



## Country Intelligence Brief

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# Kenya

Overall Risk Rating

3.75 - High

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## Ratings Overview

### Security

**3.50 - High**

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Civil Unrest      | ● 3.50 |
| Crime             | ● 4.00 |
| Kidnapping        | ● 4.00 |
| Terrorism         | ● 3.50 |
| Armed Conflict    | ● 3.00 |
| Security Services | ● 4.00 |

### Infrastructure

**3.25 - Moderate**

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Ground Transport | ● 3.75 |
| Cyber            | ● 3.00 |
| Maritime         | ● 3.25 |
| Air Travel       | ● 2.25 |
| Utilities        | ● 3.00 |

### Environment

**2.75 - Moderate**

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Man-Made Hazards | ● 2.50 |
| Seismic          | ● 2.75 |
| Storm Systems    | ● 3.25 |
| Natural Hazards  | ● 2.50 |

### Health and Medical

**3.75 - High**

|                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Disease and Health Threats      | ● 3.75 |
| Medical Facilities and Services | ● 3.25 |
| Mental Health                   | ● 3.00 |
| Food and Water Safety           | ● 4.00 |

### Political

**3.50 - High**

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Corruption           | ● 4.25 |
| Government Stability | ● 3.50 |
| Rule of Law          | ● 3.75 |
| Sanctions            | ● 1.50 |

### LGBTQ Security

**4.00 - High**

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| LGBTQ Legal Environment  | ● 4.00 |
| LGBTQ Enforcement        | ● 4.00 |
| LGBTQ Social Environment | ● 5.00 |

## FactBox

|                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location                   | Kenya                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Government Type            | Presidential Republic                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Population                 | 57,323,930 (2025)                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Languages                  | <p><b>Official Languages:</b> English, Kiswahili.</p> <p><b>Other languages that are considered official or widely spoken:</b> 66 local dialects.</p> <p><b>Languages that should only be used discreetly:</b> None.</p> |
| International Country Code | +254                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Time Zones                 | UTC+3                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Traffic                    | Drives on the left                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Drinking Water             | Not Safe to Drink                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## Overview

3.75 - High

Kenya continues to be seen as one of the most stable countries in Africa, and especially in East Africa, due to its globally integrated economy and service industry-driven economy. However, this sentiment may be deceiving as the country still struggles with high debt levels, limiting development. The country still experiences significant political instability around elections, regular bouts of violent unrest, regional tensions with neighboring countries and a latent threat of terrorism.

Terrorism remains a nationwide concern despite its concentration vulnerable rural areas along the country's porous northeastern region bordering Somalia and in Kenya's coastal areas. While there have been no significant incidents in Nairobi since the 2019 terrorist attacks, authorities continue to regularly report foiling planned attacks. Potential targets include government infrastructure and security personnel, as well as hotels, cafes, restaurants, bars, sporting events, supermarkets, shopping centers, and transport hubs.

The most common threat to travelers in Kenya continues to come from criminal activity. Home invasions, burglaries, petty theft, armed carjackings, and kidnappings occur frequently across much of the country. Pick-pocketing and bag-snatching are particularly common in crowded areas of the main urban centers, including up-market areas of Nairobi. In rural parts of the country, ethnic tensions between communities over access to resources lead to sporadic clashes, with violence exacerbated by the widespread availability of firearms.

Civil unrest is highly common and disruptive nationwide, in both urban and rural areas. Major cities tend to see protests triggered by socio-political issues related to elections, ongoing parliamentary debates, and economic issues. Security services typically anticipate these movements and may restrict all movement city-centers. Smaller towns often experience limited unrest over lack of policing or local political issues, with protesters blocking local or national throughfares.

Overland travel can be hazardous, especially for foreign travelers unfamiliar with the local driving environment. Although road conditions are better in Nairobi compared to rural areas, traffic accidents are frequent due to poor driving standards.

## Security

3.50 - High

The security threat in Kenya remains elevated due to the persistence of terrorist elements, high crime rates, recurrent civil unrest, and concerns over security services. The terrorist threat primarily emanates from the Somalia-based al-Shabaab group and its sympathizers in Kenya. Most al-Shabaab-related incidents occur in remote areas of counties bordering Somalia, though high-profile attacks have also been staged or thwarted in Kenya's main urban centers.

Ordinarily, the most significant threat to travelers in Kenya comes from criminal activity. Crime rates are high in urban centers, with foreign nationals frequently targeted in armed robberies, residential burglaries, and carjackings, as well as incidents of petty theft. Perpetrators are often armed and may quickly resort to violence if met with resistance. Protests are held regularly over a range of local political and environmental issues and can quickly become violent or draw an aggressive response from security forces. Ethnic and tribal violence, exacerbated by armed banditry, occurs in some rural areas.

## Civil Unrest

● 3.50

### *Current situation*

Kenya regularly experiences highly disruptive and often violent civil unrest in both urban and rural areas. In recent years, the most significant bouts of protests have been led by younger populations – or “Gen Z” – in opposition to the voting of the Finance Bill in Parliament. In both 2024 and 2025, these triggered nationwide deadly violence, including in Nairobi. Dozens of protesters died, hundreds were injured, and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) alleged that authorities abducted both protesters and non-protesters during the 2024 unrest.

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Triggers:

- Rising food and fuel costs, which have a significant impact on the already economically-challenged population.
- Labor issues involving informal traders over the removal of vending stalls by authorities, or civil servants over working conditions and better wages.
- The publication of the Finance Bill, usually expected in May-June, is likely to lead to additional opposition protests.
- Notable protest anniversaries, including on June 25 and “Saba Saba Day” on July 7.

## Background

Smaller protests regularly occur, with socio-economic disparities frequently leading to perturbative unrest and strikes. Protests are often caused by *boda boda* (motorcycle taxis) or *tuk-tuk* (three-wheel vehicle) drivers, by informal traders, or by student groups. Larger movements periodically occur in urban areas and tend to be politically-motivated. These regularly turn violent, with protesters throwing projectiles at security forces and aggressive police crowd dispersal techniques, resulting in hundreds of injuries and fatalities. Protests tend to be held near significant government buildings, in the CBDs, on university campuses, and along major arteries.

The security response is often forceful, significantly impacting ground travel. If possible, security services tend to anticipate unrest and cordon off protest hotspots. Recently, they even resorted to implementing a lockdown of Nairobi, establishing checkpoints on the outskirts reportedly only allowing official vehicles through. The success of this strategy in limiting unrest in 2025 will likely be replicated during future periods of heightened tension, including major parliamentary debates, high-profile trials, or other political flashpoints. However, while police may be able to prevent several thousand protesters from entering the capital, larger crowds could still overwhelm security cordons.

Outside of Nairobi, crackdowns on individuals believed to have links to Islamist extremist groups have also sparked unrest in Mombasa against the backdrop of long-standing ethno-religious grievances over inequality and alleged extra-judicial killings. In rural areas, residents may occasionally block national roads over local grievances or a lack of security services. These may lead to isolated skirmishes with authorities.

## Crime

● 4.00

Crime, both petty and violent, is one of the most serious threats facing travelers. Most of the crimes will likely involve pickpocketing, bag-snatching, and mugging, notably near transport hubs such as bus stations, railway stations, and airports. Violent crime – including carjackings or assault, murder, rape, highway banditry – with the use of knives or guns, is also possible. The threat is particularly high while travelling by car, as roadblocks are also frequently employed by criminals, passing themselves off as police officers or security guards. Perpetrators are often armed and quick to resort to violence if met with resistance. Credit card fraud is also a concern, with card skimming and hidden cameras being used to obtain sensitive information.

