

# Kenya Relocation Guide



By Appointment To  
Her Majesty The Queen  
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

# ABELS™

THE ART OF MOVING

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FS 23942



198656



ISO 9001 - ISO 14001  
OHSAS 18001



<b>TELEPHONE:</b>	Country code (00254) + Area code.
<b>STANDARD TIME:</b>	GMT + 3 hours.
<b>WEIGHTS &amp; MEASURES:</b>	Metric.
<b>ELECTRICITY:</b>	220/240v AC 50 Hz.
<b>INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:</b>	Boosters usually advised: for Diphtheria; Hepatitis A; Poliomyelitis; Tetanus; Typhoid. Other vaccines to consider: Cholera; Hepatitis B; Meningococcal Meningitis; Rabies; Yellow Fever.
<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:</b>	New Year's Day 1st January, Good Friday as per the Gregorian Calendar, Easter Monday as per the Gregorian Calendar, Labour Day 1st May, Madaraka Day 1st June, Mashujaa Day 20th October, Jamhuri (Independence) Day 12th December, Christmas Day 25th December, Boxing Day 26th December, Idd-ul-Fitr (Eid-al-Fitr) Islamic Holiday to celebrate the End of Ramadan.
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	08.00/09.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs.
<b>BANK HOURS:</b>	Various 08.00 hrs to 20.00 hrs.
<b>EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:</b>	999 although the official number, there are various other numbers for Police, Fire and Ambulance.
<b>BRITISH EMBASSY:</b>	UK High Commission Upper Hill Road POB 30465-00100GPO Nairobi Tel: 25420 28 44 000
<b>KENYAN HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON:</b>	45 Portland Place London W1N 4AS Tel: 0207 636 2371

## **Part 1 – Background information on Kenya**

### **Background**

Founding president and liberation Jomo KENYATTA led Kenya from independence in 1963 until his death in 1978, when President Daniel MOI took power in a constitutional succession. The country was a de facto one-party state from 1969 until 1982 when the ruling Kenya African National Union (KANU) made itself the sole legal party in Kenya. MOI acceded to internal and external pressure for political liberalization in late 1991. The ethnically fractured opposition failed to dislodge KANU from power in elections in 1992 and 1997, which were marred by violence and fraud, but were viewed as having generally reflected the will of the Kenyan people. President MOI stepped down in December 2002 following fair and peaceful elections. Mwai KIBAKI, running as the candidate of the multiethnic, united opposition group, the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC), defeated KANU candidate Uhuru KENYATTA and assumed the presidency following a campaign centered on an anti-corruption platform. KIBAKI's NARC coalition splintered in 2005 over a constitutional review process. Government defectors joined with KANU to form a new opposition coalition, the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), which defeated the government's draft constitution in a popular referendum in November 2005. KIBAKI's re-election in December 2007 brought charges of vote rigging from ODM candidate Raila ODINGA and unleashed two months of violence in which as many as 1,500 people died. African Union-sponsored mediation led by former UN Secretary General Kofi ANNAN in late February 2008 resulted in a power-sharing accord bringing ODINGA into the government in the restored position of Prime Minister. The power sharing accord included a broad reform agenda, the centerpiece of which was constitutional reform. In August 2010, Kenyans overwhelmingly adopted a new constitution in a national referendum.

### **Geography**

Kenya is situated along the Equator on the east coast of Africa. It is bordered on the coast by Somalia and the Indian Ocean, on the south by Tanzania, on the west by Uganda and on the north by Ethiopia and the Sudan. Lake Victoria, though situated mainly in Tanzania and Uganda, also forms part of Kenya's western coastline.

The Great Rift Valley runs throughout the country from the north to the south and varies in depth from between 610m and 914m. Kenya's landscape is varied: a hot coastal belt contains palm trees and sandy beaches gives way further inland to dry bush country, savannah grassland and semi-desert area which cover two-thirds of the country. This rises towards the Kenya Highlands, which contain moorlands and mountain forests. The eastern side of the Highlands contains the country's highest peak, glaciers are found on Mount Kenya (5,199m), which is also the second highest mountain in Africa and distinguishable by its snow-capped peaks. Other mountains include Mount Elgon on the Kenya / Uganda border (4,321m) and the Aberdares Range (3,994m). The Kenyan Highlands comprise one of the most successful agricultural production regions in Africa, unique physiography supports abundant and varied wildlife of scientific and economic value.

