

Country Info: Tanzania

This information is provided by Encompass Africa as a guideline.

Further information is available to you on the official tourism board website

<http://www.tanzaniatouristboard.com/>

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Australian passport holders require a visa for Tanzania and it costs US\$50 per person and is payable in cash only on arrival into Kilimanjaro and Dar es Salaam airports plus at land border crossings Namanga and Isebania (Kenya). Transit visas are also available for those passing through Tanzania and onward to another country, for US\$30 per person.

Alternatively, you will need to contact the Consulate in Australia and organise the visa in advance see www.tanzaniaconsul.com. Please ensure your passport is valid for at least six months beyond your stay and take photocopies with you. Also ensure that there are two blank pages per country to be visited.

TAXES

Domestic tax on scheduled flights is US\$6 per person from all Government airstrips. International departure tax: Tanzania is US\$30 per person (this is currently now included in flight tickets, but subject to change).

Zanzibar introduced a new tax and levy from 1 July 2015. At this stage, the tax is divided into an infrastructure levy and tax. The levy is US\$1 per person per night and payable direct by guests at their accommodation. the infrastructure tax is US\$1 per person on departure at airports and seaports to any destination within Tanzania (domestic). The existing airport safety fee for passengers travelling outside Tanzania is usually included in your ticket. Of course we'd prefer that guests are not made to pay directly, but we have been advised by Government that these taxes have to be collected at points of service, that is the hotels, airports and seaports.

CURRENCY & CREDIT CARDS

Local currency is the Tanzania shilling (TZS). The best currency is US dollars by a small margin, however most major international currencies are widely accepted at private forex bureau and banks. US\$ bills printed before 2002 may be refused outright. Where credit cards are accepted, the payments will normally be recorded in US Dollars, regardless of the card's default currency. Banks and forex bureaux are available at airports and in all major towns. Banking hours are from Monday to Friday 0830–1430, Saturdays 0830–1330. In major towns some branches will be open until 1600. Banks close Sunday.

VAT & DUTY FREE

To qualify for VAT refund, visitors must be in possession of a valid passport, valid tax invoices and must produce the goods purchased. Please note receipts stating "for

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information only” is not accepted. The document must stipulate that it is a VAT invoice and show the amount charged.

LANGUAGE

There are about 120 regional variations. The official languages are KiSwahili and English. We recommend you greet locals in Swahili before speaking in English. *Jambo* – hello
Unasema Kiingereze? – do you speak English?

TIME

Tanzania is Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) + 3 hours.

ELECTRICITY

220 volts/AC50Hz. Facilities are available in camps for the charging of video and digital cameras. Sockets are UK style, 3 pin square plugs.



HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

An International Certificate of Vaccination for Yellow Fever is required for those travelling in or through the following countries: Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, Angola and South America. You will be denied entry into Tanzania if you do not have proof of vaccination so please carry your certificate with you and present to immigration.

Malaria protection is essential. Please consult your doctor for advice on the most suitable prophylactics. We recommend clients take their own necessary medications with them. As requirements and regulations are subject to change at short notice, visitors are advised to contact their nearest Tanzanian Embassy or their travel health advisor well in advance of their intended date of departure.

FOOD & DRINKS

You will dine well in Tanzania. The lodges have some of the best chefs around. It is also worth sampling some local dishes.

Stews	Chicken, beef or goat stews are popular and eaten with rice, chapatti, ugali or batoke
Ugali	Stiff maize porridge eaten throughout East Africa
Batoke or matoke	Cooked plantain served boiled or in a mushy heap
Mandaazi	This is the local equivalent of doughnuts and tasty when freshly cooked
Chai	This is a sweet tea where all ingredients are boiled together in a pot. Along the coast, chai is flavoured with spices such as ginger
Konyagi	This is a spirit made from sugar cane. It tastes strange on its own, but mixes well and is very cheap. It gives you quite a hangover
Beer	Safari Lager and Kilimangaro and Serengeti are the local and popular beers

SHOPPING

Tanzania boasts fantastic shopping and we highly recommend you purchase a local colourful fabric that can be used as a sarong. These are called Kangas and kikoi. Also look out for jewellery, beading, beaded and woven home wares and carvings. Fresh spices and coffee are abundant but it may prove difficult bringing these products back into Australia. Makonde carvings, Tingatinga paintings, batiks, musical instruments, wooden spoons, small soapstone and malachite carvings are popular craft items.

GEOGRAPHY

Tanzania covers an area of 945,166 square kilometres. It is one of the largest countries in sub-Saharan Africa, covering a greater area than Kenya and Uganda combined. To place its size in a European context, it is more than four times the size of Britain. The bulk of East Africa is made up of a vast, flat plateau rising from a narrow coastal belt to an average height of about 1,500 metres. This plateau is broken dramatically by the 20-million year old Great Rift Valley, which cuts a trough up to 2,000 metres deep through the African continent from the Dead Sea in the north to Mozambique in the South-east. The main branch of the Great Rift Valley bisects Tanzania.

