



The Great
Canadian
Travel Group
Inc.

1349 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba

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Tanzania General Information



Tanzania, officially the United Republic of Tanzania, is an East African country very popular for wildlife safaris with spectacular wildlife viewing. Tourism is extremely important to the country's economy. Approximately 38% of Tanzania's land area is set aside in protected areas for conservation. Tanzania has 16 national parks, plus a variety of game and forest reserves, including the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. In western Tanzania, Gombe Stream National Park is the site of Jane Goodall's ongoing study of chimpanzee behaviour, which started in 1960. Serengeti National Park is Tanzania's largest and busiest park with over 450,000 visitors per year.

Documentation: Canadian/US passports are required for visitors to travel to Tanzania and must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the date you expect to leave the country. A valid visa is also required and may be applied for in advance online at <https://eservices.immigration.go.tz/visa/> or issued upon arrival at designated airports in the country. Make sure to have at least one blank page for each Tanzanian visa.



Airports: The main airports in Tanzania are Julius Nyerere International just outside of Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro International and Arusha. The island of Unguja (Zanzibar) also has an international airport and there are numerous other regional airports throughout the country.





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Location and Geography: Tanzania is a country in East Africa within the African Great Lakes Region. Tanzania is the 13th largest country in Africa and the 31st largest in the world, ranked between the larger Egypt and smaller Nigeria. It is bordered by Kenya and Uganda to the north; Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west; Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique to the south; and the Indian Ocean to the east. The country is the site of Africa's highest and lowest points: Mount Kilimanjaro, at 5,895 metres (19,341 ft) above sea level, and the floor of Lake Tanganyika, at 352 metres (1,155 ft) below sea level, respectively.

Tanzania is 3 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time. It does not use daylight savings time.

Population, People & Culture: Tanzania's population of almost 60 million is diverse, composed of several ethnic, linguistic and religious groups (Christian 61.4%, Muslim 35.2%, folk religion 1.8%, other 0.2%, unaffiliated 1.4%; note: Zanzibar is almost entirely Muslim). The under 15 age group represents 44.1% of the population. Tanzania is one of the poorest countries in the world ranking 145 out of 187 countries. Approximately 68% of Tanzania's citizens live below the poverty line. The most prominent challenges Tanzania faces in poverty reductions are unsustainable harvesting of its natural resources, unchecked cultivation, climate change and water-source encroachment.

Language: Over 100 different languages are spoken in Tanzania, making it the most linguistically diverse country in East Africa. Among the languages spoken in Tanzania are all four of Africa's language families: Bantu, Cushitic, Nilotic, and Khoisan. Swahili and English are Tanzania's official languages.



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Economy: Travel and tourism contributed 17% of Tanzania's gross domestic product and employed 1.5 million people in the tourism industry. The economy depends on agriculture, which accounts for about 25% of GDP and employs about 65% of the work force. Gold production makes up about 35% of exports. All land in Tanzania is owned by the government, which can lease out land for up to 99 years. Tanzania is one of the poorer African countries, with approximately 68 percent of the population living below the poverty line. The most prominent challenges Tanzania faces in poverty reduction is unsustainable harvesting of its resources, unchecked cultivation, climate change and water-source encroachment.

Government: Tanzania is a presidential constitutional republic, and since 1996 its official capital city has been Dodoma. Dar es Salaam (pop 5.5 million), the former capital, is the country's largest city, principal port, and leading commercial centre. Following independence of Tanganyika (the mainland) in 1961 and the offshore Zanzibar Archipelago in 1963, the two merged in April 1964 to form the United Republic of Tanzania.

Food: Food in Tanzania can vary depending on the area you are visiting. Along the coast you will find a wide range of seafood, delicately flavoured with spices and coconut milk while in the interior you will see more meat stews of beef or goat and grilled chicken. One of the most common Tanzanian dishes is "Ugali", similar to a stiff porridge, made of corn or maize. Mixtures of cassava and millet flours are used for ugali in some areas. Rice and cooked green bananas are also important staples. Beans, yoghurt, a wide range of fish and green leafy vegetables all add nutrients to the dishes.

Music: The music of Tanzania includes traditional African music, string-based taarab, and a distinctive hip hop known as bongo. Tanzania also has its own distinct African rumba. Freddie Mercury, lead singer of the band Queen, was born in Tanzania.

Education: Based on 2015 data, the literacy rate in Tanzania for persons aged 15 and over is estimated to be 80.4%. That is a 12.6% rise from the 2012 rate. Education is compulsory until children reach age 15.





