

Tanzania contains within its' borders, all the unique features and world famous attractions to offer the modern traveller a superlative experience. No other destination can boast attractions as well known to the general public as Kilimanjaro, Serengeti National Park, Zanzibar, Ngorongoro Crater, Lake Victoria, Olduvai Gorge, the Rift Valley, Tarangire and Gombe Stream. The discerning visitor can climb the highest peak in Africa, visit the most famous National Park in Africa, dive the best coral reefs on the African coast, big-game fish in the largest lake in Africa or track chimpanzees through the rainforest.

Tanzania is a stable democracy, free of the ethnic and tribal tensions that so often scar the political landscape elsewhere in Africa. Since moving from a socialist economy to a free market economy in the late 1980's, the Tanzanian government has stimulated economic growth through a series of reforms and incentives whilst keeping within the framework of World Bank and IMF repayment schemes. There is a continuing policy to address the shortfalls in the national infrastructure with an overhaul of telephone and communication systems, roads network and opening up of the banking system to International institutions.

These reforms are intended to remove the obstacles that kept tourism revenue, despite the superlative attractions, at minimal levels until 1992. In the next five years tourism is expected along with mining, to become the joint highest earner of foreign currency. Tanzania is rapidly becoming one of the premier destinations in World Tourism, capable of sustaining increasing numbers of tourists without compromising it's conservation ideals.

Over 25% of the country is given over to conservation protecting an estimated 20% of Africa's large mammals. Careful management is intended to ensure that Tanzania does not suffer the ravages of mass tourism that has affected it's neighbours over the last twenty years.

Geography

Tanzania lies on the East African coast just south of the equator. It has boundaries with (anti-clockwise from the north) Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Zaire, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique to the immediate south.

Much of the country consists of an elevated flat plateau about 1500m above sea level, tapering down to a coastal belt at Tanga, Dar Es Salaam, Mtwara and the Zanzibar Archipelago (Unguja Island aka Zanzibar and Pemba) and Mafia Islands lying in the Indian Ocean.

The Tanzanian plateau is bisected by the main branch of the 20 million-year-old Great Rift Valley, the primordial gash that scars Africa from the Dead Sea to Mozambique. Along this Rift lie Lakes Natron, Malawi and Manyara with Lake Tanganyika in the Western Rift (The Gregory Rift) and Lake Victoria, the Serengeti and Ngorogoro on the plateau between the two.

The country has a total area of 945,087 sq.km; roughly equal to the size of France and Spain or one and a half times the size of Texas. It has an estimated population of 28 million (1992). The main centres of population are along the coastal belt, the northern volcanic region (Kilimanjaro/Meru) and the Great Lakes (Victoria/Tanganyika) reflecting the predominantly agricultural nature of the economy.

Getting There

by air

There are three international airports – Kilimanjaro, Dar-Es-Salaam and Zanzibar - served by regular scheduled International flights:

Kilimanjaro International Airport is in Northern Tanzania, halfway between the towns of Arusha, the hub for the Northern Safari Circuit and Moshi, the starting point for Kilimanjaro climbs. It is currently served by KLM flights from Amsterdam, Air Tanzania/South African Airways from Johannesburg, Ethiopian Airlines from Addis Ababa and flights from Nairobi and Mombassa in Kenya., Kigali in Rwanda and Entebbe in Uganda.

Dar-Es-Salaam International Airport serves the principal city in Tanzania, located on the East Coast, 600 km away from Arusha. There are scheduled international flights from Europe, The Gulf, the Asian sub-continent and other major cities in Africa.

Zanzibar International Airport lies on the island of Zanzibar, 40 km off the East Coast of mainland Tanzania. It is served by scheduled international flights from Kenya and the Gulf in addition to International charter flights from Europe during the peak holiday seasons.

by land

Whilst Tanzania, aided by grants from the G7 countries and World Bank, is seeking to upgrade the road system, work is progressing slowly. With the exception of roads in and out of Dar-Es-Salaam, the roads are generally in poor condition, often becoming difficult and occasionally impassable during the rainy seasons. Construction on the main road between Nairobi and Arusha started in 2008, and is expected to be finished sometime in 2010. The road from Arusha to Ngorongoro is tarmac to the main gate.

From Nairobi – There is a twice daily shuttle bus between Nairobi, Jomo Kenyatta Airport and Arusha, leaving at 08.00 and 14.00. The journey takes about five hours or more and does not stop, except at Namanga on the border of Kenya and Tanzania, for immigration formalities. Tickets and pick-ups from other hotels can be arranged by EASTCO.

by boat

The options to enter Tanzania by boat from Burundi, Zaire and Uganda are constantly changing. We recommend you contact EASTCO for details:

by train

Until recently, the only rail link between Tanzania and the neighbouring countries was the TAZARA line between Dar-Es-Salaam and Kapiri Mposhi in Zambia. These trains still operate three times weekly but are only advisable to those who are not restricted by time.

Getting Around

by road

There is a fairly extensive network of roads and tracks across Tanzania – however most of them are, by western standards, in a very poor condition. With the exception of roads linking Dar-Es-Salaam with other major cities, there are no good tarmac highways. The National Parks are increasingly grading (but not surfacing) the main roads inside the parks but the game-viewing circuits are still often little more than muddy tracks. Roads between major towns are generally sound throughout the year, but often bumpy. It is advisable that clients are made aware of road conditions, a factor that should also be taken into account when planning itineraries. It is often not possible to cover long distances in one day that you might expect and in the rainy seasons some areas can become cut off with the roads impassable. Especially in southern Tanzania there may be long delays or impassable roads between Selous and Ruaha due to road conditions. In the north the main road from Arusha to Manyara is currently being tarmac, which will cut the travelling time between Arusha and Ngorongoro.

by air – domestic

Tanzania has a number of internal airlines serving the major towns and tourist destinations. The following offer scheduled flights, but in most cases also offer private charters to more remote destinations or to better accommodate a specific itinerary. Please contact EASTCO for detailed timetables and information.

Precision Air operates similar routes to Air Tanzania and, conveniently, uses the smaller Arusha Airport as well as Kilimanjaro. Its main routes link the National Parks on the Northern Circuit with Arusha as well as twice-daily flights to Zanzibar, Mwanza, Mombassa and Dar-Es-Salaam. It is slightly more expensive option.

Coastal Air operate on the less commercial routes, with a fleet of small aircraft linking the Southern parks. They are slightly more expensive than their larger competitors but predominantly operate specialist charter routes into often-remote areas.

Regional Air offer a charter and shuttle service in the Northern Parks and a service between Nairobi Wilson and Kilimanjaro operating once a day every day of the week. These service connect with the afternoon service to the National Parks and vice a versa.

Zanair is a fairly new operator also offering scheduled flights from Arusha to Zanzibar and Dar Es Salaam.

Visas

At present it is possible to purchase a visa for all the East African community countries, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda on the spot at all points of entry. The cost is usually the quite a bit less that at the overseas embassies.

Zanzibar has the same immigration requirements as Tanzania but visitors must pass through immigration when arriving in Zanzibar, even if travelling from the Mainland.

Note: Yellow Fever Vaccination certificates are still required for entry into Tanzania and Zanzibar, especially if arriving by air.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the Tanzanian Shilling, which comes in denominations of 5, 10, 100 and 200 coins and 500, 1000, 2000, 5000 and 10000 shilling notes. New currency notes were issued in February of 2003. It is accepted in East Africa only and cannot be changed upon return to the home country. There was a law in place restricting the export of Tanzanian Shillings and it seems to have fallen into disuse.



The U.S dollar is fairly widely accepted, but you can be at the mercy of poor rates which can lessen purchasing power. The most sensible option is to change small amounts of money into TSH at a bank or bureau de change to cover everyday expenses, drinks and the like, and use a mixture of credit cards, ATM's and USD cash. Travellers cheques attract a surcharge due to the current banking practice of waiting 21 working days before clearing these into accounts. Hardly anywhere will accept travellers cheques even the major banks and National Parks, so this should be avoided! This is mainly due to the large instance of fraud that occur with travellers cheques.

Banks, ATM's and Bureaux De Changes can be found in all large towns and hotels. Most major European and developed nation currencies are accepted with USDs having the better exchange rate and not always on parity with world rates.

Note: Fewer places are accepting older dollar notes and it is recommended that notes be more recent than 2006. There is also a lower rate for smaller denominations (1, 5, 10, 20 USD notes).

Credit Cards are becoming more widely accepted in major tourist centres but often at prohibitive charges of 7.5%+. ATMs are found in almost all major centres, but only Tanzanian shillings are issued.

Electricity

Mains power in Tanzania is the British standard 230v, but surges, troughs and spikes can play havoc with electronic goods. Power sockets vary from place to place (even rooms in the same hotel) from 15 amp 3-pin round, 13 amp 3-pin round, 13 amp 3-pin square, 13 amp 3-pin angled and two-pin angled. It is best to bring a comprehensive adapter with you although basic ones can be found in most towns in Tanzania.

If clients need to recharge video cameras, they should talk to their drivers who can arrange it at various places. Most EASTCO vehicles have 12V charge sockets built in and invertors.

Insurance

Due to the risk inherent in Third World travel, comprehensive travel insurance is MANDATORY on all our tours and transfers. The East African Safari And Touring Company leave all responsibility for travel insurance with the individual client.

Travel Insurance must cover repatriation costs in the event of an emergency.

Health

Despite misconceptions to the contrary, Tanzania and East Africa in general, are comparatively free of bugs, diseases, plagues and all the other things that worry a traveller when coming to the Tropics for the first time. The Tanzanian health service is not comparable to those in the Developed World. There are adequate facilities for basic medical services with private clinics offering a better standard, but in an emergency, clients should be evacuated to Nairobi. It is strongly recommended that all clients obtain the optional AMREF Flying Doctors service at a cost of approximately \$25 per person. Sterilisation of equipment is now the norm and clinics will use new needles when performing blood tests. If the client is in any doubt, we recommend they bring their own first aid and sterile kit.

Malaria and Yellow Fever

Tanzania lies in an area considered by the WHO to have a high risk of malaria infection. Clients should take all necessary precautions to ensure they do not put themselves at risk. All tents and accommodation owned by The East African Safari And Touring Company have comprehensive mosquito netting and all accommodation, except for the most basic/budget, used by The East African Safari And Touring Company provide netting on beds. We advise a pyrethrin-based anti-mosquito spray for clothes and fabrics and a 50%+ DEET spray for the skin, but remind clients that DEET can damage certain plastics. For advice on malaria prophylactics, we advise client's to consult their own doctors advice or a specialist Travel Clinic.

Advice on other vaccinations and medication should be sought from the client's GP or nearest Travel Clinic.

Water

We encourage clients to drink plenty of water (2 - 3 litres a day) to reduce the risk of dehydration. Bottled water is readily available. Boiling is the most effective means of sterilizing water; it kills amoeba and other cyst-formers which are resistant to iodine and chlorine. The flat taste of boiled water can be removed by leaving it to stand in a container with an air gap for several hours or by shaking vigorously. We supply complimentary bottled water on all our safaris.

Dress

Tanzanian people are quite conservative in their dress, and expect visitors to do the same. The coastal towns and Zanzibar are strictly Moslem and we recommend that people cover their shoulders and knees as a sign of respect. Although there is unlikely to be any adverse comment, respect breeds respect and those who dress accordingly will be better received than those who do not.

