Karibu is the Swahili word for "welcome" - and such is an authentic Kenyan journey; No other country on earth can offer visitors as much to see and do. Within the borders of a single country, you will find savannahs rich with big game, timeless cultures unchanged by the modern world, pristine beaches and coral reef, equatorial forests and mighty snow-capped mountains, searing deserts and cool highland retreats and endless opportunities for adventure, discovery, relaxation; more than you would ever expect...

Welcome to magical Kenya, take an epic journey through a country filled with life-changing encounters.
Let CULTURE captivate you.

Meet the north’s nomadic Samburu, the camel-herding Somali and Rendille and the age-old community of the Turkana.

Race with the world-famous Kalenjin runners. Discover the keen ways of Lake Victoria’s Luo and Luhya, the skilled wood-carving of the Akamba and the beautiful soapstone sculptures of the Kisii.

Walk alongside the Kikuyu, on Mount Kenya, and the Maasai, on the sweeping plains. Fish the Indian Ocean among the nine tribes of the Mijikenda and the Swahili people, who embody a fascinating blend of African, Arab and Portuguese influences.

United under the flag of national unity, Kenya is home to over 40 distinct ethnic communities speaking close to 80 different languages. From the hunter-gatherers, whose lives have changed little in the last thousand years, to the fashionable residents of Nairobi, Kenya is a cultural microcosm of Africa.
INSPIRING DIVERSITY

Music
Enormously diverse, Kenyan music combines the unique sounds of the Nation’s tribes and ethnic groups with Swahili lyrics, and the influences of other African nations, pop, reggae, hip-hop, gospel and jazz.

Food
Kenya’s culinary appeal and wonderfully diverse flavors emanate from its Indian, Arab and European heritage. Kenyan drinks feature locally made coffee and tea, and the ever-popular iconic Tusker beer.

Along with ancient archaeological sites and dramatic traditional cultures, Kenya offers an exciting range of contemporary exports. Coffee lovers around the world know Kenya’s flavorful and aromatic Arabica beans. Kenya also exports specialty black teas, grown primarily in the highlands of the Rift Valley. High in antioxidants, tea from Kenya has won international acclaim for taste and aroma. Kenya has seen phenomenal growth in its export of cut flowers, and is now one of the largest exporters in the world. Two-thirds of these are roses, grown in a dazzling array of colors and known for their long-lasting vase life.

Film
Kenya’s stunning landscape has not gone undiscovered by artists — or by Hollywood. Kenya plays a starring role in box office hits like Out of Africa, The Constant Gardener, Born Free and Tomb Raider. Nairobi’s art galleries show the finest contemporary works, influenced by the nation’s rich and diverse heritage.
Without question the safari epicenter of the world, Kenya offers an unimaginable opportunity to encounter rare and exotic creatures in fantastic numbers.

Over 56 national parks, game reserves and private conservancies shelter magnificent cats, the world’s greatest herds of elephant, endangered white and black rhino and species that are found nowhere else on earth. Thundering herds of zebra and wildebeest stretch across the plain for nearly as far as the eye can see in the Mara. Rare giant hogs wallow in the cool depths of the Aberdare forest. Golden cats prowl the snowy flanks of Mount Kenya. Leopard tortoises — unchanged for millions of years — lumber across the parched deserts of the Northern Frontier.

This is Kenya: wild, rare, incomparable
EXPERIENCE

With its remarkable beauty, rich history and abundance of wildlife, the Kenyan coast has something for everyone. Ancient civilizations and cosmopolitan resorts thrive within minutes of each other.

The flavor of 16th-century Portuguese culture lives on along with enchanting Swahili towns. Exciting sports and game-viewing share the coast with pristine beaches and blissful relaxation.

Fringed by hundreds of miles of lush coral reefs, Mombasa, the country’s oldest and second biggest city, is home to the memorable Fort Jesus, built by the Portuguese in 1593 to guard the port. Nearby, Shimba Hills National Reserve hosts Kenya’s last breeding population of sable antelope, while Mwaluganje Elephant Sanctuary features awe-inspiring views of the Indian Ocean.

Kenya’s north coast is predominantly and refreshingly unspoiled by urbanization. With stretches of palm-lined beaches and atmospheric ruins, Kenya’s Northern coast reflects authentic Swahili “art-de-vivre”.

