

Travelling to East Africa? Then here is a quick guide of words and phrases in Swahili that will definitely prove useful to you.

Knowing a local language definitely helps you getting around easier and more efficiently. Here are a few words that will come in handy during your trip.

Greetings

- Hello- **Jambo / hujambo / Salama**
- How are you? - **Habari gani**
- Fine (response) - **Nzuri**
- Goodbye- **Kwa heri / Kwa herini (more than one peson)**
- Nice to meet you - **Nafurahi kukuona**
- Goodnight - **Lala salama**

Gettiing around a conversation with common civilities

- ✓ Yes - **Ndiyo**
- ✓ No - **Hapana**
- ✓ Thank you very much- **Asante sana**
- ✓ Please- **Tafadhali**
- ✓ OK - **Sawa**
- ✓ You're Welcome - **Starehe**
- ✓ Can you help me? - **Tafadhali, naomba msaada**
- ✓ What is your name? - **Jina lako nani?**
- ✓ My name is... - **Jina langu ni ...**
- ✓ Where are you from? - **Unatoka wapi?**
- ✓ I'm from .. - **Natokea ...**
- ✓ May I take a picture? - **Naomba kupiga picha**
- ✓ Do you speak English? - **Unasema kiingereza?**
- ✓ I don't understand - **Sielewi**
- ✓ Friend - **Rafiki**

Getting Around

- ✓ Where is the ...- **ni wapi ...**
- ✓ Airport - **uwanja wa ndege**
- ✓ Bus stop - **bas stendi**
- ✓ Taxi stand - **stendi ya teksti**
- ✓ Bank - **benki**
- ✓ Market - **soko**
- ✓ Police station- **kituo cha polisi**
- ✓ Post Office- **posta**
- ✓ Toilet/bathroom - **choo**
- ✓ Bus - **basi**
- ✓ Minibus- **matatu (Kenya); dalla dalla (Tanzania)**
- ✓ Plane - **ndege**
- ✓ Ticket - **tikiti**
- ✓ Hotel - **hoteli**
- ✓ Room - **chumba**
- ✓ Reservation - **akiba**

Health

- ✓ Doctor – **daktari**
- ✓ Hospital- **hospitali**
- ✓ I'm sick- **mimi ni mgonjwa**
- ✓ I need a doctor- **nataka kuona daktari**
- ✓ Fever- **homa**
- ✓ Headache- **umwa kichwa**
- ✓ Diarrhoea- **harisha/endesha**
- ✓ Vomiting- **tapika**
- ✓ Medicine- **dawa**

Days and Numbers

- ✓ Today- **leo**
- ✓ Tomorrow - **kesho**
- ✓ Yesterday - **jana**
- ✓ Now- **sasa**
- ✓ Later - **baadaye**
- ✓ Monday - **Jumatatu**
- ✓ Tuesday - **Jumanne**
- ✓ Wednesday - **Jumatano**
- ✓ Thursday - **Alhamisi**
- ✓ Friday- **Ijumaa**
- ✓ Saturday - **Jumamosi**
- ✓ Sunday - **Jumapili**
- ✓ 1 - **moja**
- ✓ 2 - **mbili**
- ✓ 3 - **tatu**
- ✓ 4 - **nne**
- ✓ 5- **tano**
- ✓ 6- **sita**
- ✓ 7 - **saba**
- ✓ 8- **nane**
- ✓ 9- **tisa**
- ✓ 10 - **kumi**
- ✓ 11 - **kumi na moja (ten and one)**
- ✓ 12- **kumi na mbili (ten and two)**
- ✓ 20 - **ishirini**
- ✓ 30- **thelathini**
- ✓ 40 - **arobaini**
- ✓ 50- **hamsini**
- ✓ 60 - **sitini**
- ✓ 70 - **sabini**
- ✓ 80 - **themanini**
- ✓ 90 - **tisini**
- ✓ 100- **mia**
- ✓ 200- **mia mbili**
- ✓ 1000 - **elfu**
- ✓ 100,000 - **laki**

Food and Drinks

- ✓ I'd like- **nataka ...**
- ✓ Food - **chakula**
- ✓ Hot/cold- **ya moto/baridi**
- ✓ Water- **maji**
- ✓ Drinking water - **maji ya kunywa**
- ✓ Soda (soft drinks)- **soda**
- ✓ Beer- **bia**
- ✓ Milk - **maziwa**
- ✓ Meat- **nyama**
- ✓ Chicken - **nyama kuku**
- ✓ Fish - **samaki**
- ✓ Beef - **nyama ng'ombe**
- ✓ Fruit- **matunda**
- ✓ Vegetables- **mboga**

Animals

When you're on safari in East Africa many of the guides and trackers will speak Swahili. Here are some useful names of the common wildlife/animals you will see.

- ✓ Animal - **wanyama**
- ✓ Buffalo- **Nyati / Mbogo**
- ✓ Cheetah- **Duma / Chita**
- ✓ Elephant- **Tembo / Ndovuh**
- ✓ Giraffe - **Twiga**
- ✓ Hippo- **Kiboko**
- ✓ Hyena- **Fisi**
- ✓ Leopard- **Chui**
- ✓ Lion - **Simba**
- ✓ Rhino- **Kifaru**
- ✓ Warthog - **Ngiri**
- ✓ Wildebeest - **Nyumbu**
- ✓ Zebra- **Punda milia**