

KENYA CUSTOMS

Greetings:

Supporting the right forearm with the left hand while shaking shows special respect for a leader or elder.

A traditional Kiswahili greeting is *Jambo* (Greetings). *Habari gani?* (What is the news?) or just *Habari?* is common in noncoastal areas. The usual response is *Mzuri* (Good) or *Salama* (Peaceful).

Upon departing, Kenyans might say *Tutaonana* (We will see each other), or in the evening, *Lala salama* (Sleep peacefully).

Pointing at someone with the index finger is rude.

Gestures:

Kenyans pass and accept items with the right hand or both hands. Using the left hand alone is improper.

The verbal “tch-tch” or a “tss-tss” sound expresses displeasure.

It is often considered improper to photograph another person without permission.

Holidays:

Kenyans celebrate New Year's Day; Easter (Good Friday to Easter Monday); Labor Day (1 May); Madaraka Day (1 June), marking the birth of the republic; Kenyatta Day (20 Oct.), celebrating Jomo Kenyatta's arrest in 1952 for opposing British authorities; *Jamhuri* Day, or Independence Day (12Dec.); Christmas; and Boxing Day (26 Dec.).