



## Kenya Visa

### Important information about Kenya's visa requirements

Are you travelling to Kenya for a business trip, holiday, or family visit? Travellers who are citizens of the UK, EU or Switzerland should apply for a Kenya e-visa before departure. This visa allows a maximum stay of 90 days in the country.

Mandatory	Yes
Suitable for:	Tourist, Business or Medical travel
Validity Period:	90 days
Visits	Single Entry
Average Delivery Time	Approximately 9 days
Urgent Delivery	Required from 12 days pre-departure: approximately 3 days
Cost	£89,95 per visa
Payment Methods	Visa, American Express, Mastercard, PayPal

This document contains information about the electronic Kenya visa. Since 2021, Kenyan consulates and embassies no longer issue physical visas. Since then, you can only apply for the Kenya visa online. This visa is also known as an e-visa.

To apply for this visa, visit [e-visa.co.uk/kenya](https://e-visa.co.uk/kenya) or click on the green button below.

[Apply now >](#)

This document was compiled by e-Visa.co.uk and includes a last update of 10-08-2023. Read all of the pages of this document carefully to avoid unwanted surprises during your trip.

## What is the Kenya visa?

Are you a national of a country in the United Kingdom, European Union or Switzerland and are you 16 years or older? Then you need an e-visa to travel to Kenya. All travellers aged 16 and over with a UK or EU passport who wish to travel to Kenya should, therefore, apply for this visa online before departure.

### **Permitted travel purposes with the e-visa**

The Kenya e-visa is suitable for a single trip and can be used for a holiday, a business trip or a visit to family and/or friends in the country. The e-visa also allows a visit to Kenya for medical treatment. For a trip that falls under these travel purposes, you can apply for an e-visa if your stay in the country will last up to 90 days and if you meet all visa requirements.

### **E-visa and the visa requirements**

The visa requirement applies to all European travellers aged 16 and over, with the exception of travellers with the nationality of Cyprus. They are exempt from the Kenyan visa requirement for a short trip for tourist or business purposes. Children under 16 do not require a visa for a trip to Kenya. Are you simply transferring in Kenya? If you are not leaving the airport, you do not need a visa to transit. Are you a national of a country not mentioned above? Then check to see if you are eligible for the e-visa for Kenya.

### **Single visit for up to 90 days**

With an e-visa, you can visit Kenya for up to 90 consecutive days. After arriving in the country, it is possible to extend this permitted length of stay once for 90 extra days. However, this extension can only be requested through the immigration office in Nairobi or Mombasa. If you want to spend more than 90 days in Kenya, it is also always possible to leave Kenya temporarily for another country and apply for a new e-visa. That new visa will then allow you to stay in Kenya for another 90 days.

### **Arrange your visa before you even get your flight tickets**

If you are planning to travel to Kenya, you do not need to provide booked flight tickets while applying for your visa. However, you do need to provide at least one booked accommodation address in Kenya for your first night's stay. Once you have done this and are in possession of a passport that is still valid long enough, you can apply for the Kenya visa online.

## Processing the application happens 30 days before your expected arrival date

Review of your application from 30 days before your expected arrival date

You can submit your visa application well before departure. However, please note that the visa will never be approved earlier than 30 days before your expected arrival date. If you submit your application more than 30 days before this date, it will remain on temporary hold. This is to prevent the period of validity, or the period of time during which you may use the visa, from already being over when you arrive in Kenya. This is because the 90-day visa validity period starts as soon as your visa application is approved. You may therefore travel to Kenya immediately after the visa is granted.

As long as you arrive in Kenya within the visa validity period, your visa allows you to stay in the country for 90 days. Therefore, even if you arrive in Kenya on the last day of the 90-day validity period, you are still allowed to stay in the country for 90 days.

## Kenya e-visa requirements

There are certain [requirements when applying for a visa to Kenya](#). For example, for most travellers, the e-visa can only be applied for with a regular passport. Applying online for a Kenya visa is not possible with an ID card, residence permit or refugee passport. Travel with the e-visa is additionally subject to the following requirements.

