

Northern Circuit Adventure

Let us make your safari

www.northerncircuitadventure.com

Welcome to the land of Kilimanjaro, Serengeti and Zanzibar...



TANZANIA SAFARIS INFORMATION

Why should you go on a Tanzania Safari?

- 🐾 Home to the highest free standing mountain in the world: Mount Kilimanjaro
- 🐾 The Serengeti, one of the outstanding national park in Africa
- 🐾 The Great Wildebeest Migration - The largest single movement of wild animals in the world
- 🐾 Chimpanzee treks and safaris
- 🐾 Relax on the Indian Ocean islands of Zanzibar, Pemba or Mafia
- 🐾 Ngorongoro Crater, dubbed as the 8th Wonder of the World



GETTING TO THE START POINT OF YOUR SAFARI IN TANZANIA

Tanzania's international airports are Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro International Airport and Zanzibar International Airport. To begin safaris in Northern Tanzania most travellers are advised to book with airlines whose arrivals and departures are at Kilimanjaro International Airport.

Kilimanjaro International Airport should not be confused with Arusha Airport which is a 45 minute drive from Arusha town and handles some domestic flights. The departure tax for regional and international flights is US\$40.

It is usually included in the ticket price for departures from the mainland, but on Zanzibar it is usually levied separately at the airport - payable in either US dollars or Tanzania shillings.



Scheduled flights

There are over 50 local airports and airstrips in Tanzania as it is very large country with a scattered population. Small planes and charter companies fly to towns and bush airstrips. Arusha is the main hub for airlines servicing the Northern Tanzania parks - Serengeti, Ngorongoro, Tarangire and Manyara. While Dar es Salaam services the Southern Tanzania parks of Selous, Mikumi, Ruaha, Katavi and Mahale. Zanzibar is easily accessible with flights from the mainland.



PLANNING YOUR TANZANIA SAFARI

When planning your safari, there are a few points to take into consideration:

- 🐾 *When would you like to go on safari and for how long?*
- 🐾 *What type of activities are you interested in?*
- 🐾 *What animals would you like to see?*
- 🐾 *What areas are you interested in?*
- 🐾 *What is your budget?*
- 🐾 *Do you prefer comfortable, luxury or premier accommodation?*
- 🐾 *What ages and level of fitness are the people travelling?*

Which accommodation do I chose?

The activities that you are interested in most will usually determine your choice and location of accommodation e.g. Big game, birding, walking, water activities or small game. It is always advisable to choose accommodation which can offer you a combination of activities. Tanzania has a lot to offer with its varied ecosystem and a safari combining different elements of these are ideal e.g. the plains of the Serengeti, the game rich Ngorongoro Crater and the exotic spice island of Zanzibar.

How to get the most of your safari?

We recommend a minimum of two nights in any particular Lodges / Camps. Three nights is ideal. Anything less and you will spend more time travelling than on safari. Try to get a mix of accommodation that will give you a variety of game, landscape, location, guides and camp decor.

Plan your route carefully so you reduce your commuting times to a minimum. Flight and road transfer schedules are not as frequent and sophisticated as Europe or North America. This means flights do not always connect efficiently. **Northern Circuit Adventure** will ensure your route makes practical sense.

Location of lodges or camps

Lodges and Camps generally fall into two categories - those in the National Parks and Reserves, and those outside the reserves in private concessions or ranches. The advantage of being within the National Reserves is that the quantity of game is often better than in the private concessions. Also, you will not find any communal villages in the reserves.

But, the same advantages apply to the better private concessions too. In additional, private concessions allow more exclusive access to game as the area is reserved for a small number of guests. In other words, the quality of the game viewing is often better. The other advantage of private concessions is the ability to go off-road, do walking safaris with Maasai warriors and get out of the vehicle (e.g. to enjoy sundowners). None of these activities are allowed in the National Parks.

Other factors that should be considered in choosing the location of your accommodation are:

- 🐾 What animals you want to see. Some locations are better for cats, others for rhino, and others for the migration, etc.
- 🐾 Do you wish to stay in a tent or lodge?



Privacy

1. Make sure that the camps and lodges you will be visiting are small and intimate in order to provide you with a unique and personal safari experience. You do not want to be surrounded by loads of safari vehicles and noisy tourists.

2. Camp size

3. This is a very personal choice. Some guests prefer to stay in lodges that accommodate up to 100 guests, but in our opinion, guests whose prime objective is wildlife experience with peace and tranquility will normally opt for the smaller more intimate accommodation that offer a personalized service and safari experience.

4. Guiding

5. Possibly one of the most important aspects to a successful and rewarding safari experience is the quality of your guide. They will be able to interpret and show you many of the amazing secrets that nature has hidden. Guides that are in tune with their environment often have a sixth sense and know how to see out and present various wildlife experiences. They will often know their area intimately and the various habitats that animals frequent.
6. An enthusiastic guide will share knowledge of the many uses of plants, the amazing life of insects, snakes and soils. A good guide will be your host, field guide, teacher, chauffeur, medic, navigator, conservationist, chaperone, protector, counsel, interpreter and friend. Your whole safari experience can be heightened by your guide! It can also be destroyed if you end up with a disinterested and boring guide, seeking only a tip at the end.

When booking your safari, ask questions as to the standards of guide that you will have. Some guests may opt for their own private guide and vehicle for the duration of a safari. This type of guide normally comes highly recommended and will often be very professional in the treatment of guests, their needs and aspirations.





Safari tips

- 🐾 A simple rule is the more times you go out on safari activities the more you will see
- 🐾 Carry your binoculars with you at all times and use them
- 🐾 Ask questions and communicate with your guide, they are extremely knowledgeable on the wildlife
- 🐾 Observe and appreciate the multitude of sights that Africa has to offer
- 🐾 Listen to the constant diversity of noise, especially at dawn and during the night
- 🐾 Don't be in a rush to dash off to the next wildlife sighting, enjoy the moment
- 🐾 Take time to relax and enjoy the scenes around you
- 🐾 Don't observe the whole of your African safari through the lens of a camera

WHEN TO GO

Each and every season in Tanzania is wonderful, though you might want to avoid the rains if you wish to climb Mount Kilimanjaro.

It is possible to climb Kilimanjaro year round; however it is best to climb when there is a lower possibility of precipitation. The dry seasons are from the beginning of December through the beginning of March, and then from late June through the end of October. These are considered to be the best times to climb in terms of weather.

Safaris are available throughout the year, although the best game viewing periods are during the dry months of June through to November. The main tourist season is in January and February when it is hot and dry and generally considered to be more pleasant. This is also the time of year that the migrating wildebeest start calving in the southern Serengeti and Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

The long rains fall from approximately March, to May. The roads in the reserves are often very muddy and game is dispersed. This is low season for a safari.





WHAT TO WEAR

It never gets really cold in Tanzania so lightweight clothing is the norm. On safari, avoid brightly colored clothes, they may, they alarm the animals. Browns, beiges and khaki are preferred. Shorts-sleeves shirts/blouses and shorts are ideal, but pack a sweater, it can be chilly in the early morning and in the evening. Wear a hat to avoid sun-stroke and don't forget a swimsuit. Shoes should be sensible – walking through the bush is not like strolling through Hyde Park – and for climbing Kilimanjaro or Mount Meru take thermal underwear, a rain jacket, good socks and sturdy boots. Shorts for women are acceptable – but not too short. Women should carry a wrap to cover their legs in towns or villages as revealing clothes can close offense, especially in Zanzibar and other Muslim areas. On the beach, and within the confines of beach hotels, normal swimwear is acceptable but nudity certainly is not.



DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SAFARI LODGES, TENTED CAMPS & BUDGET CAMPING

If you are like many people planning their first safari to East Africa, you may be confused about the choice of accommodation facilities to stay in. Should you stay in a lodge, a tented camp, or in a budget campsite? And what is the difference anyway? This article will help you understand the differences so that you can make an informed choice.

Let's start with the more obvious one: Safari lodges:

Safari Lodges



These are permanent facilities with solid walls made of brick and stone or other local walling materials. Most tourist lodges have many of the amenities you would find in a hotel, including a restaurant, a swimming pool, a bar, unsuited bathrooms and toilets, and gift shops among others. The rooms in the lodges may be housed in one main building, or in huts/chalets separated by small distances.

Not all lodges are created equal. As it is with hotels, there are different classes of lodges. Depending on who is doing the classification, you will often hear of budget lodges, mid-range lodges, high-end lodges, and luxury lodges, or lodge classification by stars (3 star, 4 star, etc.). The higher the classification of the lodge, the more likely it is to have better service, better facilities, and higher price.



Tented Camps



As their name suggests, tented camps usually comprise of large walk-in tents or canvas structures with unsuited facilities including flush toilets and hot showers. But don't let the word "tent" deceive you; many such camps are actually luxurious properties offering the same - and in many cases even better - comfort levels as the lodges. There are two types of tented camps: permanent, and mobile. Permanent tented camps are in many ways similar to the lodges, more so because of their permanence and the facilities/amenities available to you. They however tend to be smaller and more exclusive than the lodges, often having fewer than 10

accommodation tents. Which is why you shouldn't be surprised if a safari using tented camps costs more than one using lodges of similar standard.

The concept of mobile camps is more common in Tanzania than in Kenya. Such camps are erected in private and exclusive campsites, a few moments before you arrive. They are mobile in the sense that their actual location varies from time to time, depending on weather patterns and the concentration of wild animals at particular times and places.

The more luxurious mobile camps consist of huge walk-in accommodation tents with king sized beds and unsuited washroom facilities. This setup requires a support crew for transporting the equipment, preparing the hot bathing water, and also preparing the meals. Obviously, such an arrangement is suitable for the luxury traveler who is also seeking the rustic and more authentic safari experience of the early explorers. If you are a budget-conscious traveler, you can stay in the slightly more modest dome tents, and sleep on camp beds.

Budget Camping



Technically speaking, budget camping fits in the tented camps category. The experience is however completely different, making it deserve to be regarded separately. Budget camping is for those who don't mind "roughing it".

You get to stay in public campsites, inside bivouac tents, sleeping on mattresses laid on the tent floor, or in sleeping bags. Basic washroom facilities are available in the public campsites, and are shared by everyone at the campsite.





OUR COMMITMENT:



In the rural areas of Northern Tanzania, schools are quite rudimentary and good school materials are absent. Part of our profit we save money to buy school books for a number of schools to give the students a chance to learn English and find a job for example in the tourism sector. For example the little town Manyara and the surrounding villages in the Ngorongoro are among the poorest in Tanzania and the people live from rudimentary agriculture. Only a small number of people with English skills can benefit from the rising tourism industry in Tanzania. Unfortunately, there is no functional education system that is accessible for the people where people could practice their English. The teachers are less educated, the school infrastructure is at a minimum and good teaching materials are not existent.

Implementation:

We initiated a project called Vitabu! Means (Books!) that money we have saved we provide teaching materials for English classes at primary school level and bought the books from a local supplier in the region capital. We visited a number of schools in the area to investigate their need for books and made a scheme how to distribute the books.

Outcome:



The first attempt to run this type of project turned out to be successful. We saved more than 1000 Euro last year we managed to buy 2000 school books for both students and teachers. Five schools benefited from the project and received teaching materials. The project was well received from both, the schools and the local people. We are trying to proceed with the project in a second phase to provide teaching materials for even more remote schools in the Manyara and Ngorongoro Conservation area. When you travel with Northern Circuit Adventure with your support we can create partnerships of purpose to improve education, create economic opportunity and growth, and help communities address poverty in Africa!



