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Tanzania Fact Sheet

Tanzania is a country in Southeastern Africa, bounded on the north by Kenya and Uganda, on the east by the Indian Ocean, on the south by Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia, and on the west by The Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Rwanda. The country includes the Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba and other offshore islands in Indian Ocean. The total area of Tanzania is 945,087 square kilometres (364,898 square miles) Dar-es-Salaam is the de facto capital and largest city.

Tanzania is one of the unique destinations on the African continent that has yet to be discovered by many. It is a land of many wonders hubbing an un-paralleled diversity of both flora and fauna. Kilimanjaro, the highest permanently snow-capped free standing mountain in Africa, the warm clear blue waters foam the ocean floor, Zanzibar, otherwise known as Spice Island, fulfils all your island get-away expectations. The finest game sanctuaries of Ngorongoro Crater, Selous and the Marine Park of Mafia Island are only but a few of the living examples. Tanzania National Parks, established in 1959, manages 12 National Parks namely, Arusha, Gombe, Katavi, Kilimanjaro, Lake Manyara, Mahale, Mikumi, Ruaha, Rubondo, Serengeti, Tarangire and Udzungwa. Although these National Parks occupy only 4.5% of the country's total area, they play a major role in biodiversity preservation and form the back bone of nature based tourism industries in Tanzania.

Within Tanzania there is a variety of wildlife all surviving in a range of habitats which varies from the eternal snows of Mount Kilimanjaro to the tropical forests of the western regions, the plains of Serengeti, the stark volcanic landscapes, the wide savannahs of the Rift Valley and the balmy beaches of the long coastline and the adjacent Islands. Alongside these features are the diverse cultures of 120 ethnic groups, their languages, history and their artistic creations often played out in spectacular rituals and joyous music. Whether you are searching for remote and pristine splendours of nature or the intricate weave of the cultural fabric in ancient legend, Tanzania has enough to offer any visitor to fill a lifetime.

Again, going around and across Tanzania, one finds more interesting things. The remains from the oriental architecture found along the coast and Zanzibar, the coral reefs such as those at the Wambe Shando and Mwamba Wamba area; the National museum and other heritage sites add on more interesting sites to visit.

Tanzania - Tz

Capital: Dodoma

Currency: Tanzania shilling

Population: 40 Million

Climate: Hot

Time: +3 GMT

TRAVEL GUIDE FOR TANZANIA

Close your eyes and fill your mind with wild and exotic images - a paradise inundated with eccentric vegetation, unimaginable game, exhilarating adventure, breath-taking scenery and sandy white palm fringed beaches. Now you're thinking of Tanzania. Endowed with trillions of tourist attractions, Tanzania is a land of many wonders.

CURRENCY



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The unit of currency is the Tanzanian shilling (Tsh). There are bills of Tsh 10,000, 5000, 1000, 500 and 200, and coins of Tsh 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, 5 and 1 shilling(s).

EXCHANGING MONEY

You can change cash and Travellers Cheques at banks in all major towns and cities, usually with a minimum of hassle, although in many cases it involves queues or a long wait. Dar-es-Salaam, Arusha and a few other towns also have foreign exchange (forex) shops. At both banks and forex shops, rates and commissions can vary significantly, so it pays to shop around. Banks tend to have equal better rates for Travellers Cheques than the forex shops, while forex shops are generally better for cash. Forex shops tend to be faster and more efficient than banks. CASH

US Dollars are the most convenient foreign currency. Other currencies are accepted in major towns, although at less favourable rates. With dollars, you will get better exchange rates.

TRAVELLERS CHEQUES

The exchange rates for Travellers Cheques are slightly lower than for cash. Travellers Cheques are widely accepted in major towns.

ATM's

Standard Chartered (with branches in Dar-es-Salaam, Arusha and Mwanza) and Barclays (in Dar-es-Salaam) have ATM's that allow you to withdraw shillings (only) with a Visa card to a maximum of Tsh 400,000 per day. Elsewhere in the country there are no ATM's. ATM's in Tanzania are not yet connected with other networks.

