



RIDE WORLD WIDE

KENYA

BORANA LODGE 2024

RIDE INFORMATION

Borana Lodge is owned by Michael and Nicky Dyer, third generation Kenyans whose family have lived in Kenya for over 75 years. It is part of the 35,000 acre Borana Ranch, a working cattle and agricultural ranch on northern Kenya's Laikipia plateau, about a 4 hour drive (or an hour's charter flight), north of Nairobi. The ranch itself sits in a vast conservation area and the lodge, which is built on a hillside at about 6,000 feet overlooking the Samangua valley in a fantastic position with panoramic views. There is a waterhole below where game often congregate to drink and towering above the bush, on the distant horizon, is the massive peak of Mount Kenya. Horses and game are integral to life at Borana Ranch and the Dyer family is dedicated to working alongside neighbouring landowners to preserve the area's natural environment and to promote economic and social improvements for local people. The lodge's superb location, its luxurious but relaxed feel and the opportunities it offers for game viewing, for adventurous exploration of the rugged bush and also to see modern Kenyan ranch life at first hand, make it a wonderful safari choice.



DATES

The lodge is open to guests year round (occasionally closes in May). Stays can be organised to suit, for anything from 2 to about 14 nights and itineraries can include a night or two in a comfortable tented 'fly' camp as well as the lodge itself, if you wish. For groups of 2 to 12 riders, Riding Wild itineraries heading to Lewa Downs, with a fly camp on route or heading north to Tassia lodge, again with fly camps on route, can be arranged on request.

HORSES

The horses used at Borana are mixed breeds of between about 14.2hh and 16.2hh with some pure thoroughbreds and some thoroughbred and Ethiopian crosses. There are about 25 to 30 safari horses at the lodge's stables, about a 15 minute game drive from the lodge itself, with a good range for all abilities and some Ethiopian cross ponies for children. All in all there is a good selection of horses for riders of different standards, ranging from responsive, fun and forward going polo ponies and thoroughbred crosses, to steady, reliable schoolmasters. All are sensible to handle, used to game and at home in the bush. Grooms look after the horses at the stables, prepare them for rides and travel with you if you 'fly' camp or ride to another lodge.

TACK

Tack is English style, mostly English general purpose saddles (leather or good quality Wintecs) with some Australian stock saddles available. Sheepskin seat savers (made in Borana's own tannery) are provided, as are saddle-bags whenever necessary.

RIDING

The amount of riding you do at Borana is entirely up to you. Riding is optional and can be combined with some of the many other activities available - but if you wish, you can spend up to 6 hours in the saddle each day, riding out on morning, afternoon or longer day rides, rides to a 'fly' camp (available as an additional option - extra cost - if staying 3 nights or more) or on a mobile 'Riding Wild' safari, which includes riding to other lodges and camps and can be arranged as a tailored option for groups of 4 or more experienced riders on request. Experienced riders may also be able to try polo, either to 'stick and ball' or play a friendly practice chukka - if you are interested in polo let us know before you book as there are often locals keen to practice. Borana lodge sleeps a maximum of around 16 guests but riding groups are generally small, usually a maximum of 8 guests (occasionally more) plus guides. Where guests are of widely varying ability, rides are split so novice riders ride with a separate guide - although you are welcome to ride with your own group and guide if you prefer. Rides are lead by an experienced lead guide and accompanied by a back up rider / groom. Children who are reasonably experienced are welcome to ride and care is taken to ensure children, beginners and those with little experience can try short rides in areas where the environment is more controlled and big game encounters highly unlikely.

WEIGHT LIMIT

95 kgs / 15 stone although occasionally heavier experienced riders can be taken. If your weight is close to this limit, please contact us before booking to check that a suitable horse(s) are available.



PACE

As riding is tailored to suit, the pace varies, although it always depends on the weather and terrain, as well as riders' ability and wishes. The going on and around the lodge is quite varied; there are good places for long canters along soft, dirt tracks and sandy river-beds, as well as across open, scrub and grass covered plains. There are also places where the bush is thick and thorny and / or the going rough (perhaps climbing down into valleys) where the pace has to be slower - but overall, riding is at a well varied pace, with good chances to trot and canter.

