

A black and white photograph of a savanna landscape. A large, gnarled tree trunk dominates the left side of the frame. A leopard is perched on a branch of the tree, its body partially visible. The leopard's tail is curled and hangs down from the branch. The background shows a vast, open plain with tall grasses under a sky with scattered clouds.

COMPLETE

SAFARI GUIDE

tanzania



a safari

IS AN EXPERIENCE YOU'LL NEVER FORGET;

Thomson Safaris wants it to be as seamless and relaxing as possible. In this booklet, we've compiled decades of insights, facts, tips and suggestions to help you prepare for this trip of a lifetime and enjoy Tanzania responsibly.

Use this checklist to guide you through a few essential steps that **MUST**
Please note that the first five items need to be completed **NOW**.



ACT NOW!

90 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

- COMPLETE ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS** (Page 3)
These must be signed in order to participate in your trip.
- READ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS** (Page 4)
The FAQs cover everything from baggage limitations to vaccinations.
- BOOK INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS** (Page 6)
Discuss dates and preferences with your trip manager.
- CONFIRM PASSPORT VALIDITY** (Page 7)
Passports must be valid for at least six months after your return date.
- PURCHASE TRAVEL INSURANCE** (Page 7)
Benefits such as coverage for pre-existing conditions may only be available if you arrange your insurance policy within 2 weeks of making your deposit.
- MAKE TRAVEL CLINIC APPOINTMENT** (Page 9)
Discuss medical considerations with a travel doctor.
- MAKE FINAL PAYMENT** (Page 10)
Due 90 days prior to departure. Credit cards not accepted.
- OBTAIN TANZANIA ENTRY VISA** (Page 11)
Please note: application timelines vary by country.

be completed before going on your adventure.

60 DAYS

PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

- REVIEW OUR PACKING LIST**
(Page 13)
Soft-sided duffel bags mandatory.
Checked bags and carry-on cannot
exceed 33 pounds.

30 DAYS

PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

- BUDGET FOR YOUR SAFARI**
(Page 20)
Budget for tips, souvenirs, beverages,
and emergency funds.
- REVIEW ELECTRONICS, BATTERY,
& COMMUNICATION OPTIONS**
(Page 22)

EN ROUTE

- **ARRIVAL IN TANZANIA**
(Page 25)
- **TIPS FOR FLIGHT/BAGGAGE DELAYS**
(Page 25)
- **SETTLING IN**
(Page 27)

ON SAFARI

- **REVIEW OUR SAFARI TIPS**
(Page 29)
- **KEEP HEALTHY**
(Page 31)
- **PRACTICE RESPONSIBLE TOURISM**
(Page 34)
- **PHOTOGRAPHY ETIQUETTE & BEST PRACTICES**
(Page 36)
- **PURCHASING SOUVENIRS**
(Page 38)
- **GIVING BACK**
(Page 39)

PACK THIS BOOK IN YOUR CARRY-ON BAG

A black and white photograph of a large herd of wildebeest running across a savanna. The animals are in motion, with some in the foreground and others receding into the background. The scene is captured from a low angle, emphasizing the power and movement of the herd.

ACT NOW!

[Complete Essential Documents](#)

[Read Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Book International Flights](#)

[Confirm Passport Validity](#)

[Purchase Travel Insurance](#)

Tanzania

ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS

To better prepare you for your trip, we'll be reaching out to provide reminders, helpful tips, and instructions along the way. We'll also be asking you for some supplemental information to help the Tanzania team make the final preparations for your arrival.

NOW:

- Booking Conditions and Release of Liability**
A link to this form was sent to you upon booking your trip. Forms must be completed immediately and are required for participation on any of our trips.

LATER:

- Traveler Information Form**
We'll send you this form several months before departure. It covers personal information such as dietary or mobility considerations, so we can make sure you're comfortable during your time in Tanzania.
- A Photo or Photocopy of Your Passport Information Page**
We'll ask you for this closer to departure in compliance with hotel and national park requirements.

FAQS

Q How much baggage is allowed on safari?

There is a 33-pound combined weight limit for your checked baggage and carry-on, unless otherwise noted on your itinerary. Pack a soft-sided duffel bag to check and a day pack to carry on. Your carry-on should fit underneath your seat or on your lap.

Suitcases, rigid frame backpacks, and bags with hard frames are not allowed on safari – soft-sided duffel bags only. Visit our Safari Store for wheeled duffel bags. (See Page 13)

Q Can I store extra baggage and equipment exceeding 33 pounds?

As a courtesy to those doing multi-activity or multi-destination trips, Thomson Safaris will store excess baggage for you in Arusha. Please check availability with your trip manager.

If you have excess baggage you absolutely need on safari (such as professional camera gear), please call us to purchase additional weight allowance for your internal flights. Remember to keep money and valuables with you at all times.

(See Page 17)

Q What vaccinations do I need?

Schedule an appointment with a travel doctor to discuss vaccinations and health concerns.

(See Page 9)

Q Are there laundry facilities?

Laundry services are available at lodges and camps. Please note there is a fee, and it's best to request laundry when staying two nights in one location to allow time for drying. (See Page 17)

Q Will I have access to email and phones?

Ask your cell phone provider about service in Tanzania. You will not have consistent access to internet, email or phones in Nyumba camps. Some lodges have access to phones and free Wi-Fi, but phone usage is expensive and limited.

(See Page 23)

Q Are charging stations available?

Each safari vehicle has power inverters, which resemble U.S. wall outlets. Charging must be done while the vehicles are in use.

Additionally, there are charging stations in the lounge tents at the Nyumba camps. Please note that neither power source is appropriate for larger items like laptops or hairdryers. (See Page 22)

Q Do you accept credit cards for final payment?

We do not accept credit cards for final payment, but we can accept your balance by check, money order, wire transfer or electronic funds transfer. (See Page 10)

Q How much money should I bring with me?

This is a personal decision based on your needs. Budget for tips, beverages (other than bottled water), souvenirs and emergency funds. (See Page 20)

Q What currency should I bring?

Bring U.S. dollars with a series date no older than 2013, and without tears or marks. Credit cards are accepted at some lodges and shops, but high fees are imposed – typically between 6% and 15%. Travelers' checks are not recommended as they are not widely accepted. (See Page 19)

Q When will I have a chance to buy souvenirs and gifts?

