

Central Tanzania

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Best for Culture

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Best for Nature

- ➔ Kondoa Rock-Art Sites (p214)
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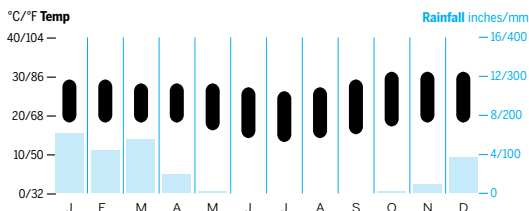
Why Go?

Central Tanzania lies well off most tourist itineraries and that's just the way we like it. Exceptional and enigmatic, the Unesco World Heritage-listed Kondoa Rock-Art Sites, scattered across remote hills along the Rift Valley Escarpment, are the region's premier attraction. Not far away, Mt Hanang soars well over 3000m and is a worthy climb, both for its own sake and for the chance to summit all on your own. Both attractions also serve as gateways to the world of the colourful Barabaig and other tribes whose traditional lifestyles remain little touched by the modern world.

And then there's Dodoma, Tanzania's legislative capital, an intriguing relic of nationalist ambition with interesting architecture and the region's best facilities. Travel here isn't always easy – transport and accommodation can be a little rough around the edges – but it's a window into a Tanzania very few visitors ever get to see.

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.

Dodoma

POP 410,960

Dodoma was a nice idea at the time. Like all custom-built capitals – think Abuja or Yamoussoukro in Africa, Brasilia or Canberra elsewhere – Dodoma never really caught on and lacks a certain authenticity and the atmosphere that goes with it. Although the town was located along the old caravan

route connecting Lake Tanganyika and Central Africa with the sea, Dodoma was of little consequence until 1973 when it was named Tanzania's official capital.

According to the original plan, the entire government was to move to Dodoma by the mid-1980s and its population was to live in smaller independent communities set up along the lines of Nyerere's *ujamaa* (familyhood) program. The plans proved



Central Tanzania Highlights

1 Visiting a mysterious UNESCO World Heritage-listed attraction and having it all to yourself at the **Kondoa Rock-Art Sites** (p214).

2 Getting to know the Barabaig, Sandawe and other traditional tribes of

Central Tanzania on a cultural tour out of **Babati** (p216) or **Kondoa** (p214).

3 Summiting (and sleeping atop overnight) Tanzania's seldom-climbed fourth-highest peak, **Mt Hanang** (p217).

4 Experiencing a colourful

mnada (market), especially the one at **Katesh** (p217).

5 Admiring the religious and political architecture of **Dodoma** (p211).

6 Relishing travel completely off the beaten path in **Singida** (p218).