

EXPLORE!



NEW

Family Southern Tanzania and Zanzibar
10 days

Tanzania - Trip code FTS

Family Southern Tanzania and Zanzibar

Get away from the crowds of the Northern Tanzanian national parks on this family safari holiday with a difference. There can be few locations in Africa where you can combine a beach holiday with safari so effortlessly. Step out of your beach hut onto the tropical white sands of the Indian Ocean in the morning, heading inland by boat and safari vehicle in the afternoon to spot elephant, giraffe and buffalo. Spend time between Saadani National Park and the incredible Selous Game Reserve to the south, one of Tanzania's hidden wildlife jewels. The trip ends on beautiful Zanzibar Island.

Trip highlights

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Premium

Our premium accommodation is hand-picked and chosen for its character, location or local importance. These properties have excellent facilities and a higher level of comfort and service. They provide the perfect wind down after an active day.

TRIP PACE:

Moderate

Moderate pace tours are ideal if you want a holiday which combines exciting activities and experiences with plenty of time to relax and unwind. Typically you'll be active and busy for part of the day but then also have time to rest and recharge your batteries.

GROUP SIZE:

10 - 16

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Trip starts in Dar es Salaam.

Join the trip at the Slipway Hotel, set on the shores of the Indian Ocean, three kilometres from the city centre. The hotel features an excellent swimming pool overlooking Mvasani Bay, together with shops and a choice of restaurants; it's an ideal location to relax after a long journey.



Accommodation: The Slipway Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - Drive up to Simply Saadani Camp on the Indian Ocean. Learn how to use camera traps.

After a leisurely breakfast, drive north to Saadani National Park, enjoying our first wildlife viewings, perhaps elephants and Giraffe if we are lucky, as we drive through the park. Saadani is the only wildlife park in East Africa offering a unique combination of bush and beach in one destination, walk on the white sands of the Indian ocean in the morning and head into the African savanna in search of wildlife in the afternoon. We split our four night stay in Saadani in two locations. Spend three nights in bandas, tastefully decorated tented huts on stilts that sit right on the beach front, with private views of the ocean from your veranda. The third night of our stay is spent inland at Babs camp, with its own viewing tower complete with crow's nest, ideal for sitting down with a drink watching elephants amble below you as the sun sets. By staying in two locations we get to maximize wildlife spotting opportunities. After a late lunch and a short briefing, check into our rooms, later we get together for a short Swahili lesson and a talk on the camp's use of camera traps used to spot wildlife. Saadani camp has been using camera traps for many years to help track the movements of elephant and other animals within the park. They are a non-intrusive way of studying animal behaviours and has often produce footage which we would not normally see when out on foot or game drive. In the late afternoon, for those that wish to, head down to the Mafui creek at the camp to glide down the narrow channels in a canoe, locally known as Mtumbwe. Birdlife is abundant with sightings of long-crested eagles, yellow-collared lovebirds, weavers, kingfishers and bee eaters amongst the species in the park. Alternatively, take a stroll along the beach or sit back and relax on your veranda with stunning views of the Indian ocean and deserted beach. Dinner is served in the restaurant with the sounds of the sea gently breaking in the background.



Accommodation: Simply Saadani Camp (or similar)



Standard Tented Camp



Meals Provided: Breakfast and Dinner

DAY 3 - Morning game drive in Saadani National park. Afternoon option to go birdwatching in the backwaters on canoes.

This morning awake before dawn and head out into the park by open Land Rover for our first game drive returning to the camp for a late breakfast. With a slight chill in the air, anticipation rises as we speculate what we could spot made even better by the fact that unlike the more famous 'northern circuit' parks in Tanzania, Saadani National park is virtually void of other people; giving you an undisturbed and exclusive wildlife viewing experience. Look out for herds of giraffe, buffalo and elephant. The park also hosts a few lion prides as well as the elusive oryx, sable and kudu. During this mornings game drive, we will set out the camera traps. After lunch relax at the beach or head down to Mafui creek to go birdwatching in the backwaters on canoes. Early evening we have an informal Swahili competition to test our language skills before settling down to a delicious dinner prepared by the camp's chefs.



Accommodation: Simply Saadani Camp (or similar)



Standard Tented Camp



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 4 - Follow the footprints of game on a sunrise salt flat walking safari. Afternoon game drive to Babs Camp.

This morning after breakfast, enjoy a guided walk up the beach to the local village of Mkwaja to visit a local school and meet the children. Mid-morning we will hold a talk on the endangered green turtle which breeds at the nearby Madete beach, a marine park within the Saadani National Park. This talk will take place at the Wildlife Research Centre, or, if turtles are hatching, the talk may be given at the breeding beach. If we are visiting during the peak season period of July to September, there is a 50% chance of seeing turtles hatching. After lunch, drive to Babs Camp in time for lunch. Babs Camp is a small camp located right on the edge of the Saadani salt flats with a 20 metre high tower at its centre which has bedrooms, small restaurant, bar and even a crow's nest with 360 degree views of bush and beach making it an ideal location to view game from the comfort of your chair. Late afternoon, head out on a game drive ending with a night drive back to camp. During this game drive, we pick up the camera traps set on day three.



Accommodation: Babs Camp (or similar)



Standard Tented Camp



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 5 - Walking safari tracking wild animals, afternoon boat trip on the Wami river.

Awake early and head out of camp on foot, studying the mosaic of animal prints on the salt flats. Our highly knowledgeable guides have extensive experience of tracking game gained through conservation work over the past seven years; spend time learning how to identify animal prints. After a late breakfast, head down to the Wami river. Saadani is one of just two parks in Tanzania that offers boat safaris, providing a very different experience from a traditional game drive. View hippopotamus, crocodile as well as a host of colourful birds as we gently make our way downstream on our motorized vessel with an experienced wildlife guide on board. Taking our time to return to Simply Saadani camp, we enjoy a further game drive spotting wildlife along the way. Back at camp, we learn the camera trap photo winner before settling down to enjoy a pre-dinner drink in front of a camp fire before enjoying a delicious Swahili buffet with Maasai dancing.



Accommodation: Babs Camp (or similar)



Standard Tented Camp



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 6 - Drive to Dar es Salaam train station, train into Selous Game Reserve.

This morning, awake early for breakfast, heading back to Dar es Salaam to connect with the afternoon Friday train to Selous. Travelling by train in Africa offers fine views of the countryside and local life, taking just over four hours to travel the 200km from Dar es Salaam to Selous with the last two hours inside Selous reserve itself. Compete to see who can spot the first wild animal from the comfort of your seat. Drinks and food can be bought on the train. On arrival at Kisaki station, take the short 20 minute drive to Sable Mountain Lodge set over two small hills, featuring a freshwater swimming pool, treehouse, waterhole and a number of well-appointed tented rooms and stone cottages. Since the Selous is a game reserve not a national park, there are fewer restrictions on wildlife-viewing activities and there will be opportunities for game walks and boat trips during our stay, in addition to the traditional vehicle safaris. Selous is also vast, 25 times bigger than the Masai Mara yet visitor numbers are a fraction of its northern counterpart allowing for wildlife viewing opportunities away from the mass of safari vehicles, uninterrupted and unhindered.



Accommodation: Sable Mountain Lodge (or similar)



Premium Lodge



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 7 - Full day in Selous Game Reserve in search of elephant, giraffe and cape buffalo.

This morning after breakfast, visit a traditional Maasai boma, a small hut made of mud and cow dung, quick to construct and easy to maintain, allowing the Maasai village to move on quickly if necessary. This is a very personal experience where you will get to meet Saita, a long term friend of our local Tanzanian partners. Learn about medicinal plants still used today by the Maasai. After lunch back at the lodge, head out into Selous Game Reserve for an afternoon game drive. Covering an incredible 50,000 square kilometres of southern Tanzania, the reserve is named after Frederick Courtney Selous, the famous 19th century hunter and explorer. Selous has benefited from careful conservation management over the last two decades resulting in abundant wildlife with very healthy numbers of cape buffalo, wildebeest, African elephant, lion, leopard and giraffe as well as around one third of the world's population of wild dog. Return to camp for a dip in the pool. Dinner is served either in the restaurant or under the stars.



Accommodation: Sable Mountain Lodge (or similar)



Premium Lodge



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 8 - Early game drive and boat safari on Lake Tagalala. This afternoon head to the waterhole.

Depart the lodge early today with a packed breakfast for an extended day game drive and boat safari on Lake Tagalala. Selous is made up of Acacia savana, woodland and open grassland with the Rufiji River cutting through the reserve, with a network of lakes and channels criss crossing the open plains. This diverse ecology of the area offers excellent wildlife viewing opportunities alongside upwards of 350 species of birdlife within the reserve. Combining a traditional safari drive with a boat trip on Lake Tagalala enables us to potentially see many of the major African mammals, including elephant, giraffes, lions, leopard and even the rare African Wild Dog. Return to the lodge for a late lunch. Visit the treehouse for elevated views across the plains, our lodge also has a waterhole where animals often congregate in the late afternoon allow further wildlife viewing.



Accommodation: Sable Mountain Lodge (or similar)



Premium Lodge



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 9 - Transfer to the airstrip for a short flight to Zanzibar Island. Transfer to Stone Town hotel.

