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Destination

DAR

IMAGE GETTY IMAGES



Dar es Salaam is much more than a mere gateway to Tanzania. This multicultural East African destination surprises with a selection of top restaurants and bars, a noteworthy history, countless opportunities for day trips and *karibu-sana*-greeting locals.

Meaning “haven of peace” in Arabic, the name was chosen in the 1860s when Dar es Salaam was still a peaceful fishing village. Today, the seaside port tells quite a different story, with a mix of nationalities and cultures, honking grid-iron traffic, walking machinga vendors who sell just about anything and beachfront restaurants. Dar, as it is affectionately called by locals, is short-changed when it’s only considered a springboard to the Serengeti, Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar. It’s a city that works hard and plays even harder, even though *polepole* (slowly/gently) is the country’s *modus operandi*.

DINE

The upmarket neighbourhood of Oyster Bay clings to rocks looking out over the ocean. It’s the area where people come to see and be seen, whether it’s to eat pub grub and watch a sports game at the friendly Slow Leopard or to dance the night away at Trinita. Here, you will find a variety of international cuisines, fresh fish, seafood and, of course, oysters on restaurant menus.

Slipway, on the Msasani peninsula, is the city’s most popular al fresco shopping and lifestyle centre, with souvenir stores, a hotel, restaurants and ocean-facing bars. Enjoy a business dinner by the pool at the fine-dining Terrace Restaurant at the Slipway Hotel. Or dig your feet into the beach sand as you sit beneath a palm-frond gazebo watching the sunset at The Waterfront Sunset Restaurant and Beach Bar.

Since the arrival of Gujarati traders from western India in the 19th century, Indian culture, tradition and food have permeated Tanzanian life. Head over to Kisutu Street for a selection of scrumptious vegetarian and vegan Indian food. Be sure to visit one of the three Hindu temples along Kisutu Street when you go.





Nunua tiketi
yako siku 21
kabla ya siku
ya safari na
uokoe pesa



DRINK

Drink in sunset views as you sip on a Serengeti beer at Akemi Revolving Restaurant on the 21st floor of the Golden Jubilee Towers. The floor-to-ceiling glass walls and two small stationary balconies offer spectacular views of the horizon dissolving into the city centre on one side and the Indian Ocean on the other. High Spirit Lounge Bar on the 11th and 12th floors of the IT Plaza Building provides another opportunity for sky-high libations that are simply above the norm.

The sophisticated Level 8 on the eighth floor of the famed five-star Hyatt Regency Kilimanjaro Hotel, often simply referred to as The Kili, is an elegant indoor/outdoor rooftop bar with 360-degree views of the harbour and skyline. Head down to Rouge nightclub, also housed in the hotel, to dance to the rhythms of the night until sunrise.

STAY

The Southern Sun Dar es Salaam borders the national botanical garden, with many of its rooms looking out over the luscious gardens or ocean. The hotel is 13km from Julius Nyerere International Airport, less than 10 minutes on foot to the nearest beach and a short walk to various tourist attractions in the central business district. Like most reputable hotels in Dar, its restaurants serve freshly caught fish that is bought daily from the nearby Kivukoni Fish Market.

This five-star hotel is set in lush tropical gardens close to the beachfront. Relax at the Maisha Spa and Health Club

TOP LEFT: THERE ARE PLENTY OF BEACHFRONT SPOTS TO ENJOY THE SUN AND SEA. **TOP**

MIDDLE: WITH PLENTY OF FISH MARKETS IN THE CITY, RESTAURANTS IN DAR USUALLY HAVE A SELECTION OF FRESH FISH ON THEIR MENUS.

RIGHT: RELAX POOLSIDE AT ONE OF DAR'S FIVE-STAR RESORTS. **BELOW:** EXPLORE THE RUINS OF 13TH CENTURY BUILDINGS IN BAGAMOYO.

before taking a dip in the swimming pool, followed by a drink from the pool bar. Although it's centrally located in downtown Dar, you'll feel as if you're in a secluded, peaceful retreat.

PLAY

With the equator within arm's reach, Dar's heat and humidity beckon you to the water. A 30-minute dhow ride from South Beach will take you to the marine-protected and uninhabited island of Sinda, where you can snorkel off its rocky coastline in search of tropical fish, giant star fish and purple cowrie shells.

Another 30-minute boat ride, this time from Slipway, will take you to Bongoyo and Mbudya islands. These islands are far busier than Sinda due to their proximity to Dar, though you can still indulge in sunbathing on the pristine beaches with a cocktail in hand or take the walking trail through the forest to a German colonial building.

If you prefer to play on terra firma, consider a round at the 18-hole Dar es Salaam Gymkhana golf course. It recently celebrated its centenary and has become somewhat of an institution among locals and frequent business travellers. You'll find the 19th hole at the adjoining Serena Hotel.

Culturati will be silenced by the slave trade history of Tanzania's first capital city, Bagamoyo. Take a day trip to this open-air, living museum, which was one of East Africa's most significant ports in centuries gone by. Bagamoyo narrates tales of a 13th century Arabic settlement at Kaole Ruins, as well as the arrival of Indian traders, the slave trade, German colonial forts and British fighters.

With all of this on offer, it's clear that Dar es Salaam is a multifaceted destination with much to offer even the most discerning African traveller. 📍