### **Climate**

Kenya has an equatorial climate which varies according to altitude. There are no marked seasonal changes. The hottest months are February and March and the coolest are June and July.

The highest temperatures occur in the lowland areas and reach a maximum of 32 degrees centigrade on the coast, while the highlands are cooler and more temperate: Nairobi has an average temperature ranging from 10 to 28 degrees centigrade. The mean annual rainfall ranges from less than 250mm in the arid northern and eastern areas to more than 2,000mm on the slopes of the highland mountain ranges which experience two main rainy seasons, the long rains from March to May and the short rains from October to December. Most of the low-lying areas are dry and arid but on the coast Mombassa gets good rainfall because of the moist winds it receives from the Indian Ocean. Overall, Kenya is one of the world's most arid countries, with over 80% of its land receiving less than 760mm of rain a year.

### **Population**

Based on the United National estimate in November 2017 the population is 50,156,855.

## **Economy**

Kenya is the economic, financial, and transport hub of East Africa.

Agriculture remains the backbone of the Kenyan economy, contributing one-third of GDP. About 75% of Kenya's population of roughly 44.2 million work at least part-time in the agricultural sector, including livestock and pastoral activities. Over 75% of agricultural output is from small-scale, rain-fed farming or livestock production.

Tourism holds a significant place in Kenya's economy.

## **Language**

Swahilli is the national language of Kenya. English is also an official language.

## **Religion**

The vast majority of Kenyans are Christian (about 70%) and the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches are the most established. Islam is another major religion. A few Kenyans adhere to Hinduism and Sikhism (mostly Indian). Many of the traditional African religions are no longer practiced.

## **Currency**

The currency unit in Kenya is the Kenyan shilling (KES), comprising 100 cents (c).

Coins that are currently used are available in denominations of 50c and 1Shs, 5Shs, 10Shs, 20Shs and 40 shillings.

Bank notes (bills) are available in denominations of 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000 shillings.

All major Credit Cards are widely accepted.

## **Education**

Primary education is free and compulsory in Kenya. Secondary education is also free, but not compulsory. Primary education lasts 8 years in Kenya (standards 1 to 8). Pupils are usually 6 years old when they start school, and 14 when they complete their primary education.

## **Health**

Nairobi's Kenyatta National Hospital acts as the main referral for medical treatment, with other provincial hospitals taking referrals from their districts.

In rural areas, services are provided by health centres and dispensing clinics.

## **Part 2 – Kenya Import Customs Regulations**

**To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household goods and personal effects into Kenya.**

### **General Information Expatriates**

**PLEASE NOTE, WE HAVE TO SEND ALL DOCUMENTATION OUT TO THE AUTHORITIES IN KENYA PRIOR TO THE EFFECTS LEAVING THE UK, and we cannot ship the effects without approval from Kenya.**

Non-Kenyan citizens arriving in Kenya for the first time are permitted to import used household goods and personal effects duty free within three months from date of arrival. These items must have been in the owner's possession for at least one year prior to the import (excluding shipping time). Any new items will be subject to duties and taxes.

The owner must have arrived before the goods can be cleared through customs. Passport should clearly indicate the date of arrival.

All cosmetics, toiletries, perfumes, alcohol, foodstuffs will be subjected to radio active analysis which will cost Euros 30 per sample per item. Then dutiable (100%). **Please do not include any of these items in your consignment.**

Shipments can be 100% inspected by customs. There is only a short free period given at the port or airport of entry for your effects, and normally customs clearance takes longer, resulting in storage and demurrage charges, which will be passed on to you.

A small air shipment (150kg) of used personal effects can be imported without duties – **Only if the client has a “special pass / temporary work permit”**

#### **Documents required**

- Original valid passport required (copy unacceptable) Exit stamp out of origin country and entry into Kenya must be traced. Must be submitted during customs clearance
- Approved Residence Permit which should be endorsed in passport and should be valid for a minimum of two years for duty free clearance
- Valued Packing List in English
- Original Bill of lading / Telex Release / Sea waybill for Sea Shipments
- Copy of Air waybill for air shipments
- Approved Resident Permit / Work Permit
- Personal Pin (PIN) (Personal Identification Number) certificate issued by Kenya Revenue Authority

#### **General Information Returning Resident**

For duty-free importation of personal effects, you must have owned and used your effects for at least one year before the date of shipping. Any new items will be subject to Duties and taxes.

