



Western Tanzania

Includes ➔

Tabora	239
Kigoma	241
Ujiji	244
Gombe Stream National Park	245
Mahale Mountains National Park	246
Kalema	249
Kipili	249
Kasanga	249
Mpanda	249
Katavi National Park	251
Sumbawanga	253

Best for Culture

- ➔ MV *Liemba* (p248)
- ➔ Katonga (p241)
- ➔ Kipili (p249)
- ➔ Livingstone's Tembe (p239)

Best for Nature

- ➔ Mahale Mountains National Park (p246)
- ➔ Katavi National Park (p251)
- ➔ Gombe Stream National Park (p245)
- ➔ Lake Tanganyika (p248)
- ➔ Kalambo Falls (p252)

Why Go?

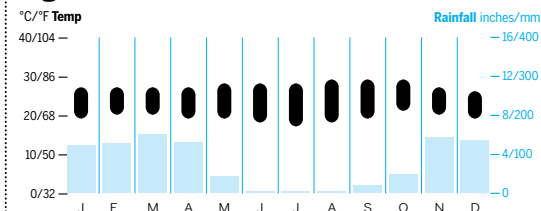
Western Tanzania is rough, remote frontier land, with vast trackless expanses, minimal infrastructure and few visitors: not much different to when Stanley found Livingstone here. The west serves a sense of adventure now extinct in the rest of the country. This is precisely what attracts a trickle of travellers, many of whom plan their itineraries around the schedules of the MV *Liemba*, which sails down Lake Tanganyika, and the Central Line train, which crosses the country.

But it's wildlife watching that brings most people. Gombe Stream, Jane Goodall's former stomping grounds, and Mahale Mountains National Parks are two of the world's best places for chimpanzee encounters, while the vast floodplains of rarely visited Katavi National Park offer an almost primeval safari experience.

Unless you charter a plane as part of a tour, you'll need plenty of time and patience to travel here. But, for that certain sort of traveller, Tanzania's west is Tanzania's best.

When to Go

Kigoma



Dec–Apr Rains bring washed-out roads along with brilliant lightning displays.

May–Nov Dry-season travel is easiest, but the forests turn leafless.

May–Jun This is when chimpanzees are most likely to be seen in large groups.



LEGEND	
NP	National Park
GR	Game Reserve
FR	Forest Reserve

DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF
THE CONGO
(FORMERLY
ZAIRE)

Western Tanzania Highlights

- 1 Visiting **Mahale Mountains National Park** (p246), the ultimate 'get-away-from-it-all' destination.
- 2 Mingling with the chimps at **Gombe Stream National Park** (p245).
- 3 Sailing down Lake Tanganyika aboard the **MV Liemba** (p248).
- 4 Experiencing the primeval rhythms of nature in **Katavi National Park** (p251).
- 5 Diving and snorkelling amid the kaleidoscopic cichlids in **Lake Tanganyika** (p248).
- 6 Kicking back on the shore of Lake Tanganyika at **Kipili** (p249).
- 7 Standing in the spray of the seldom-visited **Kalambo Falls** (p252).