KILIMANJARO TREKKING



Kilimanjaro: The name itself is a mystery wreathed in clouds. It might mean Mountain of Light, Mountain of Greatness or Mountain of Caravans. Or it might not. The local people, the Wachagga, don't even have a name for the whole massif, only Kipoo (now known as Kibo) for the familiar snowy peak that stands imperious, overseer of the continent, and the summit of Africa.

To the Summit

Kilimanjaro, by any name, is a metaphor for the compelling beauty of East Africa. When you see it, you understand why. Not only is this the highest peak on the African continent; it is also the tallest free-standing Mountain in the world, rising in breathtaking isolation from the surrounding coastal scrub land – elevation around 900 meters – to an imperious 5,895 meters (19,336 feet). Kilimanjaro is one of the world's most accessible high summits, a beacon for visitors from around the world. Most climbers reach the Crater rim with little more than a walking stick, proper clothing and determination. And those who reach Uhuru Point, the actual summit, or Gillman's Point on the lip of the crater, will have earned their climbing certificates. And their memories.

Tents setup Kilimanjaro

But there is so much more to Kili than her summit. The ascent of the slopes is a virtual climatic world tour, from the tropics to the Arctic. Even before you cross the National Park boundary (at the 2,700m contour), the cultivated foot slopes give way to lush Montane forest, inhabited by elusive elephant, leopard, buffalo, the endangered Abbot's duiker, and other small antelope and primates. Higher still lies the moorland zone, where a cover of giant heather is studded with otherworldly giant Lobelias. Above 4,000m, a surreal alpine desert supports little life other than a few hardy mosses and lichen. Then, finally, the last vestigial vegetation gives way to a winter wonderland of ice and snow – and the magnificent beauty of the roof of the continent.



Climbing to Uhuru peak, the highest point, is a non-technical hike which can be done by any average adventurer. There are different routes used starting with the most popular Marangu route, to the most scenic and equally popular Machame route, to the less tourist Shira and Rongai routes. For the physically fit persons looking for a Challenging climb, the steep and fast Umbwe route makes a perfect option. They could also attempt our special combination of Africa's 2 highest peaks. Climbing both peaks provides a fascinating variety of scenery, vegetation and culture not to mention the challenging rigors of such a trek.

Northern Circuit Adventure Team can organizes Eco-friendly climbs on this magnificent dome-shaped mountain and boasts of an excellent safe climbing record. Our professional, experienced and highly knowledgeable guides will lead you all the way to the summit while explaining the different ecosystems of the mountain that you go through each day.

Our local guides are licensed, trained, friendly, and with years of experience. Porters will also go on the trip to carry your luggage, food, and other equipment. You will only have to carry a day pack with your daily essentials. We use a high ratio of guides and porters to clients. We use professional, quality mountain equipment and food is plentiful and delicious. Groups are limited to 10 people. We will combine groups up to this limit if they are starting the same route on the same day. However, we can also arrange for private groups at no extra cost. We will try to add single travelers to a group if at all possible but will also do groups with just one climber. We can also accommodate large groups of any size.

Note:

Climb slowly to increase your acclimatization time and maximize your chances of reaching the summit. To avoid altitude sickness, allow a minimum of five nights, preferably even more for the climb. Take your time and enjoy the beauty of the mountain.

Accommodation:

Huts and campsites on the mountain. Several hotels and campsites outside the park in the village of Marangu and town of Moshi.

Pack list for Mount Kilimanjaro



Essential Equipment for Kilimanjaro:

According to his book *Life, Wanderings, and Labours in Eastern Africa*, when Charles New attempted to climb Kilimanjaro in 1861 he took with him a party of thirteen porters, all of whom were completely naked. New and his crew became the first to reach Kilimanjaro's snow-line, which is a rather creditable effort considering their lack of suitable apparel.

Assuming your goal is to reach more than just the snows of Kilimanjaro, however, you will need to make sure you (and indeed your porters) are appropriately attired for the extreme conditions. The fact that you will be paying porters to carry your rucksack does, to some degree, make packing simpler – allowing you to concentrate on warmth rather than weight.



However, packing for warmth does not mean packing lots of big jumpers. The secret to staying warm is to wear lots of layers. Not only does this actually make you warmer than if you just had one single, thick layer – the air trapped between the layers heats up and acts as insulation – but it also means you can peel off the layers one by one when you get too warm, and put them on again one by one when the temperatures drop.

A clothes list for Kilimanjaro:

Boots for Kilimanjaro Proper mountaineering boots are unnecessary for Kilimanjaro unless you're taking an unusual route that demands them. If you're not, a decent pair of trekking boots are fine for Kilimanjaro. The important thing about boots is comfort, with enough toe room, remembering that on the ascent up Kibo you might be wearing an extra pair or two of socks, and that on the descent the toes will be shoved into the front of the boots with every step. Remember these points when trying on trekking boots for Kilimanjaro in the shop. Make sure they are also sturdy, waterproof, durable and high enough to provide support for your ankles. Finally, ensure you break them in before you come to Tanzania, so that if they do give you blisters, you can recover before you set foot on Kilimanjaro.

Socks:

A couple of thick thermal pairs and some regular ones should be fine for trekking up Kilimanjaro; you may stink but you'll be comfortable too, which is far more important. Some people walk in one thick and one thin pair of socks on Kilimanjaro, changing the thin pair regularly, rinsing them out in the evening and tying them to their pack to dry during the day.

Down Jacket:

Not necessary for Kilimanjaro if you have enough fleeces, but nevertheless wonderfully warm, light and compact – and usually expensive. Make sure it is large enough to go over all your clothes.

