

1946 THE ORIGINAL 2016

Ker & Draney Safaris
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≈ PRE-DEPARTURE & PACKING INFORMATION ≈

≈ PASSPORT & VISA ≈

Please be sure that your passport is no less than six months from its expiry date, with at least three empty pages remaining. We advise that you leave a copy at home with family or friends and carry a copy with you as well. Visas will be required for each African country that you visit. These can be obtained via the appropriate East African embassies. We advise you to purchase your visa on arrival and our “meet and greet” service will assist with this. Alternatively, you can apply for your visa online at evisa.co.ke. You do need \$50 to pay for the visa as this is not included in your safari price. If you plan to pass through the same country twice, please request a multiple entry visa.

≈ TIME ZONE ≈

East Africa is GMT+3; East Africa is 11 hours ahead of the US west coast (10 hours during daylight savings time) and 8 hours ahead of the east coast (7 hours during daylight savings time).

≈ UPON ARRIVAL IN AFRICA ≈

We will send you detailed plans for your arrival a week ahead of your safari. We provide a “meet and greet” service which will assist you and connect you with your ongoing transport.

≈ COMMUNICATIONS≈

Much of Kenya has good mobile phone coverage and in towns and the Maasai Mara there is 3G. Please note that you will need full international roaming to make phone calls and this can be expensive. Should the need arise, a satellite phone will be with us at all times. We are in daily contact with our headquarters so please use the contact information.

 ≈ PRE-DEPARTURE & PACKING INFORMATION ≈



 ≈ HEALTH & VACCINATIONS ≈

We recommend that you consult your local physician for up-to-date information. We advise that you bring anti-malarial pills although the best prevention is common sense and precaution. Your tents are equipped with mosquito lining and are sprayed by the crew when your bed is turned down at night. We recommend wearing long pants and shirts in the evening. Bug spray will be provided in camp, but we suggest that you pack your own supply as well. Be sure to bring any medication with you that you may require. We carry a basic first aid kit. Nairobi is equipped with two world-class hospitals, which both have screened blood.

 ≈ LIABILITY AND INSURANCE ≈

Ker & Downey is a corporate member of AMREF for emergency advice and evacuation from the bush to Nairobi at no extra charge. In order for us to add you to our scheme we need your medical insurance company name and policy number. Travel insurance is optional to protect you and your property in the event of an emergency, lost luggage or delays on your international flights.

 ≈ SECURITY ≈

The same precautions should be taken in Africa as in any foreign land. Do not carry large sums of money, do not wear expensive jewellery and keep a close watch on handbags, wallets and camera equipment.

 ≈ CURRENCY ≈

The currency in Kenya is the shilling, which has been fluctuating in value between 100-110 shillings (September 2015) to the American dollar. Credits cards are accepted at shops in Nairobi. Many hotels accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express. There is an ATM machine immediately to the left of the glass doors on arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. We recommend bringing cash, either in US\$ Dollars, Sterling Pounds or Euros. Small denominations of US dollars can be used in local markets, so it is advised that you carry an adequate amount of \$1, \$5 and \$10 notes. Serial numbers must be post-2006. Please note that personal expenditure, gratuities, airport taxes and visa fees are not included in your safari.

 ≈ LANGUAGE ≈

The official language throughout East Africa is Swahili, although English is spoken in most regions. In total there are 42 ethnic languages amongst 50 existing tribes.

 ≈ WEATHER ≈

Despite being equatorial, East African temperatures tend to be hot/warm during the days with low humidity and chilly in the evenings. Average temperatures are 70-80 degrees during the day and a comfortable 50-65 degrees at night. January to mid-March tend to be the warmest months, with July-August the coolest. Our seasons are defined as wet and dry, with rains usually from April – May and mid-November – December.

 ≈ EMAIL AND INTERNET ≈

A few of the camps and lodges now have some form of email and Internet capability. This is either in the form of wifi - so you can use your own devices - or it may be a desktop computer which guests can use.

≈ PRE-DEPARTURE & PACKING INFORMATION ≈

≈ LAUNDRY ≈

Laundry is done daily in camps and lodges, dried and returned to your tent the same afternoon, depending on the weather. The high-end camps and lodges do not charge for the service. The camp and lodge staff will not wash ladies' underwear due to local traditions but laundry soap is provided.

≈ TIPPING ≈

Gratuities for camp crew and lodge staff are not included in the price of your safari unless arranged with your private guide. As a guideline we recommend between US\$15-30 per guest per day. This does not include your professional guide if you have one accompanying you. A suggestion for professional guides is around US\$80-100 per guide per day.

≈ ELECTRICITY & LIGHTING ≈

Electricity is 220-240 volts AC at 50 cycles per second in most hotels and lodges. Sockets are square, three-pin like those used in the UK. In camp, we use gas, kerosene and solar units for lighting and cooking. We can provide a 220-240 volt generator upon request. We will also provide a 110-volt car charger and inverter, which can be used for charging cameras, phones and computers. Although flashlights are provided in camp, we recommend that you bring a small hand held flashlight with batteries for moving around at night. A tiny book light may come in handy if you enjoy reading in bed.

≈ VEHICLES ≈

The vehicles we use are closed 4x4 Land Rovers and Toyota LandCruisers. Every vehicle is custom made and modified by each individual guide for maximum comfort and best game viewing. Each is equipped with roof hatches for unobstructed viewing and photography. Some lodges have open vehicles for their game drives, and while this enables all-round visibility, one can expect cold mornings/evenings so bring a warm jacket and hat.

