

# SEASONS: TANZANIA

When to Go & What to Pack



## TANZANIA

*PLEASE NOTE: Weather patterns are changing all the time and the below is a general guideline as well as a personal comment based on our experience of travelling at this time of the year. It is by no means a weather guarantee.*

### January to March

#### HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

We love this time of the year in Tanzania. Between the short rains in November and the long rains in April/May, it is the warmest time of the year with beautiful days. This was traditionally the high season before the 'migration fixation' and now offers great value and wonderful weather. The southern Serengeti can be wetter than the Mara and the wildebeest are in the south to give birth to their young.

**JANUARY:** Clear, hot days and warm nights make this a wonderful time for safaris. Lake Manyara has thousands of flamingos and it is a wonderful time to enjoy the pink landscape from Chem Chem Lodge.

**FEBRUARY:** The hottest time in Tanzania and the dry season is now reaching a climax, grass is grazed down and wildlife are gathering close to water points, this is still a good time for a safari. Can have some rain showers, which are a welcome relief.

**MARCH:** Hot, increasingly humid weather with some rain showers. But still a very good time to travel.

#### AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

|               | Tarangire   | Crater / Karatu | Serengeti   |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Average Day   | 29°C / 84°F | 22°C / 72°F     | 28°C / 82°F |
| Average Night | 17°C / 63°F | 11°C / 52°F     | 16°C / 61°F |

#### WHAT TO PACK

Light clothing and layers that can peel on and off with ease. Rain jackets are essential. Prepare for hot days and rains. Rains bring cooler days so a few warm layers are required. The Mara and Crater may be wetter and cooler. Tarangire and southern parts of Tanzania will be hot so take along a swimsuit as a dip is a lovely way to cool down.

### April to June

#### GREEN SEASON AND GREAT VALUE

Too often travellers want a guarantee of no rain! But for those who are not afraid of a few showers this is a lovely time to travel. Many camps are closed in April and May, the ones that are open offer great value and good deals and we would recommend flying between destinations rather than driving.

**APRIL:** The wettest month of the year with a high humidity level. Chem Chem Lodge, Little Chem Chem, Forest Chem Chem and Azura Selous are closed. Gibb's Farm and all the Legendary Camps are open and offer superb value!

**MAY:** Very rainy month; afternoon downpours are to be expected. But the air is crisp and clean and it is so good to see rivers and lakes full after the rains. Legendary Serengeti Mobile Camp is Closed from the 1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> of May. Chem Chem Lodge opens on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May.

**JUNE:** The long dry seasons begins and weather is usually sunny with clear skies. The surrounding landscape is fresh and green. Azura Selous and Little Chem Chem and Forest Chem Chem open on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.

#### AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

|               | Tarangire   | Crater / Karatu | Serengeti   |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Average Day   | 26°C / 79°F | 18°C / 64°F     | 26°C / 79°F |
| Average Night | 16°C / 61°F | 12°C / 54°F     | 16°C / 61°F |

#### WHAT TO PACK

Light clothing and layers that can peel on and off with ease. Rain jackets are essential. Rains bring cooler days so a few warm layers are required and spare shoes as there is nothing worse than wearing wet shoes!

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Page: 1 of 2

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## July to September

### PEAK SAFARI SEASON

We are aware this time of the year fits in with many annual holidays, especially families with school children, and it combines perfectly with a wonderful time to be on safari. This makes for our peak safari season and to ensure your ideal trip and choice of lodges and camps, we do suggest making your bookings well in advance.

**JULY:** The landscape is beautiful green and lush, days are warm and evenings cool. It is one of the best times in Tanzania.

**AUGUST:** Lovely warm days, cooler nights and normally very little rain. Higher number of tourists and places like the Crater become crowded. Safaris in private concessions – Chem Chem is highly sought after as it has exclusive access to beautiful wildlife regions.

**SEPTEMBER:** Dry and lovely, like July and August.

### AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

|               | Tarangire   | Crater / Karatu | Serengeti   |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Average Day   | 25°C / 77°F | 19°C / 66°F     | 27°C / 81°F |
| Average Night | 14°C / 57°F | 9°C / 48°F      | 15°C / 59°F |

### WHAT TO PACK

Light clothing and layers that can peel on and off with ease. Prepare for warm days and cooler evenings (around the Crater it can be very cold and the fires in the Gibb's Farm cottages will be blazing away). We suggest fleece, warm hats and gloves for morning and evening drives, especially in July.

## October to December

### HIGHLY RECOMMENDED – OCTOBER & DECEMBER

One of our best seasons to visit Tanzania and it is the perfect time for travellers who are not bound by school holidays. These are wonderful months and can be getting hot and dry before the November shorts rains.

**OCTOBER:** Warm and clear month, with rain possible at the end of the month. Lower altitude areas of Tanzania – Tarangire, Selous, Ruaha – can be very hot and dry at this time.

**NOVEMBER:** Start of the 'short rainy season'. These bring welcome relief after a period of over 5 months with no rain. In recent years the short rains have been very light and in some places non-existent. This makes for a very hot and dry few months before the long rains in April.

**DECEMBER:** Temperatures gradually edge up during the second month of the 'short rains'. Wonderful time of the year for safari.

### AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

|               | Tarangire   | Crater / Karatu | Serengeti   |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Average Day   | 29°C / 84°F | 21°C / 70°F     | 28°C / 82°F |
| Average Night | 17°C / 63°F | 12°C / 54°F     | 16°C / 61°F |

### WHAT TO PACK

Light clothing and layers that can peel on and off with ease. Rain jackets are essential. Prepare for hot days and a chance of rain – especially in November and early December.