CREDIT CARDS

A few establishments accept credit cards. However, when planning your visit, you shouldn't count on being able to pay with a credit card unless you have verified this in advance with the merchant. Even where credit cards are accepted, most places charge a commission ranging from 5% to 15%. In Dar-es-Salaam and Zanzibar, you can obtain cash in dollars or shillings on your credit card with an approximately 10% commission. In Arusha it's only possible to obtain shillings, for amounts less than USD 500, the process is fast.

BLACK MARKET

Since the liberalization of currency laws, there is essentially no black market for foreign currency. The frequent offers you will receive on the street to exchange at high rates are invariably set-ups; try to plan ahead so you avoid getting stuck for money outside of banking hours. **BUSINESS HOURS** Government offices are open from 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday. Most businesses are open from 8am or 8.30am to 5pm or 6pm Monday to Friday, and from 8.30am to 12.30pm on Saturday. Many shops and offices close for one or two hours between noon and 2pm. A few particularly on Pemba and in smaller coastal towns, may also close on Friday afternoons for mosque services. Banking hours are from 8am to 3pm or 4pm Monday to Friday, and 8.30am to noon or 1pm on Saturday. Most forex shops are open regular business hours. **TIME & PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**

Time in Tanzania is GMT/ UTC plus three hours. There is no daylight saving. Tanzanian Public holidays include:

1st January - New Years Day



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12th January - Zanzibar Revolution Day

22nd February - Eid-al-Kebir

Easter March/ April - Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Monday

26th April - Union Day

1st May - Labour Day

24th May - Eid-al-Moulid

7th July - Peasants' Day (SabaSaba)

8th August - Farmers Day (NaneNane)

5th December - Eid-al-Fitr

9th December - Independence Day

25th December - Christmas Day

26th December - Boxing Day

Muslim religious festive days are treated as national holidays. The dates on which these fall are determined by phases of the moon and change from year to year. During the fast of Ramadhan, typically during January, many businesses will be closed and in some areas restrictions are placed on smoking and drinking for this period.

GOVERNMENT

The United Republic of Tanzania was formed on April 26, 1964, by the adopt of an Act of Union between Tanganyika, on the mainland, and the Island of Zanzibar. The nation is governed under a constitution of 1977, as amended. The internal affairs of Zanzibar are administrated under a constitution of 1. Tanzania was one of the first African countries to achieve independence from colonial powers. A peaceful democratic system has been established in he country since those times.

EMBASSIES

Visitors can consult the Tanzanian consulates or embassies in their own country or find useful information on the Internet. Tanzania maintains the following diplomatic representations in the region and around the world. Australia, Belgium, Canada, China (Beijing), Congo (Zaire, Kinshasa), Ethiopia (Addis Ababa), France, Germany, India (New Delhi), Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mozambique, Netherlands, Nigeria (Lagos), Rwanda, South Africa, Sweden (Stockholm), Switzerland, Uganda, UK, USA, Zambia and Zimbabwe (Harare). There is no Tanzanian high commission in Malawi.

VISAS

Almost all visitors to Tanzania, except nationals of some Commonwealth countries, require a visa. Australian, New Zealand, Canadian, British and Indian Citizens require visas. The cost is USD 50 for a single entry visa valid for upto 3 months from the date of issue. You should obtain a visa before arriving in Tanzania. If you are arriving from a country without a Tanzanian embassy or consulate, visas are issued



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at Dar-es-Salaam international airport, Zanzibar airport and at Namanga border crossing (between Arusha and Nairobi in Kenya). At the moment, you can also get visas at Kilambo (on the Mozambican border), and sometimes at other land crossings, including Songwe River Bridge (Malawi) and Tunduma (Zambia), but it's best not to count on this.