This morning after breakfast, bid farewell to Selous, driving to the local airstrip for a short flight to Zanzibar island. Taking off in a light aircraft from a remote grass airstrip in a game reserve is a truly memorable experience; no long check in queues here, instead you're more likely to get delayed whilst game is chased off the airstrip. After flying over the 40 km wide Zanzibar Channel we touchdown just outside of Stonetown and transfer to the Dhow Palace hotel. The exotic spice island of Zanzibar, a land of sun-kissed beaches, Arabian dhows and swaying palms, where the rich smell of spice in Stone Town's old quarter mingles with colonial and Arabic architecture to create a perfect getaway island. Zanzibar's fascinating culture and remarkable history makes any visit to the island a captivating experience, with beaches and reefs to explore, plantations to wander through and a rich history of conquests, slavery and pirates to investigate.



Accommodation: Dhow Palace Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast and Lunch

DAY 10 - Trip ends in Stone Town with the option to extend your holiday in Zanzibar.

The trip ends after breakfast in Stonetown, alternatively extend your stay in Zanzibar at The Zanzibari boutique hotel in the north of the island at Nungwi.



Meals Provided: Breakfast

Family information

Minimum age

7

What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 9
Lunch: 7
Dinner: 7



Transport

Bus
4WD
Boat
Flight
Train



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader



Accommodation

2 nights standard hotel
3 nights premium lodge
4 nights standard tented camp

Trip information

Country information

Tanzania Holidays & Tours

Climate

The climate is tropical but varies greatly with altitude. Coastal areas are hot and humid, the central plateau dry and arid. It can be cold at night, particularly in June & July and at altitude. Generally the long rains arrive April/May and the short rains Nov/early Dec. Although this pattern can be completely erratic. Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at <http://www.explore.co.uk/weather>. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up-to-date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

Time difference to GMT

+3

Plugs

3 Pin Flat

Religion

Christian, Islam

Language

Swahili, English

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

Saadani National Park: Nature walk with your Explore Leader on days 3 and 5 (no fee) Canoeing along the local creek on days 2 and 3 (no fee)

Clothing

Clothing should be lightweight. A waterproof is recommended for the wetter months (November through to May). Warm sweaters

or a light fleece are advisable for the evenings and on early morning game drives. Bring a swimming costume and a towel plus water shoes if you are travelling onto Zanzibar. A scarf is useful to protect you from dust on game drives. Bright clothes should be avoided for walking safaris. Binoculars are certainly handy.

Footwear

Lightweight safari boots or walking shoes/trainers and sandals plus plastic sandals or water shoes for the beach due to sea urchins if you're travelling onto Zanzibar.

Luggage

15Kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage (a kitbag or holdall) plus daypack. Please note that it is important to keep within these restrictions. The limit does not include your camera equipment. Please note that the flight to/from Zanzibar allows a maximum luggage allowance of 15kg, for both hold and hand luggage combined. Any additional weight is applicable to excess luggage fees.

Equipment

A water bottle, sunhat, sunscreen and sunblock. Binoculars are useful, as is a telephoto lens - for photographing game. If you are extending your stay in Zanzibar, a snorkel and mask may be useful while normally available locally, you may prefer to bring your own.

Tipping

Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour. Accordingly, you should allow US\$30.

International Departure Taxes

Please note that a \$48 departure tax is applicable on all international flights departing from Zanzibar. Most international tickets should include this tax in the cost of the ticket, please ensure you check with your flight agent/company concerning this. If your international ticket does not include the tax, it must be paid in cash at the airport.

Country Information

Tanzania Holidays & Tours

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Dinner price

£13

Beer price

£1.6

Water price

£0.7

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Tanzanian Shilling.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

US Dollars are preferable. Please be aware that any notes issued before 2006 will not be accepted

Where To Exchange

Banks or 'Forex' offices only in main towns/cities. Your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.

ATM Availability

Major towns and cities will have ATMs available.

Credit Card Acceptance

Credit cards are generally not accepted.

Travellers Cheques

Take some to act as reserve funds.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, 4WD, Boat, Flight, Train

Essential information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice click [here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, click [here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa Information

Tanzania: A single visa is required by UK, New Zealand, Australian, US & Canadian citizens. Visas can be arranged on arrival, but due to queues at immigration we recommend for the visa to be arranged in advance.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers

who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer click [here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Non refundable permits

Tanzania Holidays & Tours

Vaccinations

We strongly recommend protection against malaria, hepatitis A, tetanus, typhoid, polio and yellow fever. Please note you are required to produce a valid yellow fever certificate on arrival in Tanzania if you have spent 10 hours or more transiting through an endemic country. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Travellers may also wish to take immunisation against meningococcal meningitis. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure
