Volunteer guide



CHILDREN’S CANCER CENTER TANZANIA

**WELCOME!**

We wish to start by saying THANK YOU! The Upendo Pediatric Oncology Ward at Muhimbili National Hospital is the first dedicated childhood cancer program in Tanzania. The program has made significant improvements in local childhood cancer survival rates, from roughly 5% in 2005 to upwards of 50% in 2015. With your support, we will continue to improve these numbers.

Thanks to regional early detection and cancer education programs conducted by the staff at the oncology ward, the number of children treated continues to grow in Tanzania. In 2015 alone, we expect to receive over 500 new children on the ward. With the increase in cases and early detection, the need for a dedicated team of supporters from Tanzania, and the world, are needed to care for the children.

As an international volunteer your time, talent and knowledge is greatly appreciated. This is a guide to information that will assist in planning for your time in Tanzania. Please, do not hesitate to ask any questions you might have.

**OUR TEAM & PARTNERS**

**Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), Dar es Salaam** – The Children’s Cancer Program is located on the campus of Muhimbili National Hospital. MNH is the country’s leading teaching and reference hospital. The hospital also has a cardiac center, an orthopaedic institute known as MOI, a TB treatment centre, as well as surgical, medical and general pediatric wards. The Muhimbili University is located just beside the hospital.

Upendo (Love) and Tumaini (Hope) are the two children’s cancer wards. Upendo is the acute ward, while Tumaini is the step down ward. These are located in the Jengo La Watoto building, which also has pediatric medical and surgical wards, malnutrition and a diarrhea wards. Ujasiri (Strength) is the children’s hostel where children who are stable, but cannot travel the distance home, can stay between treatments. This is also on the hospital grounds, and is well worth a visit.

**Tumaini la Maisha (TLM)** – is our Tanzanian NGO who will be the official organization hosting you whilst in Tanzania. Your contracts, visas requirements and paperwork will come from Tumaini la Maisha. Founded in 2011 by a group of committed parents and supporters, Tumaini La Maisha has a range of activities to directly support children with cancer and their families, as well as creating awareness of children’s cancer across Tanzania. This support includes to welcoming in dedicated volunteers like yourself. You will find that many of your colleagues on the ground in Tanzania will either work direct for Muhimbili National Hospital or Tumaini la Maisha.

**Key Team Members**

Dr Trish Scanlan – Founding Pediatric Oncologist and CEO of TLM Tz.

Dr Jane - Director of Services for TLM, Palliative Care and Counseling

Lilian Ndyetabula – Programme Administer for TLM

Martha - Family Liaison Counselor

Dr. Livin – Consultant Pediatrician. Acting Head of Department

Dr. Mwanaidi – Pediatrician - Consultant

Dr. Shakilu - Paediatric Haematology/Oncologist

Dr. Laiti - Paediatric Haematology/Oncologist

Dr Mary Charles - Head of Pediatrics

Sr. Alice - Nursing Team Leader

Mustafa - Fundi (handyman) who looks after any emergency repairs and oxygen tank supplies

Sr Praxeda Ogweyo - Nursing Block Manager

**BEFORE YOU GO**

1. Provide all requested documents to the Ward Administrator. lndyetabula@yahoo.com
2. Ensure that your passport is up to date and will not expire within 6 months of the LAST day of your travel in Tanzania. It also must have 2 consecutive side-by-side blank pages. It is your responsibility to ensure that your passport meets any requirements specific to Tanzania.
3. Receive and print your request letter from the Ward Administrator for those requiring a CTA (Carrying on Temporary Assignment Visa). The cost of this can very by country. Ex: $300 for US citizen, $250 for Irish citizens and will be obtained on arrival at airport.
4. Check with your local Travel and Tropical Medicine Centre to ensure you have the appropriate vaccinations for your trip. Your health is your responsibility. Please see the Centre of Disease control website for more information on their recommendations: http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/tanzania
5. Ensure that your medical insurance will cover you abroad. We highly recommend international medical evacuation insurance, which will assist in safely returning you to your homeland in the event of illness or injury. This is not the same as travel insurance.
6. Obtain travel insurance, which is recommended for all travelers in the event of lost luggage, unforeseen changes to travel or cancellation. The host organizations will not be liable for any lost expenses due to change or cancellation in travel schedule.
7. It is advisable to buy a good guidebook and/or check the internet and to look at the travel advice given by the Dept. of Foreign Affairs or State Department for your country of origin.
8. Register with your embassy. Once you have your travel dates, it is advisable to go online to your home country embassy website in Tanzania and register to alert them that you will be in country and they can keep you informed of any travel advisories for citizens from your homeland.

**FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**

All travel, accommodations and expenses are your responsibility unless a grant has been offered, in writing. Limited grants are available per calendar year. While we wish we could pay for every visitors’ travel and accommodations, our financial resources are extremely limited. We encourage all volunteers to assist with their travel expenses in any way possible, even in cases where grants are given. Every dollar/Pound/Euro/Shilling saved/raised goes towards the care of our children and expanding services to new children where possible.

The following is an outline of estimated expenses you can expect to pay for your travel to Dar.

Flights $800-$2,000 depending upon country of origin

Visa/CTA $100-300 depending upon duration, country of origin and type of visa

Medical license $500 depending upon country of origin (needed for doctors participating in clinical work only).

Accommodations $15 - $150 per day depending on your level of need

Meals $5-40 per day depending on whether you eat locally or at Ex-pat. restaurants

Transportation to airport 35,000Tsh - $25 each way

Transportation to hospital $2-10 per day depending where you stay

Vaccinations Prices vary. Talk to your doctor or local center for disease control.

Malaria prophylaxis These you need to source before you come. Atovaquone-proguanil (malarone), doxycycline, or mefloquine are recommended.

**VOLUNTEERING INFORMATION**

We know that by volunteering you are generously donating your time, skills and efforts. You will be making a difference and hopefully enjoy meeting new friends. A volunteer environment is still a workplace, and as such, you have certain responsibilities that must be upheld. We hope you have a meaningful and interesting experience. The volunteers who come are highly valued for their contribution to the cancer ward. You are representing not just our organization but yourself, your hometown, your university, your family and your country. You're an ambassador -- a great responsibility and a great opportunity.

**Overall guidelines**

Respect the organizational culture at Tumaini La Maisha (TLM) and the hospital. The people working here have the experience with, and commitment to, the cancer program. Share your ideas and feedback in a constructive manner. Treat the experience as a learning opportunity and a chance for personal growth as well as a team building activity. Although you may not see the immediate outcome of the service you perform, there will be value in every assigned task. Your presence as a volunteer is appreciated and essential to the people with whom you are working.

Remember that you are at the hospital to volunteer and some tasks may push you beyond your comfort zone. Be open to new experiences and challenges but be aware of your boundaries and voice any questions or concerns. If you are feeling uncertain about a situation, ask before you act. Practice common sense and don't be afraid to ask for clarification or help.

**Child Protection and Social Media**

Strict policies are in place to protect the rights of children in all aspects of our program. All volunteers must comply with TLM's Child Protection Policy and Social Media Policy. Written copies are provided by the ward administrator on your first day and must be read and signed. You should be aware that while you do not officially represent TLM or MNH or the cancer program, your comments or behavior will nonetheless reflect on these entities. You must therefore refrain from making any public comment on issues of political, cultural or religious sensitivity. This also includes refraining from making any public statements relating to the activities or interests of TLM and MNH without prior approval in writing. You may maintain personal websites and blogs to share your experiences while on placement; however, the content of these sites should in no way bring TLM or MNH or the cancer program into disrepute. While we support volunteers in sharing their experiences and promoting the work of the cancer program and its staff, please remember that everyone at TLM and MNH are extremely, and rightfully, proud of the incredible advancements that have been made to improve the quality of care for children in Tanzania. Negative comments about the hospital, conditions, programme, staff, or other, can greatly affect the morale and future growth and wellbeing of the program.

**Working Hours**

(Hours may vary for non-medical volunteers)The standard day is 8am -5pm Monday to Friday however in there maybe occasions where you are asked to stay beyond these hours. Saturday and Sunday volunteers are expected to cover a few hours typically 9am-12pm and this can be organized amongst the group (if a group is present). The names should be provided on Friday so the on-call team knows whom to expect. In the event there are only 2 people on the placement they work one weekend alternatively. Public holidays may occur during your placement, if so, it is still expected that you are at work but weekend hours may apply. Please speak with your supervisor to confirm. Volunteers are not able to accrue TOIL (Time off in Lieu) for any additional hours of work.

**Leave**

Please text/phone/email the ward administrator if you cannot attend work due to illness. No vacation leave is provided during the placement, if for any reason you require days off during the placement please inform your supervisor in advance of arrival so it can be discussed.

**Assessment**

If you have an assessment or volunteer verification documents that you need signed please provide the documents to Dr Trish Scanlan, Dr Jane Kaijage or Lilian Ndyetabula **when you arrive and not at the last minute on the last day please.**

**Research**

You may not conduct any type of research unless prior approval has been sought and written permission is supplied. You may undertake distance study, as long as it does not interfere with your work obligations. You may not publish research, including approved research, without permission. There are very strict National laws in Tanzania in this regard.

**Cultural understanding**

It is sometimes said that Tanzanian people are indirect. This environment can be difficult to adjust to as many of us come from a cultural background where we get often get straight to the subject. The challenge of navigating through an unfamiliar cultural landscape can be difficult. However if you approach each interaction with the awareness that you are a visitor with a true respect for the individual person and the culture that you are dealing with, this alone will get you far. Listen and be guided by local advice and be flexible and open with your plans and expectations. As you are a guest in their country, it is important not to behave in a manner that could offend people. Even if local customs and ways of doing things may be difficult to understand, always remember that it does not make it wrong. People across the world simply do things differently.

**Language barriers when volunteering**

English is the language the files are kept in and spoken by the nursing and medical staff, be aware that your accent may cause some challenges for you to be understood. Very few of the parents or children will speak any significant amounts of English. It is unlikely that you have the time to learn the Kiswahili to the degree that you can communicate effectively in it – so be sympathetic to people who have put the effort in to learn your language. Many people may speak English as a second, third or even fourth language. The challenge is using English in a way that is easy to understand. The intelligence of the listener is not the problem in most communication issues, it is the inadvertent inability of the speaker to communicate effectively. Modifying your delivery to be clear, avoiding long sentence structure and just saying things simply are usually the best methods. Avoid metaphors and idioms that you may not even realise are throughout the English language.

**Advice for the medical volunteers on the ward**

* There is detailed information specific for the ward in the Supportive Care Handbook.
* Volunteers usually arrive at 8am and join the ward round on Upendo. The first few days can be difficult due to language and cultural barriers, try to familiarize yourself initially with the patients and their diagnoses, and the day to day running of the ward. The ward round and notes are maintained through English, although the majority of patients will only speak Kiswahili.
* Doctors rotate between Upendo and Tumaini wards and outpatient clinics, which run every day.
* Procedures such as IT chemotherapy, bone marrow aspirates and tissue biopsies are generally done in the afternoon.
* Tumour Board takes place at 1pm every Wednesday and lunch is supplied.
* Blood bank- to obtain blood products, a group (& crossmatch) form and sample should be sent to the lab, and is then valid for 7 days. The forms are kept in a tray or folder in the lab. You will have to look for your form and then request the product you need. A transfusion book is kept on Upendo ward to keep track of who needs what and who received what.
* The “Jobs Book” is used on the Upendo ward round. It is useful to keep a list of which patients are for procedures ie. biopsies/IT, who is for discussion at Tumour Board and what biopsy results are pending. This needs to be discussed daily to results are being followed up promptly and duties are performed.
* Blood samples are drawn on the ward once you fill in the request form and give it to the parents. For all routine bloods please make sure the forms are completed and given to the parent **the day before** to speed up the process. The result can take up to 24hours to come back. If you require an urgent result you should fill in the form, take the sample yourself, book it on the computer and bring it directly to the lab. Once at the lab you need to bring it to “pre lab” to get stickers for the form and sample and then you can bring it directly to haematology/biochemistry.
* Interns are newly qualified doctors, and rotate across all wards in the hospital. They usually will spend only 1 week on the oncology ward. *It is important to remember that they have limited experience, particularly from an oncology point of view, so will need support and patience*. They are often the only doctor overnight, with senior support from home, so if there is a patient you are worried about, please leave clear instruction and highlight them to the senior doctor on call.

