

# Travel Tips

## Plains of Africa Familiarization Tour

Listed below is important information to assist you in preparing for your upcoming trip. This information provided will help you have a more enjoyable experience while you are on your tour.

### Tour Manager

We pride ourselves on having the best-trained and most experienced tour managers in the industry. Gratuities should be extended on a voluntary basis and should be in direct proportion to the level of professionalism and personal service extended to you throughout the tour. Past experience has shown that a guideline of 4-6 USD per person for each traveling day is a customary amount for the Tour Manager. A customary amount of 4-6 USD per person per day is suggested for the driver.

### Luggage

Please note on this safari tour you must have soft duffel bag luggage that cannot exceed 15 kgs (33 pounds) as storage space on safari vans is limited. Only an overnight bag will be taken for your stay at the Ark Hotel. Your main luggage will be secured for this night.

Due to the limited motorcoach capacity, one carry-on (36 inches in length, height and width; not to exceed 11 lbs. /5.2 kg.) and one checked luggage (62 inches in length, height and width; weight not to exceed 23kg/50lbs are allowed).

Please consult with your scheduled airline as luggage fees & restrictions vary by carrier and destination.

Wheeled carry-on is not suitable for coach tours.

If you exceed the limit of 2 bags, we cannot guarantee that your additional luggage will be able to fit in the touring vehicle. Storage or shipment of additional luggage will be at your own expense.

If we are able to accommodate your additional luggage, we will assess a fee of 4 USD per bag per hotel.

Please remember to label your luggage and important items with your name, home address and telephone number.

We recommend labeling your luggage on both outside and inside of the bag.

Please attach only the plastic luggage tag included in this mailing to your checked luggage before checking in for your flight.

Your paper luggage tag is to be attached at the first hotel.

We cannot assume liability or accept claims for loss or damage to luggage and personal effects due to breakage, theft or normal wear and tear that results from hotel, airline and group carrier handling. It is in your best interest to have adequate insurance (such as our comprehensive "No Worries Travel Protection") to cover these eventualities.

### Transportation

#### Transfers

We are pleased to provide you with complimentary airport to hotel, and hotel to airport transfers at the beginning and end of an escorted tour when you purchase an air-inclusive vacation.

Land-only clients who have purchased round trip transfers will be accommodated at the same times as air inclusive clients.

Arrival meeting locations and transfer departure times are provided on your document booklets.

On some programs there may be a waiting period at the airport due to varying flight schedules of other arriving passengers.

If you have secured your own transfer, you may meet your Tour Manager at the hotel.

Motorcoach Information: We do not own or operate transportation vehicles. We charter quality coaches that are temperature controlled vehicles. Coach size may vary based upon the number of tour patrons. In certain countries, lavatory equipped motorcoaches are not available or the lavatory is for emergency use only. Frequent stops will be made en route for comfort and convenience.

In Africa, safari vans accommodate up to 6 passengers and their luggage. Unlike motorcoaches, vans are not

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equipped with lavatory facilities. Frequent stops are made en route.

Seat Rotation: Seats are rotated for the benefit of our tour guests, fosters communication, and enables our guests to enjoy a variety of vantage points on the motorcoach. Guests will rotate seats at least once a day, as directed by the tour manager. In fairness to all, there will be no exceptions to this policy.

### **Clothing & Packing Tips**

Dress throughout Kenya is casual, and comfortable walking shoes are required. Lightweight cottons are suggested for shorts, slacks, T-shirts, etc., as well as hats and one warm jacket and/or sweatshirt. The Mount Kenya Safari Club requires "smart casual" dress for dinner. Sneakers, jeans and shorts are not allowed in the dining room at Mount Kenya Safari Club.

During the months of April and December, you should also pack lightweight rain gear as it does tend to rain.

Many clients with contacts bring along their glasses, as the dust on the roads can cause challenges with contacts.

Many clients also pack a bandana or scarf to prevent them from inhaling the dust.

### **Meals**

Most meals are included as indicated in your document itinerary.

Guests with special dietary requirements must advise their travel counselor at the time of booking and also the tour manager upon joining the tour.

When information is provided, every effort will be made to accommodate these requests.

Please be advised that the average cost of meals (not inclusive of tax and gratuity) that are not included in your tour are as follows: lunch 10 to 15 USD and dinner 20 to 40 USD. It is customary to drink bottled water while on safari. Bottled water will be provided daily in your safari vehicle. Additionally, it can be purchased for 2 to 5 USD per liter at convenience stores and lodges. In Kenya, it is recommended to use bottled water for brushing your teeth.

