



# Understand Tanzania

## **TANZANIA TODAY .....308**

Fifty years after independence, Tanzania is moving steadily forward, but still has hurdles to overcome.

## **HISTORY ..... 310**

Tanzania's history spans millennia, from 'cradle of humanity' to one of modern Africa's most peaceful nations.

## **PEOPLE & DAILY LIFE ..... 319**

Tanzania is a harmonious blend of over 120 tribal groups, with a rich array of traditions.

## **WILDLIFE & HABITAT .....323**

Read the definitive full-colour guide to Tanzania's wildlife by renowned expert David Lukas.

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATIONAL PARKS ..... 347**

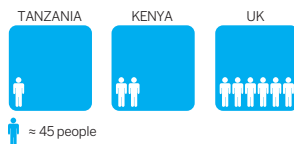
Tanzania's Rift Valley landscapes form a stunning backdrop to a wealth of plants, birds and wildlife.

## **TANZANIAN CUISINE .....353**

Learn about everything from ugali (a staple made from maize or cassava flour, or both) to etiquette in this guide to dining Tanzanian style.



## population per sq km



# Tanzania Today

## Nyerere's Legacy

Tanzania today is at its half-century mark, and still indebted to Julius Nyerere, who was at the country's helm for the first 25 years of its existence. Impelled by an egalitarian social vision, Nyerere introduced Swahili as a unifying national language, instilled ideals of *ujamaa* (familyhood) and initiated a tradition of regional political engagement. Thanks to this vision, Tanzania today is one of Africa's most stable countries, and religious and ethnic conflicts are close to nonexistent.

## Economic Woes

On the economic front, there is less reason to be pleased. Tanzania is ranked near the bottom on the UNDP Human Development Index (148th out of 169 countries in a recent listing), and daily life for many remains a struggle. Unemployment averages about 15% and underemployment is widespread.

## Corruption

A major impediment to real progress is corruption. In an effort to combat it, there are signs in banks, immigration offices and elsewhere advertising that you're in a corruption-free zone. Yet its stench permeates every aspect of business and officialdom, stymieing investment and growth.

## Family Squabbles

In the political sphere, attention is focused on keeping family ties happy between the mainland and proudly independent Zanzibar. While an amicable path for co-existence has been forged, the task requires ongoing attention. It is made more challenging by the continued dominance of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party. In the most recent national

- » Population: 42.7 million (26% urban dwelling)
- » Per capita GDP: US\$1500
- » Inflation: 7%
- » Economic growth rate: 6%
- » Life Expectancy: 53 years
- » Mobile phones per 100 people: 41

## Dos & Don'ts

- » Take time for greetings and pleasantries.
- » Don't eat or pass things with the left hand.
- » Respect authority and avoid impatience; deference and good humour will see you through most situations.

- » Before entering someone's house, call out *Hodi* (May I enter?), then wait for the inevitable *Karibu* (Welcome).
- » Receive gifts with both hands, or with the right hand while touching the left hand to your right elbow.

## Top Reads

- » **My Life** (Shabaan Robert)
- » **Paradise** (Abdulrazak Gurnah)
- » **Dying in the Sun** (Peter Palangyo)
- » **The Tree Where Man Was Born** (Peter Matthiessen)