

## TANZANIA PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION



### **Time Zone**

GMT +3 hours

2 hours ahead of Central European Winter Time

8 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time, U.S.A.

### **Situation**

Tanzania is located in East Africa between longitude, 29 degrees and 41 degrees east and latitude 1 degree and 12 degrees south. Tanzania borders Kenya to the north, Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo to the west, and Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique to the south, and is the largest country in East Africa (943,000 sq km), comprising both the mainland and the Zanzibar Archipelago.

A large central plateau makes up most of the mainland (at between 900m and 1800m) and the mountain ranges of the Eastern Arc and the Southern and Northern Highlands cut across the country to form part of the Great Rift Valley. A land of geographical extremes, Tanzania has the highest peak – Mount Kilimanjaro, the lowest point – the lakebed of Lake Tanganyika, and the largest lake – Lake Victoria, on the continent.

### **Languages**

The official languages are English and Swahili with many other localised languages and dialects.

### **Religion**

Christianity and Islam are the predominant religions of Tanzania. About 40-45% of the population practice Christianity, about 35-40% practice Islam. The rest of the population adheres to traditional beliefs, most of which centre around ancestor worship and nature-based animism. Most Christians live on the mainland, where missionary stations and schools reach deep into the continent. Islam is the major religion of the coastal areas but is also practiced further inland along the old caravan routes. Tanzania's Asian religious minority includes Hindus, Sikhs, and Ismaili's.

### **The Migration**

The migration is a spectacular and unique event that is one of nature's miracles and has been described by many as one of the great wonders of the world. There is no fixed migration timetable as the animals migrate according to rainfall patterns and to take advantage of the new grasses on the plains of the Serengeti and Masai Mara.

Generally, the herds can be found in Tanzania at different locations between October and August.

### Climate

Tanzania has an interesting geography which contributes to its differing climatic conditions. The islands off of Tanzania have a hot, humid climate. Tanzania can be cool at night because of a high plateau. The north east enjoys temperate climates.

### Seasons

Spring: June – November  
 Summer: December – February  
 Autumn: March – April  
 Winter: April – May

### Rainy Seasons

The Long Rains: April / May  
 The Short Rains: November

### Weather in Tanzania

#### Arusha

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temperature (Fahrenheit)												
High	84	84	81	77	72	70	69	72	76	80	81	81
Low	50	51	53	57	52	48	49	48	47	51	51	50
Temperature (Celsius)												
High	36	37	35	33	30	27	27	28	32	34	38	35
Low	10	8	8	11	10	7	7	7	8	9	10	10
Precipitation												
Inches	2.3	3.3	7.0	14.5	8.3	1.3	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.4	4.4	4.0
cm	5.0	8.0	17.0	36.0	21.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	3.0	11.0	10.0
Humidity												
Percent	82	84	95	95	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	94	98	91

### Dar es Salaam

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temperature (Fahrenheit)												
High	84	84	81	77	72	70	69	72	76	80	81	81
Low	77	76	75	74	72	68	67	67	67	70	73	76
Temperature (Celsius)												
High	30	31	30	29	28	28	27	27	28	30	30	30
Low	25	24	23	23	22	20	19	19	19	21	22	24
Precipitation												
Inches	2.8	2.5	5.0	10.6	7.2	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.9	3.3	3.7
cm	7.0	6.0	12.0	26.0	18.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	8.0	9.0
Morning Humidity												
Percent	93	92	96	97	96	96	96	97	97	97	96	94
Evening Humidity												
Percent	64	60	67	73	67	59	56	54	54	57	60	65

### Moshi

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temperature (Fahrenheit)												
High	92	92	90	85	79	78	78	80	83	88	89	90
Low	64	64	66	67	65	62	60	60	60	62	64	64
Temperature (Celsius)												
High	33	33	32	29	26	25	25	26	28	31	31	32
Low	17	17	18	19	18	16	15	15	15	16	17	17
Precipitation												
Inches	1.4	2.0	4.7	13.8	9.3	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.6	1.0	2.5	2.1
cm	3.0	5.0	11.0	35.0	23.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	6.0	5.0
Humidity												
Percent	64	57	63	73	77	72	69	66	61	57	57	60

## Zanzibar

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temperature (Fahrenheit)												
High	90	91	91	86	84	83	82	83	84	86	89	89
Low	76	76	77	77	75	74	72	72	72	73	75	76
Temperature (Celsius)												
High	32	32	32	30	28	28	27	28	28	30	31	31
Low	24	24	25	25	23	23	22	22	22	22	23	24
Precipitation												
Inches	2.3	2.6	5.8	12.6	11.4	2.1	1.1	1.2	1.6	2.6	6.7	5.5
cm	5.0	6.0	14.0	32.0	28.0	5.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	6.0	17.0	13.0
Humidity												
Percent	74	74	79	84	84	79	78	77	76	76	78	78

## Public Holidays

The dates of certain public holidays change from year to year. Generally, if a public holiday falls on a Sunday, the Monday is also declared a holiday.

