

Can a digital nomad work remotely from Kenya?

With the rise of remote work, Kenya has become an attractive destination for digital nomads who want to live and work in a vibrant, culturally rich, and well-connected country.

Yes, a digital nomad from a foreign country can legally work remotely from Kenya, provided they obtain the correct immigration status. To remain compliant with Kenyan immigration laws, foreign digital nomads must apply for a Class N - Digital Nomad Permit (KEP/N).

This permit allows foreigners employed by companies registered outside Kenya to live here while carrying out their work remotely. It's the perfect solution for remote workers who want to enjoy Kenya's lifestyle, lower cost of living, and excellent internet connectivity without breaking any laws.

Who is eligible for the Digital Nomad Permit?

Not everyone qualifies for Kenya's Digital Nomad Permit, so it's important to know the eligibility requirements before applying.

To qualify, the applicant must:

1. Be employed or contracted by a company registered outside Kenya. This ensures the income source is foreign-based.
2. Be engaged in work that is digital or remote in nature. For example, IT specialists, consultants, software developers, designers, creatives, online tutors, and entrepreneurs running internet-based businesses.
3. Not take up local employment with a Kenyan entity. The permit does not allow working for Kenyan companies or engaging in local business activities.

This permit is designed specifically for location-independent professionals who can perform their work entirely online.

What is the duration and validity of the Digital Nomad Permit?

Kenya's Digital Nomad Permit offers flexibility and peace of mind to remote workers who want to settle here long-term.

The permit is generally issued for 1 or 2 years. The good news? It can be renewed as many times as needed, as long as the conditions are still met, namely, that you are employed by or contracted to a foreign company, your work remains remote, and you comply with Kenya's immigration laws.

The renewal is granted at the discretion of the immigration authority, but applicants who remain compliant rarely face issues. This makes the Class N permit a practical and sustainable option for those who wish to make Kenya their base while continuing their international careers.

Can a digital nomad move to Kenya with their family?

Kenya's immigration system also makes provision for families of digital nomads.

If you are granted a Digital Nomad Permit, you can relocate with your spouse and children. However, they will not be included automatically on your permit. Instead, they must apply for Dependant Passes, which are linked to your principal permit.

This means that as long as your Digital Nomad Permit remains valid, their dependant passes will also remain valid by applying for a re-entry pass. This gives families peace of mind knowing they can live together in Kenya legally.