

Travel tips

Visa

You can arrange the visa for Tanzania on arrival in Tanzania. In the plane you often get a form to fill in. If not, the forms will be ready in the terminal upon arrival. Upon arrival at the airport you first have to queue to pay. It is convenient to have \$ 50 per person cash with you (for American citizens it is 100 USD per person), changing is often a problem. Then you go to the next row to put fingerprints and the visa is arranged.

As you will understand it goes the African way so not always very efficient, so you have to have a bit of patience.

You can also arrange the visa yourself in advance by going to the Tanzanian Embassy in your country or by applying it online through the below website:

<https://eservices.immigration.go.tz/visa>

Vaccinations

I would always go to a tropical doctor to tell you about the necessary vaccinations. They are aware of the most recent travel information. It is also important to take the vaccination record with you when traveling. At the airports one can ask for it.

It is always advisable to take a good look at the policy of your health insurance. Sometimes an insurer gives discount or even free vaccinations when you go to a company with which the health insurer has a contract.

Money matters

The payment traffic in tourism in Tanzania is entirely in US dollars. You can always pay with Tanzanian shillings. Most hotels set the exchange rate once a month for this.

At local shops you can only pay in Tanzanian shillings. It is therefore always handy to have some shillings with you during the trip.

Before you go home it is useful to spend or change the shillings as at home you can hardly change them in your currency.

At many accommodations you can pay with the credit card. However, a surcharge of 4% to 7% is charged on the bill. Convenient for emergencies, but a waste to pay daily.

Withdrawing at ATM's during the trip can be done at Kilimanjaro airport, in Arusha, in Karatu (on the way and back from the Serengeti). On Zanzibar you can find ATM's in Stone Town. At the beach accommodations, the ATM options are nil.

It is advisable to bring some cash dollars. It is important that the banknotes are younger than the year 2006. In that year there was a big fraud with dollar notes in Africa. People still do not trust it and

you hardly lose old notes. It is therefore not convenient to use the dollar cash machines at Airports at home. Go rather to a cashier, as soon as you say you are going to East Africa they already know it.

Luggage

For all flights from Arusha to Zanzibar you can carry, besides hand luggage, 20 kilos of checked luggage per person, packed in soft bags / soft bags. The planes are small and round, hard cases do not stow so easily.

By the way, during the journey you will never have to carry the luggage yourself!

Tipping

In terms of tips, I keep the guidelines that the Tanzania Tourist Board gives. The guideline for a safari guide is \$ 25 per day per car. That sounds like a lot, but a safari guide makes or breaks the journey. The guide speaks English, knows everything about animals and nature and more. He has a special driver's license, is a car mechanic and he is also very social.

In the hotels you usually tip when checking out at the reception, the tips are shared with all employees of the hotel. You do not have to give a tip every time someone carries your bags. For all other services you give what you want.

Allowance

I always find it difficult to indicate how much pocket money you will spend per person on drinks, meals and tips. It makes a difference whether you drink a bottle of wine or a glass of water when eating.

A small indication:

- A bottle of wine costs about 25 USD
- A beer (half liter) 3 to 4 USD
- A soft drink 2 to 3 USD

During the safari, all meals are most of the time included.

Lunch is often not included in Arusha.

If you have bed and breakfast and Zanzibar then see below an indication for lunch and dinner.

A lunch or dinner will cost about \$ 15 per person.

Towels

Towels are provided at all accommodations. It is also common in Tanzania that there are bath towels for the swimming pools.

Wifi

Most Accommodations in Tanzania now have Wi-Fi. However, the connection will not be as strong as you are used to in your own country. Downloading large files is difficult, sending a WhatsApp is fine.

Other practical information