Criminal gangs continue to be a significant part of Kenya’s criminal landscape and are reportedly expanding to more organized structures. Gangs are becoming more decentralized and networked, expanding into new counties, actively recruiting unemployed youth, quickly adapting to law enforcement pressure, and embedding themselves into local transport, business and political systems. They are increasingly involved in extortion, drug trafficking, robbery and political violence. Affected counties are most located in southern and central Kenya, and include large urban areas, such as Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu.

These urban areas have among the highest levels of criminal activity in the region. While lower-income suburbs are the most affected by criminal activity, residents and expatriates in more affluent areas of these cities have frequently been targeted in residential burglaries and armed robberies due to their perceived relative wealth. Foreign nationals have been wounded or killed during robberies, including carjacking incidents. Residents may resort to mob justice and lynching, often in reaction to suspected theft.

Despite reports suggesting a decline in incidents, banditry poses a significant risk in rural areas. Security operations have led to a shift from large-scale cattle rustling and organized bandit attacks in the North Rift counties, to smaller, mobile and more commercially driven criminal networks. Banditry appears closely linked to organized crime. Sophisticated weapons and terror-style tactics are used to steal illegal firearms and commercial livestock rather than purely ordinary cattle rustling. Recent trends have noted a concentration of attacks in a large northwestern quarter of Kenya. Attacks can occur in game parks popular with tourists. There have also been several incidents of violence targeting Kenyan and foreign adults in rural areas who have been accused of abducting children.

## Kidnapping

● 4.00

The threat of kidnapping in Kenya is high. The most common types of abduction likely include basic opportunistic kidnap-for-ransom and terrorist-related kidnapping.

The threat is most pronounced near the area along the highly porous border with Somalia, through which criminals and militant groups from Somalia are known to traverse. Garissa County, Kilifi County, Boni forest and coastal areas north of Pate Island and the Lamu Archipelago are also subject to an elevated threat from militant, pirate and criminal groups. The kidnapping threat is particularly high in the vicinity of the Dadaab refugee camp, in the former North Eastern Province, where numerous Kenyan and foreign aid workers have been abducted in recent years.

Organized criminal syndicates operate alongside opportunistic and unsophisticated gangs in major urban centers such as Nairobi. Short-term, low-reward kidnappings are believed to be common. However, pre-planned abductions involving longer-term surveillance also occur, usually involving higher income or profile individuals. Most kidnappings affect locals; however, foreign nationals have also been targeted. Victims may face the threat of injury or death during confinement.

## Terrorism

● 3.50

The nationwide terrorist threat remains high but is spread unevenly between northern and southern Kenya. The primary terrorist threat in Kenya remains the Somalia-based al-Shabaab group, which espouses a hardline Islamist, anti-Western ideology and has conducted numerous attacks in the country. The group continues to threaten further operations in retaliation for Kenya's involvement in the AU Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM) – which took over from the AU Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) in 2015 – and its military support for the Somali federal government. Security forces regularly claim foiling terrorist plots, while foreign diplomatic missions regularly issue travel advisories and warnings regarding potential terrorist threats.

Most attacks attributed to al-Shabaab are small-scale and occur in the northeastern counties of Garissa, Mandera, Wajir, and Lamu along the Somali border. Attacks near the border occur regularly and typically involve improvised explosive devices (IEDs) targeting security patrols and civilian vehicles on remote roads; however, police outposts, local communities, and infrastructure are also frequently targeted in hit-and-run attacks. Higher-profile attacks have also taken place in Nairobi and Mombasa – the latest remaining the DusitD2 hotel attack in 2019 in Nairobi, which killed 21 people.

Although al-Shabaab operations are predominantly focused in vulnerable rural areas along the country's northeastern border, the group has also sought to conduct larger attacks against more symbolic and high-profile targets and foreign interests. These include tourist sites, foreign military forces, hotels, restaurants, and other sites in towns and cities nationwide. There is also a significant terrorism-related kidnapping threat against foreign nationals, including tourists, business travelers, and NGO staff, particularly in areas along the coast, around refugee camps, and in eastern counties bordering Somalia.

## Armed Conflict

● 3.00

The threat of armed conflict in Kenya is considered moderate, with the most tangible threats stemming from militant activity in neighboring Somalia. The Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) remain deployed against the al-Shabaab militant group under the AU's Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM), which took over from the AU Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS). In response to the KDF presence, the al-Qaeda affiliate al-Shabaab has threatened retaliation in Kenya and has carried out attacks on several occasions.

There has been sustained violence in the northeastern counties of Garissa, Mandera and Wajir. Roads near the border with Somalia have seen recurrent improvised explosive device (IED) attacks on security patrols and civilian vehicles. The vulnerability of the shared border to incursions, limited law enforcement capacity in remote areas, and local grievances have contributed to al-Shabaab's ability to operate across the frontier. These attacks remain occasional, and a large-scale war appears unlikely at present.

Full-scale conflict between Kenya and its neighbors appears unlikely at present. The Ilemi Triangle border dispute with Uganda and South Sudan appears the most likely to create tensions. While the issue has not yet triggered open conflict, and none appears imminent, the presence of oil and other natural resources could lead to future tensions. Regular political disputes between Kenyan and Tanzanian authorities are also of concern. Tensions notably increased with neighboring Tanzania amid the latter's 2025 election: Kenyan nationals were alleged to be crossing into Tanzania to support opposition protesters. Hundreds of thousands of Kenyans live in Tanzania, sparking fears of reprisal. Two Kenyan nationals were allegedly killed in the unrest. In 2021, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled against Kenya in its dispute over the maritime border with Somalia, also significant due to the presence of oil, largely ending the legal quarrel.

Domestically, the recurrent localized outbreaks of inter- and intra-ethnic conflict remains a credible concern, mostly over competition over grazing land and water, politics, historical land disputes, cross-border cattle raids, climate-related displacement, marginalization and economic inequality. The most affected counties are primarily in the Rift Valley, northern Kenya and some coastal and border regions. Mediation efforts by authorities appears to have had limited success. There are concerns that ethnic violence may increase amid contested election campaigns.

## Security Services

4.00

The capabilities and responsiveness of security services in Kenya are generally poor. Although Kenya has different security forces, the tourist police are likely to be the most relevant for foreign nationals, while expatriates and locals typically interact with the general service unit of the Kenya police. Police officers are typically able to speak English. Officers may solicit bribes from foreigners when responding to a crime or emergency, or at a security checkpoint.

Riot police commonly employ force to disperse public demonstrations and rallies that police commanders and local government officials deem unlawful. In Kenya, foreign nationals should avoid security forces when possible and instead liaise with their diplomatic mission.

## Infrastructure

3.25 - Moderate

There are no major concerns over domestic or international air travel in and out of Kenya.

Road travel is hazardous in many areas of Kenya with road traffic collisions being relatively common. Poor roads, reckless driving, excessive speed, inadequately-maintained vehicles and alcohol consumption are significant factors in many collisions.

The ports are considered inefficient due to delays, supply chain disruptions, additional costs, and reduced competitiveness.

Electricity infrastructure is inadequate in many areas and the aging energy network and insufficient generation capacity cause frequent blackouts, although connection rates are relatively high by regional standards. Internet penetration rates are also high, and mobile data networks are reliable in most urban centers.

There are increasing concerns over the threat from cyber-attacks, particularly targeting small businesses in Kenya.

## Ground Transport

● 3.75

Road conditions in major urban centers, including Nairobi, are relatively good by regional standards. However, away from major arterial routes, roads in rural areas are generally unpaved and poorly maintained. Drivers compete with pedestrians, human-propelled carts, *boda-bodas* (motorcycle taxis), *tuk-tuks* (three-wheelers), and *matatus* (minibuses), any of which may swerve and can stop without warning or dart in and out of traffic. Road traffic collisions are common and often involve public transport vehicles. Kenya has a high road traffic fatality rate due to reckless driving, excessive speed, poorly-maintained vehicles and alcohol consumption. Road travel is further threatened by banditry and carjacking that can occur in urban or rural areas.

