

REQUIREMENTS & LOCAL INSIGHTS

A TRAVELLERS GUIDE

1. TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION

Visa Requirements:

Uganda:

Visas on arrival are no longer issued at Entebbe International Airport or land borders. All travellers requiring a visa must apply in advance online. Apply only via the official portal: <https://visas.immigration.go.ug/>

Kenya:

- Kenya has implemented an eTA (electronic Travel Authorization) for most travelers. This means that travelers no longer need to apply for a traditional visa. Instead, you can easily apply for an eTA online.
- Kenya eTA: Apply via the official eTA portal: <https://www.etakenya.go.ke/>

Tanzania:

- A visa is required for most travelers visiting Tanzania. You can apply for a visa either in advance through the Tanzanian Embassy or Consulate, or you can obtain a visa upon arrival.
- Tanzania eVisa: You can apply online for your Tanzanian visa via the official eVisa portal: Tanzania eVisa Application. <https://visa.immigration.go.tz/>

Passport Validity: Please ensure your passport is valid for at least six months from the date of entry into Kenya or Tanzania.

Vaccination & Health Precautions:

- **Yellow Fever Vaccine:** Required for entry in Tanzania. Ensure you have received the vaccination and carry the certificate with you.
- **Routine Vaccinations:** We recommend vaccinations for hepatitis A, hepatitis B, typhoid, malaria prophylaxis, and any other vaccines that may be advised by your health provider based on your personal health.
- **COVID-19:** Make sure to check the current COVID-19 requirements for entry, as regulations may vary. Testing or vaccination documentation may be required.
- **Primate Trekking Health Rules:** If participating in gorilla or chimpanzee trekking, you must be in good health. Anyone showing signs of infectious illnesses (such as flu, cold, or respiratory infections) will not be permitted to track primates to protect these vulnerable populations.
- **Travel Insurance:** Strongly recommended. Please ensure your insurance covers medical emergencies, cancellations, and evacuation.

2. COMMUNICATION AND CONNECTIVITY

Sim Cards & Internet:

You can easily purchase a local SIM card at airports or shops in major cities like Nairobi or Dar es Salaam. This will give you access to mobile data and local calls. Wi-Fi is available in most hotels and tourist spots, but it can be spotty in rural areas.

Sim Cards & Internet:

Local SIM cards (primary networks: MTN Uganda and Airtel Uganda) can be purchased and registered at Entebbe International Airport or in major towns like Kampala, Entebbe, and Jinja.

A passport is mandatory for mandatory biometric SIM registration.

Wi-Fi is standard in most hotels and safari lodges, though connections in remote wilderness areas (such as Bwindi or Kidepo Valley) can be slow or intermittent.

3. CURRENCY & TIME

Local Currency:

The official currency is the Ugandan Shilling (UGX).

US Dollars (USD) are widely accepted for park fees, high-end lodges, and tour balances. Note that USD banknotes must be crisp, unblemished, and issued in or after 2013, as older series or damaged notes are routinely rejected by local banks and businesses.

ATMs accepting Visa and Mastercard are available in Entebbe, Kampala, and regional hubs (e.g., Fort Portal, Mbarara, Jinja), but are scarce near national park gates.

Time Zone:

Uganda operates on East Africa Time (EAT), UTC +3 hours year-round (no daylight saving time).

Local Currency:

The currency in Kenya is **the Kenyan Shilling (KES)** and in Tanzania, it's the **Tanzanian Shilling (TZS)**. Both countries also widely accept US Dollars (USD), but it's a good idea to carry some local currency for small purchases.

Time Zone:

Kenya and Tanzania are both in the East Africa Time (EAT) zone, UTC +3 hours.

4. CLIMATE AND WEATHER

Kenya:

- **General Climate:** Kenya experiences equatorial weather, with high temperatures ranging from 20°C to 30°C (68°F to 86°F). Coastal areas like Mombasa are warmer and more humid, while the highlands (e.g., Nairobi) are cooler.
- **Rainy Seasons:** The long rainy season is typically from **March to May**, and the short rainy season occurs in **November and December**. Expect brief heavy showers during these times, especially in the coastal and forested region.

Tanzania:

- **General Climate:** Tanzania's weather is tropical with coastal heat and humidity, while the highland areas are cooler.
- **Rainy Seasons:** Like Kenya, Tanzania has long rains from **March to May** and short rains in **November and December**.

What to Pack:

- Lightweight, breathable clothing for the day, and a light jacket or sweater for the evenings.
- For safaris and treks, bring durable and comfortable shoes, a hat, and sunglasses.
- Waterproof gear is recommended if traveling during the rainy seasons.
- Sunscreen, insect repellent (especially for malaria prevention), and a reusable water bottle are essential.

Uganda:

General Climate:

Uganda enjoys a warm tropical climate moderated by its high altitude. Average daytime temperatures range between 24°C and 29°C (75°F to 84°F).

Highland and mountainous regions (e.g., Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, and the Rwenzori Mountains) can become cool to cold, especially at night and early mornings (dropping to 10°C / 50°F or lower).

