

# Tanzania Karibu !



..... the beauty of this country is what I can only refer to as a "shauri ya mungu" thing.

## Part I - Some Facts.

**If the reader finds this introduction somewhat eclectic and poorly sequenced, just read on, .....** You may develop an urge to visit what only the "Mungu" (whatever you believe or conceive him to be) could have designed and created.

Tanzania is the country made known by the British explorers Stanley, Livingstone, Burton and Speke, and where those famous words were uttered when Stanley came upon Livingstone after spending months in the African Bush : "**Dr Livingstone I presume**"

**Tanzania**, possesses a long and beautiful coastline along the Indian Ocean, and within its waters are the spice islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, and the remote Mafia Island.

Here we find **Mt. Kilimanjaro** the **tallest** mountain in the world at 5985 metres or some 18000 feet: also the world's **tallest** animal, the **largest** animal and also the **fastest** animal, and the bird that lays the largest egg !

...as well as the **3 largest lakes** in Africa: **Lake Victoria** (the world's second-largest freshwater lake), **Lake Tanganyika** (the world's second deepest), and **Lake Nyasa**,

**Tanzania** is also home to six **world heritage sites**, two of which are cultural and four are natural. **The cultural sites** are the **Zanzibar Stone town**, and **Kilwa Kisiwani/Songo Mnara**, a 13th Century center for gold trading.

The four **natural sites** are **Mt. Kilimanjaro**, **Ngorongoro Crater**; **Serengeti National Park** (the largest national park in the world and the best known wildlife sanctuary, home to more than three million large mammals and over four hundred species of birdlife, migrant and resident) and the **Selous Game Reserve** (the largest protected wildlife area in the world !! )

The breath taking natural beauty inspired the legendary author **Ernest Hemingway** to camp at its slopes and write his famous "**Snows of Kilimanjaro.**"

Tanzania is a rare country, with 13 national parks, 29 game reserves, 40 controlled conservation areas and marine parks that are located in the Northern and Southern parts of the country. More than 25 per cent of Tanzania's land area of just under one million square kilometers is covered with magnificent game reserves and national parks !!

**Dar-Es-Salaam**, the commercial centre of Tanzania, (**Tanganyika until 1964**) is the sea port situated on Tanzania's coast, and is a large natural harbour with a distinctive African flavour. Here handmade wooden sailing ships called "**Dhows**" can be seen arriving from the Persian Gulf, and where hand made, wooden outriggered boats called "**Ngalawa's**" fish the local waters .

The **Portuguese** came here in the 1600's and the **Omani Arabs** first arrived many hundreds of years ago, **the Germans** colonised Tanganyika for some 30-40 years until 1917, followed by **British Colonialists** who ruled until independence in 1964.

This is why the writer says it's a "**shauri ya mungu thing**" in Kiswahili, roughly meaning it's God's affair, God's design, God's Planning .....and all of this in **Tanzania, in one country** !

There are the enchanting and not so well known **Usambara Mountains** which the German colonialists took to their heart as their holiday and food garden, where you can still find homes and hotels built by the Germans and British, an area with magnificent climate, soils, forests and streams and home to the rare **Colobus** monkey, tea and coffee estates and a kind of magic to the whole area.

Tanzania has other mountains and highlands at altitudes of 3000 –6000 feet and which include national parks and game reserves like the **Ruaha**, and **Udzugwa** partly covered by thick cool forests, where leopard and buffalo live, as well as an enormous variety of birdlife .....also areas where there are no roads or vehicle access and which require a safari on foot with an armed game scout.

### Even more....

Here the naturalist and researcher of Chimpanzees, **Jane Goodall** has lived most of her life (**Gombe Stream** is in Western Tanzania)... and where **the renowned German zoologist Dr Bernhard Grzimek pioneered research into the Serengeti National Park**, and where his son Michael is buried at **Seronera** after his plane crashed flying over the Serengeti after filming "Serengeti Shall Not Die"

This is also where **Olduvai Gorge** where **Dr Louis Leakey** has done so much research on man's origin, and where **Hardy Kruger** and **William Holden** made the charming movie "**Hatari**", with the Henry Mancini Orchestra theme "**The Baby Elephant Walk**", and where the famous snake expert **Ionides** pioneered and taught the world about the snakes of Africa.

This is also the land of the **Tanzanite Stone**, & **Meerschaum** smoking pipes. (kiko in Swahili) (Meerschaum stone is only found in Turkey and Tanzania.)

This is the land of the **Maasai**, warriors and nomadic farmers, and of the famous **wa-Makonde** tribe of artists, carvers and tattooists,.

**So soma, sikia, uende and mrudi**, ie read about, hear about, go to and return to visit this jewel of Africa; hopefully again and again.



## Part II - Some More Basic Facts:

(i) General  
**Borders** Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Uganda & The Congo.

Has over **100 different tribes** of different languages but all of whom also speak Swahili.  
Has a people with a history of tolerance and courtesy.

The home of **Dr. Leakey**, the internationally known anthropologist (**Olduvai Gorge**), & the cradle of civilisation, and the first home of modern man (“homo sapiens”) An article in the newspaper “The Sydney Morning Herald” of the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2005, commences thus; “ *Modern humans who left East Africa more than 65,000 years ago and eventually populated the globe ..... etc.*, and continues - “*most scientists agree that the human species arose in Africa about 150,000 years ago ...etc.*”

**Tanzania has:**

- **the largest game reserve in Africa** – the Selous. Named after the professional hunter Frederick Courtenay Selous, who was slain by a stray bullet fired by a German soldier during the first world war, when British forces fought to occupy Tanganyika and oust the Germans. His marked grave still lies in this remote, & pristine game reserve.

- **the largest estuary river in Africa the Rufiji** (big enough to house a German naval cruiser that harassed British naval vessels during WW1 from its hiding place in the Rufiji delta in the heart of the African bush. The delta and the river connects right into the Selous game reserve.

(ii) Swahili Language and the People of Tanzania

**The home of the Kiswahili language** (mixture of Arabic and African languages from the coastal provinces)

The name swahili is a corruption of the arabic word *sawahil* which means (coast), and swahili is the language developed at the East African coast.

For e.g. the word “*baksheesh*” meaning a tip or a bribe or some change, is the same in Arabic, and the list of similarities goes on, but this is an African language spoken with a distinctly African pronunciation and intonation.

The song “**Jambo Bwana**” made known internationally by Miriam Makeba and “Boney M”. was composed by a Tanzanian , **William Fadhili**, and is a Swahili song.

The word **safari** is actually a Swahili word adopted into english and simply means ‘a journey’.

You’ve all heard the Swahili phrase **Hakuna Matata**, from the Lion King, and the name **Pumba** (where I dread to think this is a short form of the word **pumbavu**, *Swahili* for idiot)

Where **Tanzania** has maybe 120 different tribes and many languages, Swahili is the lingua-franca uniting all Tanzanians. ! This has never been an issue dividing the people of Tanzania. Some of the best known tribes are the **Maasai**, the warriors and cattlemen who need no introduction, and the **Wa-Makonde** of Southern Tanzania whose cultural traditions includes facial tattooing and the very original and well known Makonde wooden sculptures.

Masaai are pastoralists who run herds of cattle and care for them in an environment that has always included dangerous game, where the lion especially, or leopard or hyena will seek out cattle as easy prey, and where bomas or pens, are built of woven thorn bushes to protect the cattle at night. They live in a boma or circular enclosure called “manyatas” surrounding the pens and their precious stock of wealth.

That the Masaai are nomadic is only to the extent that they have to relocate to where there are suitable pastures and enough water for their herds, which also include goats and sheep. There is much that has-been written about these people in novels and factual accounts, including their old tradition of lion hunts on foot and with spears.

Physically they make a statement, being slim & tall with great physical prowess, with their red ochre and pigtailed, loin-body cloths, shields and spears, and being without argument the worlds best high jumpers.



**Selous Game Reserve** (the largest protected wildlife area in the world !! )covers an area of 55,000 square kilometers, the Selous has Tanzania's largest population of elephant, buffalo, hippo and wild dog. Other commonly seen species are lions, bush boars, impalas, giraffes, greater kudus, zebras and baboons. The Selous contains some of the finest virgin bush life in Africa.

**Ruaha National Park** is Tanzania's third largest park and the largest elephant sanctuary. The park derives its name from the great Ruaha River, which flows along its entire eastern border creating spectacular gorges and scenery.

Flowing in to the **Rufiji River**, the Great Ruaha is home to hippos, crocodiles, waterbucks, reedbucks and buffalos. Bird life is prolific - over 370 species have been recorded some of which are not found in northern Tanzania. Eurasian migrants flock to Ruaha twice a year, March to November, joining the resident kingfishers, hornbills, sunbirds, egrets and plovers.

The park is a remote bastion of spectacular wilderness and breathtaking scenery. With large herds of elephant, buffalo and gazelle.

The surrounding game reserves of **Rungwa and Kisigo** -- stretches over 40,000 square kilometres. Elephants are found in some of the highest concentration in the country, travelling in matriarch-lead herds.

The **Great Ruaha River** is the main feature of the park, and meanders through its borders. across the hills and plains.

Boating safaris are starting to gain in popularity, and provide a popular alternative to viewing the area by car.

Most of the national park is located on the top of a 900 metre plateau. Small mountains run along the southwest borders of the park and their tree-covered slopes are visible in the distance.

Because of its rather remote location, Ruaha National Park is largely unexplored.

**The Udzungwa.** Not well known but important and quite mysterious. There are no roads, only walking trails. There are some who dare not enter out of respect for their belief in the superstitious.

Armed game scouts have to accompany anyone entering for here there are leopard , African Buffalo and many other animals.

Deeply forested in some parts and with elevations ranging from a few hundred to a few thousand feet, it is believed to house a staggering variety of plants and vegetation, and from which many natural herbs and cures are prepared by the local traditional faith healers.

An article appearing in the Australian newspaper "The Sydney Morning Herald" of the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2005(included below) tells of the exceptional find of two teams of scientists working independantly in Tanzania, having identified a new species of monkey(the first new primate species identified in Africa in 20 years)named the Highland Mangabey (nearly a metre long with long brownish fur)

### **Gombe Stream National Park.**

The well known pioneering researcher Jane Goodall and her foundation are synonymous with Gombe and the studies of it's Chimpanzee population.

Gombe's residents include some of the rarest species of animals – chimpanzees, yellow baboons, sykes monkeys, and colobus monkeys.

### **The Coast.**

The Coastal towns of **Kilwa** and **Bagamoyo** have long a long history and are rich in cultural traditions that date back to the 13th century. Kilwa was the center of gold trade and Bagamoyo

was already a well-established natural harbor, which bears the reminders of the infamous slave trade and the ivory trade.

This port was widely used by Arabs, Persians, Chinese and Portuguese traders.

In addition to its history, Bagamoyo also offers water sports, big game fishing and scuba diving.

About two miles south of Bagamoyo one can find the ruins of a once prosperous Arab town Kaole, which was forced to decline by the Portuguese in the 15th century. The Kaole ruins dating back to the 12th century includes two mosques and one well, which never dries. All these buildings were built using carved coral stone blocks.

The town of **Kilwa** home to the most spectacular 13th century ruin on the East African Coast. It was during the 13th century that Kilwa established itself as a center for the gold trade.

**Dar-Es-Salaam** ("Heaven of Peace", in Arabic,) is the commercial city of Tanzania, with one of the finest natural harbors in the world.

The city is also a melting pot for both local and international cultures, & has a rich history seen through its architecture that bears Asian, Arabic, British and German-Bavarian influence.

The State House, St. Joseph Cathedral, the Lutheran Azania Front Church, Dar es salaam Botanical Garden and the City Council office (old Boma), just to mention a few, are the legacies of the German era.

Southeast of Dar es Salaam lies **Mafia** island. a world-class paradise island for divers, fisherman and water sport lovers. Here time seems to have come to a stop..

In addition to the fantastic wildlife, and stunning scenery there are plenty of other things to see in Tanzania. These include:

**Amboni Caves** located in Tanga Region, limestone caves formed during the Jurassic Age some 150 million years ago and are the most extensive cave system in East Africa.

**Isimila Stone Age Site** is located in south of Iringa where in 1951 the richest finds of Stone Age were discovered together with many fossilized bones believed to be those of mammals related to the modern giraffes, but having much shorter necks and hippopotamus with unusual periscope-like projections.

**Kondoa Irangi** Rock Paintings in central Tanzania are some of the finest examples of rock paintings in the world. These paintings depict the animals and customs of the people at the time.

**Kalambo Falls:** Found near the southern tip of **Lake Tanganyika** Kalambo falls, drops to 215 meters. Making it one of the highest water falls in the world after the Tugela Falls in South Africa.