Public transport is not recommended for foreign travelers. These include *matatus* or shared minibus taxis and buses. The threats to overland travel extend to public transport, with many drivers being poorly trained and vehicles lacking adequate safety features. In general, public transportation has a poor safety record and high rates of petty crime. *Matatus* are notorious for their poor safety record and are frequently involved in fatal road traffic collisions. Rail services are available between Nairobi and Kisumu and between Nairobi and Mombasa, with the latter route having recently been upgraded. The government has invested significantly in Kenya's rail network in recent years with plans for a major expansion through a Chinese-funded development project. However, many routes are aged and rail travel other than between Nairobi and Mombasa can be relatively slow.

### Local Buses

● Unrated

Intercity buses are available between most major cities, and city buses are available in most urban areas. Petty theft and other activities pose a low threat to travelers. Terrorists have attacked city buses in Kenya in the past decade.

### Mass Transit

● Unrated

Kenya does not have a metro system.

### Taxis

● Unrated

Taxis are readily available in most major cities in Kenya. Ride-sharing services accessed through mobile applications are also widely available. Tensions between traditional taxi operators and app-based ride-sharing services have, at times, escalated into violence and vandalism, creating a potential security risk for users of these services.

Informal taxi systems are also present in urban areas; however, they are not suitable for foreign travelers.

### Train Travel

● Unrated

#### Train Safety

Trains in Kenya generally have a good safety record, particularly on the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR). Derailments and major rail incidents involving passenger trains are infrequent. Petty crime poses a moderate threat, and incidents such as theft can occur, especially in crowded areas.

#### Reliability and Availability

Rail travel is available between a small number of major cities, most notably between Nairobi and Mombasa via the Chinese-built SGR between Nairobi and Mombasa. Passenger rail infrastructure in major urban centers such as Nairobi and Mombasa is significantly more developed than in smaller towns and rural areas.

### International Rail Travel

Kenya does not have any international rail connections.

### Vehicles and Roads

● Unrated

Road safety conditions in Kenya are adequate. Traffic drives on the left. Roads in cities are paved. Roads in rural areas are unpaved. Drivers generally ignore traffic laws. Police lightly enforce traffic laws. Serious traffic accidents are common. Foreigners planning to drive in Kenya must have an International Driver's Permit (IDP). Car rentals are available in most major cities.

### International Road Travel

Kenya has international road connections with Tanzania, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda and Somalia. Connections between Kenya and Tanzania, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda are subject to border controls, and passengers may be required to pass through customs before crossing. Connections between Kenya and Somalia are subject to security developments.

### Cyber

● 3.00

### Geostrategic Concerns

The cybersecurity environment in Kenya presents an overall medium-high level of threat – this is shaped by the balance between threat activity, institutional capacity, and digital resilience. Kenya faces significant exposure to state-linked cyber espionage, with frequent targeting of government institutions, defense, finance, telecoms, and the presidency. Broader risks include surveillance overreach, election interference, and digital disruption, with exposure varying according to political cycles, alliance structures, and infrastructure resilience.

The legal and regulatory environment in Kenya is evolving, with key measures including the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act (2018), Data Protection Act (2019), and National Cybersecurity Strategy (2022–2027). These laws impose requirements on data protection, breach reporting, and incident response, but their effectiveness is assessed as medium, reflecting selective application and resource gaps. Institutional capacity is provided by the National Computer and Cybercrimes Coordination Committee (NC4) and KE-CIRT/CC, which ensures partial coordination between government, private sector, and critical infrastructure providers. Overall, domestic digital infrastructure is moderately secure, with protection strongest in financial services and weakest in energy, ports, and legacy government systems.

### Cybercrime

Cybercrime in Kenya is assessed as a medium-high threat. Common threats include phishing, ransomware, SIM swap fraud, business email compromise (BEC), and cryptocurrency scams, with small businesses, multinational firms, and mobile money users most vulnerable to compromise. Kenya also experiences intellectual property theft, supply chain compromise, and growing state–criminal overlap in advanced fraud networks.

Law enforcement capacity is limited, with authorities under-resourced in addressing cybercrime, and regulatory enforcement is uneven. Cooperation with international partners is emerging through Interpol, AU mechanisms, and bilateral training programs. Systemic resilience depends heavily on public–private coordination, institutional resources, and global partnerships – all of which remain underdeveloped despite Kenya's digital ambitions.

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**Maritime**
 3.25

Maritime disruptions in Kenya are likely to occur due to the neighboring country of Somalia and its pirate activity. The threat has primarily decreased over the past years, but opportunistic attacks remain possible.

**Air Travel**
 2.25

There are no major concerns over domestic or international air travel in and out of Kenya. The country meets most International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards, as determined by the US Federal Aviation Administration. None of the country's airlines are on the list of banned airlines in the EU.

Kenya's primary airport is Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (NBO), located approximately 15 km (9 miles) southeast of Nairobi's Central Business District. There are also international airports in surrounding cities: Mombasa's Moi International Airport (MBA), Eldoret International Airport (EDL), Kisumu International Airport (KIS), and Wajir Airport (WJR).

Intermittent worker strikes occur frequently at NBO and occasionally at the country's other international airports. Strikes can cause severe flight disruptions, including delays and cancellations. Several airports, including NBO, have poor infrastructure, leading to frequent power outages and leaks. Petty crimes such as pickpocketing and bag snatching can occur at the country's airports and transport hubs outside airports.

Travel to and from NBO is a significant concern. Travelers driving between the airport and central Nairobi are advised to use the Nairobi Expressway/Mombasa Road as other routes, including Airport South Road and Jogoo Road, have been targeted by carjackers. There are shuttle buses available to and from NBO, but it is recommended to use a tour or taxi company, especially if traveling at night, for increased safety. Airports and routes to airports can get busy during rush hour, and it is recommended to allocate additional time for check-in.

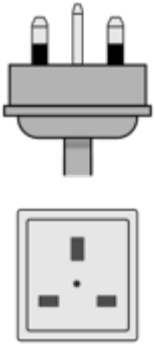
**Utilities**
 3.00

Power outages are common in Kenya, partly because of the country's aging energy network and insufficient generation capacity. Many businesses in Nairobi and other major urban centers operate backup generators to ensure continuity of supply. KenGen is the country's largest generator of electricity, providing around 80 percent of the energy supply. About 55 percent of Kenyan homes are connected to the national grid, one of the highest connection rates in Sub-Saharan Africa. However, per capita consumption in domestic households remains low. About 85 percent of the population has access to the Internet via any device and connection, with the high internet penetration rate being largely attributed to the availability of low-cost data packages and smartphones, especially from Asian device manufacturers. Mobile networks are reliable in major urban centers but signal strength may be weaker in rural areas. Mobile data connections can also be found in the capital and its suburbs as well as some other major cities.

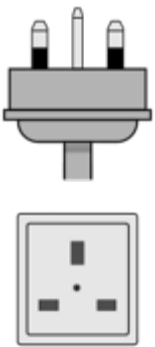
**Electricity**
 Unrated

Electricity is supplied in Kenya at 240 V, 50 Hz. Kenya uses Type G plugs.

**Plug Types**



## Types de prises



## Internet and Telecommunications

● Unrated

Internet service in Kenya is widely available in most public accommodations and internet cafes. However, proposed regulations may require internet cafes to install CCTV surveillance systems and collect user identification information. Proposed legislation may also mandate Internet Service Providers to monitor and report customer online activities to the Communications Authority of Kenya.

## Environment

2.75 - Moderate

Western Kenya occasionally experiences low-to-moderate intensity earthquakes. However, earthquakes above magnitude five are rare. Flooding is also common during the long rainy season between April and June, and a shorter one from October to November. Much of the country is also prone to droughts, which can lead to food insecurity across the country.

