



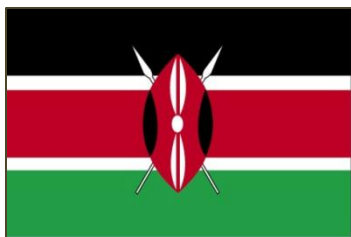
Trekking the Planet

Discovering the Cultural and Natural Significance of the World



Where are we now?

- Darren and Sandy are in the Maasai Mara National Reserve, Kenya, located at 1° S and 35° E.
- We have traveled approximately 40,870 miles (65,774 kilometers) from our starting point in California.



People and Culture

- The Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive in today's Kenya at the end of the 15th century. Arabs also created many coastal city-states. The British established the East Africa Protectorate at the end of the 18th century. Kenya became independent from Great Britain in 1963.
- The population of about 43 million consists of over 40 tribal groups. The primary languages spoken are English and Swahili, with many other regional tribal dialects found. About 75% of the population identifies themselves as Protestant or Catholic.
- The Kenyan flag contains three stripes and a Maasai shield and spears. The black symbolizes the people, the red represents blood, the green signifies natural wealth and the white represents peace. The shield and spears represents the defense of freedom.
- Popular sports in Kenya include soccer, cricket and rugby. The country is known for its world-class middle and long-distance runners, in distances from 800 meters to the marathon.
- Ugali is a dish of cornmeal mixed with water to create a dough-like consistency. It is eaten by forming it into a ball and then dipping it into stew. Other food staples include potatoes or yams.

The Samburu and Maasai

Two of Kenya's tribal groups are the Samburu and Maasai. Both are semi-nomadic and are related but the Samburu live in the north and the Maasai live in the south. Both groups dress with bright red clothes and bracelets. The Samburu comprise about 0.5% of the population, while the Maasai total about 1.5% of Kenya's populace.



Maasai women (source: [Flickr.com/TheDillyLama](https://www.flickr.com/photos/TheDillyLama/))



Ugali with dipping sauce (source: [Wikipedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org/))



Mount Kenya (source: Flickr.com/fredericsaleinm)

Nature and Environment

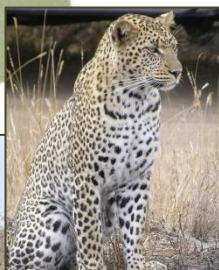
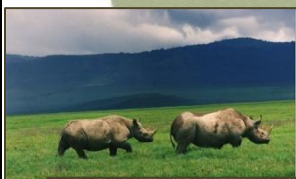
- Kenya is located in East Africa and on the coast of the Indian Ocean. It borders five countries: South Sudan and Ethiopia in the north, Somalia in the east, Tanzania in the south and Uganda in the west. It is twice the size of the U.S. state of Nevada.
- Kenya’s terrain is diverse. The north is an arid, flat plain, the coastline features mangroves and the rest of the country consists of highlands and savannas. The Great Rift Valley, divides the Kenyan highlands into east and west. The equator crosses Kenya just north of Nairobi.
- Mount Kenya is the country’s tallest mountain, at 17,057 feet (5,199 meters). It is the second-tallest mountain in Africa. Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa’s tallest mountain is solely in Tanzania, although very close to Kenya’s border.
- Kenya has over 40 reserves and national parks, with about 8% of its land protected.

The Big Five

This phrase was used by hunters to describe the five most difficult and dangerous animals in Africa to hunt by foot. Today, seeing the Big Five on safari is a goal of many tourists. The Big Five are:

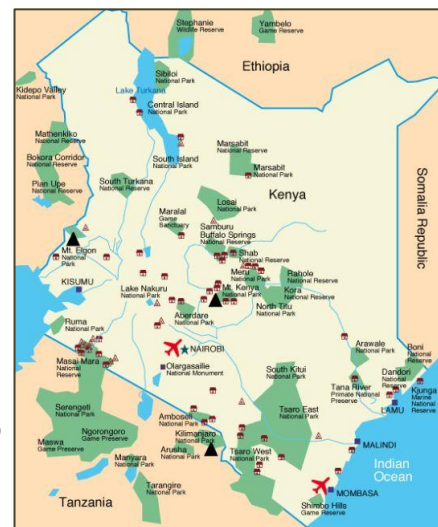
- Black rhinoceros
- Cape buffalo
- African elephant
- Leopard
- Lion

The Big Five can be found in Kenya, as well as Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.



(sources: Wikipedia.org, About.com)

Parks and Reserves Map
(source: Kenya.com)



Our Plans

- We are in the Maasai Mara National Reserve, where we have just completed a five-day walking safari.
- After spending time in the capital city of Nairobi, we will head north to the Samburu region to visit villages there. After we complete our time in Kenya we will move on to Ethiopia next.
- What questions do you have about Africa, Kenya or Ethiopia? Send them to us and we will provide answers as soon as we can!

Maasai Mara National Reserve

This area is one of the most popular safari locations in Africa. Within the reserve, over 90 species of mammals, amphibians and reptiles can be found. The Great Migration of over one million wildebeest takes place between here and the Serengeti each year.



sources: MagicalKenya.com,
Flickr.com/holydog

More Information

- <http://www.geographia.com/kenya/>
- http://www.wildwatch.com/great_migration
- <http://www.mapsofworld.com/kenya/geography/>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Kenya
- <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/africa/kenya/flag/>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Kenya
- <http://www.maasai.co.ke/useful-information/interesting-facts-about-kenya>
- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ke.html>
- <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/kenya/>

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