



Global Youth ▲ ▲
Entrepreneurship
Summit 2024 ☀️.

Location Handbook for the Global Youth Entrepreneurship Summit 2024

Nairobi, Kenya



Hello...!

This is your handy Location Handbook for Nairobi, Kenya, created in partnership with local Youth Business International Member, Somo. We hope that it makes your visit to the 2024 Global Youth Entrepreneurship Summit as easy and enjoyable as possible.



About Nairobi

Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya, is a vibrant metropolis that combines natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and a bustling urban lifestyle.

Visiting in October is an ideal time of year as the weather is milder, and with fewer crowds compared to peak season, making it a great time for both wildlife safaris and cultural experiences.



Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA)

Visitors to Kenya are required to apply online for an electronic travel authorization. To apply for your eTA, please check the FAQs page on the official website for guidance before you begin your application:
<https://www.etakenya.go.ke/en>

As a basic guideline, all travellers are required to have the following for their application:

- ✓ Passport valid for at least six (6) months after your planned date of arrival into Kenya, with at least one blank page
- ✓ Selfie or passport-type photo
- ✓ Contact information, email address and phone number
- ✓ Details of your arrival and departure itinerary
- ✓ Accommodation booking confirmation(s)
- ✓ Credit card, debit card or other means of payment
- ✓ You may be asked for a Letter of Invitation - please reach out to Summit@youthbusiness.org if you require one as part of your application.

WE RECOMMEND YOU CARRY A COPY OF YOUR eTA (YOU CAN DOWNLOAD IT TO YOUR PHONE) WITH YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY.



Arrival

Nairobi's city centre is about 15-20 km (9-12 miles) from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA). Depending on traffic, the journey can take between 30 minutes to over an hour.

We recommend that you check the traffic situation, as Nairobi is known for its congestion, especially during peak hours.

Wi-Fi:

The airport offers free Wi-Fi, but it might be limited in speed and duration.

Currency Exchange & ATMs:

If you need Kenyan Shillings (KES), there are currency exchange counters and ATMs in the arrivals hall of the airport. For the Summit Marketplace (happening on day 2 of the Summit), it would be a good idea to bring some cash to make your purchases, but you will be able to use PayPal and M-Pesa too.

Please note that there are no ATMs at our host venue, KSMS.

ATM Locator: [ATM Locator \(Visa\)](#)

ATM Locator: [ATM Locator \(Mastercard\)](#)



SIM Cards & E-SIMS

Safaricom is 1 of 3 main network providers within Nairobi and provides the best coverage (as advised by our colleagues at Somo). Outside of terminal 1A at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, you will see a kiosk for **Safaricom**, where you can easily purchase a SIM card/E-SIM.

We anticipate a SIM card to cost around \$10 for 5GB of data however this may vary and is not an official price.

When you are getting your SIM card set up, ask for **MPESA** to also be added. This will allow you to make mobile payments easily as you move around. More upscale restaurants and shops will take credit/debit cards, most other places will not.

If you have an American, UK, Canadian, French, Italian, Spanish, or Irish bank account you can connect your MPESA account directly to your ATM card through SendWave. Otherwise, you can load your MPESA with cash at any Safaricom kiosk.



Currency

The currency used in Nairobi is the Kenyan Shilling, abbreviated as KES. The symbol for the Kenyan Shilling is KSh.

Denominations:

- Coins: Commonly used coins include 1, 5, 10, and 20 shillings.
- Banknotes: Banknotes are available in denominations of 50, 100, 200, 500, and 1,000 shillings.

When in Nairobi, you can exchange foreign currency at banks, exchange bureaus, and some hotels. ATMs are widely available, and most accept international debit and credit cards for cash withdrawals.



Transportation

Official airport taxis are available right outside the arrivals area. It's advisable to use a taxi service with a set fare or book a ride through a trusted app like Uber. A reasonable fare would be around KES1,500.

We are also recommending Blueberry Travel for transfers to and from the airport:

Telephone: +254 762 266 166 / +254 700 066 166

E-mail: carsnbo1@blueberry-travel.com

Website: www.blueberry-travel.com

Address: Showroom No.3, Ground Floor, Western Heights, Karuna Road Westlands, Nairobi



Weather and what to pack

In early October, Nairobi experiences mild, pleasant weather, making it a comfortable time to visit.

Kenya Meteorological Department: <https://meteo.go.ke/>

Daytime Highs: Approximately 22°C to 26°C (72°F to 79°F)

Night-time Lows: Around 13°C to 16°C (55°F to 61°F)

What to Pack:

- **Clothing:** Light layers are recommended. Mornings and evenings can be cool, so bring a light jacket or jumper/sweater. During the day, breathable fabrics like cotton or linen are ideal.
- **Rain Gear:** The weather can be unpredictable, so it's wise to carry a compact umbrella or a rain jacket just in case of unexpected showers!
- **Accessories:** Sunglasses, a hat, and sunscreen



Safety

Staying safe in Nairobi as a visitor is important, as with any major city. Below are some practical tips to help you navigate the city safely.

1. Be Aware of Your Surroundings

Always stay alert, especially in crowded places like markets and tourist attractions. Pickpocketing can be common in these areas.

Avoid using your phone or valuables openly in crowded or unfamiliar places.

2. Choose Safe Transportation

Use official taxis with a set fare, ride-hailing apps like Uber or Bolt, or hotel-arranged transportation. Experienced travellers may wish to make use of public minibuses (matatus).

Avoid walking at night, even as a group.

3. In an Emergency

Telephone (+254) 999 - for police, fire and ambulance

4. Documents & Valuables

Keep your passport with you at all times, and keep a copy of the photo page separately. Leave valuable jewellery and other expensive belongings at home where possible.



Healthcare and Vaccinations

Travel Insurance: Ensure you have comprehensive travel insurance that covers medical emergencies

Insect Repellant and Hand Sanitiser:

- ✓ A product with 50% DEET is recommended, use insect repellent day and night after applying sunscreen
- ✓ Carry a small bottle of hand sanitiser with you, these can be easily and cheaply picked up at the airport or pharmacies

Consult a Doctor: Visit a travel clinic or your healthcare provider before your trip to ensure you're up-to-date on vaccinations and to discuss any additional precautions. Vaccination requirements will depend on your medical and travel history.

Recommended Vaccinations:

- ✓ Yellow Fever (remember to bring your certificate with you for your trip)
- ✓ Hepatitis A
- ✓ Hepatitis B
- ✓ Typhoid
- ✓ Malaria: Nairobi has a low risk of malaria, but please check with your healthcare provider

You can also check the World Health Organization website for more information and guidance:

<https://www.who.int/travel-advice/vaccines>

Useful Websites

Useful guidance and helpful tips from a Travel Health Specialist Nurse, covering everything from how to avoid insect bites to suncream!

- [Traveller Advice Resources - Jane Chiodini](#)

General advice on all aspects of travel:

- <https://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/home>
- <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/>
- <https://www.iamat.org/general-resources#travelhealthbasics>
- <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/kenya/getting-help>

Help with translations:

- [Google Translate](#)



Need help?

If you need help or have any concerns during the Summit, please come and speak to the friendly YBI staff team - you will be able to identify us by our blue lanyards. We are based at the Kenyan School of Monetary Studies for the duration of the Summit, and we will do our best to support you. You can also email us at summit@youthbusiness.org

If you become ill:

If during the Summit, you develop symptoms of illness such as headaches, fever, skin rash or vomiting, please stay in your accommodation and seek medical attention if needed. **Do not attend the conference.** You can contact the YBI staff team to let us know you are unwell, and we will check in with you and do what we can to support you.

If you need emergency help:

Telephone (+254) 999 - for police, fire and ambulance



Make the most of your stay...