Rainy Seasons:

Long Rains: March to May.

Short Rains: October to November / early December.

Even during rainy seasons, rainfall usually occurs as short tropical downpours followed by clear skies.

What to Pack:

Lightweight, breathable clothing in neutral/earth tones (khaki, beige, olive green) for safari game drives. Avoid dark blue and black clothing, which attract tsetse flies in savannah parks like Murchison Falls.

Sturdy, waterproof hiking boots with good ankle support, thick socks, garden gloves (for gripping vegetation), and gaiters for gorilla/chimpanzee trekking.

Long-sleeved shirts and lightweight trousers to protect against thorns and insects.

Warm layers (fleece or light down jacket) for cool mornings and mountain evenings.

Waterproof rain jacket or poncho, wide-brimmed hat, polarized sunglasses, high-factor sunscreen, insect repellent (DEET-based), and a reusable water bottle.

5. TRANSPORT AND PARKING

Airport Transfers:

- Ensure your arrival details are shared with us in advance so we can arrange your transfer to your accommodation.
- We recommend you use reputable transport providers for airport transfers, safaris, or city

tours.

Parking Information:

- If you're traveling with a vehicle or renting one, please make sure to park only in designated areas. In cities like Kampala, Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, parking is often limited, so we advise securing parking at your hotel or trusted facilities.
- Avoid street parking in busy areas where traffic fines may be enforced.
- Be mindful of local traffic regulations to avoid fines or legal issues

6. CULTURAL SENSITIVITY AND ETIQUETTE

Respect for Local Customs:

- Kenya and Tanzania are culturally diverse nations, with various ethnic groups. It is important to be respectful of local traditions, customs, and religion.
- Dress modestly, especially in rural areas or when visiting religious sites (such as mosques and churches).
- Always ask for permission before taking photos of people, particularly in local communities.

Tipping:

- Tipping is customary but not mandatory. It is generally appreciated in restaurants, hotels, and by guides or drivers. A standard tip is around 10-15% for services received

7. SAFETY AND SECURITY

Stay Informed:

- While Kenya and Tanzania are generally safe for travelers, always stay updated on the latest travel advisories from your embassy or consulate.
- Keep your personal belongings secure and avoid displaying valuables in public.

Health & Safety:

- Carry your health insurance details and emergency contact numbers with you at all times.
- In case of emergency, the local emergency number in Kenya is 999, and in Tanzania, it is 112

Uganda:

Uganda is generally safe and welcoming for international tourists. Keep valuables, electronics, and passports secure in hotel/lodge safes, and avoid walking unaccompanied in unlit or quiet city streets after dark.

Stay updated on relevant travel advisories from your respective foreign office or embassy before departure.

Emergency Contacts:

National Emergency / Police: 999 (landline) / 112 (mobile networks)

Uganda Tourist Police Hotline: 0800 300 117 (toll-free)

Emergency Medical / Ambulance Service: 999 / 112

8. ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Wildlife and Nature:

- Respect wildlife and follow all park rules when visiting national parks and reserves.
- Do not litter and make sure you dispose of waste in designated bins.
- Beware of the animals, they are wild and can be unpredictable.
- Don't crowd the animals or make sudden noises or movements.
- Don't feed the animals, it upsets their diet and leads to human dependence.
- Keep quiet, noise disturbs the wildlife and may antagonize your fellow visitors.
- Stay in your vehicle at all times, except at designated picnic or walking areas.
- Keep below the maximum speed limit (40 kph/25 mph).
- Never drive off-road, this severely damages the habitat.
- When viewing wildlife keep to a minimum distance of 20 meters and pull to the side of the road so as to allow others to pass.
- Leave no litter and never leave fires unattended or discard burning objects.
- Respect the cultural heritage of Kenya, never take pictures of the local people or their habitat without asking their permission, respect the cultural traditions of Kenya and always dress with decorum.
- Stay over or leave before dusk, visitors must vacate the Park between 6.00 p.m. - 6.00 a.m. unless they are camping overnight. Night game driving is not allowed.
- Be conscious of your water usage, especially in remote areas where water can be scarce.

Conservation:

- Consider supporting conservation efforts by visiting eco-friendly lodges or donating to wildlife protection initiatives.

Uganda:

Wildlife & National Park Regulations (UWA Rules):

Strictly follow all instructions given by Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) rangers and guides.

Maintain a minimum distance of 7 to 10 metres from mountain gorillas and chimpanzees at all times. Turn your head away or cover your mouth/nose if you need to cough or sneeze near primates.

Flash photography is prohibited when viewing wildlife and primates.

Never feed wildlife, as it disrupts natural feeding behaviours and creates dangerous dependencies.

Remain inside the safari vehicle at all times except at authorized picnic spots, viewpoints, or ranger-guided walking trails.

Strictly no off-road driving; stay on designated park tracks to prevent habitat degradation.

Observe park operating hours: game drives are allowed between 6:30 AM and 6:30 PM (night game drives are only permitted in designated zones with an official UWA ranger guide).

Avoid single-use plastics and carry all litter out of national parks.

9. CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergency Contact Number with : +49 151 12264382