VISA EXTENSIONS

An application for a visa extension can be made at the immigration office in any major Tanzanian town. There is no charge, and the extension will generally be issued on the same day; no photos are required. If you have already been in the country for 3 months, you will be unable to extend your visa without an acceptable reason; usually the only option is to leave the country and reapply for a new visa. Visitors intending to stay beyond 3 months must generally apply for a residency permit. Applications should be made at the Tanzanian Embassy in your home country. It is best to apply through your employer or another Tanzanian-based entity, as independent applications are discouraged.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Passports and return air tickets are required, as well as, for citizens of most countries, the appropriate visas. These should be obtained before travelling but can be provided at Dar-es-Salaam and Kilimanjaro International Airports and at all designated entry points.

CLIMATE

Tanzania's Elevation and distance from the sea control the climate of Tanzania. Tanzania's climate displays marked regional differences because of the country's widely topography. In general, the coolest months are from June to October and the warmest months are from December to March. On the mainland coastal strip along the Indian Ocean, the climate is warm and tropical, with temperatures averaging 27 degrees C (80 degrees F) and rainfall varying from 750 to 1400 mm (20 in). the semi-temperate highlands the south-west are better watered. The climate on the islands is generally tropical, but the heat is tempered by a sea breeze throughout the year. The annual mean temperature for the city of Zanzibar is 29 degrees C (85 degrees F) maximum and 25 degrees C (77 degrees F) minimum; for Wete in Pemba, 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees F) maximum and 24 degrees C (76 degrees F) minimum.

DRIVING, DRIVING LICENSE & PERMITS

In Tanzania, driving is on the left, and pedestrians should therefore look right, then left and then right again before crossing. The speed limit on city roads is 80 km/h, whilst on national highways it is 120 km/h. wearing a seat belt is necessary. Driving under the influence of alcohol is considered a serious offence, and traffic laws are strictly enforced. To drive in Tanzania you will need either an international driving permit arranged before you arrive in East Africa (the best option) or a Tanzanian license, available from the traffic police in major towns for Tsh 6000.

ELECTRICITY

Tanzania uses 230V, 50 cycles, AC. Surges and troughs are fairly common. Power cuts occur with some frequency, particularly outside of the major towns, although they generally don't last long. Plugs and sockets vary but are usually the British three square-pin or two-round-pin varieties. Adaptors are available in Tanzania.

EMERGENCIES

If you are the victim of a mugging or other crime, you should file a police report. Although the police - many of whom are underpaid and ill equipped for their jobs - ill probably not be much assistance, most



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insurance companies require a report before they'll consider compensation for your losses. The same is true if your passport is stolen; get a police report before contacting your embassy or going to the immigration. In order to facilitate things if you encounter difficulties, always carry a copy of your insurance information (including contact telephone numbers) with you. Some embassies have a registration system, which can be a good idea if you will be travelling in remote areas for an extended period. It's a good idea to have some emergency dollars hidden somewhere.

HEALTH & IMMUNISATION

Visitors who have passed through infected areas will need proof of vaccination for yellow fever. Health care services are of international standard in the major urban areas. Normal precautions against malaria are advised for visitors to game reserves. Modern medical services are available in Dar-es-Salaam and other major towns and centers. Chemists (Drug stores) are fairly available in most major towns, but still visitors are not barred from bringing in their own medicines for personal consumption. IMMUNISATION visitors from countries infected with Cholera and Yellow Fever must produce international certificates of vaccination. This is particularly relevant for those travelling from or passing through other neighbouring countries, including members of the East African Co-operation (Kenya & Uganda) and vice versa. It is important to note that travellers from the main land (Tanzania) to the Island of Zanzibar would need to have a yellow fever certificate. Travellers who proceed to Tanzania directly non stop - from un-infected areas are still advised, but not compelled, to get immunized against Yellow Fever and to take prescribed anti-malaria tablets course; a few days prior to arrival, during your stay, and for a short period after returning. Anti- mosquito cream and/or mosquito-repeller are very useful, particularly in the coastal region at night, to treat mosquito bite or to keep them away from your body.

