

Asilia

GENUINE SAFARIS | GENUINE DIFFERENCE

PRE-DEPARTURE TRAVEL GUIDE FOR

Tanzania



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GENERAL INFORMATION

With a landmass of 945, 203 km², Tanzania is the largest country in Eastern Africa and was ‘born’ in 1964 with the merger of mainland Tanganyika and the island of Zanzibar.

The country is now home to approximately 120 tribal groups and the citizens are proud of their multicultural heritage; the country’s diversity is often prized and is far from being a source of division. The dominant religions are Christianity and Islam, the latter especially in the coast region. The official languages of the country is Swahili and English, however the many indigenous languages are still spoken. Arabic is widely spoken in the coastal areas and Zanzibar.

FACT BOX

Capital City:	Dodoma (official/ administrative); Dar es Salaam (commercial)
Landmass:	945, 203 km²
Population:	c. 49 million
Currency:	Tanzanian Shilling (Tsh) & US\$
Dialling code:	+255
Time zone:	GMT + 3 hours

If you are interested in learning Swahili, we can recommend *The Rough Guide Phrasebook: Swahili*. It will always come in handy and your efforts will be appreciated by those you meet. Alternatively, ask the people you meet along the way — they will be more than happy to teach you some of the local phrases.

PLASTIC BAGS

Tanzania has made it illegal to produce, sell and use plastic bags. Please pack eco-friendly bags for your trip. Ziploc bags specifically used to carry toiletries will be permitted.

Safari has been a way of life in Tanzania for many years and the country has some of the best game parks in the world, with almost a third of the land protected for wildlife viewing.

Visitors flock to the Serengeti to witness the epic sight of The Great Migration, and the neighbouring Ngorongoro Conservation Area is home to an extraordinary selection of predators. Further South, Ruaha National Park offers wild, unconstrained game viewing in a spectacular setting.

Add to this the exotic island of Zanzibar and its palm-fringed beaches, Africa’s highest mountain, Kilimanjaro, and the jungle-clad shores of Lake Victoria and you have one of the most beautiful, vibrant and diverse countries in Africa. Tanzania really does have it all.



VISAS

Mainland

Visas are required by almost all nationalities visiting Tanzania, and generally cost between US\$50 and US\$100. To determine whether you require a visa to enter Tanzania please contact the Tanzanian embassy in your home country. The new e-visa system is recommended for obtaining a visa in advance of departure. Alternatively, some nationalities can apply for a visa at one of the main ports of international entry to Tanzania: Dar es Salaam Airport, Zanzibar Airport, Kilimanjaro Airport and Namanga border crossing (from Kenya). At times there may be long queues resulting in a delay of up to 2 hours. If obtained on entry, visas must be paid for in cash in US\$.

Entry requirements:

- a passport that is valid for a minimum of six months beyond your departure date and with two blank consecutive pages
- onward travel documents

Zanzibar

The government of Zanzibar has implemented a new mandatory insurance requirement, backed by the Zanzibar Insurance Corporation. This cover is at US\$44 per person, and there is also a family plan option. Further information and FAQs can be found [here](#).

Please check all visa requirements carefully before you travel as regulations change frequently.

To find out more, please see: <https://visa.immigration.go.tz/>

HEALTH CARE

MALARIA

Malaria is present in Tanzania and it is strongly advisable to take malaria prophylactics before, during and after your visit. Please consult a medical professional regarding which prophylactics will be suitable for you. In addition, please take precautionary measures to reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes: use insect repellent, sleep under a mosquito net and wear a long-sleeved shirt and long trousers with closed shoes in the evenings.

VACCINATIONS AND YELLOW FEVER

For all vaccinations, please consult a medical professional at least six weeks before your date of departure. The rules change regularly and Asilia cannot be held responsible for this

information. If you are in transit in Nairobi to mainland Tanzania you will not be asked for a yellow fever certificate on arrival. If you stay in Kenya longer than 12 hours, eg. an overnight stay or a full day in the city, or if you are flying via Nairobi to Zanzibar, a yellow fever certificate (or medical exemption certificate) is required on entry.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

Good medical facilities and pharmacies are available in the major cities, however, we advise that you bring your own small medical kit as camps and lodges may have limited supplies (painkillers, cough drops etc). Asilia automatically organizes for all guests to be covered by a medical evacuation scheme and, in the case of a medical emergency, you will be evacuated to a nearby hospital.

FOOD AND WATER

Hotels, camps and lodges should provide either bottled water or filtered water for drinking. Please do not drink the tap water. Avoid food and drink from

backstreet vendors and under no circumstances should you bathe in rivers or lakes.

MONEY

The currency in Tanzania is the Tanzanian Shilling (Tsh), however, US\$ can be used as a currency as well. Please note that dollars printed before 2009 are not accepted. You can convert money to Shillings at a bank or Forex Bureau, or withdraw from an ATM, all found in the larger airports and towns. Please check with your bank for charges and advice when using international ATMs.

Major credit cards are widely accepted in most hotels and establishments, and at all Asilia Camps, however, there may be a surcharge levied. It is advisable to have some cash for smaller shops and stalls.

Major banks are available throughout Tanzania. They operate business hours of 9 am to 3 pm, Monday to Friday.



CLIMATE

Tanzania offers warm days and cool mornings and evenings year-round throughout most of the country. Temperatures on Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Meru drop to below freezing temperature, while the coast and lakeside regions are almost hot and humid. There are two rainy seasons in the country — March to May (long rains) and the period from November to December

(the lighter short rains). Tanzania can be visited year-round, but the climate varies hugely between the rainy and dry seasons.

The below charts can be used as a rough guideline for temperature and rainfall in Arusha and Zanzibar, but please be aware that climate can vary dramatically depending on altitude and proximity to the ocean.

Average monthly rainfall (inches) — varies according to location												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Arusha	2.2	2.6	5.8	9	2.6	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.2	4.6	4
Zanzibar	3	2	5.3	10.3	6.9	1.8	1.5	1	1	2.4	5.5	5.2

Average monthly temperature (°F) — highs and lows												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Arusha	58/80	58/81	59/80	60/78	58/75	56/74	54/74	55/75	55/78	58/80	59/80	58/80
Zanzibar	79/82	79/85	77/85	75/82	70/83	65/82	64/82	64/82	64/82	65/82	75/82	79/85



DRESS CODE

Modest clothing is advisable in the bigger towns and cities in Tanzania, and particularly in Zanzibar, out of respect for Muslim beliefs. It is especially important to be covered from shoulders to knees when in any public spaces in Zanzibar. This is enforced by law and spot fines may be issued by local authorities if suitable cover is not applied. A sarong or light scarf is the easiest way to cover up knees or shoulders when needed.

Of course, in the various lodges and camps, and on the beaches of Zanzibar, it is perfectly fine to wear shorts and t-shirts or beachwear. Generally speaking, light layers of clothing in neutral safari colours of green, khaki and beige are the best items to bring with you for the bush. Dark colours such as navy or black can attract tsetse flies and are best avoided on a safari, as are bright colours like yellow, red and purple.

WHAT TO PACK

- Layers — long and short sleeve shirts and trousers
- Warm fleece or jumper
- Lightweight waterproof jacket
- Comfortable but sturdy shoes
- Flip-flops
- Swimming costume
- Hat or baseball cap
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen — a must
- Toiletries — most camps will provide shampoo, shower gel and soap
- Small torch
- Spare batteries, plug adaptors and charging equipment
- Good pair of binoculars
- Books or a fully loaded Kindle/iPad for siesta time





INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

Tanzania has three major international airports: Kilimanjaro Airport, Dar es Salaam Airport and Zanzibar Airport. These are the major airports and the hubs for many airlines arriving from Africa and Europe. There are various domestic airports and airfields connecting all major towns and safari destinations, and to other destinations in Africa.

LUGGAGE

Many international airlines have a baggage allowance of 20 kilograms (44 lbs.) or more per person, but please check this with your individual airline. Please be advised that on light aircraft flights, luggage is limited to one soft-sided bag per person with a maximum weight of 15 kilograms (33 lbs.). No hardshell bags are permitted. In some parts of Tanzania, you can pay more for your flights to get additional luggage allowance — please ask your consultant for details.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Email, internet and fax facilities are available in the bigger towns and at major hotels. City hotels will also have an international dialling service. Some of the lodges and camps may have limited internet access but this is not always guaranteed, and most will not have cell phone signal.

If you intend to stay for a longer period of time in Tanzania, our advice would be to buy a local sim card, which you can top up with local currency. These cards can be bought almost everywhere and we recommend Celtel or Vodacom as providers. However, we also recommend that you enjoy the bush and forget about time and all modern ways of communication

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS *(dates below are from 1 June 2024 - 31 May 2025)*

• Eid El Haj	17 Jun	• Zanzibar Revolutionary Day	12 Jan.
• Saba Saba Day	7 July	• Eid al-Fitr	31 March
• Nane Nane Day	8 Aug.	• Union Day	1 April
• Maulid Day	16 Sept.	• Karume Day	7 Apri
• Mwalimu Nyerere Day	14 Oct.	• Eid al-Fitr Holiday	11 April
• Independence Day	9 Dec.	• Good Friday	18 April
• Christmas Day	25 Dec.	• Easter Sunday	20 April
• Boxing Day	26 Dec.	• Easter Monday	21 April
• New Year's Day	1 Jan.	• Labour Day	1 May

ELECTRICITY

Electricity is available at 220/240 volts AC, 50 Hz. Primary Socket Type: British BS-1363 (British Standard). Adaptor plugs will be available in some lodges but we advise that you bring at least one with you. Please be aware that the power supply is subject to cuts and voltage fluctuation even in major cities. On safari, most of the lodges are powered by generators or solar panels and these are often

turned off during parts of the day and night to reduce noise and fuel consumption. Due to the high power usage, many safari camps do not allow use of hairdryers. Please also note that in some camps and lodges, power sockets for charging are only available in the main area. Please ask if you require more details on this.