Fleeces:

Fleeces are light, pack down small, dry quickly and can be very, very warm. Take at least two fleeces for your Kilimanjaro expedition, one thick 'polar' one and one of medium thickness and warmth. Make sure that you can wear the thinner one over all of the T-shirts and shirts you'll be taking, and that you can wear your thick one over all of these – you'll need to wear both fleeces on the night-walk up Kibo.

Thermals:

The value of thermal underwear lies in the way it draws moisture (ie sweat) away from your body. A thermal vest and long johns are sufficient for Kilimanjaro.

Trousers:

Don't take jeans, which are heavy and difficult to dry. Instead, take a couple of pairs of trekking trousers for Kilimanjaro, such as those made by Rohan, preferably one light and one heavy.

Sun-Hat:

One reader wrote in to say that, because he is a glasses wearer, a baseball cap or similar was much more useful than a regular sunhat as it kept the rain off his spectacles. This is a good idea but do make sure that you have something to cover the back of your neck too. Whatever you choose, headgear is essential as it can be hot and dazzling on the mountain.

Woolly/fleecy Hat:

It can also be very cold. Brightly-coloured bobble hats can be bought very cheaply in Arusha/Moshi or at the gate; or, better still, invest in one of those knitted balaclavas which you can usually find on sale in Moshi. They look a bit like a pizza oven but wearing a balaclava on Kilimanjaro will protect your face from the biting summit wind.



Gloves:

Preferably fleecy; many trekkers on Kilimanjaro wear a thin thermal under-glove too.

Rainwear:

While you are more likely to experience rain on Kilimanjaro during the walk in the forest, where it's still warm, once you've got your clothes wet there will be little opportunity to dry them on the trek – and you will not want to attempt to climb freezing Kibo in wet clothes. A waterproof jacket is ideal for Kilimanjaro, preferably made from Gore-tex or similar breathable material, hopefully with a warm or fleecy lining too, and big enough to go over all your clothes so you can wear it for the night-walk on Kibo. Waterproof trousers on Kilimanjaro are perhaps a luxury rather than a necessity, but if you have a pair bring them with you. Alternatively, one reader suggests a cheap waterproof poncho 'from a dollar store' for the trek, preferably one that goes over the backpack as well as yourself.

Summer clothes:

T-shirts and shorts are the most comfortable things to wear under Kilimanjaro's humid forest canopy. You are strongly recommended to take a shirt with a collar too, to stop the African sun from burning the back of your neck.

Sleeping Bag:

On Kilimanjaro, the warmer the sleeping bag the better. A three-season bag is probably the most practical, offering a compromise between warmth and cost. A two-season plus thermal fleecy liner.

Sleeping Mat:

On Kilimanjaro a sleeping mat is essential if camping but unnecessary if you're following the Marangu Route, when you'll be sleeping in huts. We usually supply sleeping mats if you are doing camping.

Water Purifiers/Filter:

Water purifiers are also essential on Kilimanjaro, unless you intend to hire an extra porter or two to transport your drinking water up from the start. While you can get your cooking crew to boil you some water at the end of every mealtime, you'll still find purifiers and/or a filter essential on Kilimanjaro if you're going to drink the recommended four-five litres every day, for which you'll have to collect water from the mountain streams. Of the two, purifying tablets, such as iodine, are more effective, as they kill everything in the water, though they taste awful. A cordial will help to mask this taste; you can buy packets of powdered flavouring in the local supermarkets. Filters are less effective and more expensive, though the water they produce tastes much better. There's a third option, the Steripen, which kills waterborne microbes by using ultraviolet light. The pen is simple to use. Simply hold the pen in a litre of water for 30 seconds and....that's it. I've seen one of these in action on the mountain and I have to say I found it a very impressive bit of kit. My only quibble was that you can use it on only one litre of water at a time, so it can be awkward if you have, for example, a three-litre bottle.

Torch:

On Kilimanjaro a head-torch, if you have one and don't find it uncomfortable, is far more practical than a handheld one, allowing you to keep both hands free; on the last night up the slopes of Kibo to the summit this advantage is pretty much essential, enabling you to keep your hands in your pockets for warmth.

Sunscreen:

A high-factor sunscreen (35-40) is essential on Kilimanjaro.



Towel:

The argument here is over which sort of towel to bring to Kilimanjaro. Many trekkers just bring one enormous beach towel, because they plan to visit Zanzibar after the trek and don't see the point of packing two towels. At the other extreme there are the tiny so-called 'travel towels', a sort of chamois-cloth affair sold in camping shops and airport lounges the world over. Some people swear by these things, but others usually end up swearing at them, finding that they have all the absorbency of your average block of volcanic obsidian stone. Nevertheless, I grudgingly admit that these travel towels do have their uses on Kilimanjaro, where opportunities to wash anything other than your face and hands are minimal. You can dry your towel by attaching it to the outside of your rucksack with clothes-pegs.

Sunglasses:

On Kilimanjaro are very, very necessary for the morning after you've reached the summit, when the early morning light on Kibo can be really painful and damaging. If you're climbing via the Glacier Route or are going to spend some time on the summit, they could be essential on Kilimanjaro for preventing snow-blindness.

Glasses/contact Lenses:

For those who need them, of course. Contact lenses are fine but super-expensive ones should be avoided on the final assault to the summit as there's a risk that when the strong cold wind blows across the saddle on assault night the lenses can dry and go brittle very quickly and fall out of the eye. I suggest affordable disposable lenses be worn but that spare glasses be carried, especially during the assault on the summit. Obviously you'll need to be extra careful to keep your hands super clean and dry when putting them in.

Trekking Poles:

If you've done some trekking before you'll know if you need trekking poles / sticks or not; if you haven't, assume you will. While trekkers on Kilimanjaro often use trekking poles / sticks (also called ski poles) the whole way, trekking poles really come into their own on the descent, to minimize the strain on your knees as you trudge downhill. Telescopic poles can be brought from trekking/camping outfitters in the West.