You'll have opportunities at the lodges, international airports and several local artisan shops. You may wish to purchase larger souvenirs and gifts on the last day of your trip so you don't have to carry them on safari. (See Page 20)

Q What if my flight is delayed or canceled en route to Tanzania?

Your Final Packet will contain detailed information regarding flight delays including emergency contact numbers, which you can share with friends and family. Refer to this information, which will be sent approximately 30 days before departure.

Q Can I bring hair dryers or similar electronic appliances on safari?

We don't recommend bringing hair dryers or similar electronic appliances, as there is no electricity in your Nyumba tents, and electricity at lodges is not reliable. Dress code is casual and relaxed, so carefully-styled hair is not necessary.

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

Thomson Safaris can help arrange business class flights from most major U.S. cities to Tanzania. Roundtrip flights become available roughly 11 months prior to your return flight date, at which point you can email your trip manager for a quote. Keep in mind, Thomson Safaris cannot arrange or upgrade flights using frequent flyer miles, and accrual of miles is subject to airline program rules at the time of ticketing.

The vast majority of our guests fly with Delta/KLM, the only airline offering daily direct flights from Europe to Tanzania with connections via Amsterdam (from most U.S. cities). For the majority of travelers, this is the most direct and convenient flight.

We plan group airport transfers to coordinate with the arrival and departure of the Delta/KLM flight from Amsterdam. If you are arriving on flights other than your group's scheduled KLM arrival and departure, you may have to arrange private transfers and accommodations at an additional expense.

Booking your Flights with Thomson Safaris

Only business class flights on Delta/KLM can be booked directly through Thomson Safaris. For all other flights, including economy air, we can refer you to our preferred travel desk for direct assistance.

BOOKING FLIGHTS ON YOUR OWN

- Please book your international flights into Kilimanjaro International airport (Airport code: JRO). We suggest Delta/KLM, as these airlines offer direct and reliable routing from North America to Tanzania via Amsterdam.
- Check with us before you purchase a ticket that is non-refundable so we can confirm that your arrival and departure coordinate with scheduled transfers.

PASSPORT INFORMATION

To obtain a Tanzania entry visa, your passport must be valid for at least six months after your return date, and it must have two blank facing pages.

If necessary, obtain or renew your passport immediately. You can contact the U.S. State Department (travel.state.gov/passport) or your local post office (usps.com) for more information. Canadians should inquire with Passport Canada (cic.gc.ca).

See page 11 for instructions on obtaining a visa.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We strongly recommend all guests obtain travel insurance. Choose an option that includes coverage for emergency medical evacuation and protection from unforeseen events that may impact your trip. For example:

- A family member gets sick and you need to cancel or shorten your trip
- You miss a flight connection
- Your baggage is lost or delayed
- Medical emergencies before or during your trip

We all think “it won’t happen to me,” but these things do occasionally happen. Please find information on travel insurance in your welcome packet or contact Thomson Safaris for more details.

- **Remember, you cannot depart North America and arrive in Tanzania on the same day.** You will have to make a flight connection in Europe, Africa or the Middle East.
- **Once booked, please send us your flight itinerary immediately** with flight numbers and details from the airline.

If you are arriving on flights other than your group's scheduled KLM arrival and departure, you may have to pay for private transfers and additional accommodation costs.

90 DAYS

Make Travel Clinic Appointment

Make Final Payment

Obtain Tanzania Entry Visa

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TRAVEL MEDICINE

Make an appointment with a travel doctor, as they have specific knowledge about your destination, vaccines, and preventative care that your physician may not. If you have special health concerns or conditions, we recommend making an appointment with your primary care physician as well.

Frequently Recommended

There are no immunization requirements if you are traveling to Tanzania directly from North America via Europe. If your itinerary includes travel to Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda or any other yellow fever endemic countries, immigration authorities in Tanzania may require proof of vaccination for yellow fever (or an appropriate medical waiver) as a condition of entry. If you are unsure of immunization requirements for the countries you are visiting, contact the Embassy/Consulate or ask your trip manager for advice.

Many of our past travelers have opted to take the following health precautions:

- Anti-malarial medication
- Yellow fever vaccination
- Hepatitis A vaccination

Other Considerations

- Tetanus booster
- Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), and polio update
- Typhoid fever vaccination
- Hepatitis B vaccination

For More Health Information

Contact the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at 800.232.4636 or go online at [cdc.gov/travel](https://www.cdc.gov/travel). Navigate to the page specifically about travel in Tanzania for the most up-to-date information. You can also locate a travel clinic near you.

Please note, the information on the site applies to all visitors to Tanzania, including long-term aid workers and others who have more health concerns than average tourists.

See page 31 for tips about keeping healthy on safari.

FINAL PAYMENT

Final payment must be received in our Watertown office by check, money order, wire transfer or electronic funds transfer no later than 90 days prior to departure. Please note that credit cards are not accepted, and if full payment has not been received at 90 days prior to departure, Thomson Safaris reserves the right to treat the reservation as canceled.

Final Invoice

You will receive your final invoice once all flights, extensions, balloon safaris, transfers and additional services have been arranged. Please review the invoice to ensure that additional services are correct. If a service is not on your invoice, it has not been arranged.

Single Supplement

Single travelers will be charged a single supplement unless there is another single traveler of the same gender on your trip, and both of you are willing to share accommodations. Contact your trip manager for details and availability.

Cancellations

If you need to cancel your trip for any reason, please let us know as soon as possible. A written cancellation is required by mail or email; cancellation fees are applicable based on the date we receive your written cancellation. Please refer to the full cancellation policy on your Booking Conditions Form for complete details and note that deposits are non-refundable.

TANZANIA ENTRY VISA

NEW!

