



## VISA INFORMATION

### The following nationalities do NOT require a visa for Tanzania:

*Antigua & Barbuda, Anguilla, Ashmore & Cartein Islands, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Botswana, British Virgin Islands, British Indian Ocean Territory, Brunei, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Cocos Island, Cook Islands, Christmas Island, Cyprus, Dominica, Falk Island, Gambia, Ghana, Gibraltar Grenada, Guernsey, Guyana, Heard Island, Hong Kong, Isle of Man, Jamaica, Jersey, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Malaysia, Malawi, Malta, Montserrat, Mauritius, Madagascar, Macao, Mozambique Namibia, Nauru, Niue Islands, Norfolk Island, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Romania, Ross dependency, Samoa, Seychelles, Singapore, Swaziland, Solomon Island, St. Kitts & Navis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, St: Helena, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks & Caicos, Tokelau, Tuvalu, The Gambia, Tonga, Uganda, Vanuatu, Zambia, Zimbabwe.*

**All other nationalities must obtain a visa in advance**, if travelling from a country where there is a Tanzanian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate to issue visas. This is highly recommended, as it alleviates unnecessary delays on arrival.

Visas can also be obtained **on arrival** at the following points of entry:

- Dar-es-Salaam International Airport
- Kilimanjaro International Airport
- Zanzibar International Airport
- Namanga border crossing point, between Tanzania and Kenya

### Visa Fees:

Tourist Visa                      U\$50 pp valid for 90 days / U\$100 pp for U.S. and Irish citizens

Double Entry                    U\$100 pp

Transit Visa                      Free, valid for 2 weeks, can only be issued at point of entry

Please be sure that you have exact cash amount with you in US\$ bank notes. Traveler's checks, credit cards or any other currency (including Kenyan or Tanzania Shillings) will NOT be accepted tender for the processing of your visa.

***Yellow fever vaccination card is required for all travelers arriving from, or having transited through, yellow fever endemic countries.***

***Kindly double check all visa requirements with your local Tanzanian High Commission, Consulate or Embassy, as these are subject to change at any time. Ensure that you have all necessary documents & visas prior to departure from your home country (unless these can be obtained on arrival) as Giltedge Africa cannot be held liable should entry be denied.***

## PASSPORTS

Your passport must be valid for a minimum of **6 months** after your intended return date and have at least **2 consecutive blank pages**.

*Should you be visiting more than one country, please ensure that you have a sufficient number of blank visa pages (not endorsement pages) in your passport, i.e. at least 2 consecutive/side by side blank pages per country just in case.*

## BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

### Local / regional commercial flights within East Africa:

Please pay careful attention to the luggage allowance on your local or regional **commercial** flights, as they may differ depending on the airline.

### Light aircraft shuttle, scheduled or private charter flights:

If you are also flying on **light aircraft charter** flights, please note that luggage space on board these small aircraft is very limited. (If you are unsure, check whether the words light aircraft or charter flight are used in our itinerary.) The baggage allowance on your charter flights is restricted to **15kg (±33lb)** per person in a **soft** bag INCLUDING any hand luggage such as handbags or photographic / video equipment. This should be in squashy bags with no frames or rigid structures, small enough to fit into the luggage hold and NOT hard Samsonite-like suitcases. Wheels on a bag are only permissible if they are not part of a solid frame or rigid structure.

Any excess luggage may involve the use of an extra aircraft to carry such luggage and may result in additional costs, which must be settled direct.



## CLOTHING

Clothing should be comfortable and casual on safaris. Light weight and light color clothing is suitable for the bush.

**Early Morning:** Early morning game drives can be cool and crisp, so a sweater or jacket and trousers are recommended.

**Mid-morning / Early Afternoon:** Whether on a game drive or not, it is best to dress in a light (long-sleeved) shirt and shorts/light trousers. Adequate protection against the strong sun is crucial; apply sun block regularly and use a hat, scarf, and sunglasses.

**Afternoons / Evenings:** It gets chilly in the evening, so take a sweater or a jacket along on a game drive. For dinner, a long-sleeved shirt, sweater or jacket, trousers and thick socks help protect against insects and cooler temperatures. Always apply insect repellents on exposed areas.

Here is a short checklist of clothing essentials:

- Light hats, caps, or handkerchiefs to protect your head, neck, and nose from sun and dust
- Lightweight but warm jacket for cool evenings
- Light cotton shirts and T-shirts (long and short sleeved recommended)
- Linen shorts and trousers
- Socks and undergarments
- Lightweight and comfortable sandals and walking boots
- Lightweight waterproof windbreaker
- Lightweight rain gear
- Sweater
- Swimming costume
- There is no color code, but light, earthy colors are recommended. Avoid white and loud, bright colors.
- At high altitudes, where early mornings and evenings can be chilly, warm sweaters, socks and closed shoes are recommended.

