

## Travel and Tourism Information

**1) Flights:** Participants are responsible for their airline and lodging reservations. Participants should fly into the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (NBO), Nairobi, Kenya. **Book early for flights with shorter duration and lower price.**

**2) Transportation from the airport to your hotel:** We encourage you to pre-arrange your airport shuttle with your hotel before leaving your departure town. The Crown Plaza Nairobi (Upper Hill) offers airport shuttle service for its guests for approximately US \$30 each way. Guests must provide the hotel with their flight details in advance.

If you cannot take an airport shuttle, registered taxis can be requested inside the airport upon exiting the baggage claim. Only take a registered/licensed taxi from a booth in the airport, not from an individual solicitor at the airport.

**3) Pre-Departure:** Even if you have a pre-printed boarding pass, your departure airport may require you to check in with the ticket agent or at the gate prior to boarding, in order to verify your visa information. Please allow plenty of time for long lines.

**4) Currency and money exchange:** The national currency is the Kenyan Shilling (KES). Foreign currency may be exchanged at the airport, banks, ATMs, or foreign exchange bureaus located throughout the city. Airports typically have a less favorable exchange rate but Nairobi/NBO typically has an acceptable exchange rate. There is no limit to the amount of foreign currency you can bring in or out of Kenya.

The Crown Plaza Nairobi has a currency exchange at the reception desk and a bank in the hotel. An ATM is located next door to the Crown Plaza Nairobi.

Most ATMs will only accept VISA or Mastercard. All ATMs set withdrawal limits. For Kenyan ATM's typically it's 20,000 to 40,000 KES per day.

To calculate live currency and foreign exchange rates visit <https://www.nairobi-airport.com/int/exchange.php>

**5) Credit and debit cards:** Most hotels, restaurants, and reputable shops accept Visa and MasterCard. American Express can be used in some restaurants and hotels, but not everywhere.

Upmarket restaurants, shops, and hotels in Kenya usually accept debit cards. Those that do are most likely to accept Visa or MasterCard, however there may be a surcharge to cover the cost of processing your transaction. Again, American Express is not as widely accepted.

Inform your ATM or credit card issuer that you intend to travel abroad so that they do not block the usage of your cards. It is recommended to give the issuer a phone number where you can be contacted abroad, just in case.

**6) Immunizations:** It is recommended that you consult with your General Practitioner or Travel Medicine Clinic by March 2019 to determine vaccines you may need. For an overview on recommended vaccines, consult Health Information for Travelers to Kenya [https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/kenya?s\\_cid=ncezid-dgmg-travel-single-001](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/kenya?s_cid=ncezid-dgmg-travel-single-001)

**7) Language:** Both English and Bantu Swahili are the official languages in Kenya. English is spoken to a lesser degree as you travel away from Nairobi but is still overwhelmingly present.

**8) Climate:** The beginning of summer in Kenya is very nice. June is a moderate month with little rainfall (6 rainy days a month). Temperatures range from 11 °C (51.8 °F) at night to highs of 22 °C (71.6 °F) during the day.

**9) Tourism:** We recommend contacting your hotel to make tour arrangements or visit [Tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com) for reviews on trustworthy tour options to the many exciting tourist destinations in and around Nairobi. A few top recommendations include the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, Nairobi National Park, Karura Forest, Giraffe Center, and the Maasai Market.

For more information you can visit <http://www.magicalkenya.com>