

TANZANIA

COUNTRY INFORMATION

TANZANIA, the land of Kilimanjaro, is famous for its national parks. Tanzania shelters seven principal national parks.

One of the most well known is the Serengeti National Park, named for the Maasai word used for the area of unending grassland plains. Established in 1951, the park encompasses 5,700 square miles in the northern part of Tanzania on the border of Kenya and includes savanna land as well as riverine forest and woodlands.

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area, which includes the famous Ngorongoro Crater, is located further southeast of the Serengeti, about 112 miles west of Arusha, and encompasses an area of 3,200 square miles. The area includes Olduvai Gorge, where archeological discoveries have shaped our knowledge of ancient man, as well as the Great Rift Valley wall where the southern and eastern boundaries of the park are drawn. The annual migration of wildebeest and zebra arrive in the crater in December and return in June.

Another attraction is Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa at 19,340 ft. It is an inactive stratovolcano on the northeast border with Kenya. The highest of its three cones, Kibo, hosts Uhuru Peak where climbers celebrate their success.

Passport and Visa Information

- A passport and visa are required for travel to Tanzania.
- U.S. citizens with valid passports may obtain a visa either before arriving in Tanzania or at any port of entry staffed by immigration officials. The current fee for a visa is USD \$100 for a 12-month multiple-entry tourist visa to reciprocate the fee the United States charges visa applicants. Some border posts and embassies may have technical difficulty in producing the 12-month visa. They may make hand-written annotations on the computer printed visa.
- U.S. passports should be **valid for a minimum of six months beyond the date the visa is obtained**, whether it is acquired beforehand or at the port of entry.
- Also, foreigners are required to show their passports when entering or exiting Zanzibar.
- A yellow fever vaccination is required for all visitors to Tanzania. Proof of vaccination is required upon arrival in order to obtain a visa. (See Health Requirements and Information.)
- If paying for a Tanzanian visa at a point of entry, use U.S. bills printed after 2000. If you present older currency, it may be refused.
- Carry a couple of extra passport photos along with a copy of your passport/visa information, air tickets and traveler's check numbers separately from your passport, and leave a copy at home as well.

Note: Please be aware that although Ker & Downey will advise you of the current information concerning visas and other requirements, it is your responsibility to reconfirm the information and obtain all necessary documents for entry to countries listed on your itinerary. Visa requirements change frequently.

Health Requirements and Information

Immunizations:

- The web site of the Embassy of Tanzania in Washington, DC states that yellow fever vaccination is required only for persons from, or those who have visited yellow fever endemic countries.
- For those who need proof but arrive without proof, vaccinations are available for USD \$50 at the airport.

Malaria:

Malaria risk exists in the whole country throughout the year. Malaria prophylaxis is **strongly** recommended.

Bilharzia:

Bilharzia is present in fresh water in this region. Do not swim in fresh water or come in contact with stagnant water.

Other concerns:

- The tsetse fly is found during certain times in areas of the Serengeti and especially in Tarangire and can transmit sleeping sickness. Precautions such as using insect repellent and wearing long sleeves and pants are advised.
- Those with heart conditions should be aware that they might be traveling at high elevations above 7,000 feet. Please consult your doctor.
- Tap water in Tanzania is unsafe to drink.
- Other insect-borne diseases such as dengue fever are present in the region. Appropriate precautions should be taken including using insect repellent and wearing long sleeves and pants.

Medical Emergency:

In the case of a genuine medical emergency, an aircraft can be dispatched to lodges or camps. Ker & Downey provides this service through our suppliers in Tanzania. We advise that you check your personal insurance for additional coverage.

Customs

Travelers are allowed free import of:

- 250 grams of tobacco OR 200 cigarettes OR 50 cigars
- 1 bottle of alcoholic beverages
- 1 pint of perfume

It is advisable to obtain a police permit in advance for arms and ammunition as these items will remain in the custody of customs officials pending issuance of the permit.