There are stunning lakes including Lake Rukwa, Nyasa, Victoria and one of the most spectacular, Lake Tanganyika. There are volcanic mountains created by the same forces that caused the Great Rift Valley. Kilimanjaro is the most recent and started to form about one million years ago. Ngorongoro Crater is the collapsed caldera of a volcano that would once have stood as high as Kilimanjaro. The only active volcano remaining in Tanzania is Ol Doinyo Lengai and it stands a short way north of Ngorongoro.

Tanzania is practically without peer when it comes to wildlife. An unprecedented 25% of the country is protected in national parks and other conservation areas. There are over 1,000 bird species recorded with new endemics being discovered frequently. Some 20% of Africa's large mammal population is in Tanzania and one of the national parks plays host to the singular spectacle of an annual migration of some two million wildebeest, zebra and gazelle. If that were not enough, the three great lakes that lie along Tanzania's borders vie with each other for the honour of harbouring the world's greatest diversity of fish species.

CLIMATE

Tanzania's climate is predominantly tropical. For the whole country, the hottest months are from October to February. The long rains or *masika* are from late February to early May, and the short rains or *mvuli* from November to January. The coolest months are June to August when the nights and early mornings can be cold. In high-altitude areas such as Kilimanjaro, temperatures can fall below freezing. Coastal areas are hot and humid with an average daytime temperature of 30c. Sea breezes make the climate very pleasant from June to September.

LUGGAGE

Luggage restrictions apply on light aircraft. The per person allowance is 15 kilograms in a soft sided duffel bag or similar. Please note this includes hand luggage and camera equipment. Please also refer to our separate luggage document located under ***Preparation | Important to Know | Luggage Guidelines.***

LAUNDRY

Most camps offer laundry as a service that is either included in the price or available at a nominal fee. Please note it is best to wash your own underwear with washing powder provided in room. If no washing powder is provided, please liaise with staff.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Ensure you bring enough camera film with you for your entire stay – and then some more. Film is not always available, and specialist films are very hard to get in Tanzania. Please be careful when photographing public buildings, airports, bridges, the national flag and people in uniform. If you do not get permission then do not take a picture. If in doubt, don't photograph it!

Please make sure permission has been sought before photographing local people, and their villages. They may charge for pictures to be taken. Please check with your guide. No flash photography is allowed when viewing the chimps at Mahale. High-speed film is recommended.

ZANZIBAR ENTRY

Zanzibar International Airport is located 7kms from the centre of Stone Town, and takes approximately 15 minutes to reach by car. Facilities include a cafeteria and bureau de change. Please note an International Certificate of Vaccination for Yellow Fever is required to enter Zanzibar.

RAMADAN

Zanzibar is predominately Muslim and Ramadan is celebrated annually based on the Islamic calendar which means the dates change from year to year.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and sees Muslims worldwide observing this as a month of fasting. This annual observance is regarded as one of the Five Pillars of Islam. The month lasts 29–30 days based on the visual sightings of the crescent moon, according to numerous biographical accounts compiled in the hadiths. While fasting from dawn until sunset, Muslims refrain from consuming food, drinking liquids and smoking. Food and drink is served daily, before sunrise and after sunset. Fasting for Muslims during Ramadan typically includes the increased offering of salat (prayers) and recitation of the Quran so you may enjoy hearing the words echoing from mosques and private homes and even work places around town.

As a way of respect, we do recommend you eat and drink at your accommodation rather than in public places also because the majority of cafes and restaurants will be closed during this time. We also highly encourage you to wear respectful clothing that means ensuring shoulders are covered and nothing exposed above the knee. Zanzibar has

fantastic fabrics and kaftan style shirts and dresses that we always purchase and wear when travelling! So make the most of the fantastic fashion available in Zanzibar that will also ensure you're completely respectful of local culture, traditions and religious beliefs.

ZANZIBAR DRESS CODE

The island of Zanzibar, and the beach resorts on the mainland are predominantly Muslim, so recognition of traditional courtesies is important. Unsuitable clothing such as swimwear or brief shorts, are not acceptable in town and villages away from the main tourist resorts.

RECOMMENDED READING

We recommend the following books

1. Tanzania – Portrait of a Nation - Paul Joynson-Hicks
2. Tanzania: African Eden - Javed Jafferji/Graham Mercer
3. The Serengeti's Great Migration - Carlo Mari/Harvey Croze
4. Serengeti: Natural Order on the African Plain - Mitsuaki Iwago
5. Ngorongoro - Reinhard Kunkel
6. Elephants - Reinhard Kunkel
7. Sand Rivers - Peter Matthiessen
8. African Trilogy - Peter Matthiessen
9. Scramble for Africa - Thomas Pakenham
10. Waters of the Sanjan - David Read
11. Battle for the Bundu - Charles Miller
12. Africa: Biography of a Continent - John Reader
13. Paradise - Abdulrazak Gurnah
14. By the Sea - Abdulrazak Gurnah