

# Kenyan Elections

GLOBAL SECURITY INTELLIGENCE SNAPSHOT

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## SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

**Electoral-related violence is likely to occur in the days before and after Kenya's presidential election on August 9.**

Despite heightened ethnic tension, tourists are at low risk of being targeted. The primary locus of violent confrontation is urban centers in the Rift Valley, notably Kisumu and Nakuru, and the slum districts of Nairobi and Mombasa. As long as deep-rooted grievances remain unresolved, GSI anticipates disruption and violent confrontations to accompany the 2022 presidential elections.

### KEY POINTS: the risk of electoral violence is HIGH

Airbnb listings are mostly around Kenya's western and southern borders near game reserves. Violence typically first erupts in the slum districts, where densely populated groups live in persistent poverty, before spreading to urban centers. Hotspots like Nairobi, Mombasa, and Kisumu present a **high risk of demonstrations, rioting, arson, and physical harm.**

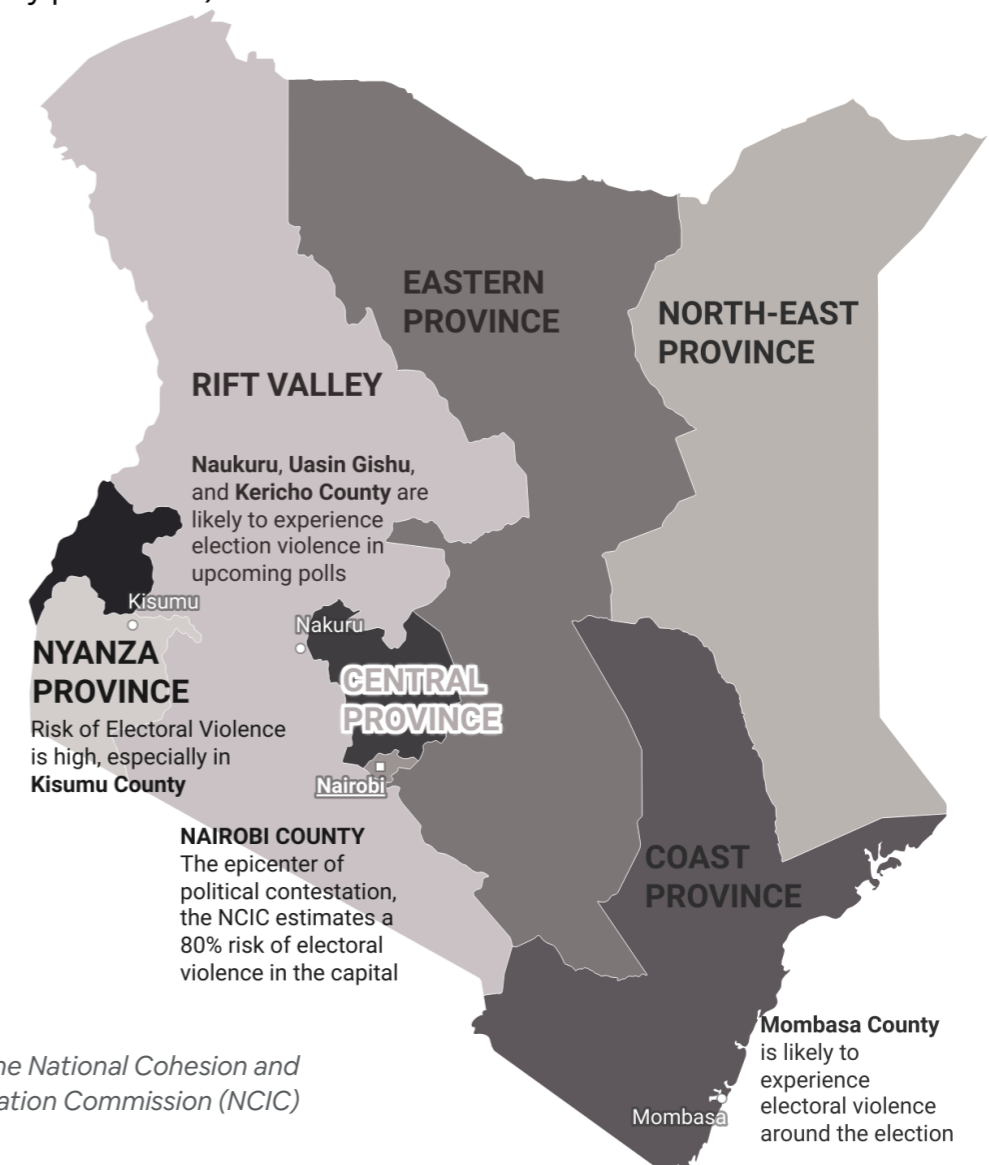
Tourists are typically not targeted in violent attacks; however, high season for travelers visiting the Rift Valley falls between July through September and overlaps with electioneering. Nairobi and Mombasa, two key Airbnb markets, are prone to electoral violence; however, risk is higher in Nairobi as tourism is in its high season during voting.

Presidential candidates have a documented history of inciting ethnic conflict. Despite a vow to a peaceful government transition in 2022, research reveals both campaigns have fueled, sponsored, and condoned violence leading up to August 9.



### KEY POINTS: the impact on tourism fluctuates

Election years have negatively affected international earnings in the tourism sector in 2002, 2007-08, and 2013. Earnings dropped by 20 percent in 2007 after elections ended in mass violence. Only from 2015 did the country record annual growth. Kenya saw an unusual 20 percent growth in tourism in 2017 despite it being an election year. International arrivals in 2021 amounted to USD 1.3 billion — an increase of 65 percent compared to the year (impacted by pandemic) before.



Source: the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC)