

FROM BUSH TO BEACH

Tanzania Awaits South Africans in 2026

Hot on the heels of a record-setting 50 nominations at this year's World Travel Awards (and with Dar es Salaam playing host to Africa's most influential travel leaders), Tanzania isn't just "another safari" – it's emerging as the continent's ultimate adventure playground and a model of sustainable tourism excellence.

If you've ever dismissed regional escapes as less exciting than bucket-list trips abroad, it's time to think again. With new direct flights from Johannesburg and seamless bush-and-beach itineraries now easier than ever to book, Tanzania and Zanzibar offer an experience that feels worlds away from home...without the long-haul flight.

Thanks to South African passport holders' visa-free status for up to 90 days and fly & stay holiday packages starting from just R21,143 per person*, this is one adventure that combines big value with even bigger memories.

And this isn't just about ticking off sights, says Flight Centre South Africa's Sue Garrett, GM Supply, Pricing & Marketing:

"It's about being part of something dynamic: a country investing in world-class conservation standards, community upliftment, and truly transformative travel moments."

Ready to see why everyone will be talking about Tanzania in 2026? Here's everything you need to know before you go.

ACCESS HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER

New direct flights between Johannesburg and both Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar are genuine game-changers for South Africans. Air







Tanzania now operates five weekly flights from Johannesburg to Dar es Salaam (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays), plus a twice-weekly service linking Johannesburg directly to Zanzibar via Dar es Salaam (Tuesdays and Thursdays).

These connections make it easier than ever to combine a Serengeti safari with downtime on Zanzibar's world-famous beaches, all without lengthy layovers or complicated transfers. With flight times under four hours from Johannesburg, you can leave in the early afternoon and be unwinding by sunset.

PRESIDENTIAL DRIVE & GLOBAL CAMPAIGNS

The country's elevated profile isn't accidental. Under President Samia Suluhu Hassan – the first woman

to serve as both vice president and president in Tanzania's history – high-impact initiatives like "The Royal Tour" documentary (in which President Hassan was the main character and guide, showcasing Tanzania's rich tourism, culture, environment, and investment opportunities) have put Tanzania on an international stage.

This government-led focus has translated into tangible upgrades, including smarter infrastructure, firm conservation policy, and a rapidly professionalising tourism industry.

SMART CURRENCY REFORMS

New regulations now require all local payments to be made in Tanzanian shillings (TZS), reinforcing economic sustainability while keeping things simple for travellers. International bank cards

remain widely accepted at hotels and major attractions; cash exchanges can be easily handled at banks or bureaux de change. It's a move designed to support local businesses – and it means your spend goes further in-country.

WHERE THE WILD STILL SURPRISES

Tanzania offers adventures that are simply unmatched anywhere else on the continent. Here are a few highlights:

- **Katavi National Park:** For those craving true exclusivity, Katavi is one of Africa's last wild frontiers. With just three remote camps and access only by light aircraft, you'll find yourself surrounded by vast plains teeming with hippos, lions, and elephants, often without another vehicle in sight.




- **Ruaha National Park:** Home to classic tented camps and dramatic baobab landscapes, Ruaha delivers an authentic safari with abundant predators, yet it remains blissfully off most tourists' radar. Its proximity to Zanzibar makes it ideal for combining untamed bush with Indian Ocean relaxation.
- **Nyerere National Park (formerly Selous):** Larger than Switzerland but visited by a small number of travellers each year, Nyerere invites you to swap game drives for guided walking safaris or riverboat journeys beside hippos and crocodiles.
- **Mahale Mountains chimpanzee trekking:** On the forested shores of Lake Tanganyika lies Mahale Mountains National Park. Accessible only by boat, this remote haven offers intimate treks to observe wild chimpanzees in their natural rainforest habitat.
- **Lake Manyara tree top walkway:** This elevated forest walkway lets you spot monkeys, butterflies, birds, and panoramic lake views from high up in the canopy.
- **Tarangire:** Renowned for hosting massive elephant herds (sometimes

over 300-strong), Tarangire also delights bird enthusiasts with more than 500 recorded species, making it perfect for multi-generational trips or anyone seeking diversity beyond big cats alone.

- **Gombe Stream:** Step into history at Gombe National Park, the site where Jane Goodall revolutionised our understanding of chimpanzees. Guided treks here let you witness these remarkable primates up close while connecting with conservation history firsthand.

With its hearty mix of responsible tourism initiatives, world-renowned wildlife, and easier-than-ever access for South Africans, Tanzania is changing what it means to explore Africa in 2026.

"Tanzania is setting new standards for the continent, not just in conservation and hospitality, but in making extraordinary experiences truly accessible. For South Africans looking to venture beyond our borders without breaking the bank, there's a whole new world waiting to be discovered," Garrett concludes. 

by *flight centre*
/photography by *pexels & unsplash.com*