Lamu Town, a recognized World Heritage site sitting at the heart of the Lamu archipelago, conveys a rich history of Swahili culture and tradition with its old world charm, stunning architecture, and unrivaled hospitality. The Lamu Archipelago islands offer sanctuary to sea turtles and elephants, migrant birds, dugong (sea cow) and herds of grazing animals seeking shelter and food.
EXPERIENCE

From horseback and quad biking in Loisaba Conservancy to whitewater rafting in the Tana and cycling alongside zebra in Hells Gate National Park, Kenya offers an array of experiences to explore its breathtaking beauty.

Trek Mount Kenya to point Lenana or hike the hills of Laikipia Plateau with Maasai warriors. Or sleep under the stars with the lullaby of the wild singing you into slumber. Take a hot air balloon ride over the Maasai Mara Game Reserve and see what’s impossible to see from a vehicle: the size, the distance, the majesty, and the sheer numbers of wildlife. Lift off at dawn and spot hippos and wildebeests, as far as the eye can see. Binoculars pick out calves and sparring adolescents. Cameras click. With the colorful balloon rising a hundred feet above your head, you drift for miles over one of the most amazing natural phenomena on earth.

The Kenyan coast offers a plethora of equally thrilling activities, from wreck diving and kite-surfing to fresh water and deep-sea fishing, sky diving and glassbottom-boat safaris. The Indian Ocean boasts colorful coral reefs teeming with tropical fish, dolphins and humpback whales you can see gliding and leaping offshore. Spend a day exploring the coast on a traditional dhow or relaxing on a palm-fringed sugar-white beach. Sea-kayak, water-ski, or windsurf the glistening waters.

With each experience, Kenya promises to quench your thirst for an unforgettable and adventure-ridden journey.
Kenya’s conference and meeting facilities range from intimate beach resorts for 20 people to Nairobi hotels with meeting rooms for 1,000 or more. There are meeting venues in virtually every part of the country, most offering convenient access to transportation, excellent conference services and coordinated tours and game viewing for attendees. Kenya’s largest conference venues include the Kenyatta international Conventional Centre (KICC) in Nairobi, complete with helipad and a ballroom that seats 3,500, and a state-of-the-art conference and meeting facility in Gigiri, a 140-acre forest-fringed compound operated by the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

**When your business is done, enjoy a round of Golf**

One of the world’s undiscovered golfing destinations, Kenya has 40 golf courses (with several new courses under construction) in year-round locations as varied as lush forests, lake shores, tropical beaches and equatorial highlands. Golf and country clubs are fully equipped and greens are designed to please the eye and challenge the swing. Keep an eye out for the strolling giraffe or scampering vervet monkey. The course at Mount Kenya Safari Club is the only place in the world where you can tee off in the Northern Hemisphere and putt out in the Southern Hemisphere!

**Shopping**

Kenya is as rich in handmade treasures as it is in wildlife. From crafts and beautiful fabrics on Biashara Street to the magnificent woodcarving in Lamu to the colorful khanga and kikoi textiles along the coast. Kenya’s rich culture and artisanship transpires through its shops, boutiques, malls and markets.
Kenya is readily accessible via Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Southern Africa by numerous international air carriers. Kenya has three international airports: Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, Moi International Airport in Mombasa and Eldoret International Airport in Eldoret-Nairobi serving as the hub of the East African region. Most city hotels offer airport transfer services; public buses and taxis are also readily available.

**Visa & Entry Information**

A valid passport, not expiring for at least six months, is required for entry into Kenya. Most incoming visitors, whether for business or pleasure require a visa. Multiple and single entry visas are available. The single entry fee is US $50 (at time of publication.) Visas can be obtained upon arrival at the airport (visa officials are on hand to meet all international arriving flights) or prior to travel by submitting an application to your local Kenyan Embassy or Consulate or online.

**Health**

There are no compulsory vaccinations required for entry to Kenya unless you are arriving from an area infected with Yellow Fever, in which case a Certificate of Inoculation against Yellow Fever is required. Other recommended vaccinations are Typhoid, Hepatitis and Polio, and anti-malarial medication is essential. A health-care provider who specializes in travel medicine may assist in determining what you will need based on factors such as your health and immunization history, areas of Kenya you will be visiting, and planned activities.
One of Africa’s prime tourist destinations, Kenya’s tourist infrastructure is exceptionally well established and the range of accommodation is comprehensive. The spirit of Kenya is also exemplified by its tradition of hospitality. Kenya offers a wide range of accommodation. Whether you’re looking for five-star luxury or a pitch-your-tent wilderness experience, the choices are abundant.

**Hotels**

From high-rise city-center hotels in Nairobi to boutique hotels on the coast and in wilderness areas, Kenya’s hotels provide guests with options tailored to a wide range of interests and budgets. Modern conveniences and acclaimed world-class facilities are found alongside spectacular wildlife experiences. Several noted hotel chains operate within Kenya and many rank among the best in Africa. Hotels throughout the country follow international standards and offer a full range of services such as business centers and dining facilities.

**Safari Lodges**

Lodge accommodations in Kenya’s national parks, reserves and wilderness areas range from rustic to luxurious. Local materials and traditional design combined with superb site choices for convenient game viewing. Most lodges will also have resident naturalists and guides on hand.

**Tented camps**

Close to nature and designed for comfort, walk-in tents – some on raised platforms with private balconies – typically share a central dining facility. Some have private bathrooms, with water, showers and toilets. Many of Kenya’s parks, reserves and sanctuaries offer tented camp accommodations.
Camping
Campgrounds with basic facilities are available in game reserves and national parks for those who seek the excitement of a camping in the wild. Camping safaris with vehicles, guides, tents, food and equipment can be arranged with some safari operators.

Beach resorts
Along Kenya’s Indian Ocean shore, beach-lovers will find five-star international resorts as well as more modest accommodation. Beach resorts can include nightclubs, casinos and fine dining with all-inclusive arrangements available.

Vacation Rentals
City apartments, beachside homes, historic Swahili mansions and rustic bush cottages are all available for rent. Most come fully equipped, in some cases with a staff and cook, and rentals can be arranged short- or long-term.

Voluntourism Accommodation
From using renewable energy to serving locally sourced food, many lodges and camps in Kenya offer opportunities for guests to be part of conservation efforts and to give back to local communities. With activities such as assisting wildlife researchers to building educational facilities, Kenya presents a wide range of voluntourism lodging options.
Internal Air Travel
Frequent flights operate from Nairobi’s Wilson Airport and from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport to many of the main towns and national parks throughout the country. Excellent air charter services can be arranged by travel providers to any destination within Kenya.

Trains
Kenya’s historic single-track railway line (lunatic express) runs from Mombasa to Kisumu (via Nairobi). A new standard gauge railway has since been commissioned with faster train service between Nairobi and Mombasa City. Upon completion the service will extend to Western Kenya towns bordering Uganda.

Taxis
Taxis are plentiful outside the main hotels, shopping malls, and central city points. There are a number of dial up taxi companies in all major towns. A tariff sheet should be available, and it is wise to agree the price of the journey before setting off. Uber is also available in Nairobi and Mombasa.

Public Transportation
Most Kenyans use “matatus” or mini-buses, as the primary method of transport. These are privately operated minibuses, which follow specific, local routes.

Car Rental
Most international car hire companies are represented in Kenya. Rates may vary on a daily or weekly basis and depend on the type of vehicle (ranging from four-wheel drive to small cab). To hire a car, drivers must be over 23 and under 70 years and have had a driving license (International or Commonwealth) for a minimum of two years.

Driving in Kenya
Kenyan motorists drive on the left and overtake on the right and general European-styled traffic regulations apply. A current driving license with photograph is accepted for up to three months stay. Self-driven four-wheel drive cars are also available for the do-it-yourselfer beach, wildlife or safari traveler.
Casual, lightweight and comfortable clothing and footwear is advisable.

**Photography**
To make the most of your wildlife pictures, most experts recommend a DSLR camera and a 300mm lens at minimum. A wide-angle lens is also ideal to have for panoramic shots. If you are going to bring two lenses, experts recommend having a separate camera body for each, as dust is prevalent in safari country and the wildlife tends not to wait for a change of lens. Light conditions tend to be best in the early mornings and late afternoons coinciding with the best times for game viewing.

**Local Customs**
Kenyans are extremely polite and helpful and visitors will often hear the Swahili words jambo (hello) and hakuna matata (no worries). In respect of local customs, it is considered courteous to ask people if you may take their picture before doing so, particularly in more remote areas. A small (token) payment for the photograph may be expected, as a form of polite appreciation.
Kenya offers a variety of enriching and unforgettable experiences. Here are a few useful resources and facts to help you prepare for your incredible journey.

