

# Tanzania

By Tom Kirvan

Its motto is “Freedom and Unity,” a two-part promise to the people of the most populous country located entirely south of the equator.

The United Republic of Tanzania, which partially borders the Indian Ocean, is located in East Africa within the African Great Lakes region. It counts Uganda, Kenya, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo as its neighbors.

Tanzania became a sovereign state in 1964 through the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar. Its official capital is Dodoma, a centrally located city that has served as the country’s governmental hub since 1974. Dar es Salaam, with a population of more than 6 million people, is the largest city in Tanzania, and is an industrial and commercial center located along the coast of the Indian Ocean.

The northeast section of the country is mountainous and densely forested, and features Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest free-standing peak in the world at 19,341 feet. An estimated 40,000 people per year attempt to reach the summit, making it one of the most popular mountains in the world to climb for adventurers of all ages and abilities. Some 60 percent reportedly make it to the top of the highest mountain on the African Continent.

Tanzania also is home to Lake Victoria, Africa’s largest body of water, while it also is the site of Lake Tanganyika, the continent’s deepest lake at 4,710 feet.

The country’s vast expanse of plains and plateaus feature a wide range of tropical wildlife, making the East African nation one of the most popular tourist destinations for safaris. Among the animal riches to be encountered are the “Big 5,” a group that includes the African Buffalo, Black Rhinoceros, Elephant, Leopard, and Lion. The Gazelle, Giraffe, Hyena, Wildebeest, and Warthogs also are a feast for the eyes.

An array of islands that comprise the Zanzibar Archipelago in the Indian Ocean also makes Tanzania a special tourist attraction. Anchored some 20 miles off the Tanzania coast, Zanzibar is a tropical getaway featuring a blend of white sand beaches, coral reefs, vibrant markets, and exotic cultural offerings.



## Fast Facts

Capital: Dodoma

Official Languages: Swahili, English

Population: 62 million

Religion: Christianity (63 percent)

Muslim (34 percent)

Must-see Attraction: Mount Kilimanjaro