Certain restaurants and hotels in cities may require smart casual dress and a tie for the men.

Do not bring your best designer clothing on safari as laundry is always hand washed and ironed by coal iron. No responsibility is taken for damage to clothing in most cases. Laundry is generally returned on the next day depending on the weather conditions.

## CURRENCY

**The central banks do not accept US Dollar bills if they are older than approx. 2001.**

Barclays Bank has a huge network of ATMs covering most major towns. They support MasterCard, Visa, Plus and Cirrus international networks.

U.S Dollar cash can be converted to local bank notes at airports, hotels, and banks. Cash should either be kept with you or locked up in a secure hotel safe. Tanzania uses Tanzania Shillings which is made up of 100 cents.

Major credit cards are widely accepted by shops, restaurants and hotels. Some merchants may add a surcharge. Credit cards are NOT accepted by market traders or government institutions, so travelers should keep some local and foreign notes with them at all times.

## DRINKING WATER

The number one rule is to be careful of drinking water and especially ice! If you don't know for certain that the water is safe, assume the worst. Reputable brands of bottled water or soft drinks are generally fine. Only use water from containers covered with a serrated seal—not just with tops or corks. Bottled water is freely available, and your safari driver/guide will provide bottled water daily.

## ELECTRICITY

Kenya & Tanzania uses the 240-volt system. The power supply is usually reliable in most places, though there are occasional failures. Power sockets are of the three-square-pin variety as used in the United Kingdom, although some older buildings have round pin sockets. If a power supply is important to you, be sure to bring a universal adapter with you.

## HEALTH & HEALTH PRECAUTIONS

Travelers on special medication should carry ample supplies at all times. It is also advisable to carry wrist tags, your physician's address, and instructions as well as prescription details for emergencies.

**Health and Hygiene** – Local safety standards and regulations of the countries you visit will not necessarily conform to British, European or US health and safety standards. It is important you are aware of the risks involved as you are responsible for the suitability of your travel plans. Countries rich in the larger wildlife are always rich in smaller wildlife as well – insects, spiders and mosquitoes are common and their presence does not necessarily indicate a lack of cleanliness but rather is a fact of life.

**On Safari** - Although every precaution is taken by game lodges and organizers to ensure the safety of their guests, it must be accepted that there can be a small risk as one is travelling in areas where wild animals wander freely. Some game lodges, safari operators and adventure sports operators will ask clients to sign an indemnity form on arrival. Bear in mind that electricity and water may be erratic in very remote areas, and this may be beyond the control of the safari lodge. Expect travel in the dry season to be dusty and roads in the wet season to be muddy and occasionally flooded.

**Malaria** – Some areas East Africa are designated malaria-risk areas, especially in the summer between October and May, so you need to take anti-malaria tablets and reduce the chance of being bitten with insect sprays and long sleeved clothing and pants. In the dry season from May to September, there is less mosquito activity. Happily, this is also the best time for game viewing. Babies and very young children should avoid malaria areas.

Always consult the appropriate medical authority for the latest inoculation and medicine requirements for any country you plan to visit. Vaccination, inoculation, and medical certificates or receipts should be carried on the trip at all times. All inoculations should be done 4 to 6 weeks before your departure.

**Yellow Fever vaccination is required in Tanzania** if you are arriving from an endemic country.

Always check the latest requirements with your own doctor before you travel, although for a useful source of supplementary health information, check with the Scottish NHS or the CDC ([Centers for Disease Control & Prevention | Tanzania](#)).

## PACKING LIST

**Pack lightly!** Not only is excess luggage cumbersome (*and costly if it is overweight*), it is simply not necessary. And besides, you'll want to leave plenty of space in your luggage to accommodate all your purchases. Inexpensive laundry facilities are available at the lodges, and "same-day" service is provided.

Hat, sunglasses, toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, combs, suntan lotion, swimwear, small first aid kit, a flashlight, an alarm clock, films, camera, batteries, notebook are some items which should not be forgotten when packing for your trip.

**First Aid:** Although our vehicles and lodges usually carry first-aid kits, it is advisable that travelers also carry their own. The kit could include band-aids; gauze dressings and tape; alcohol prep pads; antiseptic cleansing wipe; anti-fungal powder; antihistamines; antidiarrheal agents; pain killers; antibiotics; children's medicines; sunburn creams; thermometer; and toothache and oral pain swabs.