**Lake Victoria:** is the world's second largest fresh water lake after Lake Superior in North America.

It is here that the first Europeans, Burton & Speke saw the source of the River Nile. The Lake is also famous for its large population of Tilapia and the Nile Perch.

**Lake Tanganyika** is the world's second deepest fresh water lake. Famous for its large population of sardines and more than 250 different species of fish.

**Lake Nyasa** is well known for its unique species of aquarium fish. The Lake also links Tanzania with Malawi.

#### (iv) More Historical & Cultural Aspects

Portuguese traders dominated the East African coast from 1525 until the early 18th century,

when Omani Arabs once again regained control of the slave trade. The first missionaries journeyed to the mainland in the early 19th century and settlements, mission stations, and trading posts were built as far inland as Lake Tanganyika. In the late 19th century, the German East African Company gained control of large portions of the Tanzanian mainland, although the British held a sphere of influence over the Omani Sultans ruling the Zanzibar Archipelago. By 1891, most of mainland Tanzania was under the colonial administration of German East Africa.

I have to mention the fascinating life of the famous British professional hunter and adventurer Frederick Courteney Selous, after whom the Selous Game Reserve was named. He was shot while in the middle of this wild and remote part of Africa teeming with wildlife, by a soldier of the German army, engaged in a skirmish with British forces, during WW 1, in 1917.

At the end of World War I, the Germans relinquished control over the area and handed it over to British administration that governed by a system of indirect rule.

(v) Hunting

Game and bird hunting is legal in Tanzania, and during the hunting season, which runs from July to December of each year, hunters from around the world arrive to embark on private guided expeditions into the African bush. Hunting safaris take visitors to some of the most remote parts of the country.

Hunting safaris last anywhere between a week to a few months, with guests and their guide setting up camp in a specific hunting block and exploring the entire area over a set period of time.

Bird hunting is becoming increasingly popular around seasonal rivers and dams. Guinea fowl, sand grouse, franklin, and some geese and duck species are plentiful throughout the country.

Hunting companies are required to ensure that their commercial activities do not deplete the natural wealth of the country's wildlife population, and many groups sponsor community wildlife projects that educate local villagers about the environment and help to improve educational and medical services. Hunting company initiatives have included anti-poaching education and patrols, clinic and school building, and community education efforts about wildlife preservation and coexistence.

(vi) Health

Tanzania is located in a tropical climate with different bacteria, flora, and fauna than most visitors are accustomed to, so it is advisable to take a few health precautions when travelling to make sure that your trip goes as comfortably and smoothly as possible.

Malaria: This is usually top on the list of visitors' worries, and prevention goes a long way towards keeping you protected. Although it is believed that the anopholes mosquito (the species that carries malaria) hunts only at night, make sure that all exposed areas are well covered by insect repellent at all times. Sleep under a net – there are some very good travelling mosquito nets available now, but budget travellers are well-advised to bring their own since the nets at most low-end guesthouses have holes or are invariably too small. If you're sleeping in a tent that doesn't have a net, spray insect repellent inside, close the flap, and leave for a few minutes.

Make sure to visit your doctor to get a prescription for the antimalarial drugs that best suit your health and condition.

If you feel achy, have chills and hot flushes, headaches, or a fever either during your trip or up to a few weeks afterwards, visit a doctor immediately to be tested for malaria. If your symptoms persist, don't hesitate in seeking a second opinion.

Treatment is widely available and recovery times are fast, provided that you get diagnosed as soon as you notice any possible symptoms. After all this advice, it's worth noting that not every mosquito has malaria and that if you're conscientious and take precautions, it's unlikely that you will get malaria.

Vaccinations: The yellow-fever vaccination may not or may be officially required when entering Tanzania, yet because the disease is endemic many doctors will recommend it as a precaution. Other vaccinations that might be considered before you travel include typhoid, hepatitis A and B, meningitis, and tetanus. For more information, contact your doctor.

Food and water: It's best to drink bottled water when travelling through Tanzania. Steer clear of ice, raw vegetables, and salads when eating at street restaurants. While on holiday, it's always better to err on the side of caution.

### (vii) Climate

Tanzania has a tropical type of climate. In the highlands, temperatures range between 10<sup>0</sup>c and 20<sup>0</sup>c during cold and hot seasons respectively. The rest of the country has temperatures never falling lower than 20<sup>0</sup>c. The hottest period spreads between November and February (25<sup>0</sup>c - 31<sup>0</sup>c) while the coldest period occurs between May and August (15<sup>0</sup>c - 20<sup>0</sup>c).

