

THE PREFERRED COUNTRY FOR FILMING LOCATIONS

Film Kenya, Capture Africa!

Breathtaking locations, beautiful weather, friendly people, developed infrastructure, name it, the list is endless; furthermore, it is comparatively cheaper to shoot in Kenya compared to other countries in the region. Kenya is fast becoming the African and worldwide premier filming location of choice. It boasts a wide support network in terms of film, production and post-production houses as well as support services including one of the best transport networks in the region.

KENYA

SHOOT IN THE HEART OF AFRICA



REASONS TO SHOOT IN KENYA

The Kenya film and television production industry boasts some of the most sophisticated production facilities with modern equipment for both production and post-production needs. Sound stages and studios can be hired. Kenya has a large pool of skilled technicians and crew available for production and post-production.

Kenya's tax regime is highly conducive for investment and includes: The exemption of 25% import duty. 100% VAT exemption by working with local production companies which have been accorded the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) status. 100% investment deduction on capital expenditure incurred by a film producer on purchase of any filming equipment.

○ The Kenyan government understands the importance of the film industry and has simplified the process of obtaining film licenses for foreign and local production companies.

○ Kenya is home to several telecommunication companies with cellular money transfer services that enable film production companies to send and receive payments countrywide in a fast and affordable manner.

○ Kenya has varied terrain and landscapes ranging from enchanting beauty to gritty ruggedness. In 2002 Kenya was declared the winner for 'Best Film Location' in the 'Originality

and Creativity' section of Annual Global Locations Expo in Los Angeles.

○ Kenya's abundant wildlife attracts an immense amount of documentary filmmakers and continues to be a great location for most television wildlife productions. Many award winning wildlife series have been shot on location in Kenya by BBC Natural History, Discovery, Survival and other renowned production houses.

○ Kenya is the ultimate wildlife safari destination with over 62 national parks and reserves spread across the country. Kenya's national parks and game reserves boast of an exceptional population of lions, leopards, buffalos, rhinos, elephants and other wildlife.

Geography: Kenya covers 580,367 sq. km and sits astride the equator. It shares borders with Ethiopia in the north, Sudan in the northwest, Uganda in the west, Tanzania in the south and Somalia in the northeast.

Climate and Weather : The capital city, Nairobi, has very pleasant climate throughout the year due to its altitude. The coastal areas are tropical, with high humidity in April and May, but tempered by monsoon winds. The lowlands are hot but mainly dry, while the highlands are more temperate. Kenya's hottest months are December to March. Filming may be carried out throughout the year, as there are no distinctively marked seasons.

Laws and Regulations

There are set laws and regulations that apply to filming in Kenya. This includes licensing, classification, taxation, customs, work permits, employment of staff and working hours.

For any further specific information, contact the Kenya Film Commission
Email: info@filmingkenya.com

Filming Licenses

All local filming agents and private production companies are requested to submit their applications through a local agent registered with the Ministry at the Department of Film Services. The ministry regularly updates the list of registered film agents.

For foreign crew, each is required to pay a fee to the Department of Immigration Services for a special pass before engaging in any film shooting. Artists may, however, arrive in Kenya on a visitor's pass while the filming special pass is being processed. A nominal non-refundable fee of 1% of the value of the equipment is payable to the Customs Department on presentation of a film license. Filming in National Parks and Reserves will attract a daily park entry fee.

In order to obtain a license one should fill an application form accompanied by a copy of the script and a story synopsis.

Film Licenses for documentaries and commercials are issued within minutes of application. Applications for dramas and feature films are processed in less than 48 hours of application.

Further information can be accessed at <http://www.kws.org>.

FILMING IN KENYA

KEY INFORMATION

Documents to be submitted

- Formal letter of application.
- Application form duly completed
- List of foreign crew members, giving names, nationalities, passport numbers and date of expiry of passports.
- Script and synopsis or story board.
- List of equipment to be imported for shooting purposes including the value of each piece.