**Contact lenses** can become uncomfortable during game drives due to dusty conditions. Bring sunglasses.

**Cameras:** A snapshot camera is recommended, together with a zoom camera with full lens and filter kit. Bring lots of extra film (especially fast film) and spare batteries because these items can be very expensive if purchased en route. Early mornings and late afternoons provide the best light for wildlife photography. Digital cameras have limited memory, so do not forget to bring extra memory cards along. You are also advised to carry a dust-proof bag for all your camera equipment.

A small, light video camera is preferable. Bring extra tapes and batteries. Batteries can be charged in lodges with the right adapter (see "Electricity" under the General Information section for more information).

**Binoculars:** Light, powerful, auto-focus binoculars are recommended; however, your driver/guide usually carries a pair along on game drives.

## SAFETY

As in most countries worldwide, crimes against people and property are a fact of life, so you are encouraged to take basic common-sense precautions:

- Avoid heavy or expensive jewellery, as this attracts unnecessary attention.
- Do not carry all your essential documents and travellers cheques with you.
- Avoid carrying large sums of money with you.
- Leave valuable jewellery, spare money and your passport in your hotel safe.
- Do not flash photographic equipment in the streets.
- People are generally friendly and helpful in rural and tourist areas, but avoid downtown districts at night, driving at night if possible and walking at night.
- Ask for, and follow, the advice of our local representatives or your hotel/lodge manager.

Your **safety on safari** is our utmost concern and a few points should be kept in mind while staying at lodges:

- Most of the safari lodges are unfenced and dangerous animals do wander through the camps
- Please listen to the safari guides and staff, their precautions should be taken seriously
- Never walk alone, even to your room
- Observe animals silently and with a minimum disturbance to their activities

## SHOPPING

East African products are as diverse as the countries that make up the region. There are traditional artifacts, fantastic jewelry, beautiful wood carvings, the world's best coffee, precious stones, furniture, brightly colored cloth, clothing and textiles, musical instruments, wonderful modern art, and much more. There are also excellent gift shops in many hotels and lodges throughout east Africa where prices are not usually negotiable. But for the dedicated bargain hunter, the markets are the place to be, and there visitors are expected to "haggle". The art of bargaining is deeply rooted in east African culture—it's considered an essential business skill. Starting prices are always exaggerated and the negotiating process can be lengthy, which frustrates some westerners. If you do become impatient, you can finalize proceedings by declaring your "absolute final price" and asking for the sellers. If you both agree on this amount, the deal is done, and you will probably have ended up paying approximately 50% to 60% of the vendor's starting price. The bottom line is, bargain hard but be reasonable . . . don't forget that good carvings and beaded jewelry in particular are works of art, both difficult and time-consuming to create.

## TIME ZONE

Kenya, Tanzania & Uganda are 3 hours ahead of GMT, Rwanda is 2 Hours ahead of GMT.

## TIPPING | GRATUITIES

Tipping is customary but it is not compulsory and solely at your discretion.

In **restaurants and hotels**, a 10% charge has almost always been added to the cost of your accommodation (the menu will state whether a surcharge has been added), but most travelers throw in another 5% or so for good service. Otherwise, 10% is considered usual and customary for **waiters, bartenders, hotel room service, and taxi drivers**. For **porters and museum guides**, \$US1. to \$US2. is appropriate depending on degree of service rendered.

### On safari in East Africa:

- Ranger/guide \$ 20 per room per day (\$10 per person per day)
- Tracker \$ 15 per room per day
- General camp staff / Butlers \$ 15 per room per day (this is a pooled tip shared among the staff i.e. housekeepers, waiters, bartenders etc.)
- Private Guides: If you have a guide during your stay, we would recommend \$6-10 for a half day tour per person and \$10-15 for a full day tour per person. If the guide is accompanying, you for several days then the norm is to tip him or her at the end of the tour.

## TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Make two copies of all your important documents, like passports. Take one with you, in a different bag to the original, and leave one at home with a responsible, easily contactable person. Try to memorize all your important numbers - passport numbers, credit card numbers, etc. If you lose your bag, this can be an enormous help.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

Please ensure you have **full comprehensive travel insurance** covering you in the event of any serious illness or injury - due to the remoteness of some of the locations, your travel insurance should cover you in the event of an emergency airlift/evacuation being required. Please also note that travel insurance should be **purchased within 21 days of initial trip deposit to cover any pre-existing conditions.**

## FINAL NOTE

The information contained in this guide was correct at the time of printing (**December 2017**) and compiled in good faith. Should your own experiences show that changes should be made to this information, we would be pleased to hear from you, so that we can update this guide accordingly.

***We wish you an unforgettable African experience!***