Two rainfall regimes exist over Tanzania. One is unimodal (December - April) and the other is bimodal (October - December and March - May). The former is experienced in southern, south-west, central and western parts of the country, and the latter is found to the north and northern coast.

In the bimodal regime the March - May rains are referred to as the long rains or Masika, whereas the October - December rains are generally known as short rains or Vuli.

### (viii) Geographical Features

Area: Total 945,000 km<sup>2</sup>  
Mainland: 881,000 km<sup>2</sup>  
Zanzibar: 2,000 km<sup>2</sup>  
Water: 62,000 km<sup>2</sup>

Tanzania is the biggest of the East Africa countries & has a spectacular landscape of mainly three physiographic regions namely the Islands and the coastal plains to the east; the inland saucer-shaped plateau; and the highlands.

The Great Rift Valley that runs from north east of Africa through central Tanzania is another landmark that adds to the scenic view of the country. The rift valley runs to south of Tanzania splitting at Lake Nyasa; one branch runs down beyond Lake Nyasa to Mozambique; and another branch to north-west alongside Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and western part of Uganda. The valley is dotted with unique lakes which includes Lakes Rukwa, Tanganyika, Nyasa, Kitangiri, Eyasi and Manyara.

The uplands includes the Kipengere, Udzungwa, Matogoro, Livingstone, and the Fipa plateau forming the southern highlands.

The Usambara, Pare, Meru, Kilimanjaro, the Ngorongoro Crater and the Oldonyo Lengai, all form the northern highlands. From these highlands and the central saucer plateau flow the drainage system to the Indian ocean and the inland drainage system.

<b>Mountain Summits:</b>	<b>(metres above sea level)</b>
Mount Kilimanjaro	5,895

Mount Meru	4,566
Mount Rungwe	2,960
Uluguru Mountains	2,648
Rubeho Mountains	2,576
Livingstone Mountains	2,521
Mbizi Mountain	2,418
Mahari Mountain	2,373
Usambara Mountains	2,300

(ix) Natural Resources:

Minerals - gold, diamonds, tanzanite and various other gemstones, natural gas, iron ore, coal, spring water, phosphates, soda ash and salt.

Wildlife and Tourism - 12 National Parks, the Ngorongoro conservation Area, 13 Game reserves, 38 Game Controlled Areas: National Cultural Heritage Sites (about 120 sites)

Fisheries - three large lakes: Victoria, Tanganyika and Nyasa, the Indian Ocean coastline, rivers and wetlands. Potential yield of fish from natural waters is estimated to be 730,000 metric tons annually, present catch is alot less.

(X) Holidays and National Anthem.

**National holidays**

1 January	New Year
12 January	Zanzibar Revolution Day
25 March	Good Friday
28 March	Easter Monday
26 April	Union Day
29* April	Maulid
1 May	Labour Day
7 July	International Trade Fair
8 August	Farmers' Day
14 October	Mwalimu Nyerere Day and Climax of "uhuru Torch Race"
3* & 4 *	Idd - El Fitr
November	
9 December	Indepedence Day
25 December	Christmas Day
26 December	Boxing Day

**Tanzania National Anthem**

**1. Mungu Ibariki Afrika  
Wabariki viongozi wake  
Hekima, umoja na amani  
Hizi ni ngao zetu  
Afrika na watu wake.**

1. God Bless Africa  
Bless its leaders  
Let Wisdom Unity and  
Peace be the shield of  
Africa and its people

**1. CHORUS:**

**Ibariki, Afrika**

**Ibariki, Afrika**

**Tubaki, watoto wa Afrika CHORUS:**

Bless Africa

Bless Africa

Bless the children of Africa

2. Mungu Ibariki Tanzania  
Dumisha uhuru na umoja  
Wake kwa waume na watoto  
Mungu, Ibariki  
Tanzania, na watu wake.

2. God Bless Tanzania  
Grant eternal Freedom and Unity  
To its sons and daughters.  
God Bless Tanzania and its People

**2. CHORUS:**

**Ibariki, Tanzania**

**Ibariki, Tanzania**

**Tubariki, watoto wa Tanzania**

**CHORUS:**

Bless Tanzania

Bless Tanzania

Bless the children of Tanzania .