- All travellers, including those exempted from the visa requirement, have a regular passport. That passport must still be valid for at least six months on arrival in Kenya and contain at least three blank pages.
- The traveller does not intend to be employed by a Kenyan employer.
  - If this is the case, however, a work permit must be obtained from the Kenya Immigration Department for this purpose.
- The traveller does not intend to do voluntary work in Kenya.
- The traveller has not been criminally convicted in any country.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Do you have a criminal record, from any country? Then you are not eligible for the e-visa. In this case, contact a consulate or embassy of Kenya before your trip. Have you only ever received along the lines of a traffic fine? Then you can apply for an Kenya e-visa.

## Data, documents, and the validity of the Kenya visa

To apply for the Kenya visa, a number of documents must be provided. You can do this after making the payment. All travellers must provide a passport photo and a photograph or scan of the information page of the passport. In addition, a booking confirmation or invitation letter must also be uploaded:

- **Are you going on holiday to Kenya?**

Then you need to provide the booking confirmation from the first accommodation address. Also, if you have booked multiple accommodations, you only need to provide the booking confirmation for your (first) overnight stay. The booking confirmation must always contain the following information:

- The name of all travellers
- The address of the booked accommodation
- The arrival and departure date of that particular accommodation

- **Is this a business trip?**

In this case, you do not need to provide a booking confirmation from the place where you will stay overnight. Instead, to apply for the business variant of the e-visa, you need to provide a letter of invitation from the organisation you will be visiting in Kenya.

- If it is a visit to a trade fair, conference or congress, it is sufficient to add a ticket or invitation to this event when applying.
- If you are going to visit an organisation in Kenya, you will need a letter of invitation from this organisation that includes at least the following:
  - The full name of every business traveller requesting a visa
  - The reason for visiting Kenya on business
  - The date(s) of the business appointments or meetings
  - The name, address, and telephone number of the Kenyan organization inviting the traveller(s)

- **Are you staying with friends or family?**

Then you do not need to provide a booking confirmation. In this case, you must provide a letter of invitation and digital copy of the (Kenyan) identity document or *Foreigner Certificate* (aka Alien Card) of the person you will be staying with on your application. The invitation letter may be handwritten or typed, and an informal (unofficial) email is also sufficient. The invitation letter should always contain the following information:

- The full name of the traveller(s) requesting a visa
- The full name, address and telephone number of the party inviting the traveller(s).
- When the traveller(s) will arrive at the overnight address and also when they will leave again.

Do you wish to stay somewhere else than you indicated in the application form after submittal? Or do you want to arrive on a different day than you had specified? This is no problem, even if you already have the visa. Even if you discover an error in the address or contact details provided, your visa remains valid.

So, you do not necessarily have to stick to the (expected) date of arrival indicated on your visa as “proposed date of arrival”. However, you do need to arrive in Kenya before your visa's validity expires, or within three months from the time your visa is approved.

### **Make sure your passport is valid long enough**

If you move up the arrival date, you should also bear in mind that your passport must still be valid for at least six months upon arrival in Kenya. If it is not, you will no longer be able to use the visa. Did you apply for a new passport after applying for the Kenya visa? Then the visa you applied for with your old passport is no longer valid. For your trip to Kenya, you will then have to apply for a completely new visa with the details from the new passport. The old visa application will then be overwritten.

### **Visa valid in combination with required documents**

You can only use your visa if you also take a valid passport, a return ticket and all other documents you have supplied with your visa application with you on your trip. You may be asked to show these documents on arrival in Kenya, so make sure to have printed copies with you.

### **Can or should I change anything else in my application?**

After filling in the application form, always check carefully that all the details are correct. If anything is incorrect, you can change it immediately. Did you miss a mistake, or do you want to change something later for another reason? Sometimes this is necessary, but not always.

### **What errors could cause my visa to be invalid?**

Did you make a mistake when filling in the application form? In some cases, this requires a new visa and, therefore, a new application. These particular mistakes make your visa invalid. Even if the application results in a visa, such errors render a visa unusable. If you have made an error in any of the following details, your Kenya visa will not be valid:

- Your name
  - The spelling of your name must fully match the way your name is spelled in the machine-readable part at the bottom of the information page of your passport.<sup>2</sup>
- Your passport number
  - The passport number on your visa must exactly match the document number printed on your passport.<sup>3</sup>
  - It must be the passport number of the passport you are travelling to Kenya with. If you have a new passport, you must apply for a new visa with the new passport.
- The date and/or expiry date and place of issue of the passport
- Your nationality
- Your gender
  - The gender you select in the visa application form must be the same as the gender stated on your passport.