≈ SUGGESTED READING ≈

'Africa: Biography of a Continent' – *John Reader*

'The Man-eaters of Tsavo' – *J A Hunter*

'The Tree Where Man Was Born' – *Peter Matthiessen*

'The Shadow of Kilimanjaro' – *Rick Ridgeway*

'Out of Africa' – *Isak Dinesen*

'Nine faces of Kenya' (Karen Blixen, Winston Churchill, Ernest Hemingway & Richard Leakey) – *Elsbeth Huxley*

'African Silences' – *Peter Matthiessen*

'West With the Night' – *Beryl Markham*

'I Dreamed of Africa' – *Kuki Gallman*

'The Green Hills of Africa' – *Ernest Hemingway*

'Love, Life, and Elephants: An African Love Story'
– *Daphne Sheldrick*

'No Picnic on Mt. Kenya' – *Felice Benuzzi*

'The Shadow of Kilimanjaro: On Foot Across East Africa'
– *Rick Ridgeway*

'The Flame Trees of Thika' – *Elsbeth Huxley*

'Facing Mt. Kenya' – *Jomo Kenyatta*

'White Mischief' – *James Fox*

'The Constant Gardener' – *John Le Carre*

'Ker & Downey Safaris -The Inside Story' – *Jan Hemsing*

'Sixty Years of Safaris' – *Miles Bredin*



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≈ LUGGAGE AND CLOTHING ≈

If possible, we ask that you limit your luggage to one medium sized duffel bag, one carry-on bag and one camera/gadget bag per person. All valuables and toiletries should be packed in your carry-on bag in the unlikely event that your luggage is lost en route.

We advise locking any checked luggage. We often use light aircraft to fly between destinations. In these instances, baggage is restricted to one 30lb bag per person. If additional luggage is required elsewhere, such as a stopover in Europe before or after your safari, we can arrange safe storage for anything not required on the journey.

On safari, dress is informal. Think comfort: loose fitting, tan, neutral, or khaki cotton clothes are best during the days. You will need a warm fleece or sweater for the early mornings and evenings, which tend to be surprisingly cool. Dressing in layers is the best practice. You may wish to use the packing list below as a guide:

≈ CLOTHING ≈

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|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sweatshirt, sweater or fleece × 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Warm jacket or parka for rain, cool nights/early mornings × 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Long pants, jeans, slacks or chinos × 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Long sleeved shirts × 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Short sleeved cotton shirts/t-shirts × 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Shorts × 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Socks, underwear, belt | <input type="checkbox"/> Pajamas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimwear | <input type="checkbox"/> Brimmed sun hat | <input type="checkbox"/> Convertible zip-off pants/shorts. These are very popular with guests, they can be found at your local outdoor store × 1 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable slip-on shoes for evenings. "Tevas", "Keens" or flip-flops are also popular shoes for game drives | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses – good quality, preferably polarized. Tinted fashion glasses are not good in strong light | <input type="checkbox"/> A good pair of walking shoes with a thick sole (Running/cross-trainers/Merrels/Salomon are fine). Heavy hiking boots are not necessary unless specified | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handkerchief – great for dusty drives and protecting camera equipment | | | |

≈ TOILETRIES ≈

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush and toothpaste | <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo and conditioner (soap is provided) | <input type="checkbox"/> Razor and shaving cream | <input type="checkbox"/> Deodorant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Q-tips | <input type="checkbox"/> Tweezers | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen – minimum of SPF 15 is recommended | <input type="checkbox"/> Lip balm with SPF |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antacids | <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-malarial pills | <input type="checkbox"/> Contact lens case and solution | <input type="checkbox"/> Aspirin, Tylenol, Advil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal toiletry needs | <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-diarrhoea medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Basic medical kit – band-aids, antibiotic ointment, cortisone cream | <input type="checkbox"/> Bug spray – note: products containing 'DEET' can harm camera equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antihistamine or decongestant for those suffering from allergies | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-purpose antibiotic | <input type="checkbox"/> Prescription drugs – copy of any vital prescriptions | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical history from your doctor or alert bracelet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facial/body moisturizer – it is very dry in most regions | <input type="checkbox"/> Glasses (dust bothers many people with contacts) | <input type="checkbox"/> Disposable wet tissues – many find Ponds facial tissues or baby wipes come in handy after a dry, dusty day | |

≈ CAMERAS, ACCESSORIES & ELECTRONICS ≈

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Cameras - we suggest one or two camera bodies with a selection of lenses | <input type="checkbox"/> Lenses – we recommend a 24-70mm, 70-200mm and a telephoto for the avid photographers | <input type="checkbox"/> Lens cleaner, brush and tissues | <input type="checkbox"/> Adaptor to UK square, three-pin (see section on electricity for more information) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Binoculars are essential, each person should have his or her own pair – 10 × 40, 8 × 42 or 10 × 32 are all excellent sizes | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight and book light | <input type="checkbox"/> Flash and extra batteries | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Battery chargers for camera batteries – camera batteries can be recharged at all lodges and camps and most of our vehicles have inverters built in, so we can charge batteries on the move | | |

≈ OTHER VITALS ≈

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal cheque book/credit card/ medical insurance card | <input type="checkbox"/> International certificate of vaccination | <input type="checkbox"/> Money pouch | <input type="checkbox"/> Small locks for check-in luggage |
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