### **Currency**

Your personal bank card may work at local ATM machines in the destination you are traveling to and would dispense local currency. Please contact your bank to determine if this option is available, that your PIN number will be accepted, to inform them that you are traveling and to determine if any charges apply for each transaction. You may exchange your money at airports, banks, exchange bureaus, and at most hotels. In most cases, a commission charge will be assessed to exchange your money. At the hotel or in the city usually offer a better currency exchange rate than airports.

We recommend carrying only a few major credit cards. Credit card purchases often provide an extra guarantee on your purchase (check with your specific credit card company for details and fees). It is advisable to contact any credit card company you intend utilizing while on tour before you depart to notify them where you will be traveling, to avoid any rejection of services.

The currency in Kenya is the Kenyan Shilling (KES).

Local currency will be needed for gratuities and small items such as postcards and postage.

Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted at the lodges throughout the tour. ATM machines are available in Nairobi. However, outside of Nairobi they are not. Travelers checks can be cashed at all the lodges only. Your tour manager can suggest the best places to exchange cash.

PLEASE BE ADVISED that due to counterfeiting, vendors will not accept any 50 or 100 USD bills that are under the 2000 series (bills made prior to the year 2000). Hotels and banks will not exchange them. Please

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check your money before leaving the US.

### **Shopping**

Check DVDs or other electronic equipment purchased abroad for compatibility with your PC or home equipment.

Popular choices of items while shopping in Kenya are carvings of animals made of soap stone, ebony, or other woods; wooden masks, bowls, jewelry, and chess sets; jewelry made of semi-precious stones such as: malachite, lapis, and topaz; gallery quality native art paintings, murals, and sculptures; safari clothing; tie dye prints of animals and Masai people; coffee and tea.

### **Time Zone**

Kenya is 7 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time.

### **Elevation**

Kenya 7800 feet.

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### Average Temperatures

Gilgil	Highs		Lows		Rainfall	
	F	C	F	C	Inches	Centimeters
January	81	27	51	11	1.05	3.00
February	83	28	51	11	0.82	2.00
March	83	28	53	12	3.26	8.00
April	79	26	55	13	3.80	10.00
May	77	25	54	12	3.37	9.00
June	76	24	53	12	2.36	6.00
July	75	24	52	11	2.50	6.00
August	76	24	52	11	2.91	7.00
September	78	26	50	10	2.06	5.00
October	78	26	51	11	2.37	6.00
November	76	24	52	11	2.49	6.00
December	78	26	51	11	1.39	4.00

Kigio	Highs		Lows		Rainfall	
	F	C	F	C	Inches	Centimeters
January	80	27	56	13	1.74	4.00
February	83	28	56	13	1.15	3.00
March	82	28	58	14	2.07	5.00
April	79	26	59	15	3.68	9.00
May	76	24	58	14	2.95	7.00
June	74	23	54	12	0.70	2.00
July	73	23	52	11	0.32	1.00
August	74	23	53	12	0.57	1.00
September	79	26	54	12	0.57	1.00
October	80	27	56	13	1.06	3.00
November	77	25	58	14	3.57	9.00
December	77	25	57	14	2.09	5.00

Masai Mara	Highs		Lows		Rainfall	
	F	C	F	C	Inches	Centimeters
January	80	27	56	13	1.74	4.00
February	83	28	56	13	1.15	3.00
March	82	28	58	14	2.07	5.00
April	79	26	59	15	3.68	9.00
May	76	24	58	14	2.95	7.00

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June	74	23	54	12	0.70	2.00
July	73	23	52	11	0.32	1.00
August	74	23	53	12	0.57	1.00
September	79	26	54	12	0.57	1.00
October	80	27	56	13	1.06	3.00
November	77	25	58	14	3.57	9.00
December	77	25	57	14	2.09	5.00

Nairobi	Highs		Lows		Rainfall	
	F	C	F	C	Inches	Centimeters
January	77	25	54	12	2.00	5.00
February	79	26	55	13	1.00	3.00
March	77	25	57	14	1.00	3.00
April	75	24	58	14	1.00	3.00
May	72	22	56	13	0.20	1.00
June	70	21	53	12	0.10	0.00
July	69	21	51	11	0.10	0.00
August	70	21	52	11	0.10	0.00
September	75	24	52	11	0.20	1.00
October	76	24	55	13	0.30	1.00
November	74	23	56	13	1.00	3.00
December	74	23	55	13	1.00	3.00