

TANZANIA
Unforgettable!

A yellow safari vehicle, likely a Land Rover, is shown from a side-rear perspective. A person is visible in the driver's seat. The vehicle is parked in a savanna landscape with dry grass and scattered trees. In the background, there are rolling hills under a sky with soft, colorful clouds from a sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is serene and captures the essence of a Tanzanian safari.

Travel Guide

TANZANIA



Tanzania (Mainland)



Zanzibar

Country Facts

Capital City : Dar es Salaam

Language: English and Swahili

Literacy Level; 81%

Forest Cover: 37% of land mass

Currency: Tanzania Shillings

Economic Ranking in Africa: 9 of 54 (2022)

Time Zone: +3 GMT

Area: 945,087 sq km (364,900 sq miles)

Geography

The United Republic of Tanzania comprises of two Constituents namely the **Tanzania Mainland** and **Zanzibar**. Collectively, The United Republic of Tanzania has an area of 945,087 Square Kilometres, with a population of around 67 million (2023). Tanzania has the **longest coastal strip in the East Africa** and borders with eight countries namely, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Zambia, Mozambique and Malawi.

Tanzania covers an area roughly **twice the size of California**. The terrain includes coastal plains, a central plateau, and highlands in the north and south. Home to Mt. Kilimanjaro (the **highest point** in Africa) , Lake Victoria (the **second largest lake** in the world), Lake Tanganyika (the **deepest lake** in Africa) and the Great Rift Valley. Tanzania experiences some of the most luminescent moons in the world, often so bright that flashlights are not necessary for people to see at night

Tanzania has the largest animal population density out of any country in the world. That is, there are more animals per square mile of land in Tanzania than in any other country - *Britannica*

Population & Ethnicity, Language

As of 2023 the population currently stands at 67.4 million. Tanzania has a very low median age with more than 44.8% of the population under 15, 52% between 15 and 64 and just 3.1% over the age of 64. The country more than 120 ethnic groups. The percentage of female population is 50.02% compare to 49.98% males

Tanzanians and Zanzibaris are **Swahili** speakers. The language is used in schools as the principal language in pre and primary schools. English is taught from high school, although there are English medium schools that start off children at the earliest age. Tour operators and guides speak English fairly well.



Climate

Weather in the bush is usually brisk in the mornings and evenings, but very warm during the days. The climate in Tanzania is equatorial, with little seasonal variation in temperature, however rainfall does vary considerably. The best time to travel is July to October, when Tanzania is hot, dry and sunny with low humidity, and the game viewing is great. The short rains come in November and the long rains in April and May; in between the rains (December to March) is another good time to travel.

- Daily Average: 24°C | 75°F Humidity: 65%
- High: 28°C | 83°F Low: 15°C | 59°F

Infrastructure

Like many ongoing construction works across the continent, the Tanzanian SGR railway lines are part of the African Integrated High Speed Railway Network (AIHSRN) that aims to connect Africa's 16 landlocked countries to seaports, provide interconnections between different regions, establish trans-Africa beltways as well as filling infrastructure gaps in key transport corridors, thereby connecting all political and economic capitals.

The most advanced of these is the Tanzania standard gauge railway which will connect with Rwanda. It opens up a vast area of the country to development and provides much-needed rail connectivity. Plans are in place to also extend the network reach to Burundi and DRC. As compared to Kenya's SGR, Tanzania's is electric powered while Kenya's is diesel powered.

International Airports

DAR; Dar es Salaam International Airport
JRO; Kilimanjaro International Airport
ZNZ; Abeid Amani Karume International Airport

The main focus of this guide is to inform travellers to **Tanzania's northern tourism circuit** on essential facts including visits to Zanzibar. Delta/KLM flies into Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) from US while a number of others land from European destinations. There is no direct flight from USA to JRO as it is with Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, Kenya. The road network in Northern Tanzania is superb.



Photography & Drones

Respect the privacy of others. Do not take photographs of people without their permission. Request your guide to assist you, if you must. Drones require a permit to operate, however those weighing under 7 kilograms (15.5 pounds) do not. Read more about terms and conditions at www.uavcoach.com/drone-laws-in-tanzania



Electrical outlets

- Type G is the most popular outlet in Tanzania.
- Although some accommodations might have converters for you to use, we still recommend bringing your own in case one is not working, or you have multiple devices.

