

# Nairobi facts for kids

## Kids Encyclopedia Facts

**Nairobi** ([/ˈnaɪˈroʊbi/](#)) is the capital and the largest city of [Kenya](#). The name comes from the Maasai phrase *Enkare Nairobi*, which translates to "cool water", a reference to the Nairobi River which flows through the city. The [city proper](#) had a population of 3,138,369 in the 2009 census, while the [metropolitan area](#) has a population of 6,547,547. The city is popularly referred to as the Green City in the Sun.

## Parks and gardens

Nairobi has many parks and open spaces throughout the city. Much of the city has dense tree-cover and plenty of green spaces. The most famous park in Nairobi is Uhuru Park. The park borders the central business district and the neighbourhood Upper Hill. Uhuru (*Freedom* in [Swahili](#)) Park is a centre for outdoor speeches, services, and rallies. The park was to be built over by former President [Daniel arap Moi](#), who wanted the 62-storey headquarters of his party, the Kenya African National Union, situated in the park. However, the park was saved following a campaign by [Nobel Peace Prize](#) winner [Wangari Maathai](#).

Central Park is adjacent to Uhuru Park, and includes a memorial for [Jomo Kenyatta](#), the first president of Kenya, and the Moi Monument, built in 1988 to commemorate the second president's first decade in power. Other notable open spaces include Jeevanjee Gardens, City Park, 7 August Memorial Park, and Nairobi Arboretum.

## Tourism

Nairobi is one of the few cities in the world with a national park within its boundaries, making it a prime tourist destination as well, with several other tourist attractions.

The most famous is the [Nairobi National Park](#), the only game reserve of this nature to border a capital city, or any major city. The park contains many animals including lions, giraffes, and black rhinos. The park is home to over 400 species of birds. The Nairobi Safari Walk is a major attraction to the Nairobi National Park as it offers a rare on-foot experience of the animals.

Nairobi is home to several museums, sites, and monuments.