



Lake Victoria

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Best for Culture

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Best for Nature

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Why Go?

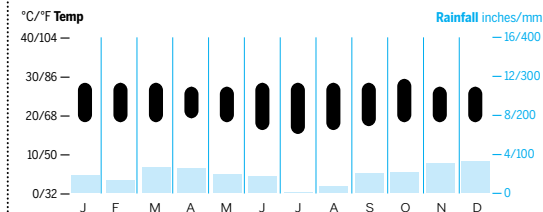
Tanzania's half of Africa's largest lake sees few visitors, but the region holds many attractions for those with a bent for the offbeat and a desire to immerse themselves in the rhythms of local life beyond the tourist trail. The cities of Musoma and Bukoba have a quiet waterside charm while most villagers on Ukerewe Island follow a subsistence lifestyle with little connection to the world beyond the shore.

Mwanza, Tanzania's second-largest city, is appealing in its own way and it's the perfect launching pad for a Serengeti–Lake Natron–Ngorongoro loop. And if you add the forest of idyllic Rubondo Island National Park, deep in the lake's southwest reaches, you will have a well-rounded safari experience.

If you have the time you can be sure to leave this little corner of Tanzania with new experiences and wonderful memories.

When to Go

Mwanza



Jun Move with the groove at the Bulabo Dance Festival near Mwanza.

Jun–Sep During dry season there are clear days and high temperatures.

Dec This is the best time to catch and eat *senene* (grasshoppers).

Musoma

Little Musoma, capital of the Mara region, sits serenely on a Lake Victoria peninsula with both sunrise and sunset views over the

water. It's one of those African towns with nothing special on offer other than an inexplicable appeal.

There are banks and internet cafes along and just off Mukendo Rd.



Lake Victoria Highlights

1 Watching birds and hippos on the lake shore, and searching for elusive chimpanzees in the forests of **Rubondo Island National Park** (p230).

2 Soaking up the sights, sounds and smells as you stroll Temple St and Makoroboi in central **Mwanza** (p222).

3 Pondering the strange forces of nature that balanced the boulders at **Jiwu Kuu** (p223).

4 Biking through the villages and farms of **Ukerewe** (p229).

5 Crossing the lake between Mwanza and Bukoba on the historic **MV Victoria** (p236).

6 Watching traditions defy time at the **Bulabo Dance Festival** at the Sukuma Museum (p229).

7 Exploring the Haya heartland in the seldom-travelled Kagera region on a cultural tour from **Bukoba** (p232).

8 Learning about Sukuma culture at the **Sukuma Museum** (p229).