DISABLED TRAVELLERS

Tanzania has few facilities for the disabled. This, combined with weak infrastructure in many areas, may take travel in the country difficult, although it's not impossible. Despite the lack of facilities, Tanzanians are generally extremely accommodating and willing to offer whatever assistance they can as long as they understand what you need. Few hotels have lifts (elevators), and have small stairwells. This is particularly true of Stone Town in Zanzibar, where stairwells can be steep and narrow. Throughout the country, taxis are small sedans and buses are not wheelchair equipped. Minibuses, however, are widely available both on Zanzibar and the mainland and can be chartered for transport and customised safaris. Large or wide-doorvehicles can also be arranged through car-rental agencies in Dar-es-Salaam.

LANGUAGE

Swahili and English are the official languages of Tanzania. As the most important common language among Tanzania's ethnic groups, Swahili has played a major role in unifying the people and solidifying national identity. While English is widely spoken in major towns, in smaller, rural areas it's helpful to know a few Swahili phrases. There are 3 major Swahili dialects: Unguja, or the Swahili of Unguja (Zanzibar Island); Mvita, spoken in Mombasa and other areas of Kenya; the Amu, spoken on the island of Lamu and in adjacent coastal areas. There are more than 120 tribal languages spoken in remote areas, which fall under 4 groups: Bantu, Nilotic, Cushitic and Khoisan. The vast majority (about 95%) of Tanzanians are Bantu-speaking peoples. Bantu languages found in Tanzania include Sukuma, Makonde, Haya, Ha, Gogo and Yao. The main speakers of the Nilotic languages are the Maasai, while the languages of the tiny Cushitic group are limited to the Iraqw. Languages in the Khoisan group - the oldest of the groups - are characterized by "clicks", and are spoken today only by the Sandawe and the Hadzabe.

RELIGION



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About 35% to 40% of Tanzanians are Muslim and between 40% and 45% are Christian. The remainder follow traditional religions that centre on ancestor worship, the land and various ritual objects. There are also small communities of Hindus, Sikhs and Ismailis.

CULTURE

Local people are generally friendly and particularly welcoming to any visitor who can command a couple of words in Swahili. For the more adventurous traveller, these are many rituals, ceremonies and festivals of traditional music, which are well worth experiences.

COMMUNICATIONS

POST

Airmail postage to the USA/ Australia/ Europe costs from Tsh 800/ 800/ 500. Allow about two weeks for letters to arrive in Dar-es-Salaam from abroad, longer for those who sent to smaller towns. Sending parcels (non-valuable items only) is relatively reliable, although things occasionally go missing. Poste restante is fairly well organised in Dar-es-Salaam and major towns. There is a charge of Tsh200 per received letter. Most post offices will hold mail for at least a month. Have the sender clearly write your surname in block letters and underline it.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

You can make domestic and international calls from Tanzania telecom (TTCL) offices, invariably located near the post office in all major towns. Local calls are those made within the same town; domestic refers to calls made throughout Tanzania. Local/ domestic calls are about Tsh100/600 for three minutes. Calls to mobile phones are about Tsh 500 to Tsh 700 per minute. International calls start at about USD 4 per minute; rates are 20% cheaper between 6pm and 7am Monday to Friday, and from 2pm on Saturday to 7am on Monday. Private communications centres charge about the same rates or slightly more, while dialing from hotels will cost at least double. Tanzania's telecommunications system is being privatised and service is improving, but outside of major towns the international exchange can be unreliable. All major towns have card phones that work fairly well. Cards are on sale at telecom offices, and at shops or hotels located near the phones, although cards can be difficult to find outside business hours. The least expensive card costs Tsh 5000, which will last less than 2 minutes for a call to Europe. If you have trouble getting through on a number, call TTCL information (991), tell the operator the old number that you have and ask for the current one. For smaller towns with one or two digit telephone numbers, you will need to place your call through the operator (900).

NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES

The International Herald Tribune and other international newspapers and magazines are available in Dar-es-Salaam, Arusha and sometimes Zanzibar. Tanzanian English-language dailies include the Guardian and the Daily News.

