

Tanzania - OVERVIEW

Updated: July 29, 2014



Country Name Long Form: United Republic of Tanzania

Government Type: Republic

Languages Spoken: Swahili, Kiunguja, English, Arabic, many local languages

National Flag



Tanzania is a Tier II Country. Significant security measures are necessary.

	Overall Assessment	Political Violence	Crime	Terrorism	Travel Safety
Tanzania					
Key: (L) Low – (M) Medium – (H) High – (C)Critical					

POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Political Violence is rated at MEDIUM

Tanzania has experienced its share of political violence, especially prior to elections in Arusha, Mwanza, Mbeya, Mtwara, and Stone Town, Zanzibar. Such violence may increase as Tanzania navigates its current Constitutional Assembly, municipal elections scheduled for October 2014, and leading to presidential elections scheduled for October 2015.

Demonstrations and rallies are normally peaceful. However, they can escalate to violence quickly. Rival factions can become aggressive towards one another and the police. Police often respond in kind exacerbating already tense situations.

TERRORISM

Terrorism is assessed as MEDIUM

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Tanzania has experienced an uptick in domestic terror-related attacks since 2012. Although there had been a steady decline in overall terrorism related risks since the prominent 1998 al-Qaeda bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam, concerns regarding transnational terrorism have also begun to rise in recent years. The latest incidents appear to be domestic in nature and have occurred in varying parts of the country by separate groups influenced by conflicting rationales, targeting religious institutions, political rallies and tourist-centric areas.

Terrorism is a concern in East Africa, generally and Tanzania, specifically. Terrorist incidents in the recent past highlight both the continuing threat and the capacity of terrorist groups to carry out such attacks.

There is no known organization targeting American citizens or affiliated interests in Tanzania. There is very little anti-American sentiment.

RULE OF LAW / CORRUPTION

The Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2013 gave Tanzania a score of 33, indicating that the country has high level of corruption. The CPI rates countries by the perceived levels of corruption in their public sector, with the least corrupt country receiving a maximum score of 100.

CRIME

Crime is assessed as **CRITICAL**

The vast majority of incidents are non-violent, property crime and non-violent street crime. Street crime is prevalent in urban areas and takes place throughout Dar es Salaam at all time of day or night. Most incidents are crimes of opportunity targeting people carrying bags, backpacks, attaches, computer cases, cameras or pocketbooks. Most of these snatch and grab crimes are committed by unarmed assailants. Assailants tend to operate in small groups where only one person may overtly take part in a mugging. Non-confrontational theft remains the most significant and persistent concern.

Violent crimes have been reported as well.

Residential burglaries are common for occupied and unoccupied dwellings, inadequate perimeter walls, minimal lighting, non-existent or weak grilles, and poorly paid guards contribute to security problems. Home invasions with multiple assailants who overpower lone or sleeping guards have become somewhat commonplace in Dar es Salaam.

Piracy, originating from Somalia and the larger Horn of Africa, had previously threatened some of Tanzania's maritime industry but the threat has declined significantly as international efforts to combat Somali piracy have proven successful since 2011.

KIDNAPPING

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Organized kidnappings are rare. Expatriates can freely drive throughout the city, day or night. “Express kidnappings,” however, are somewhat common. Expatriates and tourists become victims when they hail taxis at airports, bus stations, hotels, or on the street. Victims are held until they provide passwords for all credit and debit cards in their possession and all their cards are maxed out. Victims are usually released after midnight, often with cab fare.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual assaults and rape are problems. The overwhelming majority of victims are Tanzanians. However, rape and rape/murder of expatriates and tourists are a concern, including during home invasions. Although Tanzanians are victims, it appears that expatriates and tourists are targeted because, even in the unlikely event that criminals are caught, criminals know that most tourists will not be around long enough to testify against them.

NATURAL DISASTERS

Tanzania lies on an active seismic region and the country does experience periodic earthquakes of moderate intensity, whose impact can be exacerbated by the country’s poor building standards. The majority of these seismic events occur in the northern and southern portions of the country, although the west has been affected as well.

Most low-lying areas of Tanzania experience flooding during the rainy season which runs from March through May, although some years there are periods of extended rain during November and December.

STANDING TRAVEL ADVICE

- Stay in groups, travel in a caravan consisting of two or more vehicles, and stay on the main roads.
- Ensure that someone not traveling with you is aware of your itinerary.
- Avoid hotels that do not have adequate security.
- Intercity travel after dark anywhere in should be avoided.
- It is preferable to stay in the main tourist destinations.
- Pay close attention to your surroundings, especially when walking.
- Official taxis are a suitable means of travel in daylight hours in urban areas. It is highly recommended that taxis be arranged through your hotel, or program office. Negotiate the price in advance.
- Women should be especially careful when traveling alone and avoid staying out late without a trusted male escort.
- Make sensible security precautions to mitigate the risk of petty crime, particularly pick pocketing and bag snatching.
- Carry a photocopy of your passport when traveling to avoid losing it in a robbery.
- Do not resist if you are being robbed and avoid eye contact and to not make any sudden movements. Victims have been killed when they resisted attack or refused to give up their money or other valuables.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times and keep a low profile.

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- Never leave your food, drinks or belongings unattended.
- Carry bags close to your body and make sure the fasteners are secure.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash or wearing expensive jewelry or valuables.
- Leave all important documents in a safe or safe deposit box at your hotel and only carry certified copies.
- Trust your instincts. If someone or something makes you uneasy, avoid the situation.