RIDING EXPERIENCE

Riders of different abilities are well catered for at Borana with a good selection of horses and riding hours and pace tailored to suit - but as riding is in an open, unfenced area where there is 'big' (and potentially dangerous) game including elephant, rhino and lion, all riders must have some previous riding experience. There is a fenced schooling area at the Borana stables where young and novice riders can try the horses and the inexperienced may also be able to ride out on short rides at Ngare Ndare, one of the family farms, where the likelihood of close game encounters is very low. However generally, as a minimum, anyone wishing to ride should be comfortable, well balanced and secure in the saddle and able to control a well-schooled horse at a walk, trot and canter. If you do not ride regularly at home, we recommend practice to accustom yourself to the saddle hours before you go.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Borana is a super option for both riders and non-riders. It suits experienced riders very well but is also ideal for a mixed ability group and for families with children. As well as riding, game drives and walks with an experienced guide and Masai trackers are always an option and aerial radio tracking of cats, rhino and elephant give a special insight into local conservation projects.

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OTHER ACTIVITIES cont.

A hide at the dam below the lodge and a tree platform not far away are great spots for game viewing or bird watching, whilst bikes - mountain bikes for the fit (who are used to off-road biking - the going is quite rough!) and e-bikes for those who like a helping hand (extra charge) - are an exciting way to explore and see game. Optional day and half day trips include visits to the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy (extra entrance fee) and overnight or day trips (organised on request) to Lake Turkana to visit Dr Leaky's excavation site 'The Origins of Mankind'. Closer to the lodge, you can visit a local Masai village (contribution charged), one of the neighbouring Community lodges, Waitabit Farm (which produces most of the fresh produce used at the lodge and is one of the biggest permaculture projects in Africa, managed by Llewellyn Dyer) or Kisima Farm (where cut flowers - one of Kenya's biggest exports - are grown). Some of the ranch's dams have been stocked with Tilapia niloticus, providing entertainment for keen fishermen, who can also arrange a helicopter or road trip to the challenging but rewarding streams on Mount Kenya. For families, the original Pride Rock, inspiration for Disney's Lion King, is the perfect breakfast, picnic or sundowner spot and the Ngare Ndare forest with its raised canopy walkway is another day or half day destination accessible by horse, vehicle or bike (entrance fee charged). There is an 'in house' masseuse and reflexologist (extra charge) and experienced (though not professionally qualified) nannies are available for babysitting on request. Borana has won several awards for responsible tourism and actively supports many local and community projects as well as being a driving force in conservation in northern Kenya. Local projects include a mobile medical clinic, beadworks and small tannery, which buys hides from local farmers and employs blind and handicapped people from the local community to make wonderful leather products such as sheepskin saddle covers, slippers and belts. The ranch also provides scholarships each year to the best students at local schools allowing them to take further education and provide vital employment for about 200 local people. As a lodge guest you are able to visit some of the ongoing projects, schools and medical mission and this gives a real insight into the lives of local people and the ways in which tourism can support the local population. Other activities such as camel safaris, balloon and light aircraft trips or Mount Kenya climbs can easily be organised on request.

TERRAIN

The Laikipia plateau and area around Borana is one of Kenya's most beautiful. It boasts magnificent views and a landscape that varies from dry lowlands dotted with scrub and acacia thorn at the foot of the escarpment, to rolling grassy plains and the thicker Ngare Ngare Forest further up, all overlooked by the snow capped peak of Mount Kenya. Open plains, dry river-beds and wide dirt tracks provide good going for horses and there are hidden valleys, rocky, winding descents and ascents leading to high ridges, and panoramic views across the great expanses of Africa.

WILDLIFE

Borana Ranch lies at a height of about 6,500 feet at the foot of Mount Kenya and adjacent to the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. The 35,000acre ranch is home to a wide diversity of game including elephant, buffalo, black and white rhino, the beautifully marked reticulated giraffe, zebra (mainly Burchell's but also Grevy's), waterbuck, eland, bushbuck, impala, baboon and monkeys. You may also see Jackson's hartebeest, wild dog (there have been frequent sighting of wild dog, which are becoming increasingly rare in Kenya, on Borana over the last few years), cheetah, lion, klipspringer and perhaps also leopard and Colobus monkey in the more forested areas. The Lodge itself is built in a carefully chosen spot on the edge of a valley and good-sized herds of elephant, buffalo and zebra are often seen drinking at the waterhole close by, whilst smaller game such as rock hyrax, monkeys and African Hare often wander into the garden! The adjoining Lewa Conservancy (fences have been taken down) is also home to the 'big five' (elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard and rhino) and this is one of the only areas of Kenya where you can see both black and white rhino. It is also home to over 25% of the world's dwindling population of Grevy's zebra, as well as reticulated giraffe, eland, ostrich, Grant's gazelle, reedbuck, hyena (both brown and spotted), jackal and Bat-eared fox, all of which are also often seen at Borana. Over 300 species of birds have been recorded at the ranch including many that are rare and seldom seen.



ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation at Borana lodge, which sleeps up to about 16 guests in individual cottages set on different levels around central living, dining and reception areas, is very comfortable, stylish and well thought out. **cont. over**

ACCOMMODATION cont.

The lodge buildings are built of stone, wood and thatch and are set into the hillside overlooking the valley. The cottages and main lodge are joined by gardens with well-tended lawns, flower-beds and stone paths; there is a terrace with an 'infinity' swimming pool, thatched pool house with amazing views and comfortable sofas and chairs. The guest cottages are built on separate levels around the main lodge and are very well secluded. Some are on two floors and each has a large, well-designed en-suite bathroom with bath and shower, an open fireplace (fires are lit for you on return from late afternoon rides or game drives) and a private veranda with chairs, table and views over the valley. They are all individual. One is a large, luxury 'family' cottage with two separate bedrooms and bathrooms either side of an adjoining sitting room and private plunge pool - perfect for families with children or for those wanting complete privacy. The whole lodge is decorated in luxurious, but unaffected style with chunky handmade wooden furniture and rugs on polished wooden floors. Some cottages have large four-poster beds, all have extras such as hairdryers and hand-made soap, shower gels and shampoo are provided. Electricity comes from a generator, combined with battery powered inverter systems in all the rooms ensuring 24 hour power supply. Water is heated in wood-burning stoves just outside the rooms. If you would like to organise a 'mobile' safari as part of your stay at Borana, you have the option of spending a night or two in a temporary 'fly' camp which will be transported and set up ahead of you by staff or, for groups of 4 or more, we can organise longer rides that include nights in a fly camp and also nights in other lodges in the area - Tassia Community Lodge is within a day's ride of Borana and there are several other lodges such as Lewa Safari Camp or Il N'gwesi Community Lodge that can be built into a trip on request. If you choose a fly camp, accommodation will be simple but reasonably comfortable, in spacious 'dome' tents, with stretcher beds, chairs and tables and with 'bucket and pulley' showers and long drop loos shared between guests. The camp will be set up ahead by staff who will also prepare meals and look after the horses. Accommodation at Borana or in fly camps is based on two sharing and a single supplement is payable if you are travelling alone and there is no-one to share with. There is an airstrip at Borana and direct private charters from Nairobi take about ½ hour. There are also scheduled flights to Lewa, about 1 ¼ hours game drive from the lodge through the Lewa Conservancy.



MEALS

Meals at Borana are a highlight - carefully thought out, plentiful and always delicious! Ingredients are fresh, bread is baked every day and much of the meat, vegetables and dairy produce used are produced on the ranch itself. Days normally start with tea or coffee brought to your room, then, depending on your plans, you might have a substantial breakfast, with a choice of fruit, porridge, toast and a full English breakfast if you wish, in the lodge dining room. Lunch, generally two courses buffet style, is either served at the lodge on your return from riding - or you may stop when out riding for a picnic or 'bush brunch'. Tea and cakes mid-afternoon before evening game activities are followed by pre-dinner drinks, accompanied by appetising snacks in front of the fire. Dinner is three courses by candlelight usually at a long table in the main dining room with the option of a private dinner on your veranda or perhaps out in the bush if you wish. There is a good varied bar and a selection of spirits, wine, beer and soft drinks (as well as plenty of ice) are all included in your stay.



WEATHER

Daytime temperatures on the Laikipia Plateau are generally very pleasant for riding at around 20 to 25 degrees C year round. The wet seasons (as in the whole of East Africa) are late March to May when there may be intermittent downpours with sunshine in between, and November / early to mid December when there may be short, but sometimes heavy, bursts of rain. Borana is at about 6000 feet and can feel quite cool during the rains because of the altitude. It is usually hottest in late January and February but even then temperatures are generally pleasant and there is often a breeze on the plains so it never really gets too hot. June to August are the coolest months.

WHAT TO BRING

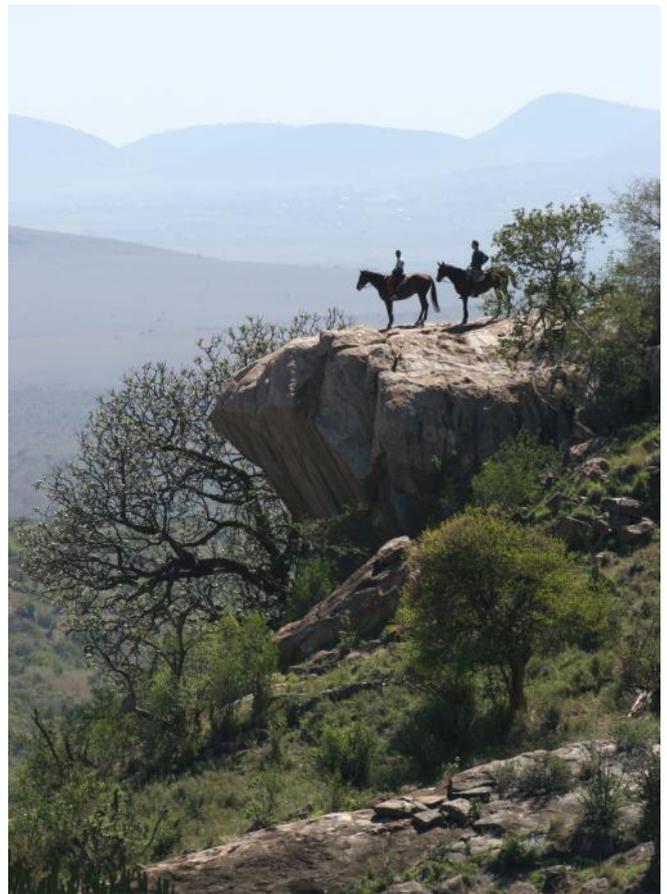
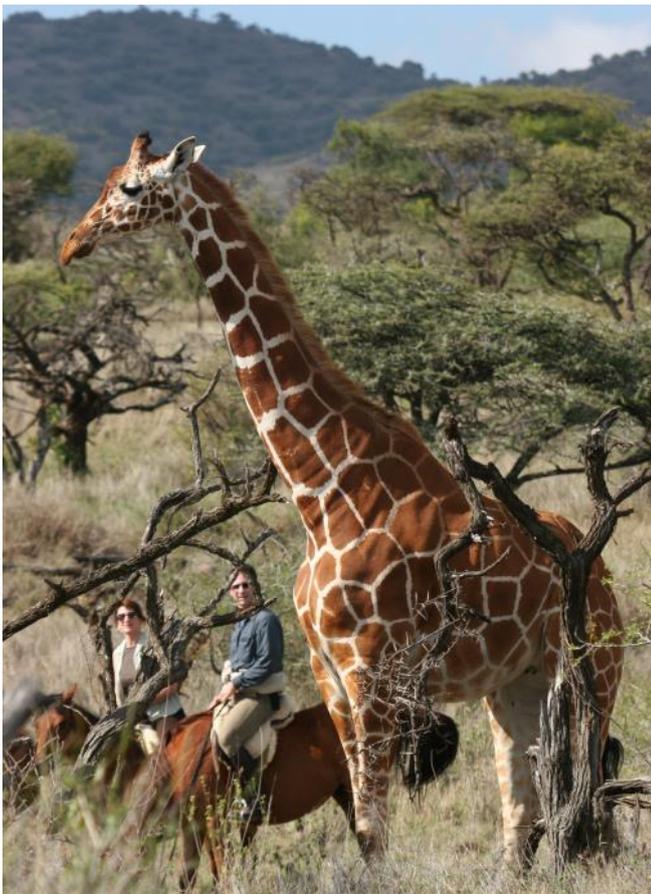
We will send you a list when you book.

ITINERARIES

The following is an example itinerary for a 6 night stay at Borana, although please note that this is only an example. Your hosts will always do as much as they can to arrange your stay according to individual wishes, but day-by-day arrangements may be varied in their discretion if the movement of game, weather or other local conditions require. A stay at Borana also combines very well with time on the coast (eg the beautiful Manda Bay Lodge owned by Fuzz Dyer), or with a lodge in the Masai Mara. Please contact us for tailor-made itineraries and for mobile riding safaris using fly camps and other lodges, which can be arranged for groups of 4 to 10 riders.

Example itinerary Borana - 6 night stay

[Flight to Nairobi (eg Kenya Airways departing London Heathrow at about 20.00 and arriving Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi early the next day)]



Day 1 - You will be met from your international flight in Nairobi and transferred by car (usually 40 minutes to one hour depending on traffic) to the domestic Wilson airport for a scheduled charter flight to Lewa Downs airstrip on the Laikipia Plateau. Met on arrival at Lewa and a game drive of about 1 ¼ hours to Borana Lodge, a wonderful chance to see some of the unusual game found in the Lewa Wildlife conservancy including Grevy's zebra and Jackson's Hartebeest. [A direct charter from Nairobi to the Borana airstrip, 10 minutes from the lodge, is possible for an extra charge]. Arrive at Borana and shown to your rooms before a late lunch at the lodge and a chance to meet your hosts. Time to discuss plans for your stay and then, if you wish, a short drive to the stables to meet the horses and a late afternoon ride to try them and for a first view of the area. Dinner and night at Borana. (L,D)

ITINERARY cont.

Day 2 - Your first full day at the lodge. You might opt for an early breakfast, then an early morning ride of 3 or 4 hours to explore the open grassy plains that surround the stables. The plains are dotted with whistling thorn and acacia and there are numerous pretty rocky valleys to explore. There is also lots of game and you are likely to see elephant - you might ride to one of the dams and see a family group wallowing in the water and mud - giraffe (the native giraffe in this part of Kenya are the Reticulated Giraffe which have wonderful distinct markings), zebra, eland and numerous small antelope. If you prefer, as an alternative to riding, you can choose an early morning game drive or walk with a guide before returning to the lodge for a swim and lunch in the shade by the pool. After lunch there will be time for a siesta, then tea is usually at about 3.45pm followed by your choice of evening ride, walk or game drive. Return to the lodge as the sun sets, looking out for game en route, then a hot bath, relaxing dinner and overnight at Borana. (B,L,D)



Day 3 to 6 - Your stay at Borana is very flexible and you can choose when you would like your wake up call, perhaps opting for an early wake up each morning with tea and coffee brought to your room or for a more leisurely start to the day with time to enjoy Borana's comfort and service. Breakfast will be followed by your choice of early morning ride, game drive or guided walk or you might decide on a longer ride, stopping for a picnic lunch in a shady spot en-route. Game often comes to drink at the waterhole below the lodge, there are lion and other cats on the ranch and you are sure to have some wonderful game viewing. Late afternoon game drives can be extended to return to the lodge after dark - a chance to spot nocturnal game, such as leopard, aardvark and bushbabies, with a spotlight - and night drives later in the evening are organised on request. If you wish you will also be able to take a day trip to the neighbouring Lewa Wildlife Conservancy or to spend a few hours game viewing and bird watching in the hide or on the tree platform close to the lodge. When not riding or game viewing, you can enjoy the lodge's lovely swimming pool and there are plenty of other activities on offer such as mountain bikes, visits to a local Masai village (donation requested), to the Borana tannery, the Kisima flower farm and local school. Four nights Borana (B,L,D).

Day 7 -Breakfast, then depart for Lewa airstrip to meet the scheduled flight back to Nairobi. (B)

DATES & RATES 2024

Please note that due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, safari rates are now quoted in USD. The sterling price will be the equivalent sterling rate using the USD/sterling exchange rate in force when you book/pay.

Dates are flexible, with a minimum stay of 2 nights standard season and 3 nights high season. The lodge is open year round. Riding Wild, Borana to Lewa & Borana to Tassia safari rates on request.

Rates are per person, are seasonal and assume twin / double shared accommodation in standard rooms:

Standard season (6th January to 14th June & 1st October to 19th December 2024):

USD 830 per person per night; single supplement USD 200 per night

Child sharing 5 to 15 years: USD 415 per child per night

High season (15th June to 30th September & 20th December 2024 to 5th January 2025)

USD 1110 per person per night; single supplement USD 300 per night

Child 5 to 15 years (sharing): USD 555 per child per night (Children under 5, free of charge).

