Nairobi Travel Guide

Nairobi: Kenya's Vibrant Capital

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Things to do in Nairobi

Landmarks & Monuments

Iconic structures that define Nairobi's skyline and historical significance, representing the city's evolution and cultural identity.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Kenya Parliament Buildings

1.5 hours Book Ahead

Map

Historic government complex featuring **stunning neo-colonial architecture** with intricate details. The main chamber showcases Kenya's legislative heritage and independence history. Guided tours reveal parliamentary chambers, parliamentary museum, and stunning architectural elements including the iconic octagonal chamber dome.



Top Pick

Nairobi City Hall

45 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

Magnificent **colonial-era building** completed in 1950, featuring distinctive red-brick architecture and ornate detailing. The building has served as the symbolic heart of Nairobi's civic governance. Its grand entrance, sweeping staircases, and period furnishings offer insight into Nairobi's administrative history and architectural heritage.



Top Pick

Railway Station

1 hour No Booking Needed

Map

Historic **colonial-era building** from the early 20th century, featuring stunning architectural details and ornamental elements. Once the termination point of the Uganda Railway, it stands as a testament to Nairobi's origins. The main hall showcases period features and serves as a working transport hub with modern renovations.

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- Visit monuments early morning for best photography light
- Respect photography restrictions at government buildings
- Combine visits with nearby shopping districts

- Allow extra time during peak tourist seasons

Museums & Galleries

World-class institutions housing comprehensive collections of natural history, art, and cultural artifacts that tell Kenya's diverse stories.



Must See

National Museum of Kenya

3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Kenya's premier **natural history and ethnographic museum** featuring world-renowned fossil collections including the famous *Turkana Boy* skeleton dating back 1.5 million years. Expansive galleries showcase wildlife dioramas, traditional artifacts, contemporary art, and interactive exhibits exploring Kenya's archaeological heritage, biodiversity, and cultural traditions across 40+ display galleries.



Top Pick

Karen Blixen Museum

2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Iconic **colonial-era homestead** of the renowned author of *Out of Africa*. The house was built in 1912; Karen Blixen and her husband bought it in 1917. Explore the botanical gardens, observation points overlooking the Ngong Hills, and intimate spaces where Blixen's literary masterpieces were conceived.

Top Pick

Nairobi Gallery, a National Museums of Kenya site.

1.5 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Nairobi Gallery displays the Murumbi African Heritage collections and hosts temporary art exhibitions. The gallery features works by emerging and established artists, hosting regular cultural events, artist talks, and educational programs that celebrate East African contemporary creative expression.



Notable

Railway Museum

1.5 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Fascinating collection of **vintage locomotives and railway carriages** documenting Kenya's rail heritage dating back to the 1890s. Exhibits include steam engines, royal coaches, traditional artifacts, and displays explaining the Uganda Railway's construction and impact on East African development and settlement patterns.

Tips for Museums & Galleries

- National Museums of Kenya admission hours are 8:30am–5:30pm daily.
- Photography often permitted; check signage for restrictions
- Allow ample time for the National Museum - it's expansive
- Audio guides available at major museums enhance experience

Religious Sites

Sacred spaces reflecting Nairobi's diverse faith traditions, from grand cathedrals to intimate places of worship showcasing architectural beauty and spiritual heritage.



Top Pick

Holy Family Cathedral

1 hour No Booking Needed

Map

Stunning **neo-Gothic cathedral** featuring remarkable stained glass windows, soaring vaulted ceilings, and ornate decorative elements. Completed in 1963, the cathedral showcases modern religious architecture with impressive interior artwork, atmospheric lighting, and acoustics. Regular services welcome visitors; the peaceful interior provides spiritual refuge in the city center.



Top Pick

All Saints Cathedral

45 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

Historic **Anglican cathedral** featuring elegant architecture with beautifully crafted wooden interiors and peaceful ambiance. The cathedral blends traditional ecclesiastical design with contemporary elements, featuring a soaring nave, intricate details, and serene gardens. Regular choral services showcase exceptional musical tradition and cultural heritage.



Top Pick

Jamia Mosque

45 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

Impressive **Islamic place of worship** showcasing stunning Islamic architectural elements with elegant domed structure and intricate geometric patterns. The mosque welcomes respectful visitors outside prayer times, offering insight into Kenya's Muslim heritage and Islamic design principles. Beautiful courtyard and peaceful atmosphere provide cultural and spiritual significance.

Tips for Religious Sites

- Respect prayer times - avoid visiting during services unless invited
- Dress modestly; remove shoes in mosques
- Photography inside sacred spaces requires permission
- Most cathedrals welcome visitors with respectful conduct

Parks & Gardens

Lush green spaces offering peaceful retreats, natural beauty, and opportunities to connect with Nairobi's flora and enjoy outdoor recreation.



Must See

Nairobi National Park

3-4 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Remarkable **urban wildlife sanctuary** About 8 km from Nairobi’s CBD; park gates open 6am–6pm, hosting abundant wildlife including lions, giraffes, zebras, buffalo, and over 400 bird species. The park's diverse ecosystems range from savanna grasslands to acacia woodlands with scenic viewpoints overlooking the Nairobi skyline. Self-driving and guided safari experiences available year-round for unforgettable wildlife encounters.



Top Pick

Karura Forest

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Magnificent **A 1,041-hectare forest reserve, about 2,570 acres.** Features cascading waterfalls, pristine streams, diverse bird species, and numerous mammal species. Well-maintained trails cater to various fitness levels; enjoy hiking, bird-watching, photography, and nature immersion in this verdant urban sanctuary.



Top Pick

Ngong Hills

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Iconic **volcanic ridge formation** offering spectacular panoramic views of Nairobi, the Great Rift Valley, and surrounding countryside. Popular hiking destination with well-defined trails accommodating various fitness levels. Sunrise hikes provide breathtaking vistas; the peaks feature lush vegetation, diverse wildlife, and sacred cultural significance to local Maasai communities.



Notable

City Park

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Serene **urban green space** featuring manicured gardens, walking paths, recreational facilities, and peaceful lakeside settings. The park offers opportunities for leisurely strolls, picnicking, birdwatching, and nature observation. Beautiful landscapes, local flora, and dedicated children's areas make it ideal for families seeking peaceful outdoor relaxation amid natural beauty.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- Nairobi National Park best visited early morning for wildlife
- Bring binoculars for bird-watching in forest reserves
- Wear comfortable hiking boots for hill trails
- Pack water and sun protection for outdoor activities

Tours & Activities

Immersive experiences and guided adventures showcasing Nairobi's wildlife, cultural heritage, and unique attractions through specialized tours and interactive programs.

Must See Book Ahead

David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust

2 hours Book Ahead

Renowned wildlife rescue and rehabilitation center dedicated to protecting endangered species, particularly elephants and rhinos. Visitors witness hands-on care for orphaned baby elephants during The public nursery visit runs 11am–noon and requires advance booking, learning about conservation efforts. The sanctuary showcases rehabilitation programs, visitor education, and genuine commitment to wildlife preservation through intimate, memorable encounters.



Must See

Giraffe Centre

1.5 hours No Booking Needed

Unique **interactive animal sanctuary** offering hands-on experiences with endangered Rothschild giraffes. Visitors feed giraffes by hand from an elevated platform, learning about conservation efforts and species' survival. The center features educational displays, beautiful grounds, and committed breeding programs supporting endangered species recovery in natural habitats.



Must See Book Ahead

Nairobi National Park Safari

3-4 hours Book Ahead

Guided wildlife safari experiences providing expert interpretation of animal behavior, ecology, and conservation. Professional guides lead game drives through diverse habitats, maximizing wildlife sightings while providing ecological context. Morning, afternoon, and sunset safaris available; The park gates close at 6pm; check KWS for permitted activities. Customizable tours accommodate photography, bird-watching, and specific wildlife interests.



Top Pick

Nairobi Snake Park

1.5 hours No Booking Needed

Captivating reptile collection featuring Kenya's most dangerous and fascinating snake species in controlled environments. Educational exhibitions showcase herpetology, wildlife biology, and conservation importance of reptiles. Experienced handlers demonstrate safe interaction principles; visitors gain appreciation for these misunderstood creatures through informative, engaging presentations and immersive displays.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- Book wildlife trust visits in advance for optimal scheduling
- Early morning visits increase wildlife viewing opportunities
- Bring binoculars, camera, and sun protection
- Respect wildlife boundaries for safety and animal welfare

Day Trips & Excursions

Nearby destinations offering diverse experiences from wildlife sanctuaries to geological wonders, enriching your Nairobi exploration with regional adventures.



Must See

Hell's Gate National Park

Full day No Booking Needed

Map

Dramatic gorge park featuring towering red cliffs, geothermal features, and unique walking safari opportunities where visitors explore on foot or by vehicle. The park showcases remarkable geological formations, abundant wildlife including buffalo and zebras, and stunning scenic vistas. Adventure activities include rock climbing, hiking, and visiting natural hot springs for immersive wilderness experiences.



Must See

Amboseli National Park

2-3 days No Booking Needed

Map

Legendary wildlife destination famous for elephant herds, Mount Kilimanjaro views, and exceptional safari experiences. The park features diverse ecosystems from wetlands to acacia woodlands hosting abundant wildlife. Professional guides facilitate game drives showcasing African megafauna in natural habitats. Stunning landscapes, wildlife photography opportunities, and authentic safari adventures characterize this iconic East African destination.



Top Pick

Lake Naivasha

Full day No Booking Needed

Map

Scenic freshwater lake surrounded by lush vegetation, wildlife sanctuaries, and recreational facilities. Activities include boat safaris observing hippos, water birds, and aquatic wildlife, fishing excursions, and lakeside relaxation. Nearby attractions include Crescent Island for walking safaris and flower farms showcasing Kenya's horticultural heritage in picturesque settings.



Top Pick

Mombasa Coastal Escape

2-3 days No Booking Needed

Map

Historic coastal city offering pristine beaches, coral reefs, water sports, and cultural heritage exploration. Features stunning Old Town architecture, Fort Jesus historical monument, spice markets, and island explorations. Beach resorts provide relaxation; diving and snorkeling reveal vibrant underwater ecosystems. Rich Swahili heritage, diverse cuisine, and tropical island atmosphere provide memorable seaside contrasts to Nairobi's urban environment.

Tips for Day Trips & Excursions

- Hell's Gate (90km) - 2-3 hours drive, best visited as morning trip
- Lake Naivasha (90km) - 1.5 hours drive, allows day and multi-day experiences
- Mombasa (480km) - 7-8 hours drive or 1-hour flight, ideal weekend escape

- Amboseli (240km) - 4 hours drive, requires 2+ days for comprehensive experience

Shopping & Markets

Vibrant commercial districts and traditional markets offering authentic local crafts, contemporary goods, and unique Kenyan souvenirs in diverse shopping environments.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Kazuri Beads

1.5 hours Book Ahead

Map

Fair-trade artisan cooperative producing hand-painted ceramic beads and jewelry. Visitors tour the workshop observing skilled craftspeople creating beautiful pieces using traditional techniques. The cooperative supports female artisans and vulnerable communities; purchasing directly supports sustainable livelihoods. Authentic handcrafted items, reasonable prices, and ethical sourcing make Kazuri beloved among ethical shoppers.



Top Pick

Nairobi City Market

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Historic bustling market overflowing with local produce, handicrafts, textiles, spices, and traditional artifacts. The vibrant atmosphere showcases authentic Kenyan commerce with vendors selling everything from fresh fruits to carved wooden sculptures. Cultural immersion and local flavor make it essential for experiencing Nairobi's commercial heritage; reasonable prices offer excellent value on unique souvenirs.



Notable

West Gate Shopping Mall

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Modern shopping complex featuring international and local retailers, restaurants, cinemas, and entertainment facilities. Contemporary architecture, climate-controlled environment, and diverse brands cater to varied shopping preferences. Quality dining options, modern amenities, and convenient parking make it ideal for comfortable shopping experiences; entertainment venues provide additional leisure options.

Tips for Shopping & Markets

- Kazuri Beads tours should be pre-booked; typically closed weekends
- City Market best visited morning; bring small bills for transactions
- Bargaining acceptable at markets; modern malls have fixed pricing
- Avoid displaying expensive items in crowded market areas

Food & Dining

Real, highly-rated Restaurants in Nairobi, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).

Glow Restaurant★★★★★ 4.8 (180)

1-2 hours

Map

Glow Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Nairobi, rated 4.8★ from 180 reviews. Located at Glee Nairobi, Northern Bypass Rd, Nairobi, Kenya.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 6:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Tuesday: 6:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Wednesday: 6:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 6:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 6:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 6:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: 6:30 AM – 10:30 PM

Cultiva Farm Kenya★★★★★ 4.7 (2,424)

1-2 hours

Map

Cultiva Farm Kenya is a highly-rated restaurant in Nairobi, rated 4.7★ from 2424 reviews. Located at Pofu Rd, Nairobi, Kenya.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Five Senses Restaurant★★★★★ 4.7 (463)

1-2 hours

Map

Five Senses Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Nairobi, rated 4.7★ from 463 reviews. Located at 2nd Floor, Galana Plaza, off Galana Rd, Nairobi, Kenya.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed

bamba★★★★★ 4.7 (541)

1-2 hours

Map

bamba is a highly-rated restaurant in Nairobi, rated 4.7★ from 541 reviews. Located at 847 Amboseli Rd, Nairobi, Kenya.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM

The View★★★★★ 4.7 (965)

1-2 hours

Map

The View is a highly-rated restaurant in Nairobi, rated 4.7★ from 965 reviews. Located at Mkungu Close, Off Parklands Rd, Nairobi, Kenya.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 4:00 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 4:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 4:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 4:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 4:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 4:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 4:00 – 11:00 PM

Romo House Restaurant & Lounge - Westlands★★★★★ 4.7 (371)

1-2 hours

Map

Romo House Restaurant & Lounge - Westlands is a highly-rated restaurant in Nairobi, rated 4.7★ from 371 reviews. Located at Romo House Africa, 30 Muthithi Rd, Nairobi, Kenya.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM

CJ's★★★★★ 4.6 (11,462)

1-2 hours

Map

CJ's is a highly-rated restaurant in Nairobi, rated 4.6★ from 11462 reviews. Located at Koinange St, Nairobi, Kenya.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 6:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 6:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 6:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 6:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 6:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 6:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 6:00 AM – 11:00 PM

Talisman Restaurant★★★★★ 4.6 (4,006)

1-2 hours

Map

Talisman Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Nairobi, rated 4.6★ from 4006 reviews. Located at Ngong Rd, Nairobi, Kenya.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Mawimbi Seafood Restaurant★★★★★ 4.6 (1,994)

1-2 hours

Map

Mawimbi Seafood Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Nairobi, rated 4.6★ from 1994 reviews. Located at Longonot Place, Kijabe St, Nairobi, Kenya.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM

The Fig & Olive★★★★★ 4.6 (472)

1-2 hours

Map

The Fig & Olive is a highly-rated restaurant in Nairobi, rated 4.6★ from 472 reviews. Located at Tigoni KE, Raini Goldhandas, Kenya.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Sayari All Day Dining★★★★★ 4.6 (140)

1-2 hours

Map

Sayari All Day Dining is a highly-rated restaurant in Nairobi, rated 4.6★ from 140 reviews. Located at Westlands Rd, Nairobi, Kenya.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Open 24 hours
- Tuesday: Open 24 hours
- Wednesday: Open 24 hours
- Thursday: Open 24 hours
- Friday: Open 24 hours
- Saturday: Open 24 hours
- Sunday: Open 24 hours