Note:

Be selective in what you take with you. Please note that our porters are limited to carrying 33 lbs (15 kgs) of your personal belongings. Everything the porters will carry for you between campsites should be placed into the duffel bag, including the sleeping bag, but it is okay to pack the sleeping bag separately if necessary. If you rent a sleeping bag from us, note that the bag weighs 5 lbs 6 oz. and this weight does count against the 33 lb limit.

Our porters will place your duffel bag and sleeping bag into a large, sturdy, waterproof bag with a roll-top closure. If you have excess weight, you will be required to hire an additional porter. It is rare to require an extra porter and should happen only in special cases, such as for carrying extensive photography equipment. You are expected to bring everything you need, though we do rent warm sleeping bags and trekking poles on location. All extra luggage, items you will not use on your climb, such as safari clothing, gear and equipment, can also be safely stored at the hotel or in our office.

Plastic, recyclable water bottles are not allowed in the park, due to past problems with litter. So water should be carried in Nalgene bottles, water bladders, or similar devices. You should be able to carry 3-4 liters of water with you at all times. Please do not bring alcohol. It is illegal to have alcohol in the park. Our staff will not carry it for you. Besides, drinking and high altitude do not mix well.



ZANZIBAR



The main islands of ZANZIBAR are Unguja, Pemba, Tumbatu and Mafia. Stone Town, on the western shore of Unguja Island, is the Capital of this region. The city gained its name from the many large multi-story “stone” buildings that fill the old town area. These structures are actually constructed with coral and mortar, not stone. There are currently about 1700 of these buildings in the Stone Town section of Zanzibar City. 1100 of these have been classified as having architectural significance. In this small area, which was originally a peninsula, almost an island at times, and which is only about 83 city blocks square, there are 23 “landmark buildings”, two cathedrals, over 50 Mosques, 157 balconies, verandas and loggias and more than 200 carved doors. Zanzibar’s Stone Town has been designated a “World Heritage Site” by the United Nations.

Where to go on Zanzibar:

Different areas of the island have very different characteristics, so it is a very good idea to understand the dominant features of each area prior to deciding to spend the majority of your vacation in that area. Zanzibar Beach Holidays

Many intrepid travelers who head out on Safari or to climb Kilimanjaro choose Zanzibar as a place to retreat to afterwards. With its beaches and water sports and the potential to be an idyllic place to unwind it is not hard to see why. However, this site is designed to make sure that Zanzibar holiday makers know how to make the most of your trip and find either the excitement or the relaxation you are seeking.

Things to do in Zanzibar:

Spend the day in Stone Town

Stone Town is the heart and soul of the island. An incredible mash-up of winding alleys and old Arabic-style buildings, you can temporarily lose yourself (both physically and mentally) in the town’s magic. Soak up the local culture by sipping a cup of coffee from a local vendor or just keep on wandering through the streets, discovering unique little spots at every turn.



Head to Jozani Forest:



A vast and scenic spread of green, Jozani is the last indigenous forest left on Zanzibar. Located inland from Chwaka Bay the area often floods, which luckily nurtures a unique swamp forest of many amazing looking trees and ferns. The forest is best reached via bus (309 or 310), by chartered taxi, or as part of an organised tour.

Catch some sun at Nungwi beach:

Nungwi is a village found on Zanzibar's North West tip. This is a popular place yet it's not overrun by tourists, and it's one of Zanzibar's top beaches as the tide doesn't head out too far. This is a great beach for those looking to just soak up some sun and dip their toes in the sea but who don't need the luxury of a fancy hotel on top.



Visit Prison Island:



A half-hour boat trip from Zanzibar, Prison Island provides a fascinating glimpse into the island's slightly dark past – this land was once used as a place where slaves were detained and, when slavery was abolished, it functioned as a camp where people with deadly diseases were sent. Fortunately enough, that is all in the past and today the island is a nature reserve for giant tortoises and a place to see the ruins that once functioned as the prison.

Eat at Forodhani market:

A spectacular night-time food market, Forodhani opens in the late afternoon in Stone Town. The buzz and energy of this market are spectacular, and here you can find fresh local produce as well as freshly grilled fish, meat and vegetables. The seafood options are by far the most popular and the fish is served with fried potato balls, naan bread and samosas.



Palace Museum:



Commonly known as the Sultan's Palace, The Palace Museum is perhaps the most historic building in Stone Town and is a must-see for any tourist. The Palace Museum is located in the waterfront, overlooking the ocean, and was built in the 19th century as a home for the Sultan and his family. After the 1964 revolution the site was used as a Government building and was renamed as The People's Palace. Today it serves as a museum that showcases relics of the past Sultan family.



House of Wonders:

The House of Wonders is a hugely important and visually stunning historic building in Stone Town. It hosts a highly interesting exhibition and offers a brilliant insight into Zanzibari and Swahili culture. The House of Wonders is the grandest and tallest building in all of Stone Town and is found in a prominent location in front of the Forodhani Gardens on the old town's seafront, in Mizingani Road.



Spice Tour:



Zanzibar is known for its spice trade, so what better way to immerse yourself in the local culture than learning about its wealthiest and most profitable industry? Tourists can choose from a variety of tours and explore the winding streets with expert tour guides who will inform you of the origins of the industry, as well as teaching guests about the wide variety of spices that Zanzibar produces and trades in.

The Old Fort:

The oldest building in Stone Town, the Old Fort is located on the seafront, right in front of the famous Forodhani Gardens. Originally built in the 17th century with the purpose of defending the island from attacks from the Portuguese, nowadays the Old Fort is one of Stone Town's main sights. Visitors can admire the remains of the former fort and amble around the courtyard in the center, where sellers have local produce for sale. An old amphitheater still hosts events and functions in the fort.



