



CHELI & PEACOCK SAFARIS
East Africa

1 OF 2

TANZANIA INTRODUCTION

GEOGRAPHY AND ECOSYSTEMS

Tanzania is in many ways a natural extension of Kenya. The Serengeti-Masai Mara Ecosystems (supporting the most diverse migration of grazing mammals on earth) stretches over 24,000km² of land with the Serengeti in Tanzania in the south and the Masai Mara in Kenya to the north.

Tanzania includes the spice islands of Zanzibar, Pemba, and Mafia and contains Africa's highest point—Kilimanjaro, at 5,895 meters (19,340 feet). Tanganyika, a British-controlled UN trust territory, gained independence in 1961; and Zanzibar, a British protectorate with an Arab population, became independent in 1963. Tanganyika and Zanzibar united to form Tanzania in 1964.

Tanzania offers many small private boutique camps in lovely locations e.g. in the Ngorongoro area you can stay away from the crowds by staying in one of the renovated nearby colonial farm houses or baroque opulence of Crater Lodge.

Southern Tanzania has a different climate and some camps are closed between February and May. Child policies may differ from camp to camp.

With a prime office location in Arusha at Arusha Coffee Lodge, our Nairobi and Arusha offices work closely together, offering dedicated Tanzania as well as combination Kenya & Tanzania tailor made itineraries.

CLIMATE, SEASONS & CULTURE

CLIMATE

Tanzania lies 1-12 degrees south of the Equator, having mostly a tropical climate including dry and wet seasons which have relatively stable and pleasant temperatures, and allow year round safaris and game viewing. In the areas of higher altitude, such as the Ngorongoro Highlands and Mt Kilimanjaro National Park, temperatures can get below freezing point, especially at night. The coastal climate is much hotter (and often more humid) than that of the East African plateau, further inland. Other low lying areas including the southern and western parks also experience higher temperatures.

SEASONS

- **January – Mid March**

The hottest and driest time of year, popular for those in the northern hemisphere to escape the cold. One of the best game viewing times of year.

- **Mid March – May**

This is the start of what is known as the ‘Tanzanian winter.’ The heaviest rains, also known as Masika often start mid-March and continue for two months. Most properties at the coast are closed in April and May. Rain usually falls in the mornings and late afternoons. It is an exciting time to be on safari, especially in Northern Tanzania – clear skies after a heavy shower, fewer tourists, lush green parks...

- **June – July:**

June and July are the cooler months and the start of the dry season, although some occasional light showers may occur. Depending on the region, temperatures generally rise during the day to a cool 20° Celsius, yet the mornings and evenings can cool down significantly.

- **August – September**

August and September are warm and dry months, with temperatures rising to 35° Celsius. Game viewing can be remarkable during this time of year as plains game are in search of watering holes, attracting a lot of wildlife to one area.

- **October – December**

Ideal time of year to come on safari, with the wildebeest migration moving to the Southern Serengeti Plains. November can experience the “short” rains brought by the north east monsoon, usually short showers in the early mornings and evenings. The temperatures during the day can rise to a comfortable 28 Celsius inland and may rise higher along the coast.

CULTURE

With over 120 ethnic groups, Tanzania boasts a diverse culture throughout the country, from hunter gatherers to the nomadic Masai, to the Swahili coastal communities, to name a few. Areas far away from towns and cities are rich in traditional and cultural norms and values whereas regions more exposed to modern society are slowly experiencing a mix of cultures and new trends.