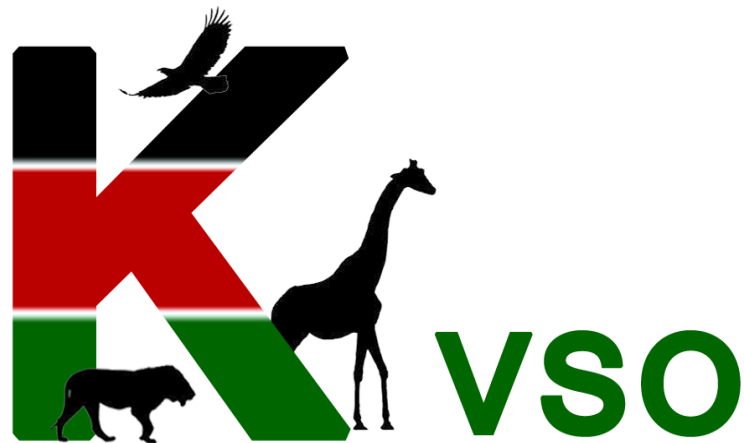


# TRAVEL TIPS

KENIA VOLUNTARY SERVICE ORGANIZATION



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## KENIA VOLUNTARY SERVICE ORGANIZATION

P.O BOX 35232 NORWICH UNION 6TH FLOOR  
MAMA NGINA ST.  
00100 NAIROBI KENYA  
+254720803531  
INFO@KVSOKENYA.ORG

### ABOUT KVSO

#### OUR VISION

Everyone in this world seeks to make a difference. Making a difference in a world which is as connected as ours, is just possible if we try to understand and embrace other cultures as they are. All over the world, voluntary service has been highlighted as the most impactful venture to make people experience and appreciate different cultures and traditions. It is from the same spirit that the Kenya Voluntary Service Association was formed to offer a platform to those seeking a possibility to learn from and to contribute the most they can to make a difference in their lives and the lives of the people in the communities they serve.

#### OUR MISSION

KVSO was founded to give an opportunity to all those who want to explore the enriching field of volunteering.

Our mission is to promote peace, intercultural exchange and sustainable development through volunteering. We truly believe that each person has something to bring in the process of sharing, discovering and promoting cultures.

Our team and all our partners are involved in this wish to make things better through volunteering, and to give the chance to all of us to make a step towards action, change and empowerment.

Our community based association encourages the local community to consider its responsibility in its own development and aims to support this development through new projects, partnerships and volunteering actions.

#### OUR VALUES

- Respect and open-mindedness
- Sustainability and equity
- Volunteerism and non-formal education
- Empowerment and development of the local community
- Fulfillment
- Multiculturality and peace





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### TEAM & SUPPORT

A staff member of KVSO will coordinate the program between the sending organization and the hosting organization. The volunteer's activities will be organized with the hosting organization during the program. One of KVSO staff members will always stay available for the volunteer during his/her stay and the volunteer will be able to contact him any time. A referent person in the local community will always stay available.

The orientation starts before the arrival with an interview with each volunteer in order to identify their motivations and make sure they receive all the needed information before volunteering in Kenya.

At the orientation meeting, volunteers will get more information about each project and will learn about the culture of Kenya. They will be able to meet and share contacts with other volunteers, national and international, involved in various projects. The orientation meeting will last at least one day and one night, at the beginning of each project.

KVSO insures that every volunteer is placed in a safe environment, with reliable people and well-known partners. Volunteers' families will be able to contact KVSO officers at any time to receive information about the volunteer on site.

Volunteers will be able to receive a certificate at the end of their program and this will add an important value to their professional resume.

### VISA, INSURANCE & ARRIVAL

KVSO will provide volunteers with invitation letter for VISA application on request, once the applicant is accepted in the project. However, we recommend that applicants also prepare to obtain VISA by themselves.

Applicants from European Union will be able to receive VISA on arrival, at the airport.

Kindly check conditions to obtain VISA by contacting your embassy.

Volunteers are requested to provide KVSO with insurance attestation not later than one week before arrival. This must cover their entire stay.





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### Procedure on arrival :

- On arrival at the airport please follow the signs for 'Arrivals/Baggage Claim'
- Immigration counter :
  - o Follow the signs and make your way to the Immigration Counter - Visa Collection
  - o You will need to provide your passport + VISA request attestation if you did it
  - o Immigration officer will stamp your passport and you will receive your visa.
- Collect your luggage
- Follow the instructions of custom officers if needed
- A staff from KVS O will wait for you in the public arrival area.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED ?

Program fees include food (3 meals a day) and accomodation during the program. We make sure that accomodation is simple but clean. Volunteers have to be ready to leave in simple conditions, with sometimes limited access to electricity and/or Internet.