Video cameras must be declared on arrival.

You are prohibited from importing local currency but may import any amount of foreign currency provided it is declared on arrival. You may not export any local currency but may export foreign currency up to the amount declared on arrival.

Airport Information

Kilimanjaro International Airport located 31 miles from Arusha and serves the Mount Kilimanjaro area including Arusha and Moshi.

Julius Nyerere International Airport is the principal airport serving Dar Es Salaam.

For domestic flights Arusha Airport in Arusha is used.

Airport Departure Tax

The airport departure tax is included in the price of your ticket.

Domestic Baggage Limits

- Regional Air: 33 lbs total
- Coastal Air: 33 lbs total
- Air Kenya: 33 lbs total
- Safari Link: 33 lbs total
- Precision Air: 33 lbs total
- Zan Air: 33 lbs total

Note: Excess baggage can result in an extra charge at your own expense.

Safety

Use only taxis and drivers from Ker & Downey suppliers for in-town transportation as public transportation has a common issue of petty theft.

Theft, from pick pocketing to armed robbery, is a concern in many parts of Tanzania, especially urban areas. Please avoid carrying valuables and limit the amount of cash you carry. Do not walk alone or at night.

Climate

- Along the coast where it is tempered by the ocean, you may encounter tropical weather. The rest of the country is at altitudes where mornings and evenings are cool and middays are warm in the equatorial sun.
- At Ngorongoro Crater, it can be quite cool/cold at the rim, where wind, fog, and heavy dews can be expected at any time of the year.
- Zanzibar and the Selous are more humid and much warmer at any time of the year.
- Unseasonable weather can occur, and you should pack with a degree of flexibility in mind. Rain can occur at any time throughout the year and is unpredictable, especially in recent years.
- **Mid-March to late May** is the rainy season when long, heavy rains occur. Temperatures average in the low 80's during the day and 50's in the evenings.
- **June to late October** is the dry season in Tanzania and the weather is coolest during June, July, and August.
- During **June, July, and August**, it can be very cold on the rim of Ngorongoro Crater and warm clothes are needed for early mornings and evenings.

- **Late October to Mid-December** is known for short rains in the form of daily thunderstorms. At the Crater, it is warm enough to wear summer clothes during the day. At night on the rim, it can get cold but not freezing. The Serengeti and Lake Manyara are very warm at this time.
- **Mid-December to March** is summertime in Tanzania. It is usually dry until March and very warm/hot across Tanzania, but the early morning and evening temperatures are refreshingly cool with low humidity.

Arusha, Tanzania	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ave. Max Temperature (°F)	84	84	81	77	72	70	69	72	76	80	81	81
Ave. Min Temperature (°F)	50	51	53	57	52	48	49	48	47	51	51	50
Ave. Precipitation (in)	1.46	1.13	2.26	4.28	2.54	.31	.15	.28	.11	.59	.84	NA

Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ave. Max Temperature (°F)	89	90	90	87	86	84	65	84	86	87	88	89
Ave. Min Temperature (°F)	75	75	74	73	71	67	84	65	65	68	71	74
Ave. Precipitation (in)	2.11	2.12	4.57	7.03	5.19	1.39	1.16	.94	.58	2.05	2.99	3.19

Weather conditions vary depending on location in Tanzania.

Clothing

Please see our packing list for suggestions.

- In some areas, mostly coastal, it is considered inappropriate for women to wear shorts, short skirts, sleeveless and short sleeved shirts, and men should also make an effort to cover their arms and legs. Shorts are generally for children. It is always best to seek local advice.
- Most of Tanzania is at altitudes where mornings and evenings are cool and mid-days are warm.

Currency

The official currency is the Tanzania Shilling. The written abbreviation is TSh.

