

## **KENYA**

# Useful Information



#### **CLIMATE**

Kenya is located on the Equator and has distinct dry and rainy seasons. The rainy season is from April to the end of May with some short rains in November. The coolest months are July to October, and the warmest period is between the end of December and mid-March. Most areas are warm by day (80°F) and cool at night (50°F). Along the coast, the weather is tropical. Higher altitudes can be extremely cool.

#### **CURRENCY & CREDIT CARDS**

The official currency is Kenya Shillings (KES/KSh) 100 cents = 1 Kenya Shilling. There are no restrictions on the amount of foreign currency that can be brought into Kenya. Visitors should change foreign currency at banks, bureaux de change or authorized hotels. It is recommended that visitors DO NOT change money on the black market as they are more likely to receive a lower rate of exchange or fake notes. It is suggested that you carry low denominations of cash (US\$5.00, US\$10.00, and US\$20.00) that can be easily cashed at many lodges and hotels, which are not able to accept larger denominations.

Note: If carrying cash, it is recommended that you take only recently minted U.S. currency. It is recommended that you obtain / ask for receipts (official printed and stamped receipt) each time you convert money into Kenya Shillings.

Credit cards are a safe alternative to cash and are widely accepted in hotels, upscale souvenir stores, and restaurants, though cash will be needed at most sightseeing stops. Very few can accept credit cards. Check with your bank for any fees you may be charged.

#### **SHOPPING HOURS**

Generally, shops are open 9:00am – 6:00pm Monday – Saturday. Some shops remain open until 8:00pm. Shops may close on Friday afternoons for prayers.

### **LANGUAGE**

Swahili is the official language, but English is widely spoken and written.

#### **VOLTAGE**

The electricity runs on 240 volts, 50 cycle, AC.

#### **ELECTRICAL PLUGS**



240V 50Hz

#### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Visitors should respect the outlook of the local people towards photography and only use cameras if they have permission from the person or people the picture is being taken. Never try to "steal" a photo against the will of the person concerned. Let your tour guide or escort help you negotiate terms before you start shooting! It is also against the law to take photographs of border posts, persons in uniform, and of course, military installations.