TIPPING AND GRATUITIES

In Africa, it is customary — but not obligatory or mandatory — to give tips to service staff in gratitude for good service. Gratuities can be increased or decreased depending on the level of service you are given. If you are pleased with the service you receive, you are more than welcome to tip our staff or your guide in our various camps and lodges.

A guideline for tipping:

- US\$10 for a transfer per couple per day (consider increasing if you have had extensive help with your luggage)
- US\$25 per couple per day for general staff at the camp or lodge
- US\$25 per couple per day for a guide
- US\$20 per couple per day for a host

Tipping is usually done at the end of your safari, and you are welcome to tip individual staff or place tips in the gratuity box, usually located in the main mess area. Tips from the gratuity box are distributed among all camp staff. Tips for guides should be directly handed to them at the end of the safari.

Tips can be made in the local currency, US Dollar, Euro or Pound Sterling.

NATIONAL PARKS IN TANZANIA

Tanzania has a broad range of national parks and game reserves. All parks have their unique features in terms of flora and fauna and each of

them is worth visiting, whether you want to see the Great Migration in the Serengeti or experience the remoteness of the southern parks.



NORTHERN PARKS

SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Home to the world-famous the Great Migration, the Serengeti also offers an exciting wildlife experience throughout the year. The sheer numbers of game are captivating and there is never a shortage of exceptional game viewing.

Asilia camps: Sayari, Namiri Plains, Dunia, Olakira, and Ubuntu

NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA (NCA)

One of the most iconic wildlife areas in the world, the Ngorongoro Crater is the main feature of this Crater Highlands region and home to some of the richest wildlife viewing on the continent. The mineral-rich floor of the spectacular bowl is largely flat, open and covered in nutritious grass, creating a paradise for herbivores and predators alike.

Asilia camps: The Highlands

TARANGIRE NATIONAL PARK

Famous for the giant baobab trees and vast herds of elephant, wild and untamed Tarangire is Africa as it should be. During the dry season, the park features one of the highest densities of wildlife per square kilometre in Tanzania as the permanent water source attracts game from all the surrounding areas.

Asilia camps: Oliver's

OTHER PARKS IN THE NORTHERN CIRCUIT:

Arusha National Park and Lake Manyara National Park. Lake Natron and Eyasi also deserve a visit.

SOUTHERN PARKS

RUAHA NATIONAL PARK

Wild, exclusive and unconstrained, Ruaha National Park is the new safari frontier. One of the largest national parks on the continent, the extraordinary ecosystem offers landscapes of compelling beauty and unrivalled wildlife, including large pride of lion, good numbers of leopard and large buffalo herds.

Asilia camps: Jabali Ridge, Jabali Private House, Kokoko, and Usangu Expedition Camp

NYERERE NATIONAL PARK

The whole reserve measures 45,000 km², larger than Switzerland and more than twice the size of Ruaha National Park. The northern sector of Nyerere National Park, north of the Rufiji River is dedicated to photographic safari, boat safari, walking safari and fishing. Home to one of Africa's largest populations of African wild dog, one of the continent's greatest predators, Nyerere National Park also has an abundance of birdlife: there are more than 400 recorded species of bird.

Asilia camps: Roho ya Selous

OTHER PARKS IN THE SOUTHERN CIRCUIT:

Mikumi National Park.

OTHER PARKS IN THE WESTERN CIRCUIT:

Katavi National Park, Mahale National Park and Gombe National Park



RUBONDO ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

In the southwest corner of Africa's largest lake, Africa's largest island national park has lain unexplored for decades. Home to wild chimpanzee, elephant, giraffe and over 200 species of bird, this sub-tropical forest eco-system is pristine and waiting to be explored on foot, by boat or in a traditional safari vehicle.

Asilia Camps: Rubondo Island Camp

ZANZIBAR

The palm-fringed beaches and sparkling turquoise waters of this spicy and exotic island set the scene for ultimate relaxation. Wander through the winding streets of Stone Town, full of memories from Zanzibar's Arabic past and immerse yourself in the old Swahili culture, or try snorkelling in the clear ocean and discover the underwater world.





CONTACT DETAILS

We hope you have found this information on Tanzania useful. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your travel consultant or visit our website

www.asiliaafrica.com

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Below are our emergency contact numbers for when you are travelling in Tanzania. You can call these numbers 24 hours a day for any issues. Please take them with you when you travel.

SAFARI OPERATIONS TANZANIA

Emergency Number: + 255 784 999 736

And of course, you can also reach the Cape Town office on
+27 21 418 0468 during office hours.