NOTES: A compulsory 24% Conservancy Fee is added to all bookings and is included in the above. This is used to fund work to protect and manage game, particularly rhino, on the reserve. There is a 10% discount for stays of 5 or more nights at Borana

Check out time is usually 10 am and if you leave in the afternoon there is a late departure fee of USD 50 per person with lunch.

There are a few guides / children's rooms which are less luxurious - please contact us to check availability.



Single rooms: If you are travelling alone you will need to pay the single room supplement.

Rates INCLUDE: all guided riding, shared game drives and guided walks, certain other activities and visits, guiding and equipment, twin accommodation (single room if paying supplement), meals, drinks (except champagne and premium spirits / cellar wines) and laundry service.

Rates EXCLUDE: International flights to Nairobi and taxes, transfers between Nairobi and the lodge (by private charter plane, scheduled safari link flight and / or vehicle and organised on request), personal medical / travel insurance (which you must have), visa fees, personal items such as telephone calls etc, some activities / entrance fees (these are subject to change and will be confirmed locally but eg visits to Lewa Wildlife Conservancy (entry fee USD150), visits to Kisima Floriculture Project (USD70 per person), Masai village contribution (USD 40 per person), Ngara Ndare Forest Trust fee (entrance USD 40 / 20 per adult / child), e-bikes (USD 80 per ride), Fly camp set up fee (USD 600 per group), e-bike hire (USD 80 per ride), helicopter / light aircraft trips etc, massage / beauty therapy charges, exclusive use of vehicles (USD 350 per day subject to availability) and any tips you may wish to leave.

FLIGHTS & TRAVEL INFORMATION

The closest international airport to Borana is Nairobi, Jomo Kenyatta. British Airways have direct daily flights from London departing Heathrow in the morning and arriving Nairobi in the evening. The return is an overnight flight. Kenya Airways has overnight flights out from London to Nairobi usually via Europe (Amsterdam or Paris), departing in the evening and arriving Nairobi early the next day. These are often operated in conjunction with a European airline such as Air France or KLM. Generally we recommend a direct flight where possible to minimize the risk of delays and missed connections. Airfares vary with the airline and season but expect to pay around £750 to £900 per person for an economy return. **If you would like a quote for flights, advice or to book please contact us (our ATOL number for flight booking is ATOL 6213).** We can also book onward transfers, extra nights accommodation you may require in Nairobi and additional activities or accommodation at the coast or at another safari lodge. There are lots of wonderful options and we would be delighted to advise.

Transfers between Nairobi and Borana are by private charter flight, by scheduled Safarilink flight and onward vehicle transfer or by private vehicle. Rates depend on the method of transfer, the number in your group and the dates. Please contact us ask for a quote. By way of example (**NB** charter rates vary from time to time and may increase with fuel costs etc.) a one way transfer between Nairobi Wilson and Borana in a Cessna 206 charter plane seating up to 4 guests is approx USD1350 for the plane. A smaller Cessna 182 may also be available at a lower cost. Scheduled Safarilink flights are approximately USD200 to \$275 per person, each way, Nairobi Wilson / Lewa Downs including taxes.

GENERAL VISA & HEALTH INFORMATION

NB this is a brief outline - further information will be sent to you if you make a confirmed booking.)

Visas British Passport holders **DO** require a visa to visit Kenya as a tourist and travellers will need to apply for an Electronic Travel Authorisation online via www.etakenya.go.ke **prior to their arrival.** The fee is currently USD34.

Health The Hospital for Tropical Diseases in London recommends that for travel to Kenya you are up to date with inoculations against **Polio, Tetanus, Typhoid and Hepatitis A.** If you are travelling from another tropical country you may also need to show you are up to date with **Yellow Fever** (a booster is needed after 10 years) and to carry a valid yellow fever certificate with you - you may be required to show this when entering Kenya because of an episode of transmission of Yellow Fever in Kenya during the last five years. Rabies and Cholera vaccinations may also be recommended in certain situations. You will also be advised to take **anti-Malaria** tablets - you should consult a health professional for further and more detailed advice about this.

(DRAFT 15/04/2024)

