



Tanzania

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Best for Nature

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Why Go?

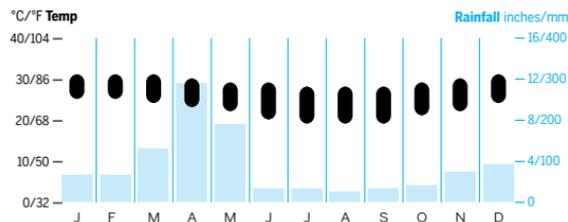
Tanzania is *the* land of safaris, with wildebeest stampeding across the plains, hippos jostling for space in rivers, massive elephant herds kicking up the dust on their seasonal migration routes and chimpanzees swinging through the treetops.

But it's not just the wildlife that enchants visitors. Tanzania's Indian Ocean coastline is magical, with its tranquil islands, long beaches and sleepy coastal villages steeped in centuries of Swahili culture. Coconut palms sway in the breeze, dhows glide by on the horizon, and colourful fish flit past spectacular corals in turquoise waters.

More than anything, though, it is Tanzania's people who make a visit to the country so memorable, with their characteristic warmth and politeness, and the dignity and beauty of their cultures. Chances are that you'll want to come back for more: most Tanzanians would say '*karibu tena*' (welcome again).

When to Go

Dar es Salaam



Mar–May Heavy rains bring green landscapes, lower prices, top-notch birdwatching and muddy roads.

Jun–Aug Cool, dry weather, with wildlife watching at its prime.

Sep–Oct Weather remains dry, and wildlife watching is good, without the crowds.

DAR ES SALAAM

With a population of more than four million and East Africa's second-largest port, Dar es Salaam is Tanzania's commercial and cultural hub. Yet beneath the thriving urban bustle, the city retains its down-to-earth vibe, with a picturesque seaport, a mixture of African, Arabic and Indian influences, close ties to its Swahili roots and excellent craft markets and restaurants.

Sights & Activities

National Museum &

House of Culture

MUSEUM

(Map p58; ☎ 022-211 7508; www.houseofculture.or.tz; Shaaban Robert St; adult/student Tsh6500/2600; ☀ 9.30am-6pm) The National Museum houses the famous fossil discoveries of *zinjanthropus* (nutcracker man) from Oldupai Gorge (although only a copy), along with other archaeological finds. Wander through the History Room and ethnographic collection for insights into Tanzania's past and its mosaic of cultures, including the Shirazi civilisation of Kilwa, the Zanzibar slave trade, and

the German and British colonial periods. But despite recent renovations the museum still has much work to do on appropriate displays and the curation of a coherent narrative.

Village Museum

MUSEUM

(☎ 022-270 0437; cnr New Bagamoyo Rd & Makaburi St; adult/student Tsh6500/2600; ☀ 9.30am-6pm) The centrepiece of this open-air museum is a collection of authentically constructed dwellings illustrating traditional life in various parts of Tanzania. Each house is furnished with typical items and surrounded by small plots of crops, while 'villagers' demonstrate traditional skills such as weaving, pottery and carving. The idea behind the project is to demonstrate some of the nation's architectural and social traditions, although these days some of the houses are sorely in need of some maintenance. For many, the highlight of the museum is the hour-long tribal dances (adult/child Tsh2000/1000) held in the afternoon.

The museum is 9km north of the city centre; the Mwenge dalla-dalla runs there from New Posta transport stand (Tsh400, 45 minutes).

TANZANIA AT A GLANCE

Area 943,000 sq km

Capital Dodoma (legislative), Dar es Salaam (economic)

Country code ☎ 255

Population 45 million

Currency Tanzanian Shilling (Tsh)

Languages Swahili, English

Money ATMs in major towns; credit cards accepted by some upmarket hotels and tour operators, often with a 5% to 10% commission.

Mobile Phones Local SIM cards widely available; mobile coverage extensive, but patchy in remote areas.

Visas Usually available on arrival at major airports and land borders; valid for three months.

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	Tsh1426
Canada	C\$1	Tsh1465
Euro Zone	€1	Tsh2071
Japan	¥100	Tsh1541
New Zealand	NZ\$1	Tsh1353
UK	UK£1	Tsh2782
USA	US\$1	Tsh1828

For current exchange rates see www.xe.com