



Tanzania 2016 Crime & Safety Report

Travel Health and Safety; Transportation Security; Stolen items; Theft; Burglary; Fraud; Financial Security; Rape/Sexual Violence; Murder; Riots/Civil Unrest; Floods; Hate Crimes; Kidnapping; Terrorism

Africa > Tanzania; Africa > Tanzania > Dar es Salaam; Africa > Tanzania > Dodoma

5/23/2016

Overall Crime and Safety Situation

Population-dense cities (Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mwanza, Stone Town) face challenges from crime and terrorism that require mitigation strategies commensurate with developing nations generally and East Africa specifically.

Post Crime Rating: Critical

Crime Threats

For the past several years, Dar es Salaam has received the highest possible crime threat rating from the U.S. State Department.

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Most incidents are non-violent property crime and non-violent street crime. Street crime is rampant in urban areas, including throughout Dar es Salaam. Most incidents are crimes of opportunity, targeting people carrying bags, backpacks, computer cases, cameras, or pocketbooks. Most of these snatch-and-grab crimes are committed by unarmed assailants. Assailants tend to operate in small groups where only one person may overtly take part in a mugging. If the victim resists, additional members may appear with a knife, machete -- or on rare occasions -- a firearm.

Vehicular bag snatchings warrant special mention, as they are extremely common and can be dangerous. Few sidewalks exist, so pedestrians walk on the street. Assailants drive near the victims, and a passenger grabs a bag and may drag the victim until the bag's strap breaks. Many tourists, expatriates, and Tanzanians have been dragged and suffered minor road rash to extensive injuries. In at least one case, a foreign visitor was killed in such an incident.

Residential burglaries are common for occupied and unoccupied dwellings. Inadequate perimeter walls, minimal lighting, non-existent/weak grilles, and poorly paid/trained guards contribute to security problems. Home invasions with multiple assailants who overpower lone/sleeping guards have become somewhat commonplace in Dar es Salaam.

Critical to international business is the selection of legitimate local partners. Business incorporation documentation is confusing, and many fraudulent licenses and documents make it difficult to determine what is real. Markets are small, taxes are high, and prices may be high. Most land is "sold" as a 99-year Lease Hold, and fake property sales are common.

Fraud/economic crime is so significant a concern that the expatriate community generally interacts with the local economy on a cash-only basis. Expatriates are specifically targeted for

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economic fraud. In fact, in 2015, RSO received multiple reports from U.S. businessmen who came to Tanzania to complete transactions and been defrauded or kidnapped (held for immediate monetary gain, not for ransom).

While data are not definitive, reports suggest that violent crime is rising. Americans have reported violent crimes that often result in physical harm. Sexual assault and rape are of concern. The overwhelming majority of victims are Tanzanians. However, rape and rape/murder of expatriates has occurred, including during home invasions. It appears that expatriates and tourists maybe targeted because, even in the unlikely event that criminals are caught; criminals know that most tourists will not be around long enough to testify against them.

Carjackings and organized kidnappings are rare.

Other Areas of Concern

There are no areas designated "off-limits" by the Regional Security Office. However, there are many areas of the country where vigilance and crime mitigation strategies can reduce the likelihood of victimization.

Avoid walking/biking near Toure Drive, Coco Beach, Ubungo Bus Station, South Beach Ferry area, or any place where there are not houses on both sides of the road.

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Transportation-Safety Situation

Road Safety and Road Conditions

Travelers are more likely to be injured in a traffic accident than by crime or political violence. Traffic laws exist but are randomly enforced and generally not followed by the majority of drivers. Roadways are extremely poor. Personnel should be particularly cautious while driving at night. If you are driving around Dar es Salaam late at night, be especially cautious when stopped at traffic lights. In order to avoid assault at isolated intersections, some drivers refuse to stop at lights and proceed cautiously after slowing down. Intersections may be very dangerous at night whether you have a green light or not. Self-driving is not recommended.

Avoid driving outside Tanzania's cities at night; emergency response services are largely non-existent, and Tanzania's highways are dark and often poorly maintained. Non-existent or inadequate roadway lighting, gaping potholes, and inefficient traffic laws often lead to accidents, especially after dark. Emergency rescue and quality medical care are not readily available, leading to a high traffic accident mortality rate.

When traveling long distances, travelers should anticipate mechanical problems and be prepared to perform maintenance in an emergency. Travelers should have the proper tools and training to change tires and deal with minor repairs.

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Carry a phone(s) with ringer on. Vary your time/routes. Be aware of your surroundings. Lock your doors. Close your windows. Set the alarm when you park. If you leave a bag on the seat, under the seat, or in the back of an SUV, someone may break the glass to steal these items. Leave pocketbooks, backpacks, briefcases at home. Bags attract thieves. Secure (and hide) all electronic items. When driving in traffic, ensure you leave adequate space between your car and the vehicle ahead so that you can maneuver your way out of a sticky situation. Refill your gas tank anytime it is half full to avoid running out of gas at a bad time/place.