TIPPING & BARGAINING

Tipping is generally not practiced in small local establishments, especially in rural areas. However, in major towns and in top end establishments frequented by tourists tips are expected. Some top-end places include a service charge in the bill. Otherwise, depending on the situation, either rounding out the bill, or 8% to 10% is standard, assuming the service warrants it. Bargaining is expected by vendors in tourist areas, particularly souvenir vendors, except in a limited number of fixed-price shops. However at markets and other venues away from the tourist areas, and for non-tourist items, the price quoted to you will often



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be the "real price" - so in these situations don't immediately assume that the quote you've been given is too high.

VALUE ADDED TAX

Tanzania's 20% Value Added Tax (VAT) is usually included in quoted prices.

CITIES

Arusha Profile :

Arusha is one of Tanzania's most developed and fastest-growing towns. It was headquarters of the East African Community in the days when Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda were members of this economic and customs union. Today, it is the seat of the Tripartite Commission for East African Co-operation – a revived attempt at regional collaboration; the seat of the Tanzanian moderated negotiations on Burundi; and the site of the Rwanda genocide tribunal.

Arusha is also the gateway to Serengeti, Lake Manyara, Tarangire and Arusha National Parks, and to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. As such, it is the safari capital of Tanzania and is a major tourism centre.

The town sits in a lush countryside near the foot of Mt. Meru and enjoys a temperate climate throughout the year. Surrounding it are many coffee, wheat and maize estates tended by the Arusha and Meru people, whom you may see in the market areas of the town.

Parks and Reserves :

LAKE MANYARA NATIONAL PARK

ARUSHA NATIONAL PARK

NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA

SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

MT. KILIMANJARO NATIONAL PARK

Museums:

Olduvai Gorge

Where to stay:

Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge

Mountain Village

Kirawira Camp

Ngorongoro Crater Lodge

Klein's Camp

Lake Manyara Tree Lodge



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Grumeti River Camp

Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge

Serengeti Sopa Lodge

Tarangire Sopa Lodge

Eating Out

There are dozens of places for burgers, pizza and other western-style fast food for between Tsh1000 and Tsh3000. Popular ones include Mcmoody's (Sokoine Road), open from 11am to 10pm Tuesday to Sunday. Dolly's Patisserie (Sokoine Road), open 8am to 8pm Monday to Saturday and 9am to 4pm Sunday. And Chick-King (Ground floor, Serengeti Wing, AICC Bldg.), open Monday to Saturday etc.

Places of Interest

The Natural History Museum (open 9am-6pm daily) in the old German boma at the end of the Boma Road has a few fossils, and is worth a quick stop if you are in the area.

Other diversions include the market, and the swimming pool at the Novotel Mt. Meru. It is possible to observe the proceedings of the United Nation International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda at the AICC building; admission is free but you'll need your passport

Entertainment and Nightlife

Arusha has several nightspots, most of which charge about Tsh 1000 to Tsh 1500 for admission and get going after 10pm. The Big Y Club, about 1km off the mainroad, with the turn-off diagonally opposite the Novotel Mt. Meru, has a breezy upstairs terrace and live music most evenings. Barracuda Bar (Makongoro Road) the Barracuda, between Goliodoi Road and India Street, is also popular, though without live music. Colobus Club (Old Moshi Road) in a new location in Kijenge has two nightclubs, several bars, a restaurant and Internet facilities.

Markets and Shops

The small alley just off Joel Maeda St opposite Northern Bureau de Change is full of vendors selling woodcarvings, batiks and other crafts. Hard bargaining is required. Nearby are several other craft shops. There are also several large craft stores west of town well signposted along the Dodoma Road.

Colourful local produce markets include the Ngaramtoni market (Thursday and Sunday), about 12km north of town on the Nairobi road, with lots of Maasai The Tengeru market (Saturday), about 10km east of town along the Moshi road.