VISA INFORMATION

All Tanzania entry visas must be obtained online using the Tanzania Electronic Visa Application System:

APPLY HERE

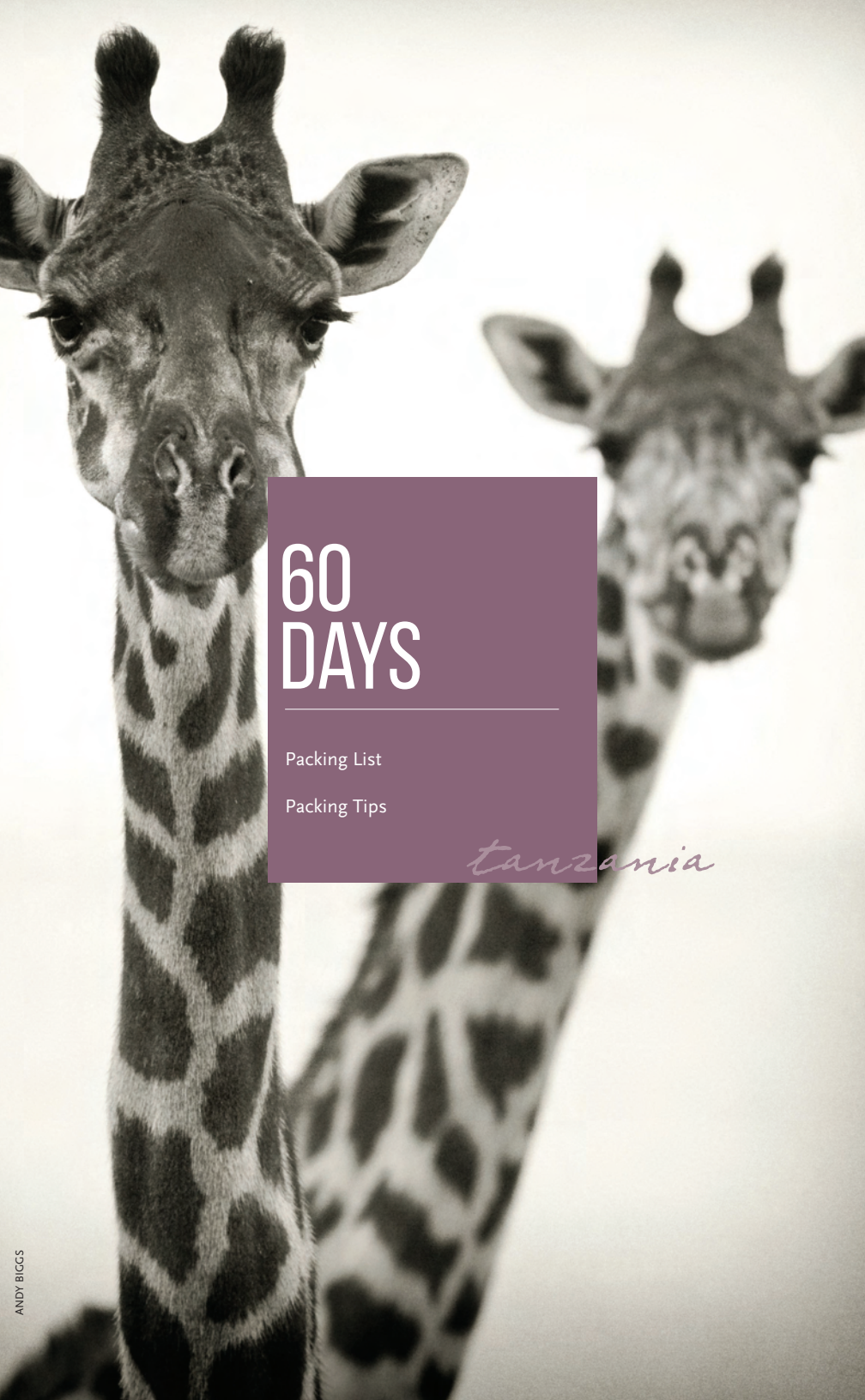


<https://eservices.immigration.go.tz/visa/>

We recommend applying about 90 days before departure.

Your trip manager will send you an email reminder at that time, including helpful instructions, a cheat sheet and additional resources to guide you through the application.

Don't worry, the process only takes about 20 minutes and the turnaround time is quick – less than 3 weeks.



60 DAYS

Packing List

Packing Tips

tanzania

PACKING LIST

Get your belongings together to take inventory of what you still need. Purchase travel items and pack your soft-sided duffel bag and day pack. Remember, hard-sided luggage is not allowed, and there is a 33-pound combined weight limit for your carry-on and duffel.

To make your packing experience easier, some of the items below can be found at our Safari Store online (thomson.newheadings.com). Proceeds from every purchase are donated to Focus on Tanzanian Communities (FoTZC), our partner philanthropic organization that supports health care, education, women's empowerment and other sustainable initiatives by partnering with Tanzanian communities. (See page 39).

LUGGAGE

Soft-Sided Duffel Bag

Due to aircraft and vehicle space in Tanzania, your checked luggage must be a soft-sided duffel bag no larger than 30"L x 15"W x 15"H, without a rigid structure. Wheeled duffels are acceptable if they do not have hard sides. Please see our safari store for an appropriate model. Baggage cannot exceed 33 pounds.

Soft-Sided Day Pack

This bag will serve as your carry-on for international flights and can then be used as your day pack while in Tanzania. During your flight to Tanzania, this bag should contain one complete change of clothes, medications, essential toiletries, binoculars, your camera and other irreplaceable items, like your passport, wallet and electronics.

Spare Foldable Duffel Bag

If you tend to bring back lots of souvenirs when you travel, pack a small spare foldable duffel bag in your main duffel.



DUFFELS ONLY!

Due to aircraft and vehicle restrictions in Tanzania, your checked luggage must be a soft-sided duffel bag no larger than 30"L x 15"W x 15"H, without a rigid structure. Weight limit: 33 pounds.

LUGGAGE *(Maximum 33lbs. when fully-packed)*

	Soft-sided duffel bag
	Soft-sided day pack
	Spare foldable duffel bag <i>(if you intend to buy many souvenirs)</i>

CLOTHING

	Short-sleeve shirts (1/day)
	Long-sleeve shirts (2) <i>(layering, sun/mosquito protection)</i>
	Shorts (2)
	Convertible, lightweight zip-off pants (2)
	Khaki pants or casual skirt (1)
	Underwear (1/day) <i>(women may consider bringing sports bras)</i>
	Fleece or insulated jacket <i>(for cool nights at Ngorongoro Crater or in Serengeti)</i>
	Waterproof windbreaker <i>(or an inexpensive poncho)</i>
	Wide-brim, tie-on sun hat
	Bathing suit <i>(for lodges with pools)</i>
	Lightweight, comfortable sleepwear <i>(personal preference)</i>

FOOTWEAR

	Running or walking shoes, or light hikers
	Second pair of shoes or sandals
	Flip-flops/Teva-type sandals <i>(recommended for use in showers)</i>
	Socks (1 pair/day)

ESSENTIALS

	Travel documents (<i>valid passport with visa, airline tickets, money, and a credit card for emergencies</i>)
	This Prep Guide and additional items from your Final Packet (<i>sent to you 30 days before departure</i>)
	Flashlight and/or headlamp (<i>with extra batteries</i>)
	Sunglasses (<i>100% UV screening w/retainer straps</i>)
	Sunscreen and lip balm with SPF 30 +
	Mosquito repellent containing DEET (<i>up to 50%</i>)
	Citronella based repellent for tsetse flies
	Anti-itch cream
	Bandanas (3) (<i>these have many uses, including protection from dust</i>)
	Hand wipes (<i>1-3 per day per traveler</i>)
	Hand sanitizer (<i>1 small bottle</i>)
	Toilet kit (<i>toothbrush and paste, biodegradable bodywash, moisturizing lotion, small packet of tissues, shaving gear, tampons and panty liners; avoid plastic tampon applicators</i>)
	Binoculars (<i>8x40/42 models are excellent choices; center focus binoculars are best</i>)
	Money belt, neck pouch, or fanny pack
	Assortment of stuff sacks and zip-lock bags
	Spare glasses (<i>contact lens wearers should bring solution and wear glasses when it gets dusty</i>)

OPTIONAL ITEMS

	Photography gear
	Eye drops
	Wristwatch or travel alarm clock
	Reading material
	European and U.K. electrical outlet adapters (<i>for lodge stays</i>)
	Ear plugs

PERSONAL FIRST AID KIT

	Alcohol wipes
	Antibiotic ointment (Neosporin) and hydrocortisone
	Band-Aids
	Tweezers
	Ibuprofen, aspirin, or acetaminophen
	Cold remedies
	Motion sickness medication (<i>if you are susceptible to motion sickness</i>)
	A mild laxative
	Pepto Bismol, anti-diarrheal pills
	Anti-malarial medication and ciprofloxacin (<i>as advised by a doctor</i>)
	Medications you are currently taking

FOR THOSE CAMPING AT THE EASTERN SERENGETI OR NGORONGORO NYUMBA JUNE THROUGH AUGUST:

	Heavy fleece jacket
	Down vest
	Long underwear
	Fleece hat
	Gloves or mittens

ADDITIONAL TIPS FOR PACKING

Excess Baggage

We know it's easy to overpack. If your trip includes various activities and destinations that require you to pack more than 33lbs, excess baggage can be stored for you in Arusha. Please note that this option is only available to those coming back via Arusha after their trek or safari.

It may be possible to purchase additional weight allowance for internal flights if you have excess baggage on safari (such as professional-style camera gear). Please check availability with your trip manager.

Organizing and Labeling Your Bags

Please use the Thomson Safaris luggage tags we provide you. Additionally, put your address on a piece of paper inside your bags in case a luggage tag is torn off. Make sure important items like camera gear and documents are safely sealed in waterproof/dustproof bags like Ziplocs. Any liquid items like toiletries should be sealed in bags.

Please note: single use plastic bags and packaging are banned in Rwanda and Kenya.

Laundry

You will have opportunities to have clothes washed and dried for you for a fee. In most camps, and even some lodges, this is done by hand, and laundry is air dried. You may want to bring several large Ziplocs for carrying and organizing laundry.



LUGGAGE TAGS

Using a Thomson Safaris tag on your daypack will help identify other Thomson guests at the airport – it's a great icebreaker!



30 DAYS

Money and Currency

Budget for Your Safari

Review Electronics, Battery,
& Communication Options

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MONEY & CURRENCY

U.S. dollars are accepted throughout Tanzania; therefore, there is no need to exchange U.S. dollars for Tanzanian Shillings. Local vendors and markets may not be able to provide change for larger bills, so we advise using small bills (\$1, \$5, \$10) for small purchases, but \$50 and \$100 are okay for larger purchases and tips.

Travelers' checks are not recommended, as they are not widely accepted. Canadian residents should exchange Canadian dollars for U.S. dollars before departure.

Credit Cards and ATMs

Credit cards are accepted at some lodges and some higher-end shops; however, usage comes with surcharges from 6 to 15 percent. Please do not plan on using ATMs in Tanzania, as they are not always available and are only compatible with specific bank cards. We advise bringing a credit card for emergency travel expenses.

CHECK YOUR BILLS



- ✓ No tears
- ✓ No marks
- ✓ No bills more than 10 years old
(check series date circled left)

Low denominations (\$1, \$5, and \$10) are best for some tips, beverages, and small souvenirs.

Higher denominations (mainly \$20 and some \$50 or \$100) are best for large souvenirs and tips for guides.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

How Much Should I Bring?

Typically, each guest brings around \$1,000 – \$1,200:

\$400 – \$500 cash for souvenirs and beverages, \$350 – \$450 cash for tips, and \$250 emergency cash. *Please note many guests choose to bring more, as it may be difficult to obtain more cash, but you can always bring extra back home.*

There are four primary expenses you should consider when planning your budget:

- 1 Emergency Funds:** With any kind of travel, it's best to prepare for the unexpected. We suggest carrying a credit card and at least \$250 in U.S. dollars for emergencies. Please note that MasterCard and Visa are more widely accepted than American Express, and some merchants require chip-enabled cards.
- 2 Beverages:** For reference, beverage prices at the Nyumba camps are as follows: \$1 for a bottle of soda, \$3 for a bottle of beer, and \$15 – \$35 for a bottle of wine. Prices at lodges are higher. Diet sodas, energy drinks and ice are typically not available.
- 3 Souvenirs and Gifts:** Small souvenirs such as carved crafts, beaded jewelry, T-shirts, Maasai shukas (fabric), etc. often cost less than \$20. Larger pieces of artwork can range significantly, starting around \$20 and going up to hundreds or thousands of dollars.
- 4 Tips:** Tips for safari guides and camp staff are tokens of added appreciation and are customarily given to the people who help provide the best safari experience possible. Thomson supports equitable wages; the practice of tipping is the norm for the tourism industry in Tanzania.



TIPPING ENVELOPES

Approximately 30 days before your departure, you will receive convenient, easy-to-use Tipping Guidelines and tip envelopes **specific** to your departure.

On Safari, Travelers Will Normally Tip:

- Head guide
- Each support guide
- Each Nyumba camp crew
(received and distributed by each camp manager)

Your guide will cover all tips for dining service and baggage handling at lodges in Northern Tanzania.

SAMPLE TIPPING AMOUNTS



\$7–\$8 per day, per traveler for each of your support guide(s)

\$8–\$10 per day, per traveler for your head guide

\$15 per camping day, per traveler for each Nyumba camp visited

Note: the number of support guides, if any, varies according to the total number of guests on safari, and therefore may affect the total amount you wish to tip. We will let you know how many support guides will be on your safari two weeks prior to your departure.

Please Note:

- Our recommendations are based on a group size of five or more. We will provide recommendations specific to your group in your Final Packet.
- Many people choose to tip much more than what is recommended, and some choose to tip less. It is a personal decision.
- Most safari guests tip their guides at the end of the safari and their camp crew upon leaving a given camp.
- Above all, don't spend your time on safari worrying about tipping. Have fun and enjoy the journey!

ELECTRONICS, BATTERIES & COMMUNICATION

Charging Batteries on Safari

Nyumba camps are not wired for electricity; however, your room has solar-powered lighting, and there's a solar-powered charging station in each lounge tent.

Additionally, each vehicle has power inverters and U.S.-style wall outlets, so you won't need any special equipment for your small electronic devices, such as cameras, batteries and phones. All charging must be done while the vehicle is in use. *Please note that vehicles and lounge tents are not equipped to handle larger items such as laptops.*

PLUG & SOCKET TYPES



TYPE A

STYLE: U.S. and Canada

PINS: 2

ON SAFARI: Used in safari vehicles and Nyumba camp lounge tents



TYPE G

STYLE: UK

PINS: 3

ON SAFARI: Used at lodges in Arusha and Gibb's Farm



TYPE C

STYLE: Europe

PINS: 2

ON SAFARI: Used in Rwanda and on Zanzibar

Images courtesy of www.worldstandards.eu

Consider Buying European and U.K. Outlet Adapters

At hotels, lodges and some permanent tented camps, you will likely find 220- volts AC, 50-cycle current. Most modern electronic appliances can operate on this current – check your devices for the voltage requirements printed on them. If you would like to charge batteries at lodges, you will need outlet adapters.

Travelers extending their trip to Zanzibar, Ruaha, the Selous, Mahale, Rwanda or other destinations may need to charge batteries at lodges which have varying outlets – European or U.K.-style adapters.

Pack Extra Batteries and Memory Cards

Bring at least two battery packs — three if you are an avid photographer. Extra memory cards are also a good idea. Extra lithium batteries must be packed in your carry-on bag for international flights.

Evaluate Communication Needs

Nyumba camps do not have internet or phones. Some lodges have internet access, but usage is expensive, limited and not dependable. A limited number of U.S. cellphone carriers offer coverage in Tanzania, and only a limited number of U.S. phones work with East Africa's satellite system. Contact your cellphone provider for more details and rates. Renting a satellite phone is possible. Call us for recommendations.

Please note, *we do not recommend bringing a laptop computer, as it is heavy (considering your limited luggage weight), cumbersome, cannot be charged and must always be kept on your person.*



EN ROUTE

Arrival in Tanzania

Tips for Flight or Baggage Delays

Airport Map

Settling in

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ARRIVAL IN TANZANIA

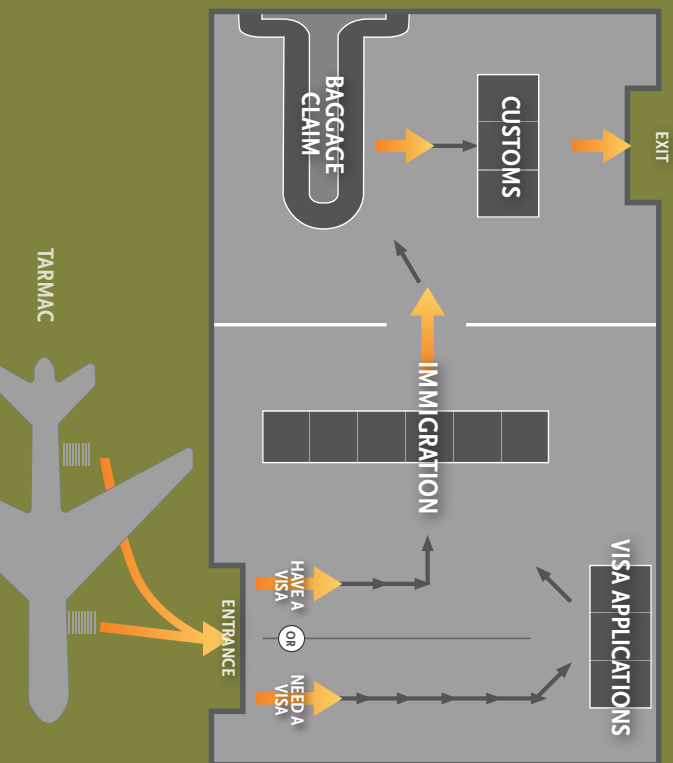
- **Keep your luggage with you until you meet your guide**
After getting your bag from the baggage claim area, you may be approached by porters who, looking for tips, will try to carry your bags or load them onto carts. Kindly say, “no thank you” or in Swahili, “hapana asante.” Your guide is only a few steps beyond customs and will carry your bags if you wish.
- **Upon exiting, look for a Thomson Safaris placard to identify your guide**
It can get crowded in the arrivals area, with guides from many different companies awaiting travelers. Your guide will hold up a placard with the Thomson Safaris logo.
- **You may need to wait while other travelers in your group arrive**
Your guide will check off the names of travelers as they arrive. Please do not leave the terminal. Once everyone is gathered, your guide will lead you to the vehicles nearby.