The terrorist threat in northern Kenya has led to increasing landmine and unexploded ordnance contamination, particularly in areas along the border with Somalia. Due to their active use, contamination levels cannot be accurately assessed and all potential landmine sites should be considered unmarked.

## Man-Made Hazards

● 2.50

After years of instability and sporadic conflict, areas along Kenya's border with Somalia have long been considered to suffer from a significant level of unexploded ordnance contamination. The remoteness of the frontier and continuing threat from al-Shabaab mean that incidents involving unexploded ordnance in the region are rarely reported, but the militant group have periodically placed landmines on border roads used by security forces patrols, presenting an indiscriminate threat to travelers. Incidents involving unexploded ordnance are also occasionally reported around areas utilized by the police and armed forces for training purposes.

## Seismic

 2.75

Nairobi lies on the eastern edge of the Rift Valley, a seismically active region, and occasionally experiences low to moderate intensity earthquakes. However, earthquakes above magnitude five are rare. While earthquakes generally do not cause significant damage or casualties, many buildings outside of central Nairobi are built to inadequate standards and may experience significant damage, even during relatively minor seismic events.

A number of volcanoes form a chain across the Eastern African Rift in western Kenya. Although they are largely considered dormant, the volcanoes have not been extensively monitored or analyzed. Some areas around these volcanoes have become relatively densely populated, meaning many people would likely be at risk if an anomalous eruption were to occur.

## Storm Systems

 3.25

Flooding is a frequent hazard during Kenya's long rains season (March–May) and short rains (October–December). Coastal counties, floodplains around Lake Victoria, and areas along the Tana River are especially vulnerable to flooding. Heavy rains and inundation in these zones often lead to mass displacement of communities, damage to infrastructure, and disruption of public services. In addition, intense rainfall can trigger landslides, particularly at higher elevations in western Kenya.

## Natural Hazards

 2.50

Forecast models indicate an increased likelihood of wetter-than-normal conditions over most of the Greater Horn of Africa, including Burundi, Djibouti, coastal Eritrea, southern Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, southern South Sudan, far northeastern Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda, October-December as El Niño strengthens. Early to normal onset is likely across much of the eastern and southern parts of the region, including Somalia, central and eastern Kenya, southern Ethiopia, and most of Tanzania. An increased likelihood of warmer-than-average temperatures is forecast across most of the region, with the highest probabilities over the eastern parts, particularly eastern Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, and most of Somalia.

The October-December season is a critical rainfall period for the equatorial and southern parts of the Greater Horn of Africa, contributing up to 70 percent of total annual rainfall in parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, and up to 40 percent of total annual rainfall in parts of Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Daytime temperatures in Kenya average between 20 C (68 F) and 28 C (82 F). There are two dominant influences on the country's climate, the monsoon winds from the Indian Ocean and altitude. The winds determine the onset of Kenya's two rainy seasons, with the hot northeast monsoon or kaskazi blowing dry air in from the Persian Gulf November-March/April and the warm, moist kusi monsoon blowing in from the southeast April/May-October. The slightly cooler kusi normally delivers the heaviest rain, a season known as the 'long rains', in late April, May, and early June. The relatively cool season, late June-October, is drier. There is a second rainy season, the 'short rains', for a few weeks in November and December, followed roughly from mid-December-March by a hot dry season.

## Air Quality

 Unrated

Air pollution routinely exceeds recommended thresholds in urban areas. Individuals with asthma or chronic cardiorespiratory conditions should consult with a healthcare provider and carry necessary medications. On days when air quality is particularly poor, affected individuals should take personal precautions to reduce respiratory stress.

## Health and Medical

3.75 - High

Mosquito-borne diseases are the leading health hazard in Kenya, with malaria posing the primary year-round threat. Kenya has a high burden of HIV and tuberculosis and experiences recurrent cholera outbreaks linked to flooding and inadequate water and sanitation infrastructure. The country has also been managing an mpox outbreak since mid-2024. Yellow fever vaccination is required, as Kenya lies within the endemic zone and experiences sporadic outbreaks.

Adequate medical facilities are available in Nairobi and Mombasa, but the quality and availability of healthcare are substantially lower in rural areas and smaller towns. Pharmaceutical shortages and substandard or counterfeit medicines are recurring problems outside the main cities. Mental health services are limited and unevenly distributed. Tap water is not considered safe to drink.

## Disease and Health Threats

3.75

### Diseases of High Risk

- **Malaria:** Malaria is endemic across Kenya and is present year-round; risk is low in Nairobi and the central highlands and generally higher in western Kenya, the Lake Victoria basin, and the coast. Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. Symptoms most commonly include fever, chills, headaches and body aches, nausea and vomiting, and general malaise, usually developing after 10–28 days. Preventive medications (prophylaxis) are available and recommended for most travelers.
- **Traveler's Diarrhea:** This is the most common illness in travelers. Transmitted by contaminated food and water. People who become ill most often experience nausea, vomiting, fever, bloody stools, and/or the urge to constantly pass stool despite an empty gastrointestinal tract.
- **Hepatitis A:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. Hepatitis A does not always cause symptoms. If they occur, symptoms appear two to six weeks after exposure and include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, dark urine, loss of appetite, joint pain, and jaundice.
- **Typhoid Fever:** Transmitted by contaminated milk, water, and food. Raw fish and shellfish from contaminated waters are likely to be infected. Symptoms usually include fever, abdominal pain or discomfort, chills and body aches, weakness, and loss of appetite.
- **Hepatitis E:** Transmitted by contaminated food and water. Symptoms appear two to eight weeks after exposure and include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, joint pain, and jaundice.
- **Tuberculosis:** Kenya is a high-burden tuberculosis country. Transmitted through respiratory droplets released by coughing or sneezing. Individuals planning an extended stay should consider a PPD skin test to reference against future suspected infections. Symptoms commonly include chest pain, a bad cough lasting three weeks or longer, and coughing up blood and/or sputum; some people also experience chills, weight loss, fever, weakness, night sweats, and loss of appetite.

### Diseases of Moderate Risk

- **Mpox:** Kenya is experiencing sustained mpox transmission since July 2024; with transmission concentrated along the Mombasa–Malaba transport corridor, among high-risk groups (long-distance drivers and sex workers). Transmitted through close physical contact with an infected person, and contaminated materials. Symptoms include rash or skin lesions, fever, headache, muscle aches, and swollen lymph nodes. General short-term traveler risk is low. Vaccination is advised for travelers anticipating higher-risk contact.

- **Dengue Fever:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. Risk is greatest on the coast, including Mombasa, and in other low-lying urban areas; it is lower at Nairobi's elevation. Risk is year-round but highest from April to June and October to December. Symptoms include a sudden onset of fever with at least one of: severe headache, severe pain behind the eyes, muscle and/or joint pain, rash, easy bruising, and/or nose or gum bleeding, appearing abruptly four to seven days after being bitten.
- **Chikungunya:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. Periodic coastal and northeastern outbreaks have occurred (e.g., Mombasa and Mandera). Risk is highest from April to June and October to December. Symptoms commonly include fever, joint pain, muscle pain, headache, and rash three to seven days after being bitten; most recover within a week, but joint pain can persist for months.
- **Cholera:** Cholera is endemic and cyclical in Kenya, with recurrent outbreaks concentrated in informal urban settlements, refugee camps, and flood- and drought-affected border counties. Risk rises during and after the long rains. Transmitted by contaminated food and water. Most people have no symptoms or only mild diarrhea, but roughly one in 10 develop severe disease with profuse watery diarrhea, vomiting, rapid heart rate, low blood pressure, muscle cramps, and restlessness, typically two to three days after exposure.
- **Yellow Fever:** Kenya lies within the yellow fever endemic zone and is classified medium-to-high risk but confirmed activity has been limited to sporadic sylvatic outbreaks; no urban transmission has been recorded. Vaccination is a standing entry requirement for arrivals from risk countries. Symptoms include fever, muscle pain, backaches, and chills.
- **Schistosomiasis:** Transmitted via parasite larvae through contact with contaminated freshwater. Symptoms include an itchy rash, fever, muscle soreness, and cough. Without treatment it can persist for years, causing abdominal pain, blood in the urine or stool, difficulty passing urine, and an enlarged liver. Avoid swimming or wading in freshwater lakes and rivers, notably Lake Victoria and associated waterways.
- **African Tick-Bite Fever:** Transmitted through tick bites, often during bush, safari, or rural activities. Risk is year-round in rural areas and highest from November to April. Symptoms usually develop within two weeks and include fever, headache, and muscle soreness; many patients develop a dark-centred sore at the bite site. Bite prevention is essential.