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Climate and Weather: Climate varies greatly within Tanzania. In the highlands, temperatures range between 10-20C (50-68F) during cold and hot seasons, respectively. The rest of the country has temperatures rarely falling lower than 20C (68F). The hottest period extends between November and February (25–31C / 77-88F) while the coldest period occurs between May and August (15–20C / 59–68F). Annual average temperature is 20C (68F). The climate is cool overall in high mountainous regions. Tanzania has two major rainfall periods: one is October–April in southern, central and western parts of the country; the other is October–December and March–May, in the north from Lake Victoria and east to the coast. Hours of daylight don't vary much during the year, hovering around 12 hours, due to the close proximity to the equator.

Clothing and Footwear: Lightweight clothes with a warm cover-up for the evenings are advised. Take a pair of good walking shoes and long-sleeved, loose-fitting tops and long pants to protect against mosquitoes. Wear light, neutral colours (khaki, green and brown), but not white as it will get dusty quickly. Avoid camouflage or military-type clothing. Don't forget a wide-brimmed hat and your sunglasses. A warm hat, scarf, gloves and layers are handy for those early morning game drives, when the air can still be quite cool.



Electricity: Tanzania operates on a 230V supply **voltage** and 50Hz. Plugs used are the old British type D with 3 round pegs or the newer British type G with 2 horizontal and 1 vertical flat pin. About 24% of urban areas have access to electricity while 7% of rural areas do, with 65% of Tanzania's population living in these rural areas.

Currency: The local currency is the Tanzania Shilling (TZS). It is suggested that you travel with US\$ cash in low denomination bills (\$1, \$5 and \$10) as well as TZS, which you can purchase at the airports on arrival. It is difficult to buy TZS in advance of your trip.

Credit Cards: Credit cards are accepted in larger stores, restaurants, hotels and safari lodges. It is recommended you check whether service fees are added to charges before using your credit card to avoid unpleasant surprises when you receive your bill, as they can be quite high in some cases.



Business and Bank Hours: General business and banking hours are Monday to Friday between 8:00am-5:00pm.

Shopping, Tax & Duty Free: Most shops in Tanzania open from 8:30am–12pm and 2:00pm – 6pm on weekdays; Saturday mornings only, closing around noon and closed on Sundays. Markets in larger towns and tourist destinations often stay open every day, from 8:00am–6:00 pm. You are most likely to find popular souvenirs and locally made craft items in markets rather than shops.



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Tipping: Outside of offering a gratuity to your tour guide and driver tipping is not generally required for other services such as taxis, barbers and restaurants. If service is exceptional at a restaurant you may wish to round up the bill to a higher amount. However, the locals will not tip in a restaurant as the bill generally includes a 10% gratuity.

Telephone & Emergency: The International Dialling Code is +255 followed by the 2-digit area code of the city or area you are calling. For example, Arusha 27, Dar es Salaam 22, Kilimanjaro 27 and Zanzibar 24. Dial 0 (zero) in front of the 2-digit area code when calling from within the country. To dial to Canada or the United States, you dial 001 (area code) (phone number).

In case of emergency dial 112.

Health Info: Medical facilities are limited, especially outside Dar es Salaam. Make sure you have adequate travel health insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of medical treatment, emergency evacuation by air ambulance and repatriation. It is also imperative to bring all prescription medications (always pack in your carry-on luggage) and any over-the-counter medications you may need during your travel. Basic first aid supplies may also come in handy.

Public Holidays and Events: Holidays that vary year to year are marked by an asterisk *

January 01 – New Year’s Day

January 12 – Revolution Day

March, April or May – Easter including Good Friday & Easter Monday*

April 07 – Karume Day

April 26 – Union Day

May 01 – Labour Day

Mid to Late May – Eid al-Fitr*

July 07 – Saba Saba Day

August 08 – Nane Nane Day

October 14 - Nyerere Day

Mid to Late October – Prophet’s Birthday*

December 09 – Tanzania Independence Day

December 25 – Christmas Day

December 26 – Boxing Day

Special Notes re: Safari Camps:

Laundry: Virtually all camps and lodges have a laundry service, although sometimes, because of religious taboos, women’s underwear cannot be included.

WiFi/Internet: Some of the lodges/camps may have WiFi and some may not. Some may only have it for emergencies. Take this opportunity to unplug and just enjoy the fabulous sights and sounds of safari life!

Meals and Drinks: All meals are included in your lodge price and a selection of drinks, including some alcoholic beverages. At most camps you will pay locally for premium brands of alcohol, champagne, etc. This will be outlined in your itinerary and documents package of your specific trip.