Public Transportation Conditions

Avoid public transportation (buses, Bajaj, motorcycles) and do not take taxis hailed on the street. Buses are often overloaded, poorly maintained, and drivers are exhausted. Three-wheel taxi vehicles locally referred to as "Bajaj" and motorcycles are also poorly maintained and offer little protection to passengers. Accidents in these modes of transportation could result in serious injury/death.

Ask local partners to book a legitimate car service or to arrange for your transportation. Take legitimate taxis from a car service, hotel, or restaurant. Photograph the front or back of the taxi showing the license plate and send it to a friend. Ask for the driver's name and cell (implies future business) and send it to a friend. Test the doors and windows before you get in. Child locked doors and tinted windows are a bad sign. Find another cab. Do not take Bajaj's, daladalas (micro buses), or hail unknown taxis on the street. Do not take taxis hailed by people you just met. Do not take taxis that have other passengers in them. If a taxi stops for gas or for other passengers, get out.

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Aviation/Airport Conditions

Immigration authorities have been cracking down on foreigners: long-term business people, volunteers at NGOs, or tourists who are actually engaging in business.

Terrorism Threat

Post Terrorism Rating: Medium

Local, Regional, and International Terrorism Threats/Concerns

Terrorism is a reality in East Africa generally and a growing concern in Tanzania specifically. Terrorist incidents highlight both the continuing threat and the capacity of terrorist groups to carry out attacks. In 2013 and 2014, Tanzania witnessed multiple small blasts in Arusha, Mwanza, and Stone Town (Zanzibar). It is important to manage fear/concern and to make rational decisions based on limited or conflicting information. Do not become overwhelmed or fixated on these issues, which may be exaggerated by the press/social media. If you are interested in further information, please see the State Department Worldwide Caution.

Political, Economic, Religious, and Ethnic Violence

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Tanzania has experienced its share of political violence, especially prior to elections in Arusha, Mwanza, Mbeya, Mtwara, and Stone Town, Zanzibar.

Post Political Violence Rating: Medium

Civil Unrest

Demonstrations and rallies are normally peaceful. However, demonstrations/rallies can escalate to violence quickly; rival factions can become aggressive toward one another and against the police. Police often respond in kind, exacerbating already tense situations. Visitors are cautioned to avoid large crowds, public gatherings, or demonstrations. These scenarios have the potential of becoming unruly, which can result in physical injury and possibly death.

Post-specific Concerns

Environmental Hazards

Tanzania is a mountainous country with many areas sitting in active flood plains. Heavy rains during the summer months have caused flooding, which resulted in loss of life, property

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damage, and disruption to infrastructure (roads, bridges) and utilities (power, water). Disaster relief efforts are very limited.

Personnel-Background Concerns

In general, gender, race, nationality, and disability have not been causes for security concerns, although cultural/religious practices may encourage discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Kidnapping Threat

Express kidnappings are not uncommon. Expatriates and tourists become victims when they hail taxis at airports, bus stations, hotels, or on the street. Victims are held until they provide passwords for credit/debit cards and all their cards are maxed out. Victims are usually released some hours later. A number of people have been victimized en route to the airport because criminals know that catching the flight maybe more important than following the lengthy process to file a police report to international travelers.

Police Response

The police are hindered by a lack of resources – low wages, an inadequate number of officers, limited vehicles, insufficient gasoline, few radios, and many training needs. Some

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police may not be responsive to citizen complaints. Others may take a report but fail to initiate an investigation. Authorities' ability to investigate crimes is constrained by resource limitations; visitors should adjust their expectations accordingly. Property theft and non-violent crime may not rise to the level of investigation. According to some national polls, citizens perceive the police as the most corrupt institution in the country.

A common issue is that immigration authorities (sometimes accompanied by the police) have a legitimate right to review passports and visas. The RSO recommends that travelers carry a photocopy of their passport and a photocopy of their visa (not the originals). If an authority requests that you enter a vehicle or go to their office, request their name, contact information, and address and then arrange to go to their offices with an immigration attorney.

How to Handle Incidents of Police Detention or Harassment

If detained or harassed by the police, American citizens should identify themselves as such and immediately request to contact the U.S. Embassy.

Crime Victim Assistance

Travelers requiring police assistance are advised to contact the police at: 112.

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If an American citizen is injured or the victim of a serious crime, please contact the Embassy's Consular Section. The Consular Section tracks these crimes and may request that the RSO coordinate with the police to assist and/or follow up on investigations.

Police/Security Agencies

The Tanzania Police Force is a national law enforcement organization with a variety of specialized units.

Medical Emergencies

Medical facilities fall critically short of U.S. standards. People with serious medical conditions that require medications or frequent treatment are discouraged from traveling to Tanzania. Most medications are in short supply, of inferior quality, or are counterfeit. U.S. citizens are advised to travel with a sufficient supply of prescription medication to last for the duration of the trip. For more information, please refer to OSAC's Report, "Traveling with Medications."

The cleanliness of medical facilities and quality of treatment is often very poor compared to U.S. standards. Misdiagnosis, unavailable treatment, and improper use of drugs are commonly reported. As a general rule, private clinics are significantly better than local public hospitals.

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Contact Information for Recommended Hospitals/Clinics

Dar es Salaam

AAR Health Services Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road, Chato Street, Block One Regent Estate Tel: +255 754-760790 (Emergency) +255 222-133582/6 City Centre Website: <http://www.aarhealth.com> Email: info@aar.co.tz

Aga Khan Hospital (CT, outpatient, pharmacy, radiology) Ocean Road / Ufukoni Street P.O. Box 2289 Tel: +255 222-115151/4, Mobile: +255 784-550100/550200, +255 756-886610/886620 Accident and Emergency Department direct line: +255 222-124111 Doctor on call mobile: +255 782-004499 Website: <http://www.agakhanhospitals.org/dar/contact.asp>

Hitech Sai HealthCare Centre Plot No. 311 Upanga Junction of UN road - Lugalo Street Opp. Al Muntazir Secondary School P.O. Box 3741, Dar es Salaam Mobile: +255 754-787869, +255 714-179777 Email: asheeshvali@yahoo.com or hitechshaihcc@yahoo.com Website: www.hitechshaihealthcare.com

IST Medical Clinic Upper School, Ruvu Street, and International School of Tanganyika Campus, Masaki Tel: +255 222-601307/2601308 Fax: +255 222-60127 Mobile: Emergency 24 hrs. +255 784-783393 (Dr. on call) E-mail: istclinic@istclinic.com Directions: <http://maps.google.com/maps?daddr=-6.759463223837992,39.27839376827313>

Premier Care 259 Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road, Namanga, Kinondoni (Next to Best Bite Restaurant) P.O. Box 220 Dar Es Salaam Tel: +255 222-668385 Contact: Dr. Omar Awadh, Dr. Pierre Bervas

Regency Medical Center Alykhan / Fire Road Upanga East P.O. Box 2029 Tel: +255 222-150500, Mobile: +255 784-417500 Emergency mobile numbers: +255 787-228801 or

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+255 685-530912

Shree Hindu Mandal Hospital Chusi Street P.O. Box 581 Tel: +255 222-114991/4, 2135243, 2113459 Dr. Kaushik Ramaiya, Internal Medicine. Mobile: +255 713-618495, +255 713-618498, +255 768-743831

T.M.J. Medical Clinic (MRI, CT) Mwai Kibaki Road, Tel: 255-22-2700007, 2775517, 2775490
Fax: 255-22-2700007

The Consular Section maintains a list of medical contacts (in Arusha, Dodoma, Karatu, Kigoma, Moshi, Mwanza, and Zanzibar) at http://tanzania.usembassy.gov/list_of_doctors.html.

Recommended Insurance Posture

All travelers are strongly encouraged to purchase insurance to cover medical evacuation in case of a serious accident, injury, or illness. Medical evacuation can cost thousands of dollars, depending on the severity of the situation, so all travelers should ensure their policies provide sufficient coverage. In the case of emergency, contact the U.S. Embassy for assistance in facilitating a medical evacuation or medical attention.

CDC Country-specific Vaccination and Health Guidance

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Travelers are encouraged to see a physician prior to travelling to ensure that appropriate immunizations and precautions are taken. For additional information on vaccines and health guidance, please visit the CDC at:
http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/tanzania?s_cid=ncezid-dgmq-travel-single-001.

OSAC Country Council Information

The OSAC Country Council, Dar es Salaam Chapter, was reestablished in 2012 and formally incorporated in 2013. General Membership includes both U.S. organizations and approved non-U.S. organizations. While greater diversification is desired, general membership includes representatives from business, academia, faith-based groups, and non-governmental organizations. General meetings are held at least quarterly. For information on membership and upcoming meetings, please email DRSRSO@state.gov or call the Regional Security Office at +255 22 229 4140. To reach the OSAC Africa team, please email OSACAF@state.gov.

U.S. Embassy Location and Contact Information

Embassy Address and Hours of Operation

The U.S. Embassy is located at 686 Old Bagamoyo Road, Msasani, Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

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The Embassy is open Mon-Thurs 0730-1700 and Fri 0730-1130.

Embassy Contact Numbers

Main Embassy Telephone Number: +255 22 229 4000

Marine Security Guard (24x7): +255 22 229 4111

Embassy Duty Officer (24x7): +255 68 567 7545

Regional Security Office: +255 22 229 4140

Website: <http://tanzania.usembassy.gov/>

Nearby Posts

Virtual Post Presence Zanzibar: <http://zanzibar-tanzania.usvpp.gov/>

Embassy Guidance

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All Americans should register with the Consular Section's American Citizen Services online at <https://travelregistration.state.gov> prior to travelling but can also register online upon arrival. The U.S. Embassy maintains a liaison with local law enforcement officials and is available to assist American citizens during their stay.

One can no longer obtain a volunteer or work visa at ports of entry. If you are going on a work visa, you should contact the Tanzanian Embassy for the latest visa guidance.

Tips on How to Avoid Becoming a Victim

Scams

Tempting below-market offers for Tanzanite, diamonds, gold, uranium, precious metals, or even safari packages is a prima facie indicator of fraud.

Situational Awareness Best Practices

Travelers should maintain a high level of security vigilance. Business travelers should take prudent measures. Be aware of your surroundings. Know the danger areas and plan your routes and activities to avoid them. Vary your times/routes to/from work. If you notice

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suspicious vehicles following you, take note of vehicle descriptions and license plate numbers and drive to a public place (do not drive home). Ban backpacks, pocketbooks, camera bags, and purses. They attract thieves. If you must carry a bag, use the handles and carry it by hand. Do not wear it on your shoulder(s) or strapped across your body. If you are threatened with violence over money or your belongings, the RSO recommends complying with demands and attempting to end the confrontation as quickly as possible.

Keep valuables out of sight. No flashy watches, jewelry, or Ipods. Carry a concealed cell phone and the minimum amount of cash that you need that day. Carry a photocopy of your passport and visa (not the original).

Do not carry ATM, credit, or debit cards or you may find yourself the victim of an express kidnapping, during which time (generally several hours) you will visit ATMs until your credit limit is maxed out. International criminal groups steal credit/debit card information using sophisticated card skimming hardware and software. There is a history in Dar of card "skimming," and RSO strongly urges you to avoid or minimize the use of ATMs. If you must use an ATM, check the area above the keypad and around where the card is inserted for any loose hardware. If you can shake something loose or see something that is a slightly different color than the machine then go elsewhere.

Jogging, cycling, and walking in areas of Dar es Salaam such as Coco Beach are inherently risky. If you are going to engage in these activities, then maximize your awareness and minimize the risks. Select routes where you can run, walk, or bike on the shoulder. Consider heading "counter flow" so you can see the traffic (if it is safe to do so). Do not wear headphones. If you insist, then only wear one earpiece so you can listen to the area around you. Walking, jogging, or biking alone is a bad idea. Location and time of day are key factors. Never walk, run, or bike after dark. You are invisible to traffic but highly visible to thieves. Consider wearing bright reflective clothing so you stand out for vehicles. Assailants often hide

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in/escape to areas with brush and/or areas with crowds. If you go to the South Beach Ferry or the Ubungo Bus Station then arrive and depart in a secure vehicle. Carry your cell phone at all times. Inform others of where you are going if possible. Program emergency phone numbers into your phone.

Businesses and international organizations should undertake due diligence to ensure that they select legitimate local partners.

Prudent security measures for businesses, residences, and personnel are a must. To mitigate burglaries and home invasions, invest in basic infrastructure: perimeter walls, anti-climb devices, lighting, robust grilles, safehavens, centrally-monitored alarms, panic buttons for guards/residents, and -- most importantly -- trained and decently paid 24-hour guards from legitimate guard companies. All houses should have substantial grilles on all windows/doors and internal "safe haven" (Grilled houses also need "escape hatches" in bedrooms to facilitate emergency exit). Lock all doors and security grilles, especially at night. All houses should have centrally-monitored alarms with panic buttons for the resident and for the guards. Contract with reputable guard companies, ensure that the guard has a decent net salary by specifying it in the guard contract, and ensure the guard contract includes a mobile response unit. Guards should check to ensure that all doors and grilles are secured when making their nighttime rounds. Ensure windows and fire escape grilles are secured. Secure your safe-haven at night. Ensure your emergency radio, cell phones, and telephones are with you in the safe-haven and function. Use your alarm system. Ensure the members of your household know where the alarm panic buttons are and how to use them. Advise your guard, and guard company, and test your (and his) panic buttons on a monthly basis. Do not leave valuables or large amounts of cash in your house. Consider securing valuables in a safe at work. Do not give residential keys to your guards. Keep your doors and vehicle locked even when you are at home. Ensure family members and domestic staff are familiar with alarms, panic buttons, and rules on unexpected visitors.

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The best way to avoid express kidnappings is to book a legitimate taxi or car service through a hotel.

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