

TANZANIA



Tanzania is an East African country known for its vast wilderness areas. They include the plains of Serengeti National Park, a safari mecca populated by the “big five” game (elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino), and Kilimanjaro National Park, home to Africa’s highest mountain. Offshore lie the tropical islands of Zanzibar, with Arabic influences, and Mafia, with a marine park home to whale sharks and coral reefs.

The Northern Circuit is the most popular route from inbound travelers perspective. This route commences from Kilimanjaro including Arusha, Tarangire, Manyara, Ngorongoro & Serengeti national parks.

Arusha

Situated at the foot of the beautiful Mount Meru, Arusha is known as the safari capital of Tanzania's Northern Safari Circuit. It's a bustling city filled with an interesting mix of markets, chaotic traffic, old colonial buildings and modern conveniences, like coffee shops with WiFi, and an array of great restaurants.



Tarangire National Park

Located in Tanzania's Manyara Region, the name of the park originates from the Tarangire River that crosses the park. The Tarangire River is the primary source of fresh water for wild animals in the Tarangire Ecosystem during the annual dry season. The Tarangire Ecosystem is defined by the long-distance migration of wildebeest and zebras. During the dry season thousands of animals concentrate in Tarangire National Park from the surrounding wet-season dispersal and calving areas.



Lake Manyara National Park

Located beneath the cliffs of the Manyara Escarpment, on the edge of the Rift Valley, Lake Manyara National Park offers varied ecosystems, incredible bird life, and breath-taking views. Located on the way to Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti, Lake Manyara National Park is worth a stop in its own right. Its ground water forests, bush plains, baobab strewn cliffs, and algae-streaked hot springs offer incredible ecological variety in a small area, rich in wildlife and incredible numbers of birds.



Ngorongoro Crater

The jewel in Ngorongoro's crown is a deep, volcanic crater, the largest unflooded and unbroken caldera in the world. About 20kms across, 600 meters deep and 300 sq. kms in area, the Ngorongoro Crater is a breath-taking natural wonder.

The Ngorongoro Crater is one of Africa's most famous sites and is said to have the highest density of wildlife in Africa. Sometimes described as an 'eighth wonder of the world', the Crater has achieved world renown, attracting an ever-increasing number of visitors each year. You are unlikely to escape other vehicles here, but you are guaranteed great wildlife viewing in a genuinely mind-blowing environment. There is nowhere else in Africa quite like Ngorongoro!



Serengeti National Park

The best-known wildlife sanctuary in the world, unequalled for its natural beauty and scientific value, it has the greatest concentration of plains wildlife in Africa.

The Serengeti National Park in Tanzania is home to the greatest wildlife spectacle on earth - the great migration of wildebeest and zebra. The resident population of lion, cheetah, elephant, giraffe, and birds is also impressive. There's a wide variety of accommodation available, from luxury lodges to mobile camps. The park covers 5,700sq miles, (14,763sq km), it's larger than Connecticut, with at most a couple hundred vehicles driving around.

It is the migration for which Serengeti is perhaps most famous. Over a million wildebeest and about 200,000 zebras flow south from the northern hills to the southern plains for the short rains every October and November, and then swirl west and north after the long rains in April to June. So strong is the ancient instinct to move that no drought, gorge or crocodile infested river can hold them back



Selous Game Reserve, also known as Selous National Park, is one of Tanzania's most significant and vast protected areas for wildlife conservation. It's named after British explorer and hunter Frederick Selous and was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1982 due to its critical role in preserving a diverse range of wildlife and habitats.

Location: Selous Game Reserve is in the southern part of Tanzania, covering an enormous area of approximately 50,000 sq km. It is one of the largest protected areas in Africa.

Wildlife: The park is renowned for its diverse and abundant wildlife, including a vast population of elephants, lions, leopards, buffalo, hippos, crocodiles, and a variety of antelope species. It is also home to numerous bird species, making it a popular destination for birdwatchers.



The best time to travel to Tanzania depends on the specific experiences you're seeking. Here's a breakdown of the seasons and what they offer:

Dry Season (June to October):

This is typically considered the best time for wildlife viewing, especially in the northern circuit parks like Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, and Tarangire. With little to no rain, animals tend to gather around water sources, making them easier to spot. The weather is generally cooler and more comfortable, making it ideal for outdoor activities like safaris and hiking.

Great Migration (June to August):

If witnessing the Great Migration is on your bucket list, plan your visit between June and August. During this time, millions of wildebeest, zebras, and other herbivores migrate from the Serengeti to the Maasai Mara in Kenya, crossing the Mara River, providing incredible wildlife viewing opportunities.

Shoulder Seasons (March to May, November to mid-December):

These months mark the short rainy seasons known as the "long rains" (March to May) and the "short rains" (November to mid-December). While rainfall can be sporadic, it's generally less crowded, and prices may be lower. Birdwatching is excellent during these times, and the landscapes are lush and green, offering beautiful scenery for photography.

Green Season (November to May):

This period sees the heaviest rainfall, resulting in lush vegetation and vibrant landscapes. While wildlife may be more dispersed due to abundant water sources, it's a great time for birdwatching, as migratory birds are present.

Some lodges and camps offer discounted rates during the green season, making it more budget-friendly for travelers. Ultimately, the best time to visit Tanzania depends on your preferences, budget, and desired activities. Whether you're prioritizing wildlife viewing, trekking Kilimanjaro, or relaxing on the beaches of Zanzibar, there's something to enjoy year-round in Tanzania.

TRAVEL TIPS:

Visa: Most countries citizens can avail visa on arrival services. There is a e-Visa service too (<https://visa.immigration.go.tz/>). Both services are @ USD 50 per person.

Entry & Exit Points:

By road: There are a few entry points between Tanzania & Kenya and also Tanzania & Uganda. The most common border is between Masai Mara & Serengeti at Isibania or the Namanga border in south of Kenya. However, for the safari circuit the Isibania is most popular.

By air: Tanzania has many airstrips within its borders which are suitable for 12-seater Cessna Caravans. There are three major international airport – Dar-Es-Salaam, Kilimanjaro & Zanzibar. Mwanza airport also handles regional flights from Kenya & Uganda.

By sea: There is a frequent ferry service (catamaran) between Zanzibar & Dar-Es-Salaam. These ferries are modern and offer seats in 3 class configurations.

