



KENYA

Kenya is a well-known country in East Africa and borders Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia. The equator runs right through the middle of the country. It is dominated by the Rift Valley, a vast range of valleys that follows a 5,000 km crack in the earth's crust.

Quick Facts...

	KENYA	UK
Area (sq miles)	224,081	93,788
Population	34.5 million	60 million
% Urban	20.5 %	89.6%
% Rural	79.5 %	10.4%
Life expectancy	47	78



Background

The first settlers in Kenya arrived from North Africa in 2000 BC and since then Arabs, Africans, Indians and Europeans have visited it in large numbers. In 1895 Kenya became a British colony and European settlers forced local people off fertile farmland. In response, a resistance movement was set up and in 1963 Kenya gained independence - Jomo Kenyatta then became ruler. Now Kenya is relatively peaceful and most of the land is used for growing crops, both cash crops for export and others for home consumption. Kenya's other main industry is tourism, with 500,000 visitors a year making a huge contribution to the economy.

Comparing with the UK

Kenya is over twice the size of the UK and the capital, Nairobi, has a population of close to 3 million - compared to London at 7 million. Estimates suggest 1 million people live in Kibera, a slum in Nairobi, the same size as Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel, which has a population of 18!

Climate Facts...

	Kenya	UK
Average temp in coldest/hottest months	15-19°C	4-17°C
Average annual rainfall	800mm	1200mm

Natural wonders

Archaeological evidence suggests that the **Rift Valley** in Kenya is the birth-place of humanity.

Every year in July, millions of **wildebeest** migrate from the Serengeti in Tanzania to the Masai Mara in Kenya in search of water and grazing.

Mount Kenya is the second largest mountain in Africa reaching 5,199 metres.

Poverty

In Kenya 120 children out of every 1,000 do not reach the age of 5.

52% of people live on less than 50p a day.

1 in 5 Kenyans cannot meet basic food needs. 3.5 million people in Kenya need food assistance.

There are close to 250,000 street children (estimated) in Kenya. The largest concentration is in Nairobi at 60,000.

Conflicts in Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia have led to a large increase in refugees.

Culture

Kenyan culture reflects a mixture of African, Indian, Arab and British influences.

Kenya is home to more than 70 tribal groups. The most important distinguishing feature between the tribes is language.

Nyama Choma (barbequed meat) is Kenya's unofficial national dish.

Ugali is a staple part of many Kenyans diets. It is made from maize and looks a lot like mashed potato!

Kenyan long distance runners are among the best in the world. One of the most famous is Kipchoge Keino who won two gold medals and two silver medals at the Olympics.

English	Swahili
Hello	Jambo
Goodbye	Kwa heri
My name is	Jina langu ni
How are you?	Habari?
I am fine	Nzuri

Send a Cow in Kenya

Send a Cow work in Western Kenya. We work with several groups there, with a variety of members. They include women looking after orphaned children, child-headed households and people with HIV/AIDS. Send a Cow also helps a group of blind people, and a youth group. We mostly give dairy cows in Kenya, but also distribute small numbers of dairy goats.



Did you know?

Kenya is the world's third largest exporter of tea.

There are 62 languages spoken in Kenya.

Kenya has over 65 national parks and wildlife preserves.

Kenyan Wangari Maathai received the Nobel Peace Prize for her dedication to women's rights, ecology, and democracy.

Kenya is the second leading exporter of flowers in the world.

The word 'safari' is Swahili for journey.

Hippos can run at 30 mph, faster than an Olympic sprinter and are among the most dangerous of all African animals.