Enjoy great views and fine food at The Rock:

The Rock restaurant offers some stunning views of the island, as it is located on a rock with a view over all the city's main sights. Visitors don't only come for the view though – fine dining also awaits with some of the best seafood Zanzibar has to offer. Make sure to book as this exclusive restaurant has only 12 tables and it's often fully booked.





TANZANIA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why should I choose Northern Circuit Adventure?

Because we are enthusiastic to introduce people to the wonders of Kenya and Tanzania. Because we will listen to what a client says, instead of just talking to them. Because we know what it is like to try and plan a safari and suddenly realize just how daunting a task it can be? Because we know that for some, a trip to Kenya and/or Tanzania may be the realization of a dream come true, and we want to share in that joy.

Why should I go to Africa now?

You can now apply for an Online Visa to visit the United Republic of Tanzania (both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar). You are required to fill in the online form, make payment, and submit your application online. Your form will be internally reviewed and processed.

Applicants will be notified through their e-mails whether their applications have been accepted or rejected. They may also TRACK their application statuses through the online system. Applicants may as well be required to visit the nearest Tanzanian Embassies or Consular Offices for interviews. <https://eservices.immigration.go.tz/visa>

Is it safe to travel to Kenya and/or Tanzania?

The continent of Africa is huge. It is three times larger than the United States and it is larger than the U.S., China and Europe combined! If something happens in one country, rarely does it affect what happens in a neighboring country. Security and safety is, and should be, a concern not only for travelers, but tour organizers as well. We are in constant contact with people who live and work in Kenya and Tanzania and carefully monitor situations that could, in any way, affect our clients.

What kind of food we expect to be served and can special dietary needs be met?

Every attempt will be made to meet any special dietary need, but you must make us aware of special needs well in advance of your trip. Breakfast usually consists of fruit and cereal, eggs, bacon or sausage, toast and beverages. Lunch is usually comprised of cold meats and salads with bread and a choice of cheese, or a buffet of pasta dishes and quiches. Dinner can be a buffet offering a wide array of choices including beef, chicken and pork, or a set three- to four-course meal. Most people are surprised and impressed with the quality of food while on safari.

What about drinking water and ice cubes?

We recommend you do not drink water from the tap or use ice cubes, though many upmarket properties now do use bottled/purified water for ice cubes. You will need to ask if ice cubes are made with bottled or purified water. Bottled water is provided by the camps/lodges and this should be used to drink, brush your teeth and take medicine. Additional bottles of water can be purchased at a nominal cost.

Will I encounter snakes, flying insects and spiders?

Spiders, snakes and other insects play a vital role to the Kenyan and Tanzanian ecosystems. It is highly unlikely you will see - let alone have an encounter with - a snake. We have seen more snakes in our gardens here at home than we ever have on safari.

What kinds of immunizations are necessary?

The Centers for Disease Control has a very helpful section on travel to East Africa on its website at www.cdc.gov/travel. We cannot emphasize enough how important it is for you to speak with your doctor before getting any shots. Some health insurance companies will reimburse the costs of travel immunizations. Antimalarial medication is highly recommended, and again we urge you to discuss with your doctor which would be best for you. Plan ahead for getting your vaccinations, as some require more than one injection. The island of Zanzibar recently implemented a rule that travelers arriving from yellow fever endemic zones (which include Kenya and mainland Tanzania) must show proof of a yellow fever card upon arrival. However, the checking of cards seems spotty at best. If you do not have a yellow fever card and are traveling to Zanzibar, we do recommend you obtain a certificate of exemption in case you are asked. If traveling to both Kenya and Tanzania (not just transit time), you must have a yellow fever card.



What kind of luggage should I bring?

It may not look glamorous, but a large duffel-type of luggage is your best bet. A rolling duffel is fine. We cannot urge you enough to NOT use hard-sided luggage. Those who use internal flights will be limited to 15kg (or 33 pounds), including photographic/video camera equipment. Many areas of Kenya and Tanzania are very dusty, so we recommend you use plastic bags that close securely at the top to protect your photography/video equipment/clothing.

What kind of clothes should I bring?

Practical and comfortable clothes are the "haute couture" of Africa. One of the best investments you can make is "convertible pants," which have zip-off legging. Bring khaki or neutral colored clothing and a sweater or fleece cover-up for the cool mornings and evenings. Many camps/lodges in Kenya and Tanzania offer laundry service (except for women's "smalls") for a relatively nominal price.

Is English spoken in Kenya or Tanzania?

English and Swahili are spoken in both Kenya and Tanzania. Communication should not be a problem. While it may not be necessary, we recommend you learn a few phrases of Swahili. Trying phrases like "Asante Sana" (thank you very much), "Hujambo" (how are you?) and "Habari gani" (what's happening?) will do a lot to elicit a smile from your guide and camp/lodge personnel.

What if something happens and I need immediate medical attention?

For Tanzania safaris we have recently started including Flying Doctor's tourist membership and are moving toward that trend with Kenya itineraries as well. The Flying Doctor's Society of Africa operates a 24-hour air ambulance from Nairobi's Wilson Airport. They will get you from wherever you are to the closest, best medical facility, usually Nairobi. Flying Doctor is air ambulance only and does not include any accrued medical expenses. The likelihood of you having to use this service is practically nonexistent. And if you don't, your membership fee is used to provide medical and health care services to the poor in remote parts of East Africa. It is a win-win situation. <https://www.flyingdoctorsafrica.org/membership/>

What about tipping?

Tipping is at your discretion and should be based on the level of service you get from not only your guide, but camp/lodge staff as well. The general guideline for tipping of safari guides is \$10 per day, per vehicle - not per person. For camp/lodge porters, the guideline is \$1 per porter. Many camps/lodges have "staff tip boxes," where money placed in the box is shared equally by all camp/lodge personnel.

Should I bring US currency, traveler's cheques or credit cards?

