you may want to consider a GoPro for a lightweight, waterproof option. Always practice ahead of time with new equipment and bring your manual with you. You may want to consider renting camera equipment for your trip from places such as [lensrentals.com](#). This is an especially good idea for renting large zoom lenses that you may need for just one trip. Adding their extra insurance fee to cover expensive equipment is recommended.

Camera Accessories

We recommend bringing at least two large capacity memory cards or a small digital storage unit (or tablet) to back up your photos, freeing space on your memory cards. Don't forget to bring a battery charger and a backup battery so one is always charged and ready to use. For trips where you may be away from power sources for multiple days, consider looking into a solar-powered battery charger or buying additional backup batteries, and check that you have the appropriate adapter for the electrical outlets in your destination.

Sharing Your Images

We would love for you to share photos from your trip, and with your permission, may even use your photos in our marketing materials or on our photo blog. We request that you send us a small sample of your best images. Please email your photos to wtphtoblog@gmail.com or tag us [@WildernessTravel](#) on social media.

Photography Etiquette

When taking pictures of local people, be aware of cultural considerations. Approaching people with a warm smile and using polite gestures or simple phrases to ask permission to photograph them usually works well. It is always recommended to engage people in conversation before asking to photograph them, but if people do not wish to have their photo taken, please honor their requests. We urge travelers to avoid giving money in exchange for photo opportunities, which makes it harder for future travelers to have a meaningful personal interaction with local people. Please always heed your Trip Leader's guidelines for what is appropriate.

Camera Recommendations

With the many advances in digital technology, a simple compact digital camera or even your smartphone is capable of taking pictures suitable for the needs of most people. For higher quality images and the ability to use long lenses for closer wildlife pictures, a DSLR camera is well worthwhile, though heavier. Most digital cameras and phones have good video options, but you may want to consider a GoPro for a lightweight, waterproof option. Always practice ahead of time with new equipment and bring your manual with you. You may want to consider renting camera equipment for your trip from places such as [borrowlenses.com](#). This is an especially good idea for renting large zoom lenses that you may need for just one trip. Adding their extra insurance fee to cover expensive equipment is recommended.

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Sharing Your Images

We would love for you to share photos from your trip, and with your permission, may even use your photos in our marketing materials or on our photo blog. We request that you send us a small sample of your best images. Please email your photos to wtphotoblog@gmail.com or tag us @WildernessTravel on social media.

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Packing List

ESSENTIALS

- Air tickets (or E-tickets)
- Passport
- Kenya Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA)
- One other picture ID, such as a driver's license
- Expense money

LUGGAGE

You are allowed two pieces of luggage on safari: a main bag and a daypack. Most lodges and camps offer laundry service, which will help you travel light. Note: If needed, we can store extra luggage at the local office in Nairobi.

Important: Kenya has completely banned the possession of plastic bags of any kind, for environmental reasons. If you are traveling to Kenya, you must not have any plastic bags in your hand luggage or checked luggage, including duty-free purchases. Please substitute alternatives such as cloth, nylon, or paper (travel cubes are also great), when packing.

Weight Limits

Charter flights within Kenya strictly limit the weight of passengers' luggage. The typical weight allowance is 66 lbs per person, including carry-ons and camera equipment. However, please check directly with your Wilderness Travel contact for the specific luggage weight limits for your group. Your luggage must have a soft side (wheels ok) as opposed to a hard shell. Dimension requirements are 35x26x14 (LxWxD).

CLOTHING

On safari, most people wear comfortable, breathable pants or shorts and a t-shirt during the day and long-sleeved shirts and long pants in the evening. Bring a warm layer for early morning and sunset game drives. It is preferable that your daytime clothing be in neutral colors such as khaki, bush green, and darker colors to blend in with the surroundings. White and bright colors tend to scare away the animals. For city and hotel attire, you may wish to wear something a little more formal than your typical safari clothes.

This list is meant as a guideline only; we encourage you to pack as lightly as possible. Keep in mind that June, July, and August are the coolest months, so you may want to bring a set of long underwear, down vest, or extra sweater.

- Breathable rain jacket (such as Gore-Tex) with hood; ponchos not recommended
- Fleece jacket for cool evenings
- Sturdy walking shorts
- Light cotton or quick-drying synthetic pants
- Long-sleeved shirts
- T-shirts
- Underwear/socks; synthetics dry faster
- Sports bra (for bumpy game drives)
- Sleepwear (or lightweight long underwear)
- Shade hat with wide brim, preferably with chin strap
- Warm fleece hat and lightweight fleece gloves for early morning and evening game drives
- Sturdy walking shoes with good traction and ankle support

- Tevas or other sturdy sandals
- Swimsuit for swimming pools

EQUIPMENT

- Binoculars
- Camera, spare batteries or charger, spare memory cards
- Good quality sunglasses with case
- Personal toiletries. Shampoo/lotion is available at most safari camps and lodges.
- Strong flashlight or headlamp, with spare batteries

PERSONAL FIRST AID

Every trip member should bring a small kit for personal use. Your own experience will influence your choices.

- Sunscreen of SPF 30 or higher. We recommend mineral-based sunscreens with zinc oxide or titanium dioxide because they do not contain harsh chemicals that are harmful to the environment. Brands such as Honest Company, Badger, and Alba Botanica are found in most sporting goods stores and drugstores.
- Lip balm with sunscreen
- Aspirin, ibuprofen, or Tylenol, Tylenol PM for sleep
- Topical antibiotic (such as Neosporin) for cuts, bites, or sores
- Insect repellent. Repellents with DEET are recommended. DEET content of about 30-35% is ideal (higher DEET content is not recommended). Wipe DEET off your hands before touching plastic surfaces (such as binoculars) because it can damage the plastic. Aerosol repellents are useful for spraying on clothes.
- Anti-bacterial gel for hand washing
- Antihistamine such as Benadryl and cold remedy such as Sudafed
- Imodium for diarrhea. Please consult your physician. If you wish to bring an antibiotic for diarrhea prophylaxis,
- Prescription medications properly labeled
- Spare contact lenses or extra prescription glasses

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Reading/writing material
- Water bottle, 1 qt. capacity (bottled water is provided)
- Bandanna, silk scarf, or dusk mask. Depending on the season you travel, it can be very dusty on the game drives.
- Quick-drying washcloth
- Lightweight gloves to protect hands from the sun
- Travel clock
- Extra sweater if you really feel the cold
- Money belt or neck pouch. Always carry your passport, credit cards, and cash with you in a money belt or neck pouch tucked down inside your shirt or blouse.
- Field guides (lodges typically have guides as well)

GEAR STORE

To help you prepare for your next WT adventure, we've put together a great collection of top brands including Patagonia, Outdoor Research, Eagle Creek, and more at our WT Gear Store (wildernesstravel.newheadings.com).