After issuing your visa, check again that all the above information is correct on your Kenya visa.

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<sup>2</sup> You will find the machine-readable part of your passport at the bottom of the front of the plastic or laminated information page of your passport. It is the two lines surrounded by "<<" characters. No letters with punctuation or accents appear in this machine-readable part (such as ü, ä, ö, ç, é, è, ê, ñ or ß). For visa application purposes, names with accents or punctuation are therefore automatically converted to the name as it appears in the machine-readable part of your passport. Does the name on your visa match the spelling of your name in the machine-readable part of your passport? Then no mistake has been made and your visa is valid as usual.

<sup>3</sup> When entering the passport number, please note that UK passports do not contain letters, only numbers. However, an Irish passport has 2 letters followed by 7 digits.

If you wish to arrive in Kenya on a date other than the date you entered in the application form, this is not a problem for the validity of the visa. Even if your overnight address still changes or if you made a mistake in your address or contact details, your visa will remain valid.

Have you found an error? The information you entered in the application form can be changed until your application is processed. You can do this by replying to one of the emails from e-Visa.co.uk about your application.

In most cases, a visa application is processed immediately after all requested documents have been uploaded. Have you found an error or want to change something else? From the moment your application is processed, changes are no longer possible. In this case, you can only change the data by submitting a completely new visa application.

## How do I apply for the Kenya visa?

You can apply for a [Kenya e-visa in a few simple steps](#). This process usually does not take much longer than ten minutes. It is important to carefully fill in all your details and those of any fellow travellers. Take special care to fill in passport details completely correctly for each traveller. Make sure you have your payment details and the passport details of all travellers for whom you want to apply for a visa ready.

### Step 1 | Fill in the application form

The first step in the application process is to open the [online Kenya visa application form](#). In this form, you enter your contact and travel details. Among the travel details, you will enter the date when you expect to arrive in the country and the details related to your first overnight stay after arrival.

In the next section of the application form, fill in the requested details for all travellers and answer the questions asked. If you want to fill in data for another person, you need permission first. You can add travellers to the application form by clicking the 'Add a traveller' button.

Once the application form is complete, carefully check that all details are correct. Also, ask your fellow travellers if the information you have entered for them is correct. Once you have confirmation from all travellers that all information is correct, submit the application by clicking the 'Apply for Visa' button at the bottom of the form.

### Step 2 | Pay the fee

After submitting the form, you can pay for your visa application. You do this securely with PayPal or a credit card (Visa, Mastercard, or American Express). The total amount for a standard Kenya visa application without additional options is £89.95 per person. The visa fee consists of consular

fees, processing fees and compulsory taxes. You also have the option to choose additional items: urgent delivery and offsetting the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of your outward and return flights to Kenya.

### **Step 3 | Submit the required documents**

Was your payment successful? To complete the visa application, you must provide a passport photo or other acceptable portrait photograph (in colour) and a legible scan or photo of the passport for all travellers.

In addition, based on your purpose of travel and/or accommodation address, you will need to provide some more documents:

- In the case of a holiday or other tourist trip for which you have booked accommodation, you must provide a booking confirmation.
- Are you staying with friends and/or family in Kenya? Then you must provide a letter of invitation from the person with whom you are staying. In this case, a digital copy of the Kenyan identity document or Foreigner Certificate of this person living in Kenya must also be submitted.
- If it is a business trip where you are visiting a conference, convention or exhibition, you must provide a ticket or invitation to this event. Are you visiting a Kenyan organisation? Then you must provide a letter of invitation written by this organisation.

You can also provide the necessary documents later. However, please note that the average delivery time only starts when the required documents have been received for all travellers and the application can therefore be processed.

After submitting your application, you will receive at least three emails. The first email is a payment confirmation, which you will receive after paying for your visa application. You will receive a second message once the documents you submitted have been checked, and a third email once your application has been processed.

