



Tanzania

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Best of Nature

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Why Go?

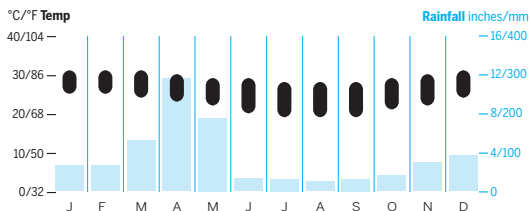
Tanzania is *the* land of safaris, with wildebeest stampeding across the plains, hippos jostling for space in rivers, massive elephant herds kicking up the dust on their seasonal migration routes and chimpanzees swinging through the treetops.

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 birding and muddy roads.

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

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

Itineraries

One Week With Arusha as a starting point, spend the first part of the week visiting one or two of the northern parks. Some possibilities: Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater, or Ngorongoro plus Lake Manyara National Park and Tarangire National Park. With the remaining time, do a cultural tourism program around Arusha. Alternatively, by flying between Arusha and Zanzibar, you could visit one or two of the northern parks, and then relax for a few days on the beach.

Two Weeks Starting in Dar es Salaam, travel northwards to Pangani, Tanga and the nearby beaches. From Tanga, continue to Lushoto and the western Usambaras for some hiking. Make your way northwards via Marangu or Moshi to Arusha, and a flight out from Kilimanjaro International Airport or the bus to Nairobi.

TRANSPORT IN TANZANIA

Tanzania has an extensive, albeit adventuresome bus network and good domestic flight connections.

- » Away from main routes (which are paved), expect lots of bumping and dust (or mud, during the rains).
- » Distances and travel times are long. Don't try to squeeze too much in, and consider an internal flight or two.
- » Trains are sloooww... Take them for glimpses into local life, rather than for efficiency.
- » Never travel at night, especially on buses.
- » Keep your luggage with you in the main part of the bus, and try to sit on the shadier side.
- » Buy bus tickets the day before to minimise bus station chaos and dealings with touts on the morning of travel. Only buy your ticket from a proper office, not from a tout outside.
- » Be prepared for hair-raising speeds.

Cultural Tips

- » **Take time** for greetings and pleasantries.
- » **Before entering** someone's house, call out *hodi* (May I enter?), then wait for the inevitable *karibu* (welcome).
- » **Don't eat** or pass things with the left hand.
- » **Respect authority** Losing your patience is always counterproductive; deference and good humour will see you through most situations.
- » **Avoid** criticising the government.
- » **Receive gifts** with both hands, or with the right hand while touching the left hand to your right elbow.
- » **Ask** Always ask before photographing people.

AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** Tanzanian Shilling
- » **Languages** Swahili, English
- » **Money** ATMs in major towns; credit cards not widely accepted for payment; Visa card essential for national parks.
- » **Visas** Available at most land borders and major airports.

Fast Facts

- » **Area** 943,000 sq km
- » **Capital** Dodoma (legislative), Dar es Salaam (economic)
- » **Country code** 255

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	Tsh1686
Canada	C\$1	Tsh1597
Euro	€1	Tsh2095
Zone		
Japan	¥100	Tsh1963
New Zealand	NZ\$1	Tsh1299
UK	UK£1	Tsh2507
USA	US\$1	Tsh1593

Set Your Budget

- » **Budget hotel room** Tsh20,000
- » **Two-course dinner** Tsh12,000
- » **Beer** Tsh1500
- » **Bus fare Dar es Salaam to Arusha** Tsh25,000-30,000
- » **Serengeti National Park Entry Fee** US\$50 per person per day