

Introduction Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) for all Travel to Kenya

Following the Kenyan Presidential directive on December 12, 2023, all travelers to Kenya will be required to apply for an electronic Travel Authorization (eTA). Kenya eTA is a semi-automated system that determines the eligibility of visitors to travel to Kenya. Immigration officers reserve the authorization to determine admissibility upon travelers' arrival. The eTA is only valid for one trip and affected travelers must obtain a new eTA for each visit to Kenya. Fully accredited diplomats are exempted from eTA.

Here are the steps to getting your eTA

Step 1: Navigate to the Official Government website (www.etakenya.go.ke) for eTA and create an account.

Step 2: Complete the online form. Applicants must upload a copy of their passport bio page, provide a photograph (or utilize the application to capture one), provide complete travel and lodging details, and attach an invitation letter as appropriate. Passports must be valid for a minimum of six months beyond arrival date and have at least one empty page.

Step 3: Pay the eTA processing fee of USD 34 and wait three business days for eTA approval via email. Within minutes after submitting your application, the system will send you an email confirming receipt of your application. This email will contain the reference number assigned to your application. Use this number to check your application status. Processing time is ~ three days.

Required documents and processing times:

- a) Applicants must furnish the necessary documents, including a passport valid for at least six months beyond the arrival date, with one blank page.
- b) Selfie or passport-type photo.
- c) Confirmation of accommodation booking(s) and/or lodging details is mandatory.
- d) Contact information (Email address and phone number.)
- e) Details of arrival and, if necessary, departure itinerary.
- f) Credit card, debit card, Apple Pay or other means of payment (diplomatic or official passport holders should be exempted from payment).

Who needs an eTA

All foreign travelers including children require an eTA to enter Kenya. Diplomats accredited to Kenya and their eligible family members are exempt from this requirement. For children under the age of 18, the legal guardian, parent or accompanying adult is responsible for filling in the application. Families are encouraged to apply as a group.

After obtaining your eTA

Ensure your eTA is easily accessible, either in print or saved on your phone, as you'll need to present it to airline personnel and immigration officers upon arrival.

ETA validity and renewal

Unlike traditional visa programs with multi-year validity, the eTA for Kenya is only valid for a single trip. Travelers must obtain a new eTA for each subsequent visit to the country.

Transition policy for eTA

Travelers who acquired e-visas before the eTA launch can continue using them until expiration. However, note that the e-visa platform will be decommissioned.

Questions or issues with the eTA system may be directed to support@etakenya.go.ke. You can also call: + 254-20-222022