FLIGHT OR BAGGAGE DELAYS

- **If your flight is delayed or canceled, local airport staff are in the best position to assist you.** Remain calm, clear and polite and ask about same-day options, like flying via another African hub, such as Nairobi, with continuing service to Kilimanjaro airport.
- **Contact Thomson Safaris with new flight details** (airline, flight number and ETA):
Weekdays during U.S. business hours: 800-235-0289 or 617-923-0426
During off-hours text, call or leave a message at: 617-610-7990
In Africa, text or call: 255 754 755 681
- **Thomson Safaris will greet you at the airport and take you to your lodge.** Catching up with your group may require a few extra logistics but will be doable. Good travel insurance will cover most fees associated with flight delays and trip interruption.
- **In case of lost or delayed baggage:**
File a claim at the airport’s lost luggage office. Provide your claim information to the Thomson Safaris staff member at the airport. Your guide will keep you informed about the status of your bags.

KILIMANJARO AIRPORT

- 1** Exit plane and enter the airport.
OR If you need a visa, get into the visa applications line, pay visa fee in US Dollars.
OR If you already have a visa, proceed to the Immigration counter.
- 2** Proceed to Immigration to show passport and get visa validated.
- 3** Claim your checked bags at the baggage claim.
- 4** Proceed through Customs. You may be asked if you have anything to declare.
- 5** Exit airport and look for your transfer guide holding a Thomson Safari's placard.



SETTLING IN

- **Get to know your driver**

The drive from the airport to your lodge is approximately 60 minutes. This is a great time to start asking some of your preliminary questions, engaging in conversation and getting to know everyone as you settle in to Tanzania.

- **Set your watch to Tanzanian time**

From early March to October, Tanzania is 7 hours ahead of North America (EDT). From November to early March, it is an 8-hour difference (EST). It is best to set your watch while on the plane or on the ride to your lodge. Ask your guide for the time if necessary.

- **Notify your guide if you have excess baggage you want to store**

Thomson Safaris can store excess baggage you bring for pre- or post-safari travel. This service is offered as a courtesy to travelers, and luggage is stored at your own risk. This may not be possible if you have additional flights within Tanzania before or after your safari. Please notify your trip manager ahead of time if you intend to store luggage.

- **Keep money and valuables with you at all times**

There is no need to be overly concerned about your valuables. However, for peace of mind, do not keep them in stored luggage or leave them in your room.

- **Use only purified water for drinking and brushing your teeth**

Place a water bottle in the sink as a reminder not to use the tap for brushing your teeth in the morning.

- **Enjoy your first night of rest**

Your guide will facilitate the check-in process and let you know the meeting time for tomorrow. You will have a full safari briefing in the morning, and then the true adventure begins!

ON SAFARI

General Tips

Keeping Healthy

Practice Responsible Tourism

Photography Etiquette &
Best Practices

Purchasing Souvenirs

Giving Back

tanzania

GENERAL SAFARI TIPS

- **Prepare for some bumpy rides**

Your safari vehicles are tough and your drivers are experts, but the roads can be rough. If you have a medical condition that can be aggravated by rough roads, consult with your doctor. Bringing a seat cushion or lumbar back brace and sitting near the front of the safari vehicle can help.

- **Use bandanas and moist towelettes when it's dusty**

It can get dusty out there, especially in the dry season (July-October). Sometimes, you may even want to tie a bandana over your mouth when the dust is extreme.

- **Bring a wide-brim hat, sunscreen lotion (SPF 30+), and lip balm (SPF 15+)**

Jua kali. That's a Swahili phrase used in Tanzania, meaning "fierce sun." If you've ever experienced the equatorial sun before, you understand.

- **Avoid packing white, black, dark blue or bright colored clothes**

Some colors aren't best to wear on safari. Whites tend to get dirty/dusty quickly. Black and dark blue tend to attract tsetse flies. Bright colors don't attract predators, but they do stand out to the wildlife. Muted colors, like beiges, khakis, and greens work well.

- **Drink plenty of water**

It's easy to become dehydrated while on safari. Complimentary drinking water will be readily available in your safari vehicle, and you will also be able to purchase other drinks at lodges and camps.

- **Don't be embarrassed; everyone needs to use the restroom**

Let your guide know early if you need to stop somewhere for a restroom break. He will find an appropriate place to stop or find a restroom in the park. More often than not, other members of the group may also need to go!

- **Be in the moment, and don't worry about missing out**

If you're not feeling energetic or simply want a break from the vehicles, feel free to stay at camp or at your lodge for the morning or afternoon. It's a great opportunity to slow down, listen to the wilderness and enjoy unparalleled peace.

- **Expect some areas to be popular**

As a Thomson guest, you have exclusive access to certain locations but be prepared for a few places to be quite popular with other safari-goers. For example: Ngorongoro Crater, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, attracts visitors from all nations to a very small area.

- **Pack hand sanitizer, moist towelettes and travel-sized toilet paper**
Park restrooms often do not have toilet paper and, while your guide carries a roll of toilet paper in the vehicle, it's nice to have a very small supply of your own.
- **Prepare for a temperate climate**
The weather in Tanzania is quite comfortable with the warmest temperatures in December through March and the coolest in June through August. If you are staying in the Eastern Serengeti or on the Ngorongoro Crater rim (7,000-foot elevation), we suggest bringing warm layers for chilly mornings and evenings which can be in the 40s June through August!
- **Respect wildlife and park rules**
The rules in parks, reserves and conservation areas protect you, the wildlife and the environment. Please respect these rules to ensure that you, your safari companions and future generations can enjoy all Tanzania has to offer.
- **Respect animals' space and habitats**
We know you're going to get excited when spotting a pride of lions for the first time but try to express such excitement quietly. Situations when you especially want to be quiet and remain at a safe distance include:

 - When animals are mating
 - When a predator is on a hunt or eating a kill
 - When a mother has a young animal beside her
 - When animals are in the middle of the road
 - When a lone male (buffalo, lion, elephant, etc.) is near
- **Do not walk outside the boundaries of your lodge or camp at any time**
Wildlife populations are dense, so use common sense by not wandering off unguided. "Askaris" (watchmen) patrol the grounds at night, and your guides will accompany you on any walks around or outside camp.
- **Bring your headlamp/flashlight to dinner**
Most guests enjoy sitting by the fire before or after dinner, but remember there will only be the soft, ambient light of the stars to guide you back to your tent. The camp crew will also be happy to escort you.
- **Use good old-fashioned common sense in cities**
Be respectful of the culture, do not flaunt jewelry or valuables, keep a money pouch or belt hidden from view, and be firm but polite when declining offers of CDs, souvenirs or other unwanted requests.