In each of these emails, you will find a link to your personal status page. Clicking on this link will take you to a secure digital environment where you can check the status of your application at any time. Do you have questions about the status of your application? If so, always check the status of your application online first via your personal status page. Have you not received any emails? Then first check your junk mail folder to see if the emails were received there. If you still cannot find any emails, check the status of your request [online](#).



#### **Step 4 | Print your visa and take it with you on your trip**

Has your visa application been approved? Even after receiving the visa, check carefully that all the information on it is correct. Pay particular attention to the passport details here. If all the details are correct, then you can download (in pdf format) and print the visa from your status page. All travellers must have a printed visa (in colour) while travelling to Kenya. In addition, each traveller must bring the following documents with them on the trip:

- A printed visa (in colour).
- A booking confirmation or invitation letter (from the person you are staying with or the organisation you will visit in Kenya).
- A booking confirmation of the return flight or other proof that the traveller intends to leave Kenya again.

Before departure, always check the current status of the current [Covid-19 rules in Kenya](#).

#### **Need a Kenya visa urgently?**

When filling in the application form you can also opt for an urgent visa application. You can do so by simply clicking the checkbox next to where it says 'Urgent delivery'. A surcharge of £17,50 per person applies for this. Are you leaving to Kenya in less than a week? In the vast majority of cases, your urgent visa application can then still be filed for processing in a timely fashion. The average expected delivery time for these cases is currently three days. From twelve days to your scheduled departure, you can only apply incurring the urgent visa surcharge.

#### **On average, an urgent visa for Kenya after 3 days**

The average delivery time for an urgent visa Kenya application is 3 days. Please note: This does not mean that an urgent visa application will always be approved within these 3 days. In fact, in many instances, the visa is approved in less than 3 days, but in exceptional cases, it can also take a bit longer. However, urgent applications are usually processed faster than standard applications. In fact, the average processing time for a normal application is 9 days.

#### **The visa application processed by e-Visa.co.uk**

A visa application can only be submitted with suitable data and documents. The data and documents you use for the visa application must meet the requirements set by the Kenyan immigration service.

Once your application is complete, a visa expert from e-Visa.co.uk will check the suitability of your data and the completeness of your application. This way, in case of errors or inappropriate documents, you can still make corrections before your application is forwarded to the

immigration service. Ultimately, however, the applicant himself or herself is responsible for the accuracy of the data entered.

### **Delivery time and processing of the visa application**

For both standard as well as urgent applications, the average delivery time does not start until all data and documents have been received in good order. So, keep a close eye on your email and/or your personal status page for information on the adequacy of the information and documents you have submitted. Once you have provided all the required information and documents, your visa application will be processed by e-Visa.co.uk.

### **Average delivery times**

The average delivery time for the Kenya visa is 9 days. If you choose an urgent delivery, that means the delivery time is reduced to approximately 3 days. In cases of urgency, e-Visa.co.uk will process your application within 24 hours, even outside office hours. Often, this even happens within an hour. However, after the application has been checked by e-Visa.co.uk and forwarded to Kenya's immigration service, it is no longer possible to influence the processing speed or delivery time. This also applies to urgent applications. Since the processing times of the Kenyan immigration service can vary, e-Visa.co.uk can offer an average delivery time but will explicitly not guarantee a maximum delivery time.

## **Other questions about your visa application for Kenya?**

If your [questions about the Kenya visa](#) have not been answered yet, you can search on e-Visa.co.uk, where you can find answers to our most frequently asked questions. Do you have questions about a visa application you have already submitted? In case you have any questions about longer-than-average processing times, always check your personal status page first for information on what to do. To access this page, click on the link in one of the emails you received from e-Visa.co.uk. You can also look up the status of [your visa application for Kenya](#) via the website.

Are some visas within a group application taking a bit longer than others? There may be a few days difference between the processing of each individual travellers' visa, even within a group application. Do not worry about this. In fact, a longer processing time does not mean that the application is less likely to be approved. It is unlikely that there are very long delays for applicants who meet all the requirements.

Do you still have questions? If so, you can also [contact e-Visa.co.uk](#).