

EASTER IN KENYA

The majority of the population in Kenya is Christian, and aside from the 10 percent or so that are Muslim, Kenyans generally observe Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday. Schools and most businesses are closed for the Easter Weekend, and it has become an opportunity for many Kenyans to get out and about.

The start of the celebration:

Easter celebrations really begin a week before Easter Sunday, on Palm Sunday, which marks the day when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey. The crowds threw down palm branches in His path, and Kenyan children often bring palm leaves to church while singing hymns to commemorate Jesus' Triumphal Entry. Families spend most of their time together, and take part in special church services organised throughout the country.

The celebration:

On Good Friday, the day on which Jesus was crucified, there are processions in many Kenyan cities, re-enacting the Stations of the Cross. The procession and the following crowd will end up at church where a special service is held to remember the significance of Jesus' death. Late Saturday evening people attend the midnight service where they pray, sing and praise our Lord.

Local customs:

There are a lot of people in Kenya who can't afford to eat chicken on average days because of the poor living conditions and circumstances. At Easter great charity works are organised in order to help those in need. Many families donate food for charitable organisations to help people living under the poverty line and not being able to make ends meet.

Beef is also common in Kenya, so apart from chicken, they also eat beef on special occasions. So, at Easter Kenyans eat food that they can't afford to consume on

ordinary days. In some families, it is a local custom that the father will wash his wife's feet after breaking and sharing a piece of bread to remember the Last Supper where Jesus did the same act of humility to His disciples.

Some interesting facts:

- painting Easter eggs in Kenya is not common because they think that playing with food is indecent even if it is fake*
- Kenyans don't sprinkle water on girls and women*
- Easter preparations in Kenya are not as long and significant as they are in Europe*

Our sources of support:

<https://publicholidays.africa/kenya/easter/>

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23 March, 2021

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