01 January	New Year's Day
12 January	Zanzibar Revolution Day
Varies	Good Friday
Varies	Easter Monday
07 April	Karume Day
26 April	Union Day
01 May	Labour Day
15 June	Eid ul-Fitr
16 June	Eid El Fitr
07 July	Saba Saba Day
08 August	Nane Nane (Farmer's) Day
22 August	Eid El Haj
14 October	Mwalimu Day
21 November	Maulid Day
09 December	Independence Day
25 December	Christmas Day
26 December	Boxing Day

## IMPORTANT – PASSPORT REQUIREMENT

Please note visitors travelling to Africa must have a MINIMUM of two blank/empty (non-endorsement) VISA pages in your passport per each country visited. Passports must be valid for six months after intended departure. Foreign passport holders who do not comply with these requirements will either be stopped from boarding the aircraft at point of departure or risk deportation on arrival in Africa.

## **Visas**

All visitors must hold a passport that is valid for at least 6 months except those with United Nations travel documents. Visitors must also have outgoing travel documents and sufficient funds to finance their stay. It is the responsibility of each individual to confirm with their respective Consulates concerning visa entry requirements. Please ensure that you have all the necessary visas prior to departure (unless available upon entry). Journey Beyond, nor any of its agents, can be held responsible for any errors in this regard.

Visitors arriving in Tanzania through airports and land borders without having secured their visa in advance online will have to undergo an extended procedure.

We recommend that travellers apply for an e-visa in advance online at [www.immigration.go.tz](http://www.immigration.go.tz) for all trips. Online visa applications will require more information than the one asked for on arrival and will be issued within a few days.

For those travellers who do not wish or do not have enough time to apply for an e-visa, the new process to get a visa on arrival will require these steps:

- Queue for a Government Control Number
- Queue to pay for this at the bank
- Queue to have the visa issued
- Queue for Immigration to check the visa

The new process can be quite lengthy and take clients up to two hours to complete.

We strongly recommend that all clients traveling to Tanzania apply online for an e-visa. This is especially important to travellers with onward connections both by air or road after arriving to Tanzania.

## **Plastic Bags**

Single use plastic bags are banned in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zanzibar.

The ban applies to all plastic carrier bags and flat bags used for commercial and household packaging. All plastic carrier bags, regardless of their thickness, will be prohibited from being imported, exported, manufactured, sold, stored, supplied and used in the country. Alternatives that can be used are paper bags, clothing bags, canvas bags, sisal bags, papyrus bags and buyers/shoppers own shopping bags.

Visitors are advised to avoid carrying plastic carrier bags or packing items in plastic carrier bags within their suitcase or hand luggage before travelling to any of these countries.

The Government of Tanzania has however allowed a few exceptions to this ban. These include "Zip-lock bags" to carry toiletries as they are expected to remain in the permanent possession of visitors and not left behind in the country. Special desks will be designated at all entry points to the country where any plastic carrier bags brought into Tanzania can be surrendered.

## **Drones in Africa**

In many African countries, a drone permit as well as approval to operate the drone from the local Aviation Authority is required for recreational drone use.

The use of drones or camera drones are strictly prohibited in the following areas:

- within 3km of airports or in areas where aircraft are operating,
- over wildlife reserves or national parks,
- hotels, lodges and campsites,
- over people or large crowds,
- roads and moving traffic,
- any sensitive areas including government or military facilities.

## **Currency**

The official currency is the Tanzanian Shilling; however, US Dollars are widely accepted. US Bank notes older than 2007 or notes that do not have the latest security measures (large portraits) are not accepted.

## **Credit Cards**

Credit cards are acceptable in the major tourist hotels and establishments, with the most recognised being MasterCard and Visa. American Express and Diners Club are not generally accepted. Cultural sites and community art and craft outlets usually only accept cash.

Debit cards are generally not accepted as a form of payment.

## **Banks**

Banking hours are from 08h30 to 16h00 – Monday to Friday and some branches from 08h30 to 13h00 on Saturdays.

## **Departure Taxes**

Some airports require departure taxes to be paid locally in cash at the airport.

## **Shopping**

Every visitor who comes to Tanzania should take away with them something special to remind them of their trips to our country, be it a ring fitted with glittering Tanzanite or a carving of giraffe or buffalo on the wind-swept plains or some bright Masai cloth.

## **Electricity**

Many lodges are situated in remote areas and operate on either solar lighting (backed up by batteries) or on generators for approximately 6 - 7 hours per day (usually while guests are out on safari activities). Depending on the choice of lodge / camp, plug points can be found in the rooms. The plug points can be used to charge batteries and sleep apnoea machines, however are not suitable for hairdryers. Where there are no plug points in the rooms, facilities for charging batteries are available in the main area of the lodge / camp. It is advisable to always bring a spare battery. All electrical appliances run on 220/240V. Plugs may vary from the UK standard square pin to European standard round pin. While some adapters may be supplied, it is advisable that you carry your own. The electric current is subject to voltage fluctuation and power cuts are possible, even in larger cities.

## **Mobile Phones/Telecommunications**

Mobile reception is available in Kilimanjaro and Arusha as well as along a surprising number of main roads and villages. Wi-Fi is becoming popular in the camps / lodges. Depending on the accommodation chosen, Wi-Fi can sometimes be found either in the rooms or in designated areas.

## **Dress Code**

The coastal areas (specifically Zanzibar) are predominantly Muslim in tradition. When outside of resorts and hotels, visitors should dress conservatively and should be covered from the shoulders to the kneecaps. When at the resort and on the beach, appropriate swim costumes are allowed, however, women should never be topless and nudity is not tolerated.

## **Tipping**

Service staff in Africa depends on tips as part of their livelihood. However, we recommend that tipping be based on the quality of service provided. As a guideline, hotel porters get about USD 1.00 per bag carried each way.

Restaurant staff and bar waiters might be tipped at 10% - 15% of the value of the meals or beverages purchased.

A guideline to voluntary tipping at lodges in Tanzania is as follows:

Guides: USD 10.00 to USD 12.00 per guest per night

Tracker: USD 8.00 per guest per night (not all camps have a guide / tracker team)

Butler: USD 8.00 per guest per night (not all camps have butlers)

General staff: USD 10 to USD 12.00 per guest per day, and this should be handed into the communal tipping box, usually found in the Reception area.

Hotels: USD 7.00 to USD 13.00 per room per night Private tours: USD 13.00 per person per day for a private guide

## **Safety Precautions/Drinking Water**

As in most countries in the world, travellers are advised to take the necessary safety precautions. Do not walk alone in unpopulated streets after dark or draw unnecessary attention to money or jewellery on your person.

Bottled water is available in most tourist centres. Filtered water is available at most camps / lodges and shops offer bottled water. We would like to stress the importance of drinking at least 2 to 3 litres of water per day whilst on safari as dehydration can occur quickly, especially in the summer months.

## **Health Precautions**

Malaria is spread by mosquitoes, which bite mainly at dusk and at night. You can only contract malaria if you are bitten by an infected anopheles' mosquito. Please use insect repellent and keep arms and legs covered as much as possible. Tanzania is a malaria area. Please consult your physician or travel advisory centre prior to your safari for information and advice on the use of anti-malaria medication. There are many types of prophylactics available on the market and your Medical Practitioner will assist in finding one that is right for you. Remember to complete your prophylactic course – especially after leaving a malaria area.

A Yellow Fever inoculation certificate is not required for travel in Tanzania unless coming from an endemic area. All travellers from or through the countries which have been declared yellow fever infected areas must provide an international health certificate of vaccination for yellow fever upon arrival. Travellers who transit in Yellow Fever

Endemic Areas are required to have a certificate only if the transit period at the airport is 12 hours or more, or if while on transit leave the airport in Yellow Fever Endemic countries.

Please take note that a Yellow Fever Vaccination needs to be done a minimum of 10 days prior to travelling. Travellers will not be allowed to get the vaccination on arrival.

## **Medical Care**

Medical care is limited. Essential medications and supplies are sometimes unavailable. Most doctors and hospitals will expect payment in cash, regardless of whether you have travel health insurance. Serious medical problems will require air evacuation to a country with state-of-the-art medical facilities. Malaria occurs in most of the safari areas and tsetse fly still occurs in areas of the Serengeti and surrounds.

## **Insurance**

All guests must take out comprehensive travel insurance covering them for personal effects, accident, medical and emergency travel expenses, cancellation and curtailment. As most safari lodges consist only of 6 to 12 rooms, cancellation fees are strictly applied, and you need to be covered for cancellation and possible curtailment.

## **HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY**