

Naipenda



safaris

T A N Z A N I A

BEFORE YOU GO:

their water, they also filter it prior to cooking. Let caution be your guide.

Every hotel has a bar and Tanzania offers some excellent beers - Mt. Kilimanjaro, Safari Lager, Tusker, Ndovu to name a few. There is also a local "brew" called Konyagi or Local Gin, which is actually a combination of gin and vodka. Mixed with tonic water, it's very refreshing.

Snacks are not provided and if you are used to having them, please feel free to bring as many as you like. Cliff Bars and Luna Bars are tasty and provide quick energy when needed. Lifesavers and chewing gum are also handy for a dry, dusty mouth.

WATER:

Do **NOT** drink or use water from a faucet. Drink only bottled water. And that includes brushing your teeth. Hotels have inexpensive 2-liter bottles of water available for sale. There will also be water in the vehicles that you can carry with you to your rooms. Bottled water is provided at the mobile camps.

SOUVENIRS:

Most of the hotels have wonderful gift shops with excellent, locally made items. If you see something you like and want, buy it. Chances are it is only available there and you won't see it again. Also be aware that large items are hard to carry while out on safari and may get broken. If you feel you have to have it, consider shipping it back to the US. Most stores will do it for a fee. Another good place to shop is the International airport departure lounge on your way out. Prices are often lower than the hotel or roadside gift shops.

Some favorite items are kangas (native wraparound skirts), mahogany and ebony woodcarvings, coffee, tea (chai), masks, beaded jewelry, baskets, sisal products and the like. Tanzanite is a local gemstone mined in Tanzania. It may be much more affordable than in the U. S. Please tell your guide you are interested in shopping for it, and he'll take you to a reputable dealer. Postcards and stamps for mailing are readily available in the gift shops.

Be aware that the local Maasai people sell handmade wares, especially at the villages. They also love to "negotiate" the price of any item. While there's haggling going on, remember that they're only trying to make a living, and love the bargaining process.



MONEY:

Carry your money in small denominations. The newer and crisper the money looks, the better. I would recommend having at least 50, \$1 bills for tipping and having correct change. Most facilities seldom have change for denominations larger than \$20. Bills that have marks or are not considered "current" in look will often be refused. Keep your money with you at all times. A money belt under your clothing is a convenient choice. Never leave cash in your hotel rooms.

You can bring traveler's checks but I don't recommend carrying many. You will not be in major cities that have change bureaus. Hotels can change small denomination traveler's checks, but the better exchange rates come with the larger denominations. Credit Cards are accepted in most gift shops for purchases. However, they do carry an additional fee of up to 15% of the purchase price. MasterCard and Visa are more widely accepted - American Express is almost non-existent. There are change bureaus in Arusha at the beginning of your trip. Most places will accept American money. But it's good to have both American and Tanzanian.