#### Diseases of Low Risk

- **African Sleeping Sickness (Trypanosomiasis):** Transmitted through tsetse fly bites, chiefly in game parks and rural wooded areas. If untreated, it usually progresses to death. Risk is localized and low for most travelers.
- **Rift Valley Fever:** Human risk is episodic, flaring during major epizootics that follow heavy rains and flooding; it is otherwise low and largely confined to those in contact with livestock. Transmitted through mosquito bites, contact with infected animals, or consuming contaminated livestock products (primarily unpasteurized milk). Most cases are asymptomatic or mild.
- **Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF):** Transmitted through the bite of an infected tick or contact with contaminated blood or tissue of infected animals or humans. Risk is low and confined to livestock-handling settings in arid and semi-arid areas. Symptoms appear one to nine days after exposure and include fever, neck pain, photosensitivity, severe headache, nausea, confusion, abdominal pain, and bleeding.
- **Leishmaniasis:** Transmitted through the bites of sandflies, with greatest risk occur in parts of the Rift Valley and northern/eastern Kenya. Cutaneous leishmaniasis causes usually painless skin sores; visceral leishmaniasis causes high fever, substantial weight loss, swelling of the spleen and liver, and anemia and is can be fatal if untreated.
- **Leptospirosis:** Transmitted through water contaminated with the urine of infected animals; flooding increases risk. Initial symptoms develop two days to four weeks after exposure and include headache, fever, muscle aches, chills, diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain. Those at high risk can take antibiotic prophylaxis.

- **Meningococcal Disease:** Kenya lies on the sub-Saharan meningitis belt; risk is low for most travelers but higher in crowded settings and during the dry season. Transmitted through respiratory droplets. The most common symptoms
- **Rabies:** Transmitted through the saliva of infected wild or domesticated mammals, usually by a bite or scratch. Rabies is present in domestic and wild animals nationwide. Do not approach unfamiliar animals; wild and domestic animals pose a threat.
- **Hepatitis B:** Transmitted through infected blood and bodily fluids and effectively prevented by vaccination. Practice safe sex and ensure medical procedures, tattoos, or piercings use sterile equipment. Symptoms include fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fatigue, dark urine, loss of appetite, joint pain, and jaundice.
- **HIV/AIDS:** Kenya has a high national HIV burden. Transmitted through infected blood and bodily fluids. Practice safe sex and ensure medical procedures, tattoos, or piercings use sterile equipment. Within two to four weeks of infection many people experience an influenza-like illness (acute retroviral syndrome). Without treatment, infection can progress to AIDS.
- **Zika Virus:** Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito, or sexually through an infected partner. Often asymptomatic; when present, symptoms resemble dengue and chikungunya. Significant birth defects are associated with infection in pregnancy; partners of women who have recently traveled to areas with Zika circulation are advised to use condoms for at least six months or the duration of the pregnancy.
- **Altitude Sickness:** Some locations in Kenya exceed 2,440 metres (8,000 feet), including Mount Kenya and the Aberdares. Ascend gradually to allow acclimatization and watch for signs of altitude sickness or more severe manifestations.

## Health Requirements

● Unrated

### Yellow Fever: Vaccination Required

Kenya is classified as a yellow fever-endemic country. Many countries require proof of yellow fever vaccination or a valid medical waiver for any traveler who has visited or transited through endemic countries. Be sure to check yellow fever vaccine requirements for the next country or countries on your itinerary. A single-dose, full-strength yellow fever vaccine is valid for life.

Vaccination is required upon arrival for all travelers aged one year and over who have visited or transited through an airport in a country with a risk of yellow fever transmission. Vaccination is recommended for all travelers aged nine months or over, except those traveling exclusively in Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu, Malindi, and Tana River in the Coast Province, the North Eastern Province, and the cities of Mombasa and Nairobi.

### HIV Testing

No known restrictions

## Health Recommendations

● Unrated

### Recommended Immunizations for Travel to Kenya

Travelers should ensure that they have routine vaccination courses and boosters. You should visit a healthcare professional at least four to six weeks before the trip. Routine vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, varicella (chickenpox), polio, and the annual flu vaccine. Travelers should consider obtaining COVID-19 vaccination where available, even if the destination country does not require it.

- **Cholera:** Unless contraindicated, it is recommended for individuals staying in endemic areas or where there are current outbreaks. Cholera vaccine is not a substitute for thorough hand washing with soap and water, observing good personal hygiene, and taking food

and water precautions. Three WHO pre-qualified oral cholera vaccines (OCV) exist: Dukoral, Shanchol, and Euvichol. All of these require two doses for full protection.

- **Hepatitis A:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated. Two doses, administered at least six months apart, are required for long-lasting protection. It is recommended that all susceptible people traveling for any purpose, frequency, or duration to countries with high or intermediate hepatitis A endemicity be vaccinated or receive immune globulin before departure. A booster is recommended for partially vaccinated travelers.
- **Hepatitis B:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated. Widely used formulations require three doses administered over the course of six to 18 months, depending on the recipient's age and vaccination history. Booster doses after a complete series are usually not required to maintain immunity. If exposed before finalizing the full series, individuals may receive a special booster within 24 hours for short-term protection.
- **Meningococcal:** Recommended for individuals traveling to a country where meningococcal meningitis is present and where their stay may be prolonged or they are involved in activities that may increase their personal risk of exposure to the disease, such as working in a healthcare setting and/or living closely with the local population. Vaccination should ideally be administered at least seven to ten days before travel. Unless contraindicated, one dose is required, with a booster three to five years later. Kenya lies within the meningococcal disease belt of sub-Saharan Africa.
- **Rabies:** Unless contraindicated, the WHO and CDC recommend vaccination for individuals who will be performing occupational or recreational activities that increase the risk for exposure to potentially rabid animals, such as animal handlers, field biologists, cavers, missionaries, veterinarians, and some laboratory workers. It is also recommended for travelers who might have difficulty getting prompt access to safe post-exposure prophylaxis. Kenya has reported rabies in domestic and wild animals, thus most travelers are at risk. Bats are likely to carry bat rabies.
- **Typhoid Fever:** Recommended for most individuals unless contraindicated, especially those staying with friends or relatives in endemic areas or visiting smaller cities or rural areas. Widely used formulations require between two and four doses, depending on the formulation and the recipient's vaccination history. Booster vaccination is required every two or five years depending on the formulation. The last dose should be taken at least one week before travel.

## Medical Facilities and Services

● 3.25

Medical services in Nairobi and other large cities are adequate for most conditions and emergencies and approach international standards. Outside major urban centers, medical infrastructure may be challenged, inadequate, or absent. Hospitals and doctors usually require advance payment or proof of insurance before admitting a patient. Ambulance and emergency response services are limited and may lack equipment and trained staff; reaching a hospital is often quicker by private transport. Most serious emergencies require treatment in Nairobi or evacuation to a country with more advanced facilities, so comprehensive travel insurance including medical evacuation is strongly advised.

## Medications and Pharmacy

● Unrated

Pharmacies across Kenya are readily available in Nairobi, but access is limited outside of the city. Supply of most medicines needed by travelers is limited due to frequent shortages. Travelers are advised to only purchase medications from pharmacies associated with university-affiliated hospitals as counterfeit medications are common. Prior to travelling confirm the status of your "over the counter" medicines with accredited foreign government offices of Kenya in your country. Always carry your prescription medication in its original packaging, along with your doctor's prescription and any other relevant documentation.

## Mental Health

● 3.00

Mental health services are unevenly distributed, with significant disparities between urban and rural areas, and conditions are moderately managed.

## Food and Water Safety

 4.00

Drinking water is generally unsafe in Kenya. Use only bottled, boiled, or otherwise purified water for drinking and cooking. Do not use ice cubes made from unpurified water sources. Eat only thoroughly cooked food served hot, or fruits and vegetables that you have cleaned and peeled; avoid salads. Consume only pasteurized milk and dairy products, or use powdered or canned milk and cured cheeses. Avoid street vendors and unregulated food establishments.

## Political

 3.50 - High

Due to political tension between the ruling Kenya Kwanza Coalition (KKC) party and the Opposition Azimio la Umoja-One Kenya Coalition Party over the 2022 August general elections fraud claims, socioeconomic, political, religious, or security concerns, strikes and demonstrations are common and usually violent. Previous demonstrations had led to nationwide civil unrest and regular clashes with security forces. Moreover, protesters committed arson, including burning public service and public transport vehicles and robbing gas cylinders from a fuel station; acts of looting were also reported nationwide.

Corruption remains a significant concern in Kenya and is generally perceived as penetrating every level of society. A weak judicial system and frequent demands for bribes by public officials have led to increased business costs for foreign investors.

## Corruption

 4.25

Corruption, active and passive bribery, abuse of office, and bribing foreign public officials are criminalized under the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act 2003, but facilitation payments are not addressed under the law. Adequate enforcement of Kenya's anti-corruption framework is an issue because of weak and corrupt public institutions. The 2025 Kenya Bribery Index indicates that 25 percent of respondents encountered bribery situations, with the police, land services, and civil registration emerging as the most bribery-prone sectors.

## Government Stability

 3.50

Political uncertainty persists as tensions continue to rise between the ruling Kenya Kwanza Coalition (KKC) and the opposition Azimio la Umoja-One Kenya Coalition Party (Azimio). The crisis began following Azimio's general elections defeat in August 2022 and a subsequent Supreme Court decision confirming KKC leader President William Ruto, as the winner despite the opposition's claims of election fraud. In response, Azimio leader Raila Odinga called for a series of nationwide protests denouncing the government over the high cost of living and President Ruto's 2023 Finance Bill – a tax reform bill that has been passed in the National Assembly but cannot be implemented pending of a constitutional challenge filed with the High Court. The escalating animosity between the two parties has raised alarms over Kenya's stability in the near term; negotiations by a bi-partisan committee have collapsed, and Azimio has called for further nationwide protests in addition to launching a petition campaign to remove the incumbent president from power.

## Rule of Law

 3.75

The police in Kenya are mostly a reactive force, largely incapable of deterring crime. Response times are generally slow in urban areas and even worse in rural locations, where the police presence is minimal. In some cases, police lack the equipment, training, and resources to effectively respond to calls for assistance. Corruption is rampant at all levels of the police force. Local and international rights groups have

frequently accused the Kenyan police force of corruption, engaging in criminal activity, and carrying out extrajudicial killings, particularly against members of the notorious Mungiki gang, a political-religious sect based in the slums of Nairobi heavily involved in extortion, organized criminal activity, and even engineering political violence. Allegations of extra-judicial killings have occasionally sparked large-scale protests. Kenyan police generally cannot be relied upon to provide effective assistance to foreign nationals outside of tourist areas such as game reserves.

Homosexuality is illegal in Kenya and punishable by up to 21 years in prison. Although prosecutions have tended to focus on sex workers and high-profile individuals, there is generally a low tolerance of homosexuality in the country, and even relatively minor public displays of affection, such as kissing and hand-holding, can result in harassment from police officers and members of the public. Discrimination based on sexual orientation also remains widespread in the country.

## Sanctions

1.50

There are currently no sanctions against Kenya, companies or members of the country's political and business elite being imposed by the UN, EU, or US.

However, in June 2025 the EU added Kenya to its list of high-risk third countries for deficiencies in anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT), subjecting financial transactions involving EU entities to enhanced due diligence and increased scrutiny.

## Legal

Unrated

Visitors to Kenya are subject to local laws, which may not mirror, either in whole or in part, those of their home country. Those deemed to be in violation, even unknowingly, may be fined, detained, imprisoned, or temporarily or permanently expelled. Those convicted of possessing, using, or trafficking in illegal narcotics could face heavy fines or imprisonment. Home-country consular officers are not typically systematically informed of a detention but are permitted to provide support services at the request of their detained citizens. When there is no treaty in force, notification and access depend on whether the two countries have direct or indirect diplomatic relations. Consular officers cannot interfere with local judicial proceedings, nor provide legal advice or representation at trial, and are unable to pay legal fees or fines with government funds. The status of dual nationals will be determined by local officials, with all attendant ramifications for access and support.

## Emergency Contacts

Unrated

### Emergency Contacts

**Ambulance** 999

**Fire** 999

**Police** 999

## Embassies and Consulates

Unrated

### United States Embassy

**Address** United Nations Avenue, Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya

**Fax** +254 20 363 6157

**Web site** <http://kenya.usembassy.gov>

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**German Embassy**

**Address** Ludwig Krapf House, Riverside Drive 113, Nairobi.

**Fax** +254 20 426 21 29

**Email** [info@nairobi.diplo.de](mailto:info@nairobi.diplo.de)

**Web site** <http://www.nairobi.diplo.de>

**French Embassy**

**Address** Peponi Gardens P.O. Box 41784  
00100 Nairobi

**Fax** (254-20) 277 8180

**Email** [ambafrance.nairobi@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:ambafrance.nairobi@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

**Web site** [www.ambafrance-ke.org](http://www.ambafrance-ke.org)

**Canadian High Commission**

**Address** Limuru Road, Gigiri (P.O. Box 1013), 00621- Nairobi

**Fax** (254-20) 366 3900

**Email** [nrobi-im-enquiry@international.gc.ca](mailto:nrobi-im-enquiry@international.gc.ca)

**Web site** <http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/kenya>

**European Commission**

**Address** Union Insurance Building, Ragati Road, Nairobi

**Fax** (254-20) 271 6481

**Email** [Delegation-Kenya@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Delegation-Kenya@eeas.europa.eu)

**Web site** [http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kenya/index\\_en.htm](http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kenya/index_en.htm)

**Austrian Embassy**

**Address** Limuru Road 536, Muthaiga (gegenÃ¼ber Muthaiga Mini Market), 00100, Nairobi

**Fax** (254-20) 406 0025

**Email** [nairobi-ob@bmeia.gv.at](mailto:nairobi-ob@bmeia.gv.at)

**Web site** [www.aussenministerium.at/nairobi](http://www.aussenministerium.at/nairobi)

**British High Commission**

**Address** Upper Hill Road, Nairobi

**Fax** (254-20) 284 4239

**Email** [Nairobi.Enquiries@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Nairobi.Enquiries@fco.gov.uk)

**Web site** <https://www.gov.uk/government/world/organisations/british-high-commission-nairobi>

**Australian High Commission**

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**Address** Riverside Drive, 400 mtrs off Chiromo Road, 39341 Nairobi

**Fax** (254-20) 427 7139

**Email** [australian.hc.kenya@dfat.gov.au](mailto:australian.hc.kenya@dfat.gov.au)

**Web site** <http://www.kenya.embassy.gov.au>

## Entry/Exit

Unrated

Travelers can obtain specific information about visas and other entry-exit requirements at: <https://entry-exit.crisis24horizon.com/>.