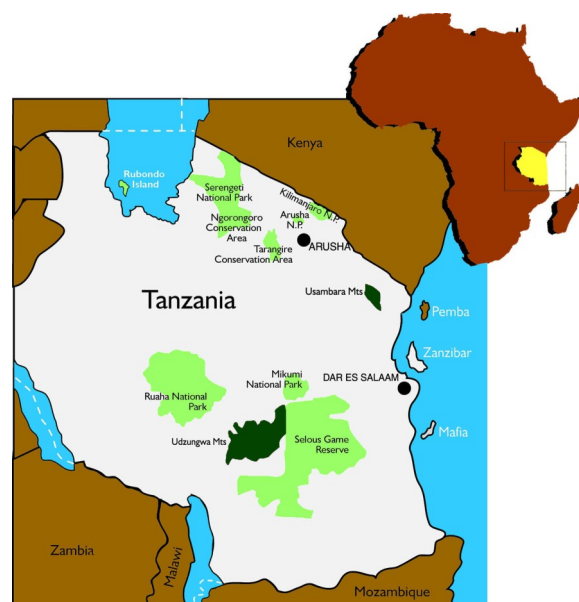
Tips

As with all countries in which tourism plays a large part in the economy, visitors are expected to tip for services. It is always at the discretion of the client and we prefer to see only good service rewarded but in restaurants and bars, the normal figure of 10% is a good guideline to use. Your safari crew work hard to ensure that every aspect of the safari works well and your comfort is assured throughout. If you believe that your Crew deserve a tip, then we suggest as a guide something in the order of 15 –25USD for each member, for each day of your safari. However, this is entirely at the discretion of the client who can tip more, or less, depending on the their appraisal of the situa-

Climate

Tanzania's hottest months are from November through to March coinciding with the short rains in late November and December as well as the long rains in April. Heavy downpours during April and early May are often accompanied by violent thunderstorms, particularly in the highlands. Although rain can fall in the higher regions throughout the year, in the main National parks, it is very rare for rain to fall during the coolest months, June to September, which are also the most pleasant.

Within Tanzania there are dramatic climatic extremes due to the varied geography. Coastal areas are hot and humid with an average daytime temperature of 30°C and warm and humid nights. Average temperatures in the northern parks are in the mid 20's during the day and low teens at night. The exceptions being the Ngorongoro Highlands which are much cooler at night and mountainous areas (including Kilimanjaro, Mt. Meru, the Usambara Mountains and Southern Highlands). Mount Kilimanjaro is snow-capped year round, although climate changes are melting more and more ice each year. During the rainy seasons Mount Meru can be covered with snows which usually disappear after a few hours.



Month	Arusha	Dar	Kigoma	Mbeya	Zanzibar
January	12-32°C	24-31°C	20-27°C	13-24°C	25-32°C
February	13-32°C	24-31°C	20-28°C	13-24°C	25-33°C
March	13-31°C	24-31°C	20-27°C	13-24°C	26-33°C
April	16-28°C	22-30°C	20-26°C	12-23°C	25-31°C
May	14-25°C	21-29°C	19-26°C	9-23°C	24-29°C
June	11-25°C	19-28°C	18-25°C	7-22°C	23-28°C
July	10-23°C	18-27°C	17-27°C	6-23°C	22-27°C
August	10-24°C	19-28°C	18-27°C	8-23°C	22-28°C
September	10-28°C	19-29°C	20-27°C	9-26°C	23-30°C
October	12-29°C	21-30°C	20-27°C	12-27°C	23-30°C
November	12-30°C	22-30°C	20-26°C	12-26°C	24-31°C
December	12-31°C	24-31°C	19-26°C	14-26°C	25-31°C

Average minimum and maximum temperatures

Average Temperatures and Rainfall

Month	Arusha	Dar	Kigoma	Mbeya	Zanzibar
January	40 mm	60 mm	120 mm	190 mm	80 mm
February	70 mm	60 mm	120 mm	160 mm	70 mm
March	150 mm	120 mm	140 mm	160 mm	140 mm
April	330 mm	290 mm	160 mm	110 mm	380 mm
May	190 mm	190 mm	50 mm	20 mm	250 mm
June	20 mm	40 mm	10 mm	0 mm	60 mm
July	10 mm	40 mm	0 mm	0 mm	40 mm
August	20 mm	30 mm	0 mm	0 mm	40 mm
September	20 mm	40 mm	20 mm	0 mm	50 mm
October	30 mm	50 mm	50 mm	20 mm	90 mm
November	90 mm	80 mm	130 mm	50 mm	220 mm
December	80 mm	90 mm	150 mm	130 mm	160 mm

Average monthly rainfall