KEEPING HEALTHY

BUGS AND MALARIA

- **Pack repellent with 30-50% DEET**
This is heavy-duty repellent that you will want to try out at home if you have particularly sensitive skin. If you are traveling with young children, you will want to consult with a doctor about a more appropriate repellent.
- **To avoid tsetse flies, try citronella-based repellents**
The tsetse fly (pronounced TEET-see) is an annoying insect that is active during daylight hours and can be found in Tarangire, Ruaha, Selous, and the Serengeti. In tsetse-prone areas it's best to wear lighter colored clothing and use citronella-based repellent.
- **Wear long sleeves, pants and socks when mosquitoes are active**
The key times to consider are the hours before dawn, at dusk and at night.
- **Don't invite the mosquitoes in**
Use mosquito netting in lodges and make sure your tent zippers are always closed while at the Nyumbas. Also, if you are enjoying your evening meal or relaxing by the fire at night, **do not** leave the solar light on in your Nyumba; it will attract a host of unwanted bugs outside your door.
- **Speak immediately with your head guide if you feel ill**
If you experience fever, chills, sweats, headache, body-aches, nausea, vomiting or fatigue, alert your guide. Meals can be adjusted if you have an upset stomach, or your guide can seek medical assistance if necessary.

TUMMY TROUBLES

- **Eat your fruits and vegetables**

Chefs and staff at Nyumba camps are highly trained in the careful and hygienic preparation of food, and we often get requests for recipes! It is safe to eat raw fruits and vegetables at Nyumba camps, but your guide may alert you not to eat raw foods at certain lodges.

- **Be prepared if stomach issues strike**

When traveling, it's always a good idea to bring Imodium, Pepto Bismol or even prescription medications like Ciprofloxacin, all of which you should discuss with your doctor.

- **Stay hydrated**

Complimentary drinking water is always on hand in your vehicle and in camps, so take advantage of it as often as you like. Never drink or brush your teeth with tap water.

- **Try not to ingest water while showering**

This is a simple rule that many of us forget, but it's important to try to keep your mouth closed while showering.

- **Please wash your hands often**

Always wash your hands before meals, before brushing your teeth and after using the bathroom.

- **Pack hand sanitizer for washing while you are on the road**

Moist towelettes are particularly handy, since they give you both germ-killing power and a cloth-like surface onto which you can rub your hands.

- **Ask Nyumba staff for warm water at any time**

Staff will automatically provide hot water, soap and hand towels to your tent verandah table each morning and before every meal, but you can request more at any time. Also, simply let them know anytime you would like a shower.

KEEP FIT ON SAFARI

- **Use the Keep Fit Kits while staying at Nyumba camps**
Keep Fit Kits include resistance tubes of varying strength, a yoga mat, a jump rope and an exercise ball. The best time to use the kits is early morning before safari or early evening before dinner. If it is not readily visible, just ask the camp manager or your guide where to find the kit.
- **Enjoy your meals; there will be more than enough to eat**
Guests often compliment us on the quality of food on safari and many eat more on safari than they do at home! If you are being served, always feel free to tell servers when you have had enough. While staff members speak English, you can even try a little Swahili: Inatoshwa, asante (Enough, thank you).
- **Maximize your rest stops by getting out of the vehicle to stretch and walk**
If you're feeling restless in the vehicle, ask your guide for appropriate times and places where you might get out and stretch your legs.

FIVE STAR REVIEWS!

"I can't believe that the kitchens at all the camps can produce such great food. The camp crews are so responsive to your needs. Sometimes it is like they know what you want before you do."

– David C.

"The food at all locations was outstanding! We are foodies, and were amazed by what the chefs were able to do."

– Skip & Vicki K.

TIPS FOR RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

- **Learn about your destination**

Simply by reading this booklet and learning about Tanzania, you have taken the first step toward being a responsible and ethical traveler. For example, trying out just a few phrases of Swahili works wonders.

- **Refrain from making empty promises**

If you are approached by someone who asks for a contribution to one of their projects, a gift, or even correspondence from North America, we do not suggest saying “yes” or even “maybe” just to be polite. Being clear and direct with “no thank you” will suffice.

- **Wear appropriate clothing**

In the cities and towns, long pants and at least knee-length shorts or longer skirts and dresses are the norm. You can be more relaxed while in national parks on safari; however, wearing at least knee-length shorts is more appropriate for villages and during cultural activities. In Zanzibar and other predominantly Muslim areas, dress is more conservative. However, that does not apply to beach resorts where you can dress as you would on any beach in North America.

- **Be aware of different personal space norms**

This is a fascinating cultural difference; it is common for Tanzanian male friends to hold hands and for friends and acquaintances to show physical signs of affection. Personal space is much closer than in the U.S. However, excessive public displays of affection between couples are taboo.

- **Bargain but don't go overboard**

At some shops, bargaining is the norm. Definitely make an offer and counteroffer, as you can sometimes drop the price 30 percent. But it's normal and acceptable for you to pay more than what a Tanzanian would pay for the same item. That's part of being a traveler in any country.

- **Go beyond the footprints and photographs rule**

Take only photographs and leave only footprints: do not litter, disturb plant life or take anything from the wild. If you have any trash, no matter how small, please dispose of it in a trash receptacle or gather it in a plastic bag for later disposal.

- **Prepare for possible culture shock**
Even veteran travelers sometimes experience degrees of culture shock. Your senses will be engaged on every level. You will also witness varying levels of poverty that may be jarring. Simply relax into the journey and always feel free to ask if you have questions about what you are experiencing.
- **Remove any unneeded packaging from items you are bringing on safari**
Generally, you can recycle packaging in your home country while you cannot do so in Tanzania.
- **Keep any used batteries until you return home**
Tanzania does not yet have recycling programs that will handle hazardous materials such as batteries. There are many resources for properly disposing of old batteries within North America.
- **Do not purchase souvenirs with coral or endangered animal products**
It is illegal to take these items out of Tanzania and doing so encourages further illegal activity.

BASIC PHOTOGRAPHY ETIQUETTE & TIPS

- **Always ask Tanzanians if you can take their photo**
Make sure they understand you and take your time if they do not speak English. Respect their wishes. Refrain from taking photos of people from your safari vehicle without asking. Just imagine how uncomfortable you might feel if a stranger took photos of you without your permission.
- **Be especially respectful to ask the Maasai to take their photos**
Many Maasai believe that tourists are exploiting and making money from their images, as these images have become so popular. Others may feel culturally violated. When in doubt, ask your guide for advice.
- **Please do not pay to take someone's photograph**
When you ask for permission to take an amateur photograph, you may get a request for money. Simply decline the photo opportunity. As harmless as such a transaction might seem, it will result in more people demanding money for photos.
- **Contact Thomson Safaris if you will take professional photography or video**
There are strict requirements/fees imposed by the Tanzanian government.
- **Remain patient and quiet while photographing wildlife**
You won't want to scare off animals or make the trip unpleasant for other travelers.
- **Do not use flash photography when photographing wildlife**
This causes unnecessary stress to the animals.
- **Make sure you are not taking photographs in a prohibited area**
Prohibited areas include military or government convoys and installations, police outposts, prisons, airports, border posts, government buildings, or near anyone in uniform. If unsure, ask your guide.
- **Pace yourself and do not take too many photographs early on**
You might miss seeing and experiencing things if your eye is constantly behind the lens.

TECHNICAL TIPS

- **For digital, use an SLR camera and for film, a 35mm SLR works best**
Use telephoto lenses (at least 200mm) and fast shutter zoom lenses (70-300mm).
- **Use the beanbags we provide in the vehicles for camera stabilization**
You will not need a tripod or monopod for wildlife photography.
- **For close-ups, try shooting through the window while sitting instead of standing**
This often leads to better angles and composition.
- **Research how to use your camera in low light conditions**
Light is best during the golden hours before sunset and after sunrise, which also happen to be the times when many animals are more active.
- **Take extra batteries and film/memory cards, and charge batteries whenever possible**
Bring more batteries, memory cards (or film) than you think you will need. These items are not readily available or are extremely expensive in Tanzania.
- **Keep your camera gear with you at all times**
Remember to take it out of the vehicle at the end of each day; you will likely want to clean it. Never leave camera gear in the car while on a village or cultural visit.
- **Remember your duffel bag weight restrictions**
Try not to bring numerous extra lenses or other specialty gear. If you are a professional or an experienced photographer who needs to bring more gear, please contact Thomson Safaris about the possibility of purchasing additional baggage weight on your internal flights.
- **Use sealable plastic bags to protect your gear, lens cleaner and lens paper**
Keeping your camera gear in sealable bags will help protect it from any moisture or dirt that could damage the equipment.

SOUVENIRS

- **Early on, examine souvenirs and items to begin comparing prices and quality**
You will make better purchasing judgments while on safari or when you return to Arusha for more shopping. There are beautifully crafted goods available for purchase in Tanzania, including Makonde woodcarvings, Maasai beadwork, masks, basketry, gemstones, fabrics and batiks. Quality and prices vary.
- **Tanzanite is a brilliant violet gemstone found only in Tanzania**
Like other rare gems, Tanzanite can be expensive. If gems are of interest to you, you may wish to do a bit of research on Tanzanite and then budget accordingly.
- **Please do not arrange international shipping with stores.**
Shipping costs can be double the original store quote, and merchandise can arrive damaged. Although shipping is at your own risk, past guests have found that using DHL has been the most reliable. **Thomson Safaris and its agents are not responsible for any goods purchased or shipped.**
- **Make sure you do not purchase illegal products**
Many species of flora and fauna are declining in numbers because of habitat destruction, while others are declining due to direct exploitation. It is illegal in the U.S. to import ivory, many furs, coral, tortoise shell, reptile skins, feathers or plants.

Contact TRAFFIC for more information on illegal products

TRAFFIC (U.S.) c/o the World Wildlife Fund
1250 24th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037
202-293-4800
tna@wwfus.org
www.traffic.org

GIVING BACK

- **If you want to give a gift, find the right time and place**

Appropriate times include when you visit a school or a family for a cultural activity. Please talk with your guide, who will present gifts on your behalf to the necessary authority. Remember these should be seen simply as tokens of your appreciation and not as charity.

- **For schools, consider the following gifts**

We recommend trying to make a small contribution to a school, as opposed to individual students. Gifts should be given to a headmaster to ensure fair distribution.

- Book bags
- Backpacks
- Pencils and pens
- Maps of the world
- Rulers
- Small solar-powered calculators
- Photo of American pen pals and family

- **Consider donating to an organization that is making a difference in Tanzania**

Thomson Safaris has a close relationship with Focus on Tanzanian Communities (FoTZC), which was started in 1997 by Judi Wineland, co-founder of Thomson Safaris, and past travelers. FoTZC is a 501(c)(3) charity that partners with Tanzanian communities to overcome economic and social challenges. FoTZC is building future leaders and helping communities adapt to social changes through sustainable projects that improve education, support women's economic empowerment, and provide clean water and healthcare. Many of these projects can be visited on our safari itineraries. For more information, or if you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution, please contact FoTZC at:



Focus on Tanzanian Communities

c/o Thomson Safaris
14 Mount Auburn Street
Watertown, MA 02472

www.fotzc.org
info@fotzc.org

GEAR UP!

Proceeds from all purchases at our online Safari Store go directly to Focus on Tanzania Communities.

Check out the Safari Store at ThomsonSafaris.com

NOTES



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