Nairobi Street Kitchen★★★★★ 4.5 (3,197)

1-2 hours

Map

Nairobi Street Kitchen is a highly-rated restaurant in Nairobi, rated 4.5★ from 3197 reviews. Located at 1870 Mpaka Rd, Nairobi, Kenya.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 5:00 AM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 5:00 AM
- Sunday: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM

The Carnivore Restaurant★★★★★ 4.5 (12,688)

1-2 hours

Map

The Carnivore Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Nairobi, rated 4.5★ from 12688 reviews. Located at Langata Link Rd, Nairobi, Kenya.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM

Harvest Restaurant★★★★★ 4.5 (816)

1-2 hours

Map

Harvest Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Nairobi, rated 4.5★ from 816 reviews. Located at Village Market, Limuru Rd, Nairobi, Kenya.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 6:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 6:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 6:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 6:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 6:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 6:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 6:30 AM – 10:00 PM

Inca Restaurant★★★★★ 4.5 (435)

1-2 hours

Map

Inca Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Nairobi, rated 4.5★ from 435 reviews. Located at 154 James Gichuru Road The Social House, 154 James Gichuru Road, Nairobi, Kenya.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Tuesday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Wednesday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Thursday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Friday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Saturday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Sunday: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM

Practical Information

Optimal Seasons

Dry Seasons: June-October (long dry) and January-February (short dry) offer excellent weather and wildlife viewing. Temperatures range 15-25°C with minimal rainfall and clear visibility for safari activities.

Wet Seasons: March-May and November-December bring lush landscapes, bird migrations, and fewer tourists, though occasional rain disrupts activities. Temperatures 18-28°C; roads remain accessible.

Best Overall: July-October and January-February provide optimal conditions for wildlife viewing, outdoor activities, and comfortable exploration.

Getting Around Nairobi

Taxis & Ride-Sharing: Uber and Bolt operate extensively in Nairobi; reliable, metered options available 24/7. White-and-black taxis provide traditional service; negotiate fares beforehand.

Public Transport: Extensive matatu (minibus) system connects neighborhoods economically; routes comprehensive though schedules informal. BRT buses provide modern public transit on major corridors.

Car Rental: Several agencies offer self-drive options; international driving permit required. Roads well-maintained; traffic congested during rush hours (7-9am, 4-7pm).

Airport Transfer: Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) 18km southeast; airport shuttles, pre-arranged transfers, and ride-sharing available. Approximately 45-60 minutes depending on traffic.

✈ Airport Transfer

Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (NBO) to city center:

- **Airport taxi or hotel shuttle:** Pre-book a transfer or use a taxi or hotel shuttle; matatus and public buses also run, so confirm current fares and timing
- **Uber or Bolt:** Ride-hailing app taxi to the CBD in 30 to 50 minutes depending on traffic, at the price shown in the app
- **Airport Taxi:** Official metered taxi rank outside arrivals to city center in about 40 minutes, at a fixed rate (confirm it first)
- **Private Transfer:** Pre-booked private car with driver to city center or Karen suburb in 30 to 60 minutes, roughly USD 30 to 45

Shopping Guide

What to Buy: Hand-carved wooden sculptures, Maasai beaded jewelry, traditional textiles, leather goods, local artwork, coffee, tea, and spices authentic to Kenya.

Shopping Areas: Westgate and other major malls offer modern retail; Nairobi City Market provides authentic local goods; artisan cooperatives like Kazuri offer ethical handcrafts.

Bargaining: Traditional markets expect negotiation; expect 20-30% discounts. Modern shops have fixed pricing. Bargain respectfully; building rapport improves deals.

Operating Hours: Malls 10am-8pm (extended weekends); markets 6am-6pm; smaller shops 9am-7pm typically.

