



Sustainability Guidelines: Tanzania

You are about to embark on a wonderful trip to the Eastern African country of Tanzania, known for its stunning natural beauty and wildlife. Your trip will show you all that Tanzania has to offer, leaving you with a great appreciation of this country.

Environmental Issues:

Tanzania's natural beauty is, however, threatened by environmental problems. The main environmental struggles that Tanzania faces are:

- Deforestation: due to wood collection for fuel for the rapidly expanding population, commercial timber industry, and expanding agriculture,
- Loss of biodiversity: due to the threatened forests and habitat destruction
- Soil erosion: as a result of deforestation; without the trees to hold the soil in place, rain washes away fertile, valuable soil into the rivers and clogs them with sediments
- Lack of good quality water: due to drought and polluted rivers
- Deterioration of aquatic systems: due to soil that is washed away as a result of deforestation. As the soil gets into the rivers and reaches the sea, the sediments and silt block the light underwater so the coral cannot survive.

Environmental Initiatives:

While it seems that these environmental issues are overwhelming the country, environmental conservation inroads have been made within Tanzania. The government has put an emphasis on environmental education and awareness programs. More than 159 community based organizations and non-governmental organizations have been formed in the name of environmental conservation. Not only are there government programs, but the media is also taking part in the movement. Radio, TV and newspapers have also played a significant role in undertaking various education programs on environmental issues and conservation.

The *Tanzania Environmental Education Programme (TEEP)* enables people to make active and well-informed decisions and actions that result in positive environmental management. Schools are implementing "greening" programs such as composting, use of fuel efficient stoves, and establishment of tree nurseries and vegetable gardens. Books on themes such as trees, water, soil and wildlife conservation as well as air pollution and energy conservation are used in primary schools and communities. On *World Environmental Day* in 2007, over 25 schools collaborated on three projects:

- Planted up to 5,000 trees on school grounds and at students' homes
- An essay competition for students to write on how they could personally take action to preserve the environment
- An environmental fair to educate the public.



As a visitor to this beautiful country, you can help to preserve the natural beauty and not further environmental problems. One of Tanzania's main environmental issues is the loss of biodiversity. In order to preserve the wildlife, be mindful of your litter when in National Parks or anywhere on your trip. Make sure to dispose of garbage in the proper receptacles. Be mindful of your water usage while you are abroad. Water is a precious commodity in Tanzania, so use it wisely. Do not leave the water running in the sink, shorten shower time, and follow the conservation practices used by your hotels. You are very fortunate to be staying in many eco-lodges that promote sustainability and environmental consciousness in Tanzania.

Guide to Eco-Lodges in Tanzania

Klein's Camp is situated on a 24,500 acre private sanctuary and provides an unbelievable experience with the natural wildlife on the conservatory. The meals are prepared with fresh vegetables and fruits grown on the grounds of Klein Camp in an organic garden or 'shamba' as it is called in Tanzania. The lodge manages its environmental impact by having just 10 individual cottages for guests. Klein Camp is committed to conservation and respect for the wildlife that wander the land surrounding the lodge.

Ngorongoro Crater Lodge lies within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area at the eastern edge of the Serengeti. The Conservation Area houses four distinct habitats that are home to 25,000 animals. The lodge has immersed itself in conservation efforts as well as helping the local Maasai community. Some of the community projects the lodge has initiated are: contributing over \$30,000 in community projects; providing electricity to the school and the clinic; building teachers' accommodations and two new classrooms at Misigyo-Olorobo Primary School; building and refurbishing numerous other classrooms and administrative offices at two other primary schools; providing over 1000 desks at these schools, providing conservation lessons, and providing employment opportunities.

Lake Manyara Tree Lodge, located on Lake Manyara National Park, provides guests with a spectacular look at an incredibly diverse concentration of wildlife and plant species. The National Park is famous for its tree climbing lions and elephant herds that roam the land. Lake Manyara Tree Lodge is part of the & Beyond community that practices sustainability in all of its eco-lodges. At the Tree Lodge, wet waste from the kitchen is given to local farmers in the community as feed for their animals. The National Park is home to a species of baboon known as the Olive Baboon. The lodge conducts studies and monitors this species. The Lodge also works with local communities to develop a nutritional program that promotes healthy diets and the cultivation of positive attitudes to combat HIV/AIDS.

Mnemba Island Lodge is located on the Indian Ocean. A protection zone surrounds the island, conserving magnificent coral reefs where giant turtles, ghost crabs and spectacular tropical fish drift through the lagoons.