### WHAT TO BRING ?

Volunteers are asked to bring :

- Sleeping bag
- Working shoes
- Mobile phone
- Mosquito (around 4€ in Kenya)
- Flash light/torch
- Light and warm clothing
- Tablets for water purification
- Personal effects (i.e. soap, toiletries)
- First Aid Kit and/or personal medication
- Local products, personal stuffs to share with the volunteers and the local community
- Camera and others (KVS O will not be responsible in case of any damage or loss)
- Pocket money for extra activities
- Volunteers can also bring any materials that would be useful for the local community



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### LEISURE & TIPS ABOUT KENYA

**Country :** Kenya is named Republic of Kenya. Kenya is bordered by Ethiopia, Uganda, South Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania and Somalia. It is a founding member of the East African Community (EAC).

**Population :** 49.1 million (2017 est.)

**Capital :** Nairobi means ‘the place of cool water’ in Maasai. It is the largest city in East Africa and it is well-known as a very dynamic place.

**Main cities :** Mombasa is the coastal capital with many national parks and reserves ; Kisumu is a Kenyan inland port city on Lake Victoria.

**Parks and natural areas :** Thanks to its diverse climate and geography, Kenya includes many wildlife reserves and national parks such as East and West Tsavo National Park, Maasai Mara, Lake Nakuru National Park. Lake Victoria and the African Great Lakes region are ones of the most beautiful landscaped you can find in Africa. The highest point in the country is the snow-capped peak of Mount Kenya (5,199m), the second highest mountain in Africa.

#### **World Heritage Sites :**

- Fort Jesus, Mombasa
- Lamu Old Town
- Sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forests
- Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley
- Lake Turkana National Parks
- Mount Kenya National Park / Natural Forest

**Climate :** The coast is hot with an average daytime temperature of 27-31 degrees centigrade while average daytime temperature in Nairobi is 21-26 degrees centigrade. Nairobi in July and August mark the Kenyan winter. March-May is wet, June-September is dry, October-December is wet.

**Language :** English is the official language and Kiswahili is the national one.

**Religion :** Christianity, Islamic, Hinduism, Sikhism and traditional beliefs.

**Government :** Kenya is a independent Republic, divided into two halves. The President is the chief of State.





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**Currency :** Kenya currency is Kenya shillings (KSH). Volunteers will be invited to exchange money in safe and reliable currency exchange offices. ATMs are available in the country with 24/24 access. Most shops accept international VISA cards (better than MASTER cards).

**Internet :** Internet cafes operate in most areas. Email can be sent from most hotels.

**Electricity :** 220-240 volts AC. With standard 13-amp three squares-pin plugs.

**Water :** Bottled water is readily available.

**Telephone :** There is mobile phone coverage countrywide. KVSVO will help volunteers to buy local SIM cards on request. Public pay phones (card and coin) are automated phone cards may be bought from post offices or from international call offices. International calls can be dialed direct (code 000) or operator assisted (dial 0195/6). When calling Kenya the international Dialing code is +254.

**Tipping :** Tipping is appreciated.

**Visa and health certification :** A valid passport, not expiring for at least six months, is required and may be obtained in advance from the Kenya Embassy or High Commission in your country of origin, or upon arrival in Kenya. A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required ONLY if you are arriving in Kenya from an infected area.

**Airports :** Kenya has many international airports such as Jomo Kenyatta Airport - Nairobi ; Moi International Airport ; Kisumu Airport and Mombasa airport. Volunteers will be asked to arrive at one of these specific airports and will be welcomed at their arrival in the airport.

**Local Transportation :** Most Kenyans use 'matatus' as the primary method of transport, world famous buses with unique musical ambiance. These are privately operated minivans following specific routes. Taxis are plentiful outside the main hotels, shopping arcades, and central city points. Kenyan motorists drive on the left and overtake on the right- in general European-styled traffic regulations. Other transportations : tuk-tuk, boda-boda.

**Photography :** It is considered courteous to ask people if you may take their picture before doing so, particularly in the more far-flung rural areas. A small (token) payment for the photography may be expected, rather more as a from of polite appreciation than anything else.

**Do's and dont's :** It is an offence to smoke in a public place; deface a Kenyan banknote; urinate in public; sunbath topless; hire a prostitute; buy or take drugs; remove wildlife products from Kenya, export products made from elephant, rhino or sea turtle derivatives, or to remove coral. Swearing and blasphemy are inadvisable. Visitors are required



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to stand when the Kenyan Anthem is played, or the National flag raised or lowered. They are also advised that photographing the president without prior permission or any military installation is not permitted. Bond or bail can be granted before a court or magistrate's discretion and all cases must be brought before a court.

### WANT MORE INFORMATION ?

Websites to get more information :

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya>
- <http://www.kenya-information-guide.com/kenya-language.html>
- <http://www.magicalkenya.com/>
- <http://www.tourism.go.ke/>
- <http://www.shoortravel.com/kenya.html>
- <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/kenya>

### EMERGENCY CALL

- Emergency services : dial 911
- KVS Office : +254 72 08 03 531

**CONTACT US :** [kvsokenya@gmail.com](mailto:kvsokenya@gmail.com)

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**WE WISH YOU TO ENJOY KENYA WITH US !**

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