Bagamoyo Profile :

Bagamoyo was once one of the most important dhow ports along the East African coast and the terminus of the trade caravan route linking Lake Tanganyika with the sea. Slaves, ivory, salt and copra were unloaded here before being shipped to Zanzibar and elsewhere. In 1868, French missionaries established Freedom Village at Bagamoyo as a shelter for ransomed slaves and for the remainder of the century the town served as an important way station for missionaries travelling from Zanzibar to the country's interior. Many European explorers, including Burton, Stanley and Livingstone, also began and ended their trips here.



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From 1887 to 1891, Bagamoyo was the capital of German East Africa, and in 1888 it was the site of the first major uprising against the colonial government. When the capital was transferred to Dar-es-Salaam in 1891, the town rapidly faded into anonymity.

Today, Bagamoyo is a sleepy place and many of its buildings are crumbling or in ruins. However, the beaches are attractive and there's enough to see here to make the town a good day or overnight excursion from Dar-es-Salaam.

Eating Out

All the beach hotels have restaurants. New Top Life Inn, two blocks north-west of the market, has cheap and local meals.

Places of Interest

FISH MARKET

Bagamoyo is a centre for dhow building; you can watch the boat builders at work near the port. There is also a colourful fish market here with auctions most afternoons. THE CHAPEL FOR LIVINGSTONE'S BODY

On the same compound of the Catholic Mission is the chapel where Livingstone's body was laid before being taken to Zanzibar Town en route to Westminster Abbey. The mission itself dates from 1868 establishment of Freedom Village and is the oldest in Tanzania.

CHUO CHA SANAA

About 500m south of Bagamoyo along the road to Dar-es-Salaam is Chuo Cha Sanaa, a well known theatre and arts college. When school is in session there are performances of traditional dancing and drumming.

KAOLE RUINS

About 5km south of Bagamoyo along the beach are the Kaole Ruins. These include the remains of a mosque from the 13th Century and some gravestones estimated to date from the 15th Century. The mosque is one of the oldest on mainland Tanzania, and also one of the oldest in East Africa. It was built when Kaole was an important Arabic trading post, long before Bagamoyo had assumed any significance. Today, the ruins are overgrown and deserted, but worth a stop to get a feel for the region's extensive history. To get here on foot, the most direct way is to walk south along the beach for about 5km past Kaole village into the mangrove swamps.

Livingstone Club and most of the other hotels can arrange excursions to Mbegani Lagoon, the Ruvu River Delta and Mwambakuni sand bar, all nearby.

Dar-es-Salaam Profile :

THE CITY WITH A VISION

Dar-es-Salaam has come a long way since the late 1930's when Roald Dahl first glimpsed it. With a population of over 3.7 - 4.2 million and an area of more than 1350 square kilometres, it is Tanzania's major city, capital in everything but name, and one of the least likely places in the country for sighting rhinos and lions.



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Dar-es-Salaam – the "Haven of Peace", is renowned for its natural beauty, vibrant mixture of friendly and welcoming ethnic groups living together for centuries and a rich cultural heritage. Despite its size, Dar-es-Salaam is pleasant city with a picturesque seaport, a vaguely oriental feel and much of its colonial character still intact.

Parks and Reserves :

TARANGIRE NATIONAL PARK

RAHOLE NATIONAL RESERVE

MIKUMI NATIONAL PARK

RUAHA NATIONAL PARK

SELOUS GAME RESERVE

Eating Out

Unless you plan on dining at your hotel, keep in mind that many places in downtown Dar-es-Salaam are closed on Sunday. Places to try for street food include the stalls near the corner of Garden Ave and Pamba St, and the stalls along Kivukoni Front by the harbour. There are lots of small restaurants and canteens in the city centre where you can buy Tanzanian and Indian food. The area around Zanaki and Jamhuri Streets is particularly good for inexpensive Indian food and takeaways.