HIV testing is not required for entry into Kenya.

## Pre-Departure

Unrated

- Kenya faces serious security threats, and a risk assessment should be completed against the travel itinerary before traveling. Travelers should undertake a pre-travel security brief on the associated threats and operating environment and should have undertaken annual travel security training. Corruption penetrates all levels of society in Kenya and travelers should undertake bribery and corruption training before traveling.
- Adequate medical facilities can be found in Nairobi and Mombasa but the quality and availability of healthcare is substantially lower in rural areas and smaller towns. Travelers should undertake a pre-deployment medical brief and personal medical information should be recorded. Travelers should also ensure they have sufficient supplies of prescriptions or medicines to cover delays or lack of availability. Travelers should identify possible sources of medical support in Kenya, such as the availability of a hotel-provided doctor for minor ailments.
- Travelers should have adequate travel insurance in place to enable rapid medical treatment or emergency extraction from the country and should ensure that detailed contingency options, business continuity, crisis management and evacuation plans are in place should the situation in country deteriorate significantly.
- Civil unrest can lead to violence as well as disruption to transport and other services. Travelers should conduct research into the current situation in the country. If the travel dates coincide with planned elections, anniversaries or significant dates, additional measures may need to be taken. Travelers should confirm that businesses will be open and services will be operational. Periods of long-term unrest may result in the closure of banks and limits on the withdrawal of local currency.
- The travel itineraries should avoid sensitive areas, symbolic places and locations of frequent unrest or common targets where practicable.
- Travelers should provide friends and family with a copy of their travel itinerary, make a copy of important travel and identification documents, and if applicable, obtain their visa prior to arrival. Travelers should also have information on their meeting host, accommodation, relevant embassies and trusted local contacts easily accessible.
- Travelers should seek to register the trip and maintain regular communications with the appropriate diplomatic missions in Kenya. Travelers in remote areas should consider tracking their movements, such as via a smartphone app, and should seek to liaise with a company HQ on a daily basis.
- Cyber-criminals target both organizations and individuals. Travelers should implement a comprehensive suite of IT security measures for electronic devices, such as traveling with clean devices, ensuring that all personal information and sensitive files are sanitized, and implementing a Full Disk Encryption (FDE). Travelers should also not check business or personal electronic devices with their luggage at the airport.

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## On Arrival

● Unrated

- Travelers should aim to arrive into Kenya in daylight where possible and should pre-book the first night's accommodation. Travelers should have a meet and greet procedure in place and minimize the time spent in the common areas of the airport, which are less protected. Travelers should proceed through arrivals in a timely manner, and depart as soon as practicably possible.
- Travelers should carry a copy of their travel documents at all times.

## In Transit

● Unrated

- Travelers should use vetted transport providers, with security trained drivers in low-profile vehicles. The use of a security co-ordinator may be required if traveling to higher threat environments. Travel should be pre-booked as much as possible, in order that safe routes may be identified. Travelers should phone ahead to their destinations before departure and should not detour from their planned itinerary.
- Travelers should travel with minimal non-essential valuable items, any valuables should not be displayed publicly.
- Travelers should vary routes and timings and should minimize road travel after dark.

## At Your Hotel

● Unrated

- Travelers should stay at a reputable hotel with good standards of international-level security and should avoid hotels that have scheduled high-profile conferences during the stay. Hotels should be located in areas of town that have not previously witnessed demonstrations or terrorist attacks and are not marred by ethnic or political tensions. Ideally, hotels should be located away from chokepoints and not surrounded by other high-profile targets.
- Secure transportation should be available between the hotel and airports. The hotel should have emergency power generators, in good working condition, with adequate access to a fuel supply and emergency communications.
- On arrival at the hotel, ensure the driver stays on site until your check-in has been confirmed. Similarly before departing to the airport when leaving the hotel, ensure your driver waits until your flight check-in is confirmed.
- Travelers should favor rooms on floors between 2 and 6, and as far as possible from the main entrance and principal public areas. Rooms with access from a side balcony or fire escape should be avoided.
- Travelers should always lock the door (and any connecting doors) to their room and use the chain or spy hole when receiving a visitor. Do not open the door to your hotel room, especially late at night, until you have confirmed the visitor's identity and meet strangers in the lobby, not in your room.
- Travelers should leave any electronic equipment at the office or with their hosts and, before retiring, secure any valuables and confidential documents.

## In the Street

● Unrated

- Travelers should avoid leaving the hotel alone after dark.
- Travelers should be aware of the national culture and behavioral expectations. Kenya's coastal areas are predominantly Muslim and travelers should dress conservatively in areas outside of tourist resorts. Travelers should maintain a low profile, not become involved in local political issues and avoid discussing politically sensitive topics in public. Homosexuality is illegal in Kenya and punishable by up to 21 years in

prison. There is generally a low tolerance of homosexuality in the country and even relatively minor public displays of affection can result in harassment from police officers and members of the public.

- Travelers should be aware that photographing government buildings or military facilities may result in detention by authorities. Curfews or orders issued by the government should be heeded.

- Travelers should avoid any demonstrations, protests and rallies, which may attract security forces and present a dynamic and volatile environment. Travelers should avoid sensitive areas and, during periods of heightened tension, symbolic places such as police stations, government buildings, fast food restaurants, and banks as well as locations of previous protests. Where practicable, travelers should avoid major roads, squares and high traffic areas as they are likely to be crowded with protesters.

- Travelers should avoid overt displays of wealth, dress discreetly and appropriately to the environment, not display money, jewelry or valuables and maintain a low profile. Travelers should settle small bills with cash, and have a spare credit card available. Travelers should use only small denominations of the local currency, and keep large amounts of cash and cards in a separate place on their person. The contents of wallets or purses should be reduced, particularly cards which may denote affiliations, memberships or accounts. Credit or debit cards should not be used unless absolutely necessary and then only at respected, well-known retail and service establishments.

- Travelers should ensure that their mobile phone is carried with sufficient battery life and programmed with appropriate emergency numbers. Travelers should also carry an ID card or passport and emergency medical information.

- Travelers should be aware of their location and surroundings. Avoid high-crime areas and walking through dimly lit streets after dark. Travelers should know routes and carry a map if necessary, but keep it concealed. In crowded situations, travelers should be aware of jostling as this may be used as a ploy by pick-pockets. Travelers should also be aware of people loitering, and attackers who may first pass their victim to attack from behind.

- Travelers should ignore verbal bait from passers-by, not get into an argument and avoid eye contact with strangers.

## Culture

Unrated

### Standard Hours of Operation

Business: Monday-Friday, 0900-1300 and 1400-1700

Government: Monday-Friday, 0900-1200 and 1400-1700

Banking: Monday-Friday, 0900-1300 and 1400-1700

Business attire is generally semi-formal. Men should wear a coat, suit jacket, or a blazer and a tie, a button-down shirt, trousers, and dress shoes. For women, a skirt or pants suit and blouse with dress shoes is appropriate.

Appointments are best scheduled Monday through Friday between 0900 and 1200, or between 1400 and 1700. Arriving on time to meetings or social engagements is a common practice. Informal or personal discussions are common. Scheduled meetings will typically run longer than expected. If a meeting includes dining out, the host offers to pay the check. Alcohol taken during lunch or dinner meetings is considered normal.

English is commonly used for business purposes. Attempts by visitors to use phrases in the native language are well received, but not expected. Business cards are widely used, are presented using the right hand, and should be carefully read on acceptance as a sign of respect. Always use Mr./Ms. or an honorific title until the host indicates that using first names is appropriate. Addressing the host according to their official title is seen as a sign of respect. When beginning the meeting, men shake hands with the other males in order of age and or seniority; men often bow their heads and avert their gaze as a sign of respect to elders. Some Muslims will not shake hands across genders. Females should wait for hosts to initiate handshakes; a smile is also a form of greeting.

## Gestures

● Unrated

Business cards are widely used; when in use, they are presented using the right hand, and should be carefully read on acceptance as a sign of respect.

When beginning the meeting, shake hands with the other males and females.

When departing, shake hands again.

Some Muslims will not shake hands across genders. Females should wait for hosts to initiate handshakes; a smile is also a form of greeting.

Avoid using the following gestures or habits, as they are deemed offensive or insulting:

- Engaging in public displays of affection
- Showing impatience with an elderly person
- Pointing a finger at someone

## Religions

● Unrated

Christian 83%, Muslim 11%, Other, including Traditionalists and none 6%

## Ethnicities

● Unrated

Kikuyu 22%, Luhya 14%, Luo 13%, Kalenjin 12%, Kamba 11%, Kisii 6%, Meru 6%, other African 15%, non-African 1%

## Significant Dates

● Unrated

## 2026 Significant Dates

Jan. 1 New Year's Day

March 20 Eid Al-Fitr (tentative)

April 3 Good Friday

April 5 Easter

April 6 East Monday

May 1 Labor Day

May 27 Eid al Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice) (tentative)

June 1 Madaraka Day National holiday

Oct. 10 Huduma Day (Moi Day)

Oct. 20 Mashujaa (Heroes') Day

Nov. 8 Diwali

Dec. 12 Jamhuri (Independence) Day

Dec. 25 Christmas Day

Dec. 26 Utamaduni Day (Boxing Day)

## Financial

Unrated

Financial systems can differ considerably by jurisdiction. Acceptance of cash, debit, and credit cards also varies across the country. Some locations may only accept cash due to the absence of card-processing machines. Banks or legal money changers typically offer the official exchange rates. While the import and export of both local and foreign currency are authorized, sums should not exceed the amount declared upon arrival.

## Currency

● Unrated

### Currency Name / Code

The official currency of Kenya is the Kenyan shilling (KSh). One shilling is made up of 100 cents. Other currencies accepted for transactions include the US dollar, euro, and pound sterling.

### Currency Convertibility

Banks or legal money-changers generally offer currency exchange services in Kenya. Larger banks may offer the best exchange rates on average. Although black market money-changers may be common in Kenya, they are illegal. Kenya does not forbid foreigners from exiting with local currency, but leaving with amounts greater than USD 5,000 requires documentations for source of funding.

## Credit Card

● Unrated

Major credit cards are widely accepted in shops, restaurants, and hotels.

## Taxes and Tipping

● Unrated

It is not customary to tip hotel personnel, wait staff in restaurants, or taxi drivers; there may be a service charge of 10 percent on restaurant bills.

## Bank and ATM

● Unrated

### ATM Availability

Automated teller machines are widely available, especially in major cities and towns in Kenya. Always choose a machine located in a secure area, preferably within hotels or banks.

### Bank Availability

Banking hours are generally Monday through Friday 0900-1500. Some banks are open on Saturdays 0900-1200. Airports usually operate at different times, 0700-1900. Cash advances on major credit cards issued by foreign banks are permitted.

## LGBTQ Security

4.00 - High

The overall threat to the LGBTQ community in Kenya is high. The country's penal code implicitly bans same-sex sexual acts between men with harsh legal punishments of up to 14 years imprisonment. There are several other laws limiting the rights of LGBTQ individuals, and minimal legislation protects the LGBTQ community. While prosecution of same-sex sexual acts is uncommon, police frequently subject

LGBTQ individuals to arbitrary arrests. Additionally, LGBTQ individuals frequently experience harassment and physical violence from both police and the public. The media and government officials are likely to make statements that perpetuate stigma against the LGBTQ community.

### LGBTQ Legal Environment

● 4.00

The legal environment in Kenya poses a high threat to the LGBTQ community. Kenya maintains colonial-era anti-sodomy laws that implicitly criminalize same-sex sexual acts between men. As per articles 162, 163, and 165 of the penal code, men who have sex with men (MSM) face between five- and 14-years imprisonment if convicted of having “carnal knowledge of any person against the order of nature” or “gross indecency.” Legal petitions in 2016 against the anti-sodomy laws were unsuccessful in decriminalizing same-sex sexual acts, and the High Court upheld the law in 2019. Furthermore, the Family Protection Bill was introduced to parliament in 2023. The bill seeks to increase penalties for same-sex sexual acts with up to 50 years imprisonment as well as prohibit LGBTQ events and the “promotion” of LGBTQ information. Kenya also prohibits same-sex marriages, military service for LGBTQ individuals, and adoption by either same-sex couples or LGBTQ individuals. Additionally, there are no legal protections against discrimination, hate speech, or hate crimes based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Despite this, courts have passed limited legal protections and rights for the LGBTQ community in recent years. On Feb. 24, 2023, Kenya’s Supreme Court passed a ruling in favor of the National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (NGLHRC). The NGLHRC had previously been refused registration as an official NGO in 2013. The case went through all stages of appeal before the High Court ruling, which stated the organization must be allowed to register. The Children Act 2022 grants official recognition of intersex individuals as a third gender and provides a third gender marker, I, on official documents. Additionally, in 2018 the Court of Appeal ruled that forced anal examinations were unconstitutional, reversing a previous High Court ruling that allowed them for the purpose of submitting evidence against individuals suspected of same-sex sexual acts.

### LGBTQ Enforcement

● 4.00

The enforcement rating in Kenya is high as police often target LGBTQ individuals under anti-sodomy laws or under the pretext of public disturbance. Police reported 595 cases of “unnatural offenses” between 2010 and 2014. More recent data on arrests under anti-sodomy laws are not readily available from official sources; however, there have been reports of at least three men arrested in 2019, one in 2017, and two in 2015. Most cases are not prosecuted. The Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya (GALCK) has claimed that police target and arbitrarily arrest lesbian, bisexual, and queer women, in many cases requiring bribes for release. Additionally, self-reporting from LGBTQ individuals arrested by police indicates that arrests are more often made under public disturbance laws, such as loitering or solicitation, as opposed to anti-LGBTQ legislation. The US DoS 2023 annual report on Human Rights Practices in Kenya corroborated GALCK’s findings of individuals arrested on public order laws. Furthermore, the US DoS reports that LGBTQ individuals were frequently intimidated, harassed, or abused while in police custody. Regardless of the inconsistencies in the prosecution of LGBTQ individuals, the existence and continued enforcement of articles 162,163, and 165 of the penal code significantly contributes to violence and discrimination against LGBTQ individuals.

### LGBTQ Social Environment

● 5.00

The social environment in Kenya presents an extreme threat to the LGBTQ community. The population is highly intolerant of LGBTQ individuals primarily due to commonly held conservative beliefs. Around 85.5 percent of the population belong to various denominations of Christianity. Organizations such as GALCK have claimed that the prevalence of conservative religious values is one of the reasons for the entrenched stigma against the LGBTQ community. Kenya has repeatedly scored low on the Williams Institute’s GAI. Between 2017 and 2020 the country’s GAI rating was 3.62 out of 10, varying only 0.2 points in the past two decades. According to the World Values Survey (2017-2022), 49.5 percent of Kenyans sampled believed that same-sex sexual acts were “never justifiable.” The government and media are also likely to make statements that perpetuate anti-LGBTQ sentiment or to ban pro-LGBTQ content. President William Ruto has publicly spoken against LGBTQ rights on several occasions, and several government ministers have publicly expressed disagreement with the Supreme Court’s ruling on NGLHRC. The Kenya Film Classification Board also bans films deemed to “promote or glamorize a homosexual lifestyle.” The Board used the criteria to ban several films and documentaries including ‘Rafiki’ in 2018, ‘I am Samuel’ in 2021, and ‘Badhaai Do’ in 2022.

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**Active Alerts**

No Alerts

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