Top Somo Recommendations

- Karura Forest Walk: [Friends of Karura Forest](#)
- Giraffe Centre: [Giraffe Centre](#)
- Elephant Orphanage: [Sheldrick Wildlife Trust](#) (check when booking for opening times)
- NBO National Park: [Nairobi National Park](#)

Some useful phrases to use when in Nairobi:

Informal greetings: how to say “Hi / hello / how’s it going?”

- “Habari”
- “Sasa”
- “Mambo!”
- “Niaje”

When being polite:

- “Karibu”- “Welcome” (to a place / situation)
- “Tafedhali”- “Please”
- “Asante”- “Thank you”
- “Mzuri sana”- “Very good”



Local Cuisine

Whether you're craving traditional Kenyan food, looking for international cuisine, or have specific dietary needs like vegetarian, vegan, or gluten-free, you'll find plenty of options. Many restaurants offer specialized menus or can accommodate specific dietary requests.

Local cuisine includes:

- 1. Nyama Choma:** Nyama Choma, meaning "roasted meat" in Swahili, is one of Kenya's most beloved dishes. Typically, it's goat or beef, grilled over an open flame and often served with kachumbari (a fresh tomato and onion salad) and ugali.
- 2. Ugali:** Ugali is a staple in Kenyan households, made from maize flour cooked into a dense porridge. It's usually served as an accompaniment to stews, vegetables, or grilled meat.
- 3. Sukuma Wiki:** Sukuma Wiki is a popular side dish made from collard greens sautéed with onions and tomatoes. The name translates to "push the week," signifying its role in stretching meals.
- 4. Samosa and Mandazi:** Samosas are deep-fried pastries filled with spiced meat or vegetables, while Mandazi are sweet, fried doughnuts. Both are popular street foods.
- 5. Githeri:** A traditional Kikuyu dish made from boiled maize and beans, often seasoned with onions, tomatoes, and spices. It's a simple yet hearty meal.
- 6. Chapati:** Chapati is a type of flatbread, originally from India, that has become a staple in Kenyan meals. It's soft, flaky, and often served with stews.



Amelia's Favourites

Local recommendations from the Founder and CEO of Somo

Swahili	Mondo Grill
Ethiopian	Abyssinia (Westlands, Wyaki Way)
Sushi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Furusato• Misono• Inti- Peruvian/ Japanese
Indian	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open house (North Indian)• Diamond plaza third floor (South Indian)
Italian	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• La Salumeria• Cafe Concerto



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Local recommendations from the Founder and CEO of Somo

Burgers	Mama Rocks
Chinese	Silk Noodle (and surrounding Chinatown)
Brunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cultiva• Shamba• Tin Roof
Other Multi-cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beit• Pepper Tree
Pasteries	Le Grenier
Wine + Light bites	The Wine Shop - Spring Valley



Somo Supported Businesses - Local Cuisine

1. [Czars Healthy Squeeze](#)
2. [Maples Oven](#)
3. [JoyPizza & Kitchen](#)
4. [Shamba Connect](#)



Nairobi...some fun facts!

- Nairobi is often called "The Green City in the Sun" because of its lush green landscapes, parks, and year-round sunny weather.
- Nairobi is the only capital city in the world with a national park within its borders. Nairobi National Park is home to lions, giraffes, zebras, and more, just a short drive from the city centre.
- The name "Nairobi" comes from the Maasai phrase "Enkare Nyrobi," which means "cool water," referring to the Nairobi River that flows through the city.
- Nairobi is a melting pot of cultures, with over 40 ethnic communities living together. This diversity is reflected in the city's food, festivals, and languages spoken.
- Nairobi is located at an altitude of about 1,795 meters (5,889 feet) above sea level. This elevation contributes to its mild climate, with cool mornings and evenings.





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Thank you

We hope you enjoy your trip to Nairobi and the Global Youth Entrepreneurship Summit.

Questions? Contact us at summit@youthbusiness.org

Visit youthbusiness.org/summit for more information.