

The peak time for seeing the migration in the Maasai Mara is between July and September before the herds commence the migration in reverse and return to the Serengeti. A wonderful way to view this spectacle is from the basket of a hot air balloon as it drifts silently across the herds of grazing animals. To the east of the Maasai Mara, is Amboseli National Park, which also lies close to the Tanzanian border. What makes Amboseli special is the awesome backdrop of snow-capped Mt. Kilimanjaro (main photo), just over the border in Tanzania. Amboseli is justly famous for its elephants and large families of these wonderful animals roam through the swamps at the foot of Kilimanjaro. Tsavo National Park in eastern Kenya is one of the largest in the world and occupies an area greater than the size of Wales. For those taking a holiday at the Kenya coast, and wishing to have a break from the beach, Tsavo is a popular choice for doing some serious game watching. It is also home to the world famous Mzima Springs, which is populated by hippos. An underwater observatory allows visitors to watch these cumbersome animals in their natural habitat. Mention must be made of Lake Nakuru National Park, about 95 miles north-west of

Nairobi and home to immense flocks of flamingos, which gather on the lake creating the greatest bird spectacle in the world. Over one million flamingos reside here and from a distance their massed ranks give the lake's circumference a distinct pink hue. Nakuru National Park is also a sanctuary for both the endangered black, and white rhinos.

Kenya has two rainy seasons - the long rains running from April to June and the short rains in October/November, so the best time to take a safari is July to September and November to March, thus avoiding the rains. Flying time to Kenya is nine hours and, because local time is only three hours ahead of GMT, travellers experience very little jet lag. Nairobi is the principal gateway and is served by the direct daily flights of Kenya Airways and British Airways. They will be joined by the daily flights of Virgin Atlantic on the 1st June 2007. There are also weekly charter flights into Mombasa for access to the white sand beaches of the Kenya coast. A visa is required to enter Kenya currently costing £35 and may be obtained from the Kenya High Commission in London.

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