Important Contact Details

International Dialing Code: +255

International Dialing Prefix: 000

Victims of crime in should contact the following phone numbers for assistance

POLICE: The local equivalent to the “911” emergency line in is: 112

FIRE DEPARTMENT: 112

AMBULANCE: 112

Note: Police, ambulance or fire department response may be unreliable in some parts of the country.

TRAVEL & ROAD SAFETY

- Although below Western standards, the infrastructure of Tanzania is considerably better than many regional neighbors.
- Almost all major urban areas have well-maintained roads and major roadways through the country are generally paved and kept in good condition.
- Road standards begin to decline as one travels through rural portions of the country, particularly in the north, which are often paved with dirt and sand and can prove difficult to navigate during periods of extended rain.
- Service shortages are common in the country, particularly in areas outside of Dar es Salaam and Dodoma.
- Rolling electrical shortages are the most common issue facing civilians in Tanzania, but periodic shortages of petroleum-products and water do occur.
- Additionally, access to clean drinking water is a larger problem in rural areas of the country where it must be shipped in and is prone to disruptions during periods of rain.

RECOMMENDED TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

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- Avoid any large crowds, public gatherings or demonstrations.
- Avoid walking/biking near: Toure Drive, Coco Beach, Ubungo Bus Station, South Beach Ferry area or any place where there are not houses on both sides of the road.
- Avoid activities such as jogging, cycling, and walking in areas of Dar es Salaam such as Coco Beach is inherently risky.
- No rural travel after dark.
- No deviation from approved travel routes.
- No use of ATMs after dark.
- No bathing or swimming in rivers.

HEALTH

Dar es Salaam has adequate medical facilities that provide a basic level of medical care. Pharmacies are also available in the city. However, outside the city, as well as on the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, medical facilities are extremely limited and serious medical emergencies may require medical evacuation to a nearby country with better facilities.

- Tap water in Tanzania is generally not safe to drink; travelers are advised to consume only sterilized or bottled water. This applies to water used for brushing teeth, making ice or washing foods.
- Pasteurized milk can normally be found in major cities, hotels and resorts. Unpasteurized milk should be boiled before consumption, or powdered or tinned milk should be used as an alternative.
- Fruit and vegetables should only be consumed if they have been peeled or cooked.
- Undercooked meat and fish should not be consumed.
- Food from street vendors should be avoided as this carries a higher risk of causing infection.

The following vaccinations are recommended or required if traveling to Tanzania:

- Hepatitis A (recommended)
- Hepatitis B (recommended)
- Polio (recommended)
- Rabies (recommended)
- Typhoid (recommended)
- Yellow Fever (required for travelers arriving from a country where yellow fever is present).

It is also important to ensure that routine vaccinations are up to date for diseases including influenza, varicella (chickenpox), measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus.

SIGNIFICANT DISEASES –

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- **Malaria** – A life threatening parasitic disease that might affect travelers to the country: throughout most of Tanzania, as well as on Zanzibar and Pemba, although the risk in Dar es Salaam is considered to be lower.
- **Cholera** – An infection contracted through drinking water or eating food contaminated by the cholera bacterium. The disease is prevalent throughout most of Tanzania, particularly during the rainy season (December to April).
- **Diarrhea** – A common illness among travelers to the country and can be caused by bacteria, viruses or parasites. One of the most common causes is a bacterium known as E. coli, which is transmitted by ingesting contaminated food and liquids.
- **Rift Valley Fever** – A viral disease that is transmitted to humans through contact with blood or tissue of infected animals or through mosquito bites, particularly during the rainy season. The greatest number of cases has been in the central Dodoma region, but infections have also been reported in the Morogoro, Singida, Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Iringa, Manyara, Mwanza, Pwani, and Tanga regions.
- **African sleeping sickness** – A disease transmitted through the bite of the tsetse fly. Cases of the disease have been reported in game parks, specifically the Serengeti and Tarangire National Parks.

HOSPITALS –

Aga Khan Hospital
Ocean Road / Ufukoni Street P.O. Box 2289
Tel: +255 2 211 5151
Accident/Emergency Department Direct Line: +255 22 212 4111

AMI Hospital – Trauma Centre and Well Woman Clinic
589 Yacht Club Rd, Msasani Peninsula P.O. Box 9042
Tel: +255 22 260 2500/2501
Email: admin.tzn@amiplc.com

US EMBASSY – CONSULATE LOCATIONS

UNITED STATES EMBASSY

686 Old Bagamoyo Road
Msasani
PO Box 9123
Dar es Salaam
Tel: +255 (0)22 229 4000
Fax: +255 (0)22 229 4721
Email: embassy@state.gov

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EMBASSY DUTY OFFICER (AVAILABLE 24/7)

Tel: +255 (0)68 567 7545

REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICE

Tel: +255 (0)22 229 4140

USF INTERNATIONAL HOTLINE

USF 24/7 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE LINE: 813-317-5815

AXA Assistance 24/7 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE LINE: 1-877-577-9504 / +1-203-399-5130 (Call collect from abroad)

ASSIST ID #: GLMN 04983932. <http://www.culturalinsurance.com/resources/>

* Information derived from CIA World Fact Book, US Department of State, OSAC, and Travel Guard. This travel overview summarizes some of the most important concerns; however, it does not negate the need for detailed trip planning.