Many camps/lodges do not accept credit cards. For the few that do, MasterCard and Visa only. If using a credit card, keep in mind a 3-5% surcharge (if not more!) will be applied in addition to any international transaction fee levied by the credit card company. This all adds up to some hefty fees. We recommend you bring cash in \$1's, \$5's, \$10's and \$20's. US dollars are widely accepted, though \$50 and \$100 bills are not. Traveler's checks are NO longer widely accepted in Tanzania or Kenya. We also recommend upon arrival in either country, getting some local currency. If anything, it does make for a great souvenir.

Should we fly from location to location or drive?

Driving from location to location is certainly less expensive than flying. Roads in rural areas, especially en-route to game parks, are unpaved, extremely dusty and bumpy. This is not being said to dissuade you from driving from park to park. Instead, it is being noted as a reality of safari travel. An advantage to driving from location to location is that you have an opportunity to stop along the way and perhaps have encounters with local people that you would otherwise not have. Flying, on the other hand, affords you more time for game viewing. Personally, we like a combination of flying and driving.

What about my overall comfort?

There will be some inconveniences, which is par for the course when traveling in Africa. Some airlines will not run exactly on schedule, roads can be rough and vehicles may experience problems. This is, after all, Africa! If you want paved roads, a guarantee of seeing a lion or rhino and everything to run like clockwork, you should rethink a safari and instead go to Disney's Animal Kingdom in Florida.



Should I get travel insurance?

A trip to Africa can be perceived as an investment. As such, you should do whatever you can to protect your investment. Travelers insurance can be expensive, so we suggest you shop around for the best price. Northern Circuit Adventure is not in the business of selling travel insurance.

WITH THE UNCERTAINTIES OF TODAY'S WORLD, WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU HAVE A FULL COMPREHENSIVE PERSONAL INSURANCE FOR ANY AND EVERY EVENTUALITY.

Aside from wildlife viewing, what other activities are available while on safari?

You can do virtually anything while on safari in Kenya and/or Tanzania. Golfing, mountain hiking, chimpanzee trekking, horseback riding, hot-air balloon rides, scuba diving and snorkeling along the coasts, and fishing are some of the activities you can take part in. Both Kenya and Tanzania have miles and miles of pristine beaches with very comfortable accommodations. A trip to the beach is the perfect end to a safari.

Do you charge a preparation fee?

That seems to be the trend among many safari planners, but we do not charge a preparation fee.

What type of electrical power will I find in East Africa?

First and foremost, please remember that when out in the bush, electricity is a luxury and should not be taken for granted. Most tented camps and lodges use generators and Solar that run specific hours, generally turned off after midnight and not turned on again until early morning. Solar power is increasing in popularity but, again, do keep in mind there may be times electricity is not available. Make sure to bring a flashlight, and extra batteries (pre-charged in case there is no power) for all electrical/digital cameras, etc. In Kenya and Tanzania, the electricity supply is 220 / 240V AC, 50 Hz. If you use electrical appliances that are not compatible or at least dual-voltage, you should bring your own converter and adapter plugs. Camps/lodges will help as much as possible to ensure your electrical needs are met, but ultimately it is your responsibility to be prepared.

When should I start planning our safari?

You can start planning your safari whenever you want. Our first trip ever to Kenya and Tanzania took us over a year to plan! To ensure you get accommodations you want, rather than having to settle for what is available, we recommend planning and booking a trip a year in advance of your proposed travel period. Some areas that are especially popular during specific months, have limited accommodations and they fill up.

Why do prices given from Northern Circuit Adventure seem higher than other's?

We believe our prices are very competitive, considering the quality of service and attention to detail given to our clients. We just don't look at operator brochures for ideas on itineraries, pluck one out and then hand it over for your consideration. We take the time to communicate, make changes to an itinerary, re-price that itinerary ... it all takes considerable thought, energy and knowledge. On average, it takes three or four drafts of an itinerary before it is "just right." We will not compromise quality for lower prices. It is as simple as that.

Is there electricity in the camps?

The electricity supply in Tanzania is 230V running at 50Hz. Plugs are 3 point square. If you are planning to bring a video camera charger or any other electrical device, it is advisable to bring voltage and plug adaptors. Not all camps and lodges in the national parks are furnished with electrical sockets in their rooms. Electricity in the national parks/reserves is sourced either by solar power or a generator.

Is the water on safari safe to drink?

In some places tap water is safe, but generally it is not advisable to drink or brush your teeth with tap water. Only drink water that you know is safe. Stick to bottled water or canned drinks. Well-known brands are safe. Have bottled mineral water opened in your presence and regards all ice as unsafe. Alcohol does not sterilize a drink.

If in doubt purify water by boiling it or with chlorine or iodine using a water purifier. One of the safest methods is to use 2% tincture of iodine, add 1 drop of iodine to each cup of water and wait 20 minutes before drinking.



Wildlife safety while on safari

Most camps in Tanzania are within the natural habitat of the wildlife and not fenced in nor do they have walls. There are no electric fences around the camps either, nor around the campsites. Animals do sometimes wander through the camps; therefore you need to be cautious. Please listen to your guide's instructions to ensure you are safe. We have never heard of a guest being injured in any way in a tented camp or campsite who has obeyed the rules. Keep your tent door or flaps closed and you will be safe. Just be aware of your surroundings at all times and you will be fine. Having wild animals in such close proximity is one of the main reasons people go on safari - enjoying the wildlife in their natural habitat is what makes the experience all the more special.

The game drives are conducted in open-air vehicles which allow you to get close to the animals. The animals actually become accustomed to the vehicles and eventually ignore them. For some guests this is a once in a life time experience.

What types of vehicles are used whilst on safari?

Minibus: Most safaris in East Africa are conducted in safari minibuses. They have large pop-up roofs or no sides. Although equipped with nine seats the vehicles only seat seven people, ensuring you have a window seat.

