



Central Tanzania

Includes »

Dodoma.....	202
Babati.....	206
Mt Hanang.....	207
Kondoa Rock-Art Sites.....	208
Singida.....	209

Best of Culture

- » Kondoa Rock-Art Sites (p208)
- » Cultural Tourism Programs (p206)
- » Katesh's *mnada* (market; p207)

Best of Nature

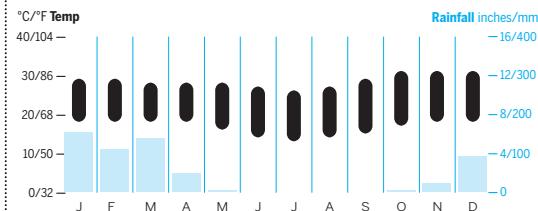
- » Kondoa Rock-Art Sites (p208)
- » Mt Hanang (p207)
- » Lake Singidani (p209)

Why Go?

Well off most tourist itineraries, central Tanzania is like nowhere else in the country. Its semi-arid climate and lack of permanent rivers discouraged early settlement and more recently terrible roads have kept visitors away. But even with improved transport (most main highways are now sealed), this remains a bypassed region, and probably always will. It's not without worthy attractions, though. Prime among these are the enigmatic Kondoa Rock-Art Sites scattered across remote hills along the Rift Valley Escarpment. Mt Hanang, Tanzania's fourth-highest peak and gateway to the colourful Barabaig and other local tribes, is another draw. Cultural Tourism Programs in these two areas offer a window into traditional lifestyles little touched by visitors that just can't be had anymore in the heavily touristed north. Dodoma, Tanzania's legislative capital, is less inspiring, but it hosts interesting architecture and the region's best facilities. If you're prepared to rough things a little with transport and accommodation, you'll undoubtedly have a memorable time here.

When to Go

Dodoma



Apr–Nov During the dry season, it's dusty, but temperatures are refreshingly cool.

Dec–Mar During the rainy season, many roads are difficult to travel.

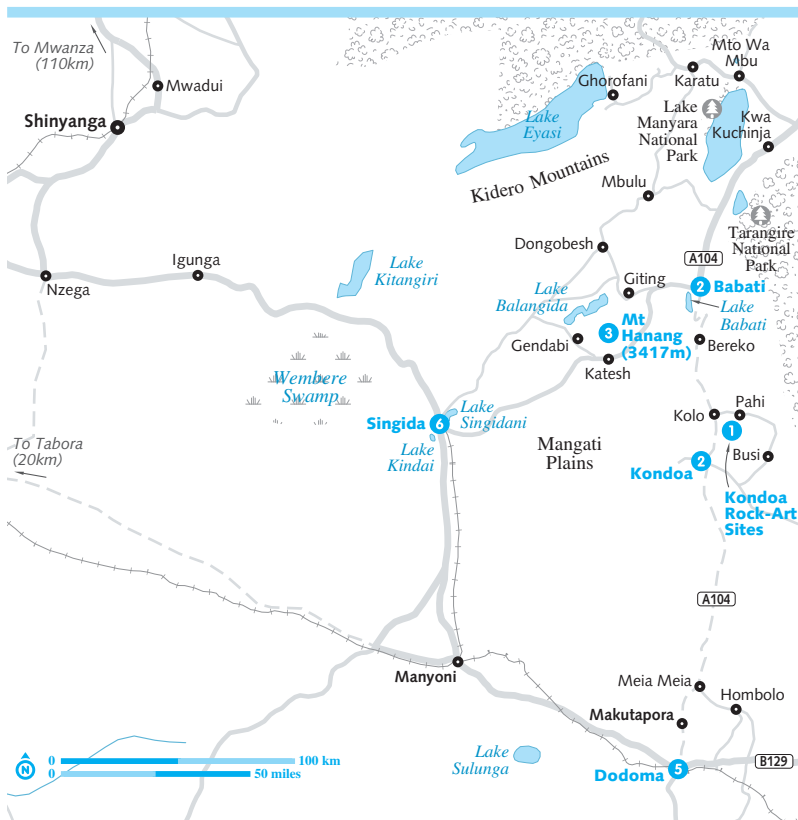
Apr–Aug Flamingos reside in some lakes.

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quence until 1973 when it was named Tanzania's official capital and headquarters of the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party.

According to the original plan, the entire government was to move to Dodoma by the mid-1980s and the town was to be expanded to ultimately encompass more than 300,000 residents, all living in smaller independent communities set up along the lines of Nyerere's *ujamaa* (familyhood) program. The plans proved unrealistic for a variety of rea-

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- 1 Visiting the mysterious **Kondoa Rock-Art Sites** (p208)
- 2 Getting to know the Barabaig, Sandawe and other traditional tribes of Central Tanzania on a

- 3 Summitting Tanzania's seldom-climbed fourth-highest peak, **Mt Hanang** (p207)
- 4 Experiencing a colourful *mnada* (market)

- 5 Admiring the religious and political architecture of **Dodoma** (p202)
- 6 Relishing travel completely off the beaten path in **Singida** (p209)