Kenyan returning residents must have resided outside Kenya for at least two consecutive years and not entered Kenya more than 90 days in the last 2 years, and effects must be shipped to be customs cleared within 90 days of return to Kenya otherwise duties and taxes will be applicable.

All cosmetics, toiletries, perfumes, alcohol, foodstuffs will be subjected to radio active analysis which will cost Euros 30 per sample per item. Then dutiable (100%). **Please do not include any of these items in your consignment.**

#### **Documents required**

- Original valid passport required (copy unacceptable) Exit stamp out of origin country and entry into Kenya must be traced
- Valued Packing List in English
- Original Bill of lading / Telex Release / Sea waybill for Sea Shipments
- Copy of Air waybill for air shipments
- Personal Pin (PIN) (Personal Identification Number) certificate issued by Kenya Revenue Authority
- Copy of Visa (work Visa) for duration of stay in the UK

#### **Diplomats**

##### **Documents required:**

- Original valid passport for the duration of customs clearance
- Original valid passport required (copy unacceptable) Exit stamp out of origin country and entry into Kenya must be traced
- Valued Packing List in English
- Original Bill of lading / Telex Release / Sea waybill for Sea Shipments
- Copy of Air waybill for air shipments

- Pro1b exemption forms (02) approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Personal Pin (PIN) (Personal Identification Number) certificate issued by Kenya Revenue Authority

Diplomatic goods are not subject to inspection if there is an approved Pro1b, and alcohol is not dutiable. For duty free entry of alcohol a separate list has to be prepared showing quantity of alcohol and brand, which has to be submitted to your Embassy for exemption (PR01A).

For air shipments prior release can be done on collection of copy of pro 1b request and passport. Extra costs may apply.

### **Motor vehicles – motor cycles Expatriates**

Documents required: In addition to those required for household and personal effects

- Import Declaration Form
- Original certificate of registration / log book of the vehicle in English
- Certificate of road worthiness must be provided by the owner of the vehicle to the Kenyan Bureau of Standards. A K.B.S agent (JEVIC) must do the pre-inspection at origin to obtain the COCR for cars coming from the UK or a penalty of 15% of the Cost Insurance Freight (CIF) value will be charged
- Purchase Invoice

Cars or motorbikes should be registered before leaving the port so they are offloaded from the container.

The importer must have owned **and used** the vehicle for at least one year before the date of shipping for duty free entry.

If JEVIC is not present in the country of export the shipper will pay 0.475% of the CIF Value or a minimum of US\$180 for local inspection.

All vehicles will be verified by customs during clearance.

The vehicle must not be older than 8 years.

### **NO LEFT HAND DRIVE VEHICLES ARE ALLOWED INTO KENYA**

#### **Returning Residents Vehicles**

**Documents required** – Same as Expatriates.

#### **Diplomatic Vehicles**

##### **Documents Required:**

As per household and personal effects, plus the Certificate of Roadworthiness (see Expat documentation).

### **Prohibited Items**

- All firearms and explosives including all weapons types; Air rifles, pellet guns, firearm replicas, including toy guns or water pistols that are realistic in appearance, ammunition, tear and stun gas, tear spray, high powered bows and arrows, large blade swords and other similar items, fencing foils, antique firearms and collector's pieces
- Narcotic drugs and all psychotropic drugs under international control
- Snares and traps capable of killing or capturing game or animals
- Knives and dangerous hunting weapons
- All wild animal products including hides, skins, ivory or other animal products
- Endangered species of world flora and fauna
- Unwrought precious metals and stones
- Ozone depleting substances



- Historical artefacts
- Hazardous materials
- Food and alcohol
- Soil
- False Money and Counterfeit money and goods
- Pornographic material
- Matches containing white phosphorus
- Soaps and cosmetics products containing mercury
- Agricultural and industrial chemicals which can be used in the manufacture of explosives or poisons
- Lead based paint
- Armoured Vehicles

#### **Pets**

We work with a number of Pet Relocation Companies who can help you Import your pet to Kenya.

Please contact us if you wish to be put in contact with our partners.

#### **Endangered Species**

A CITES certificate is normally required. There is a worldwide ban on the movement of Ivory without a CITES Certificate. **Please note old pianos usually have ivory keys and a CITES certification will be required.**

For information on obtaining a CITES certificate please visit:-

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/endangered-species-application-for-import-and-export-permit>

*Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.*