4x4 Safari Vehicles: Selected safaris use sturdier 4x4 vehicles. These either have pop-up roofs or no sides. They are used when the terrain requires a more rugged vehicle. They have space for luggage and are designed to get you from A to B.

Game viewing vehicles: Clients who are flown directly to the lodge will enjoy game drives in the lodge's game viewing vehicles. Rugged and tough, these vehicles will get you to some of the more remote game viewing areas.





What laundry facilities are available on an African safari?

A laundry service is available at most hotels, lodges and tented camps and there may be an additional charge for this service.

A typical day on safari

- 🐾 Wake before sunrise to a cup of tea or coffee before heading out on your morning game drive or bush walk. This is generally the best time of day for game viewing zebra, eland, gerenuk, giraffe, gazelle and wildebeest. And always be on the lookout for lion and cheetah.
- 🐾 Either enjoy a bush breakfast or return to enjoy a shower and breakfast at the lodge.
- 🐾 Spend the afternoon visiting a local tribal village, cool off in the swimming pool or picnic out in the bush.
- 🐾 After tea, either drive, walk or horse ride out to the plains as this is the perfect time for observing predators in action. From a suitable viewpoint you will watch the sun slip over the horizon while sipping on your sundowners.
- 🐾 Return to the lodge for a three course candlelit meal under the star littered African sky.

What should I pack for a safari?

Tanzania has a varied climate and it is advisable to pack for hot, cold, wet or dusty conditions. What you pack will be determined by the activities you plan to undertake while in Tanzania. For game viewing and walking safaris pack casual, lightweight and comfortable clothes. Avoid white, bright and vivid patterned clothing as studies prove that most African wildlife are able to see bright blue over any colour. You might wish to pack something more formal if dining at upmarket hotels or nights outs.

In some areas it is inappropriate for women, and occasionally men to wear shorts and short sleeved shirts. It is best to check the local custom. The equatorial Tanzanian sun burns bright and strong so be sure to pack a wide brim hat over the baseball style caps. Sunshades and a good quality sunscreen are essential.

Tips on photography

We recommend that you take more than one camera in your group when travelling on safari. Should something happen to your one and only camera, for some reason, you will always have a backup. Some photographers recommend that a digital (SLR) single lens reflex camera is the best; some suggest that a 35mm camera with a zoom lens that extends to 200mm at a minimum for wildlife pictures. For birds a 400mm lens is recommended, but 500mm would be better. Please bear in mind that animals are often within close enough range of the vehicle for most cameras to capture good images.

Bring plenty of film and extra batteries. If you run out during your vacation, you can generally find film and batteries available at lodges and along major tourist routes, however, we recommend that if you are using films/rolls that you bring 2 rolls of 36 exposures per day. If you are a serious photographer you will need double that. Protect your equipment on safari with a solid camera bag, as well as a lens cleaning cloth and a soft brush to eliminate dust.

Users of digital cameras should pack rechargeable batteries, a charger, adaptors and converter, and one or two high-capacity memory cards (1 gigabyte is often recommended) to store the photos you have taken.

For a digital video camera, bring long-life batteries, charger, and adaptors and converter for the charger.

Always pack your camera equipment and film in your hand luggage and never leave it unattended, in case of a lost luggage situation.



Gratuities/Tipping

Tipping is not compulsory, however, naturally appreciated and only if you feel that the level of service you received deserves appreciation. Tipping is at the discretion of guests. The average tip amounts are approximately \$5 to \$10 per guest per day. Tip boxes are provided in the camps, and the monies are divided by the camp managers.

What kind of insurance do I need?

It is a condition of booking that the sole responsibility lies with the guest to ensure that they carry the correct comprehensive travel and medical insurance to cover themselves, as well as any dependents/travelling companions for the duration of their trip to East Africa. This insurance should include coverage in respect of, but not limited to, the following eventualities: cancellation or curtailment of the trip to Africa, emergency evacuation expenses, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, and damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money and goods.





Suggested Luggage List

- 🐾 Shorts and t-shirts for the day (not in bright colours)
- 🐾 Long trousers and long sleeved shirt for the evening as protection from mosquitoes
- 🐾 A fleece for the early morning and evening game drives as it tends to get a bit chilly, especially in the highlands and the Serengeti
- 🐾 A light weight waterproof jacket in case of a sudden shower
- 🐾 A swimming costume as most lodges have swimming pools
- 🐾 A pair of good walking boots if planning any walking safaris
- 🐾 A pair of trainers
- 🐾 More formal attire if you are staying at a prestigious city hotel
- 🐾 Underwear and socks
- 🐾 A wide brimmed hat to protect you from the sun
- 🐾 Good quality sunglasses
- 🐾 If you wear contact lenses, we recommend you bring along a pair of glasses in case you get irritation from the dust or pollen
- 🐾 Plenty of high factor sun cream (SPF15 or higher) and insect repellent
- 🐾 Personal toiletries
- 🐾 Malaria tablets and any personal prescription drugs along with their generic name
- 🐾 A good pair of binoculars and a torch
- 🐾 A camera equipment in a waterproof and dustproof zip lock bag
- 🐾 Plenty of film or memory for your camera and a battery charger
- 🐾 A small first aid kit and a pack of wet wipes
- 🐾 A book on East Africa's wildlife and birds so you can identify what you see on safari
- 🐾 A small supply of sweets/pens/pencils are handy for child as it is always appreciated
- 🐾 Visas, tickets, passports, money, etc.





CONTACT US

Whether you are looking to begin your expedition up Mount Kilimanjaro or explore the wildlife of Africa, we have something suitable for all of you. Get in touch with us today and our team of specialists will help build your experience of a lifetime to Tanzania.

If our program sounds like something you'd be interested in doing, we'd urge you to please call us or emails us. Also, please recruit other people, within your sphere of influence, whom you believe would be of similar interest.

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Let us make your safari