Places of Interest

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VILLAGE MUSEUM

The open-air Village Museum is 10km north west of the city centre. It's a worthwhile stop, and unless you're archaeologically inclined, probably more interesting than the National Museum. It consists of a collection of authentically constructed dwellings from the various parts of Tanzania, with explanations in English about the special characteristics of each. Traditional music and dance performances are also held here. Next door is a small restaurant with basic meals. To get here on public transport, take the Mwenge dalla-dalla from New Posta and get off at the museum.

MSASANI PENINSULA

On the western side of the Mwasani Peninsula, on the site of one of the oldest Arabic settlements along the Swahili coast, is Mwasani fishing village. Nearby, next to Smokies Tavern & guest House, are ruins of what is said to be Dar-es-Salaam's oldest graveyard, dating back to the 17th Century

Entertainment and Nightlife



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Places to check for free films include the British Council and the US Embassy Marine House (passport or photo identification is required). Films are screened on Tuesday evening (soon to be extended to other days as well) at the cinema at the Msasani Slipway. Local cinemas include Avalon on Zanaki St and Empire on Azikiwe St. Admission to most nightclubs is between Tsh 2500 and Tsh 5000 on weekends. Popular nightspots include Q Bar & guesthouse, Mambo Club, Smokies Tavern & guesthouse, California Dreamer, Club Bilicanas and New Silent Club.

Markets and Shops

There's a colourful Fish Market on Ocean Road near Kivukoni Front, which is best, visited in the early morning when it's at its busiest. Kariakoo Market between Mkunguni and Tandamuti Streets is Dar-es-Salaam's largest and busiest market, although if it's your first time in Africa, it may be a bit overwhelming. Watch your pockets here as there are frequent pickpocketings and bag slashing. Ilala Market is a similar but smaller market, with everything from fresh produce to textiles, pots and pans.

Mwanza Profile :

Mwanza is one of the Tanzania's largest towns and the economic centre of the lake region. It has many industries and a busy port that handles much of the cotton, tea and coffee grown in the fertile western part of the country. The Sukuma people, who live in the area, are Tanzania's largest tribe. Although very dusty in the dry season and muddy during the rains, Mwanza is a fairly attractive place set among hills strewn with enormous boulders. It makes a good base for visits to Rubondo Island National Park, and in the dry season is a convenient starting point for trips through the Western Serengeti.

Pemba Profile :

The Clove Island

Pemba and its sister island, Unguja (Zanzibar), lie in the Indian Ocean some 60 south of the Equator and just over 60 km from the East African coast across from the town of Tanga. This land has an area of approx. 900 square kilometers with 275,000 inhabitants.

Zanzibar, which consists of the islands Unguja and Pemba, was formerly an Arab Sultanate and became a British Protectorate in 1890. In 1963/64 Zanzibar gained its independence and became part of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Pemba has three principal Towns which are Wete, Chakechake and Mkoani.

Most people know Pemba as the clove island but there is much more there than the famous cloves. Pemba is also heavily vegetated with coconut palms, mango trees, bananas, cassava and many other tropical plants. Pemba's beautiful landscape is owed to its hill topography. The lure of Pemba is enhanced by a rich marine environment characterized by beaches but also by extensive mangrove forests along Pemba's highly indented coastline, by coral reefs which offer superb opportunities for snorkeling and diving, by undeveloped islands and diverse biotic resources. The offshore waters are deep around Pemba and well known for their large game fish (like marlin, barracuda, shark and other species). There are also interesting historical sites, towns influenced by Arab architectural style, villages with houses of traditional Swahili style and other points of interest.

Despite of its beauty, Pemba is hardly touched by tourism. It is still a place where one can see soothing different and meet very friendly people, but one shouldn't expect a ready-made holiday.

Culture



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Pemba is a predominantly Muslim society (over 95% of the population). Please respect the culture of the islanders, particularly in respect of clothing. This means not wearing swim wear and shorts on the streets. The Pemba people appreciate this.

Beaches

There are not as many beaches on Pemba as would be expected on an island because of its coral origin and the dense mangrove forests. The beaches that there are not very accessible (by public transport) but well worth it because of their beauty and clear water.

All beaches are public beaches. The extensive, shallow tidal flats limit on some places the use of the beaches for swimming at low tide. The daily tidal variations leave partly long stretches of exposed sea grass and coral patches at low tide, but this gives one also the chance for reef walking (wear good shoes).

Zanzibar Profile :

KARIBU ZANZIBAR

The Islands can be described as the ancient Island at the same time known as the (SPICE ISLANDS) of the Indian Ocean. The clove trees which were introduced to the Island in 19th century, between 1820 – 1830 proved successful and in short period of time. The Island became an important commercial center internationally. Today there are still large clove trees which perfume the Island evening breezes. Zanzibar has been renamed from its original name which is SPICE ISLAND. Zanzibar is name of the country and town.

Zanzibar and its sister island, Pemba, lie in the Indian Ocean. Some 60 South of the Equator and just over 20 miles from the East African Coast. The Island has an area of 640 miles and around its coast the long white sandy beaches slope gently into clear blue water, contrasting well with the abundant greenery of the interior.

History to these Islands - came Sumerians, Assyrians, Hindus, Egyptians, Phoenicians, Portuguese, Arab, Chinese and many others. These came to the Islands in different motives such as missionaries, explorers and traders from this shore the great African explorers as Burton, Speke, Grant and Dr. David Livingstone set out on their journeys of discovery. The Island became the focus of the slave trade in the 18th century.

On the 6th June 1873 slavery was abolished. By the middle 19th century, the Arabs influence was so strong that the Sultan of Oman moved his capital to Zanzibar.

In 1890 the Sultanate became a British Protectorate, and in 1964 Zanzibar gained its independence. After the blood revolution which was carried by majority of people of Zanzibar.

CLOTHING: Dress code are relaxed – but, Zanzibar is a Muslim orientated Culture and mode of dress should be respected. The clothes must be practical and comfortable.

ARCHITECTURE: The different races that settled in Zanzibar over the century have left their mark on both the people and the architecture. Castellated buildings with arches are Moorish in origin.

The simple stucco work in the Kidichi Persian baths reminds one of the former Persian princes, and as one walks through the cool narrow streets of the old Stone town of Zanzibar can admire the Arabs brass-studded old carved doors.



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Parks and Reserves :

ZANZIBAR MARINE PARK

Where to stay

Breezes Beach Club Zanzibar

Zanzibar Serena Inn

Mnemba Island Lodge

Bluebay Beach Resort

Eating Out

ZANZIBAR & OTHER ISLANDS ZANZIBAR otherwise known as "Spice Island", fulfils all your Island get-away expectations. Zanzibar is an exotic land. This "Spice Island" is a tropical idyll true to its reputation. Zanzibar town is filled with old historic buildings, and to prove it there is a story behind each one. At the heart of Zanzibar is the fascinating Stone Town where time has seemingly stood still. The island is dotted with several ruins from the turbulent times past. Zanzibar is the true clove capital of the world – Pemba Island. With abundant rainfall and rich soil island is called Al Kuhdra – "The Green Island". Offshore lies the Pemba Channel, blessed by a multitude of fish, this is recognized by game fishermen as some of the finest waters off the east coast of Africa. South of Zanzibar, Mafia Island sits at the mouth of the Rufiji River. This is another favourite haunt of big- game fishermen and scuba divers, boasting some record catches and a magical coral paradise. The amazing mermaid- like dugong breeds among the grasses of the Majira Channel, which also plays host to the awesome great with shark. On the beaches of small islands to the East of Mafia, the giant seaturtle lays its eggs. Zanzibar has got it all – snorkelling, diving, deep- sea fishing, bathing, water sports and sun- tanning. From the moment you step foot into its spellbinding fusion of Islamic ruins and noble Arabic mansions, you'll realise that there's nothing dull about this natural phenomenon. Adding to its zest is its many spice plantations that harvest anything from cloves to vanilla and cinnamon. All these three Tanzanian Islands allow the tourist the chance to experience the sheer romance of paradisaical tropical isles in the sun.