Annual Events

Nairobi Fashion Week: October showcase of East African designers, contemporary trends, and cultural fashion expressions.

Nairobi International Book Fair: September celebration of literature, author meetings, and literary culture with publishers, authors, and readers.

Kenya Music Festival: July-August showcasing traditional and contemporary Kenyan music, dance, and performing arts.

National Holidays: January 1 (New Year), In 2026, Good Friday falls on April 3, May 1 (Labour Day), June 1 (Madaraka Day), October 20 (Kenyatta Day), December 25 (Christmas). These affect shop hours and attraction availability.

Sample 5-Day Itinerary

Day 1: Cultural Immersion - National Museum of Kenya (3 hours), Karen Blixen Museum Allow one hour for the public visit, 11am–noon, evening stroll through downtown monuments and City Park.

Day 2: Wildlife Experience - Nairobi National Park early morning safari (4 hours), David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust elephant feeding (2 hours), afternoon relaxation at hotel.

Day 3: Nature & Adventure - Karura Forest hiking and waterfall exploration (3 hours), Ngong Hills sunset hike with panoramic views (3 hours), evening in residential neighborhoods.

Day 4: Hands-On Wildlife - Giraffe Centre morning visit (1.5 hours), Nairobi Snake Park (1.5 hours), Nairobi Gallery (1.5 hours), shopping at Westgate Mall (2 hours).

Day 5: Day Trip Adventure - Hell's Gate National Park morning excursion (6 hours including drive), alternative: Lake Naivasha boat safari and Crescent Island walking safari (8 hours).

Best Instagram & Photography Locations

Ngong Hills Sunrise: Arrive 5:30am for golden hour light illuminating the valley and city skyline. Dramatic volcanic ridges create stunning compositions; panoramic vistas ideal for landscape photography.

Nairobi National Park Wildlife: Early morning (6-9am) offers optimal lighting and animal activity. Silhouettes against golden plains, wildlife interactions, and dramatic skies provide exceptional safari photography.

Nairobi Monument & Downtown: Blue hour (dusk, 6-7pm) creates atmospheric city photography with monument illumination and cityscape backgrounds. Daytime offers architectural detail photography of colonial buildings.

Karura Forest Waterfalls: Midday overhead sun illuminates cascading water; afternoon soft light creates atmospheric forest imagery with moss-covered rocks and vegetation details.

Giraffe Centre Interactions: The centre opens at 9am; plan your visit during its 9am–5pm opening hours.

Electrical Information

Voltage & Frequency: Kenya operates 240V, 50Hz electrical standard.

Plug Types: British three-rectangular-pin plugs (Type G) standard. Some facilities offer American two-flat-pin (Type A) outlets in business areas.

Adapter Availability: Universal adapters widely available at airport, hotels, and electronic shops; US to Kenya adapters inexpensive. Bring personal adapters for compatibility assurance; many hotels provide multi-outlet strips.

Power Reliability: Generally reliable in central areas; occasional power cuts occur. Portable power banks essential for extended outings; modern hotels guarantee uninterrupted power.

Culinary Guide

Must-Try Dishes: Ugali (maize staple), nyama choma (grilled meat), sukuma wiki (collard greens), samosas, mandasi (fried bread), chapati, and nyama za kukaanga (fried chicken). Nyama choma especially essential - grilled goat or beef eaten with ugali and vegetable accompaniments.

Dining Recommendations: Upmarket restaurants in Westlands, Parklands neighborhoods; street food in markets offers authentic flavors at budget prices. Local eateries serve hearty portions; hotel restaurants cater to tourist preferences.

Beverages: Freshly squeezed fruit juices (mango, passion fruit), Kenyan tea and coffee exceptional quality. Local beers include Tusker and Guinness; soft drinks widely available.

Tips: Bottled or filtered water recommended; ice generally safe in established restaurants. Hygiene standards vary; eat where turnover is high. Tipping 10-15% appreciated in upmarket establishments; optional in casual venues.