Drinking Water

Guests are advised to always use bottled water. Tap water is unsafe. Bottled water is provided on safari (in the vehicle) and of course in the hotels and lodges with meals.



Currency

The Tanzanian Shilling is the official currency of Tanzania, but US dollars are also widely accepted in tourist areas. Dollar notes printed before 2009 are usually not accepted. You can exchange money at many authorised dealers, banks and *bureaux de change*.

Tipping guidelines

Although tipping is standard across the industry, it is ultimately up to your discretion.

We recommend bringing us dollars (\$) as it is widely accepted throughout Tanzania, and the preferred currency for tipping.

Tips are typically given at the end of your stay.

- Guide: \$20 per tent/ per day
- Tracker: \$15 per tent/ per day
- Host: \$20 per tent/ per day
- General Staff: \$15 per tent/ per day (includes housekeeping)

Visa's & Entry

All foreigners need a Tanzanian Tourist visa to enter the county.

Please note when packing, Tanzania domestic airlines require soft sided luggage. The maximum weight is 15kg (33lbs) of luggage per person TOTAL.

Packing & Laundry for Safari

Use soft padded duffel bags to pack your travel stuff

During your experience, most hotels offer laundry services; check with your travel advisor to see which offer is complimentary

We recommend packing light-weight clothing which can easily be layered, to accommodate Tanzania's weather. However, evenings, nights and early mornings can be chilly during the 'winter' months of June-August

When packing for a Safari, neutral colors are best (green, beige, etc.). They don't show dirt & dust, are not distracting to the animals, and are less likely to attract tsetse flies. It is also advised to wear long pants/socks when on safari.

Religion & Dress Code

Major religions are Christianity and Islam. Roman Catholics are the most numerous among Christians and Islam is predominant religion in Zanzibar. No matter where visitors are, modesty is the key. A stricter code is observed in Zanzibar where their definition of decency demands wearing clothing that covers the knees and shoulders, and obviously avoid low-cut cleavage shows.



Idyllic
Zanzibar



About Zanzibar - A Brief

Zanzibar - "The Island of Mystique, Spices & Classic Beaches"

Zanzibar is regarded as the most ancient place in Africa that is still unspoilt and inhabited. Located about 22 miles (35km) off the east coast of Tanzania, Zanzibar is an archipelago consisting of the main island of Unguja (commonly known as Zanzibar), Pemba Island, famous for its deep-sea fishing, and about 50 smaller surrounding islands and coral reefs.

Also known as the '**Spice Islands**', Zanzibar evokes images of an exotic paradise with white palm-fringed beaches and turquoise coves, dreamy dhows with billowing white sails, and ancient Islamic ruins. Today's idyllic beach resorts belie the island's haunting history of slavery, and Zanzibar combines Arabic alleyways and historic monuments with coral reefs and excellent diving and snorkelling opportunities. Activities in Zanzibar and simply endless.

Faces of Zanzibar



Captivating Sights & Smells of Stone Town

Stone Town, the historic centre of Zanzibar's capital city, is a captivating place built by Arab and Indian merchants in the 19th century from the island's coral stone. A walk through the disordered twisting alleys, past intricately-carved wooden doors and beneath ornate balconies, with the lingering scent of spices in the air, takes one back in time to the days of a prosperous slave and spice industry.

Decaying architecture, numerous mosques, a bathhouse and old fort, cool interior courtyards and lively markets are the remaining influence of the Persians and the Omani Arabs who established themselves as the ruling power here

Travel Advice

Climate

Zanzibar is warm throughout the year. The heat at the coastal resorts on the north and east coast is tempered by sea breezes.

Stonetown and the centre of Zanzibar Island have showers throughout the year. There are heavy showers throughout the island in April and May when most tourists avoid the island and hotels close. Temperatures consistently average between 72°F (22°C) and 92°F (33°C) throughout the year

Local Customs

Tanzanians are known to be friendly and generally welcoming, but travellers should be sensitive to local cultural mores. Drunkenness is frowned upon and Tanzanians feel strongly about showing respect for their elders.

Visitors to Zanzibar should be aware that it is a predominantly Muslim region and visitors should dress modestly and respectfully. Beachwear is fine on the beach or around a hotel pool, but not acceptable elsewhere. Topless sunbathing is a criminal offence.

Some tourists buy a local sarong, called a kanga, which can be used to cover shoulders when needed, or otherwise be used as a scarf or towel.

Smoking in public places is illegal. Tourists should be especially careful during *Ramadan* when public drinking, smoking and even eating should be avoided.

Homosexuality is illegal in Tanzania.

Travel Health

Visitors should consider vaccinations for hepatitis A, typhoid, yellow fever and polio. There are certain countries whose residents are required to hold a yellow fever vaccination certificate. There is a risk of malaria all year and precautions should be taken by using malaria prophylaxis before arrival and in-country use of mosquito repellants. Travellers with special requirements should carry their own medicines. Comprehensive medical insurance is advised.

Safety Information

Most visits to Tanzania are trouble-free. As in other East African countries, street crime is a problem in Tanzania, but more so in Dar es Salaam, and tourists are advised to be alert and cautious by avoid lonely beaches and footpaths, walking alone at night; women are particularly vulnerable to attacks. Valuables should be left in the hotel safe and it is not recommended to carry too much cash outdoors at any time.

Communications

The international country dialling code for Tanzania, as well as Zanzibar, is +255. There is good mobile phone coverage in main cities and towns, with operators using GSM networks; rural areas may have limited coverage. There are international roaming agreements with most international operators. Avoid making telephone calls from hotels; they can be very expensive. Internet cafés are available in the main towns and resorts.

Duty Free

Travellers to Tanzania do not have to pay duty on 250g tobacco or 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars and 500ml of alcoholic beverages. Restrictions apply to firearms, plants, plant products and fruits.

Shopping

Shopping in Zanzibar is varied, cheap and culturally exciting. The best shopping is available in Stone Town, where local goods and items imported from other African nations, as well as India, Arabia and the Far East, are good value provided you bargain.

There are a number of shops on Gizenga Street and Kenyatta Road that sell quality local artefacts, clothing, jewellery, massage oils and spices - everything quintessentially Zanzibar! Here visitors can find colourful kangas or kikoyis (sarongs), which make great souvenirs.

Wooden chests and tinga tinga paintings are also sought-after Zanzibar souvenirs. Look out for street-side stalls where Maasai women sell curios, jewellery and batik fabrics.

The silver shops on Gizenga, as well as in Sokomohogo Square, trade in antique or handcrafted silverware and jewellery, while gold is offered in stores on *Tharia Street*.

On *Darajani Street* visitors can buy almost anything, including fresh produce from the Central Market. Most Zanzibar shops are open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 12pm, and then from 2pm to 6pm.

Few shops will accept credit cards, so be sure to bring enough cash. US dollars are accepted at resorts and on the beaches, but the exchange rate will not be in your favour and you will most likely get a better deal by using local Tanzanian shillings.

Entry Requirements For UK Nationals

A visa is issued on arrival, and a passport valid for six months from date of entry is required. Visitors must hold return/onward tickets and all documents required for their next destination. Those with British passports with endorsements other than 'British Citizen' should confirm official requirements.

Entry Requirements For Americans

A visa is issued on arrival, and a passport valid for six months from date of entry is required. Visitors must hold return/onward tickets and all documents required for their next destination.

Passport/Visa

Most visitors entering Tanzania require a visa. Passports must contain one unused visa page. Visitors may obtain a visa on arrival at Dar es Salaam or Zanzibar airports, costing between US\$ 50 and US\$ 200 depending on nationality, payable in cash.

All visitors also require proof of sufficient funds and should hold documentation for their return or onward journey. Passports should be valid for at least six months from date of entry.

It is highly recommended that passports have at least six months validity remaining after your intended date of departure from your travel destination. Immigration officials often apply different rules to those stated by travel agents and official sources.



Zaribu

Welcome

