

FAQ

Where will I be staying?

You will be staying at TSF's volunteer house with a few other volunteers. Our dormitory style rooms host four same sex individuals. We provide beds, mattress, pillow, blankets, and a mosquito net. You should bring your own towels. There is access to electricity and hot water, but due to the unreliable Tanzanian network, power cuts and water shortages are quite common. Our hot water is heated by electricity, when there are power cuts you should expect no hot water.

We have a generator however, it is very costly to run.

Donations for gasoline are appreciated. Power cuts can range from 20 minutes to 24 hours.

Please note that you should not expect any luxury, although it is quite comfortable. We have WiFi on site for your communication and internet needs.

Meals

You will be fed 3 meals a day. Local cuisine. Breakfast will include toast, fruit and tea. Lunch and dinner will consist of rice, ugali, chapati, maize, vegetables and beans.

Arrival

Fly into Kilimanjaro International Airport, Arusha Tanzania. Our school is located 15 kilometers outside of Arusha. If your flight arrives between the hours of 8:00am and 10:00pm, one of our staff will be waiting for you in the arrival area holding a sign with your name on it. However, if you arrive in the middle of the night, we ask that you spend your first night at KIA lodge. A free shuttle is available from the airport to KIA lodge. We will pick you up in the morning.

We will send you details on making a reservation online upon receiving your flight information.

If you are delayed or missed a flight, please notify us immediately.

General Information

Tanzania is an amazing country filled with many natural wonders. We offer in country programs where our volunteers can indulge in the breathtaking sights as well as work to improve the lives of our students. Your volunteerism at TSF and the School of St. Nicholas offers a meaningful program that will uplift the lives of our entire community.

Curfew

To be respectful of our staff and other volunteers there is a curfew of 11pm. There are no limitations on how you spend your free time, but please be respectful of the local culture and

the volunteers in the house. If you plan to stay out after 11pm, there are a number of low cost accommodations in Arusha that we can recommend for the evening. We ask that you let us know that you will not be returning to avoid unnecessary worry by our staff. Please keep in mind that Tanzania is a developing country and you are at your own risk when out late at night.

Getting Around

We have local taxi services that we can recommend for you, phone numbers will be available on site. Please note that we will not let any cars or drivers into our site that we do not know. You can hire a piki piki (motorcycle taxi) to travel down the dirt road to pick up a dala dala. We do not recommend taking a piki piki into town due to safety reasons.

Orientation

Within a day of arriving you will be met with one of our staff who will provide you with information, safety tips and answer any questions you may have. We want to make sure that you are as prepared as possible for your stay in Tanzania. We will explain things like culture, customs, language and how to stay safe on a day to day basis. It will also be a great time for you to meet other volunteers.

Health

Drink only bottled water. We do not provide bottled water or carbonated drinks. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks and ice cubes. Buy bottled water from proper outlets. Always make sure the seal is not broken nor the cap tampered with. Avoid eating food from road-side stalls. Eat only peeled fruits and avoid fresh salads, especially in small hotels. If you are forced to eat food at some place that you have doubts about, make sure the food is served hot.

If you require any prescription drugs, bring enough for the duration of your stay in Tanzania. They will need to be carried in their original prescription bottle and the prescription must be in your name. (However, most medicines are available at a Duka la dowa for reasonable prices)

Please bring a small health kit which should include medicines to cure upset stomachs, antiseptic cream, hydration powder, DEET mosquito repellent, sun block and band aids.

Currency

Tanzanian currency is the Tanzania Shilling (Tsh) – approximate exchange rate is from 2170-2195 per \$1.00. (it varies widely)

Dollars can be exchanged at one of the many Bureau Exchange's in Arusha. Most large businesses and hotels accept USD, however small village shops expect Tanzanian Shillings.

Travelers checks are not accepted. Larger USD bills get a better exchange rate than small bills. All USD bills have to be dated after 2006. Older bills will not be accepted – no exception.

ATM machines are available in many banks in Arusha. Keep in mind that sometimes ATM machines will fail to accept your card, and may shut down in times of power cuts, or run out of cash during long weekends. Credit cards are not widely accepted. If a shop or hotel accepts credit cards, they will add an average of approximately 4% on to your bill.

Budget

Pending upon your needs, \$5.00 a day should be sufficient for your time in Tanzania, while staying with us. Your accommodations and meals during your volunteerism is included, however if you want to explore Tanzania and shop, take taxi's or eat out please budget accordingly, Tanzania can be costly!

Vaccines

Please visit the Center for Disease Control's website (www.cdc.gov) for traveler's health recommendations. Talk to your doctor about current epidemics and recommendations.

The following vaccines/medicines are recommended for your travel to Tanzania:

Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Typhoid, Malaria, *Yellow Fever (pending where you are coming from)

*If required you can get the vaccine at the point of entry. Cost is approximately \$25.00 in Tanzania

****Visa Permit- NEW Requirements**

Tanzania requires volunteers working in Tanzania to have a permit. In January 2016 the requirements changed.

Short term volunteers (up to 90 days): You must get a "Business Visa" which can be purchased at the port of entry. Cost is \$250.00 USD. If you are volunteering with us DO NOT get a tourist visa for \$100. You must pay \$250 for the Business Visa. Tanzania has been tough on immigrants recently and they do a periodic inspection to NGO's to insure volunteers have the proper paperwork. This permit is not renewable. Our program fee does not cover your volunteer permit. We will provide you with a letter of invitation to avoid hassles at immigration. The Business Visa must be purchased at port of entry with USD.

Long Term Volunteers – up to one year

You will need to file for a Resident C permit through immigration, which allows you to live in Tanzania for one year. The cost of the resident permit is \$550.00. It would be great to start the process prior to your arrival in Tanzania as you are not permitted to volunteer until it is issued. It takes approximately 2 months.

Total Cost: \$100 (US Residents, \$50 all other countries) tourist visa + \$550 Resident Permit

We will need to sponsor your volunteerism and will advise on all necessary paperwork in addition to the below.

6 passport size photos

Curriculum Vitae/Resume

Copy of valid passport

Completed application form from immigration and much more! Stay tuned for updates.

For volunteering more than 2 years, please contact us.

Weather

Tanzania is 230 miles from the equator. Arusha's weather is comfortable most of the year. Its sub-tropical climate with a higher altitude keeps humidity down and the sun warm.

Rainy season April-May and cooler in June, July & August.

For more information on weather visit www.weather.com or www.wunderground.com

Want to join us? Fill out the above form and [click here](#) to pay registration fee!