- Visitors to Tanzania should only exchange foreign currency at authorized banks or bureaus de change. Some large hotels exchange money, but the rate is usually not as good as at a bank. It is illegal to change money on the black market.
- The majority of your expenses are taken care of through your tour arrangements, so we recommend limiting the amount of money you convert into local currencies to what you think you will spend before leaving the country.

Note: Due to recent scams, do not accept any U.S. dollars in cash anywhere in Tanzania unless it has first been put through a machine to get scanned. This includes banks. If the facility is not able to provide a machine to scan the money, insist on taking Tanzanian Shillings instead of US dollars. After you make a purchase, do not accept change in U.S. dollars.

Credit Cards:

- Credit cards are not widely accepted in Tanzania. The places that do accept them will most likely add on a surcharge. When using credit cards, read the charge slips before signing and check the amount of the surcharge.
- You might find some banks that are equipped to advance local currency on your credit card but it could be a long process.
- Banking hours generally are open 8:30AM-12:00N and 1:00PM-5:00PM Monday to Friday, and some banks are open on Saturday mornings.

Gratuities

In Tanzania, tipping is acceptable in USD.

- Transfers to airport or hotel: \$3.00
- Porters: USD \$1.00 per bag.
- Game guide: \$10.00 per person per day
- Tracker: \$8.00 per person per day
- Camp/Lodge Staff: \$8.00 per person per night
- Special driver/guide throughout: \$10.00 per person per day on last day

Note: Tipping is a personal decision based on the service received. Please remember, there is no obligation to tip and American standards for tipping are some of the highest in the world. The above is only a suggestion for your convenience.

Wildlife

Nowhere else on earth will you see wildebeest, gazelle, zebra, and antelope in such enormous numbers as during the Great Migration, and Tanzania's characteristic plains make spotting wildlife easy. Endowed with some of the world's largest game reserves, the country also has one of the highest concentrations of elephant, buffalo, crocodile, hippo, hunting dog, and chimpanzee.

Food

Beef is an important part of the Tanzanian diet, as is *ugali*, a boiled cornmeal mush. Bananas and plantains also feature heavily in the local cuisine, and coconut is used not only for its flesh but also its milk. Cassava and peanuts are staples that were introduced by the Portuguese, but a good deal of the traditional fare is influenced by the Arab traders that brought dishes such as *pilau*, a spicy rice dish.

Shopping

- Woodcarvings, batiks, baskets, beadwork, masks, gemstones, tie-dyed articles and leather goods are among the most popular souvenir purchases in Tanzania, as are Zanzibar chests (which are rare finds) and Meerschaum pipes. Ebony woodcarvings by the Makonde sculptors of Tanzania are of especially high artistic merit; and while export licenses are not required, it is essential that a sales receipt be obtained for all Makonde art that is purchased. This must be presented to customs officials when you leave the country.
- Uncut, raw stones require formal government approval for exportation from Tanzania. (This also applies to cut stones totaling over 300 carats).

Time Zone

GMT + 3

Language

English and Swahili are the official languages.

Voltage

230V/50Hz (Indian or UK plug)

Emergency Numbers

General Emergency: 112/999

International Calling

To call Tanzania from the U.S. or Canada, dial (011 + 255) before the number.

To call the U.S. or Canada from Tanzania, dial (000 + 1) before the number.

Suggested Reading

Briggs, Philip. *Northern Tanzania: The Bradt Safari Guide with Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar*. A thorough and informative guide to popular safari destinations.

Fitzpatrick, Mary. *Tanzania*. A well organized guide to the country and its people, animals and plants.

Sybesma, Sherry Norman. *Two Weeks in a Land Rover: On Safari in Tanzania*: The author blends her adventures on safari with additional cultural, environmental, historical, and political information about the country.

Books to look for in country include *The Tourist Travel & Field Guide of the Serengeti National Park* and *The Tourist Travel & Field Guide of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area* by Veronica Roodt. These books can sometimes be purchased on Amazon.com or Amazon.co.uk, but availability is limited.