Fees

- Filming rates in Kenya Shillings (KSHS) 1KSHS:1.55 INR
- Adverts, documentaries, dramas, short features, still photographs – Kshs.5,000/-
- Full-length feature films, TV series – Kshs.15,000/-
- Daily filming fees – Kshs.1,000/-
- Liaison Officer's service charges - Kshs.400/- per day only where necessary.
- Other charges:
- Each visitor is required to pay Kshs.2,000/- to the Department of Immigration Services for a special pass before engaging in any film shooting.
- A nominal non-refundable fee of 1% of the value of the equipment or Kshs.30,000/- (whichever is less) is payable to the Customs Department on presentation of a film license.
- Charges applicable for any filming in a National Parks:
- Kshs.8,000/- for 5 people/ 1 week
- Kshs.12,000/- for 6 - 10 people / 1 week
- Kshs.20,000/- for more than 10 people / 1 week

Immigration

There are no restrictions on how many expatriate crew members or artists may arrive in Kenya on a visitor's pass prior to the Film Permit being processed.

It is recommended that producers visiting Kenya on reconnaissance

contact Department of Film Services & provide details of their arrival. This advance notice allows for the provision of VIP treatment at the Airport.

Local Film Agents

A list of accredited Local Film Agents, who facilitate location scouting; transport, hotel reservation, film licenses, shipping and other logistics can be obtained from The Kenya Film Commission
Web: www.kenyafilmcommission.com

The Film Licensing Officer
Department of Film Services
Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts
Telephone: +254 020 650120/1/2/3
Fax: +254 020 553003
Website: www.filmsservices.go.ke
Email: licencing@filmsservices.go.ke

Visual Africa Productions

Visual Africa Productions has been a registered filming agent since 2011 and is experienced in providing ground work for international productions filming in Kenya. The company has all the necessary equipment including cameras, a professional edit suite that enables one produce quality High Definition (HD) productions as well as lighting & sound solutions tailored to meet your requirements.
Line Producer: Mr. Feisal Malik
Email: info@visualafrica.tv / feisal@visualafrica.tv
Tel: 0733 722818/ 0721 431432
Website: www.visualafrica.tv

Work/Entry Permit in Kenya

Work or residence permits are issued by the Immigration Department in Kenya. All non-Kenyan citizens must be in possession of an entry/work permit or exemption, issued by the Office of the Director of Immigration Services, before they can take up employment in Kenya, whether paid or unpaid.

Fees For Entry/Work Permits Contact
Director of Immigration Services
Website: www.immigration.go.ke
Tel: +245-20-222022
Fax: +254-20-220731
Email: adis1@immigration.go.ke
Kenya Revenue Authority

Film equipment that comes into Kenya can be cleared in different categories:

Accompanied equipment – This is equipment that is shipped in temporarily into the country. The required payment is Kshs.30,000/- as the security bond (To be refunded upon completion of work and departure of personnel and equipment)

Unaccompanied equipment (sea or air) - a temporary import of equipment form shall be filled in with the particulars and value of equipment. There no taxes charged on the filming equipment imported into the country instead the security bond acts as a security measure to cover any eventuality during the production and post-production process.

Hospitality Services

Several hotels in Kenya are of top international standard including global brands. Boutique hotels are becoming increasingly popular. For more information on hotels in Kenya please visit www.kahc.co.ke A list of reputable travel agencies can also be found on the website of Kenya Association of Travel Agencies
Website: www.katakenya.org

There are frequent direct and indirect flights to Kenya by several major airlines. The national carrier is Kenya Airways and it operates direct flights from Mumbai to Nairobi.
Website: www.kenya-airways.com

Kenyan Currency

The official currency is the Kenya Shilling (KSH) and one US dollar equals approximately 105 Kenyan shillings. There are no restrictions on the amount of foreign currency that can be brought into Kenya. Foreign currency is readily exchangeable in banks, bureau de change or authorized hotels. Most banks in Kenya are equipped with ATMs. The standard banking hours are between 8 a.m. - 4p.m. during weekdays. Traveler's cheques are widely acceptable, as are credit cards in most hotels, travel and safari companies and restaurants.