**Official Name**
The Republic of Kenya. Kenya is named after Mount Kenya or Kirinyaga, the Mountain of Whiteness.

**Capital City**
Nairobi (Nyrobi meaning "the place of cool waters in Maa"). The highest city in East Africa 5,672 feet (1,729 m), modern and fast growing, Nairobi has over four million inhabitants.

**Main Cities**
Mombasa is the coastal capital and the largest port on the East African coast. Other major cities include Kisumu, Eldoret and Nakuru.

**Area**
Kenya covers an area of 226,487 sq mi (586,600 sq km) of this is inland water, including part of Lake Victoria. The coastline is 207 mi (333 km) long.

**Religion**
Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism and indigenous religions.

**Borders**
Kenya is bordered by Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, Uganda and Tanzania.

**Language**
English is the official and Kiswahili the national. In addition, there are over 40 different Kenyan tribes speaking over 80 different dialects.

**Climate**
Located on the equator, the weather in Kenya can vary dramatically depending on the region. Generally, the coastal areas are hot and humid, the inland cities are temperate, and the northern parts are very dry.
Economy
Agriculture employs 80% of the population, contributes 20% to GDP and accounts for 50% of export earnings. Tourism is the largest source of income. The industrial base contributes around 18% of GDP. Kenya is the leading exporter of cut flowers in the world and also is a major producer of tea and coffee.

Government
Kenya is an independent republic with a democratically elected parliament. The President is the head of government.

Electricity
Kenya regions are supplied with 220-240 volts AC, with standard 13 amp three square pin plugs.

Water
Most hotels and lodges serve filtered water and bottled water is readily available throughout the country.

Shopping and business hours
8:00am to 6:00pm Monday through Saturday and shops are generally closed on Sunday.

Time
GMT +3 all year round. Kenya maintains an almost constant 12 hours of daylight. Sunrise is typically at 6:30am and sunset at 6:45pm.

Hospitals and Doctors
A broad selection of highly qualified doctors, surgeons, and dentists are available in both Nairobi and Mombasa. Most lodges and hotels offer resident medical staff and maintain radio or telephone contact with the Flying Doctor Service, which specializes in air evacuations and emergency treatment in East Africa.

Disabled travelers
A specialized tour operator will be able to arrange travel for those with mobility, hearing or visual impairments. There are no provisions for the disabled on public transportation. Some hotels have easily accessible ground floor rooms as do tented camps.

Tipping
Tipping is appreciated, however not mandatory throughout Kenya. Guides, drivers, waiters, and hotel staff should be tipped at travelers’ discretion and most hotels and restaurants may include a 10% service charge to the bill.

Currency and Currency Exchange
The official currency is the Kenya Shilling, slang “bob.” The written abbreviation is KSh. Available notes are 50, 100, 200, 500, and 1,000 shillings. Available coins are 1, 5, 10, 20, and 40 shillings. Foreign currency can be changed at banks, foreign exchange kiosks, hotels and airports.
**Banking Hours**

Banks in Nairobi and other large towns open from 9:00am-4:00pm Monday to Friday and 9:00am-12:00pm on Saturdays. 24-hour access to accounts can be facilitated by ATMs country wide. Some banks at the international airports are open 24-hours daily as are the new foreign exchange kiosks.

**ATM**

ATMs are readily available in major cities country wide with 24-hour access.

**Credit Cards**

All major international credit cards are accepted by many hotels, travel agencies, safari companies, and restaurants throughout the country.

**Public Holidays**

Jan 1 New Year’s Day  
March or April Easter Monday  
May 1 Labor Day  
June 1 Madaraka Day  
October 20 Mashujaa Day  
December 12 Jamuhuri Day  
December 25 Christmas Day  
December 26 Boxing Day  
July-Sept Ramadan*  

Please note most visitor sites are closed on these days and hours of operation may be affected.  

*Dates vary each year depending on lunar schedules.

**Internet**

Kenya offers many reliable internet service providers and Internet service is readily available in remote areas. Many hotels and lodges offer email and internet services and most towns offer private business centers and cyber-cafes with email and internet access.

**Cell Phones**

There is good mobile phone coverage country wide including remote areas. Check with your mobile service provider for roaming capabilities and costs. When calling Kenya the international dialing code is 254.