**YOUR PERSONAL AND MEDICAL SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Vaccinations, malaria and medical**

Please consult your doctor or local travel clinic to discuss what vaccinations are best for you and your health. See also the link provided above. Tanzania is a malarial region and mosquitos are mostly a problem in the evening. Long sleeves or pants are recommended along with bug spray once the sun has gone down. Consult your doctor about anti-malarial medications and if they are right for you.

**Pharmacy**

Most medications (eg: ciprofloxacin, paracetemol, loperamide etc) can be purchased in Tanzania a lot cheaper than Ireland, UK or US with no prescription needed although Malarone is not easily available. You can buy mosquito spray and suncream although these are best brought from home as they are **hugely** expensive (e.g. 20 euro for a small bottle of factor 50). There are three pharmacies near the hospital gates, they are very easy to find.

**Valuables and important documents for traveling.** Make photocopies of your passport, (including visa pages),insurance details and plane tickets and keep these in a separate bag. It’s also a good idea to leave copies of these with family/friends at home, along with an outline of your travel itinerary and contact details. Also consider scanning/photographing these and emailing to yourself. We recommend that you keep your valuables out of sight as much as possible during your voluntary work abroad. Combination locks are a good way to secure your luggage.

**Valuables while in the hospital** like cash/phones are best to keep with you on your person. A waist belt bag or a small purse is ideal. Stethoscopes can be locked in one of the offices overnight, or brought home. No one will intentionally target you in the hospital, but if you leave valuables around, they may go missing. If you have something with you like a laptop, you can leave it in one of the offices, it should be safe during the day, but it is best to bring it home at nighttime. You are personally responsible for your belongings at all times.

**Valuables while in public** should be looked after closely at all time. Bag snatching is a common crime in Dar es Salaam so it is better, when possible, to keep wallets/phones etc in your pockets or in a concealed bag. If you have a purse or bag, do not leave it unattended and best to take a proper taxi as opposed to walking or a Bajaj**. If you choose to walk during the day, leave all bags and jewelry behind. Do not walk at night.**

**Your safety** is primarily your responsibility. TLM insists that you always exercise caution in regard to all aspects of your personal safety and the security of your possessions.

You should exercise caution when entering into political discussions or making comments about local politics. Do not become involved in local politics, attend public demonstrations, or make any public comment (written or broadcast) on political or religious matters. Symbols of nationalism in particular should be respected. Any comments you make may also have a negative impact on others in the community, including your Host Organization and colleagues and fellow Program Participants.

All volunteers are responsible for being aware of, and adhering to, the laws of Tanzania. Laws relating to the consumption, supply, trafficking, or cultivation of drugs – including alcohol and tobacco – vary from country to country. Similarly, penalties for breaking local laws vary from minor fines to mandatory death sentences. Volunteers should be aware that in almost all cases, penalties relating to drug use are more severe than in other countries. For this reason, the use of illegal drugs will result in the **immediate termination** of your assignment.

**GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT TANZANIA**

**About Tanzania**

Tanzania has often attracted attention as an exemplary African nation because of its peacefulness and stability. Unlike the largely rhetorical radicalism of other emerging countries, Tanzania's policies for change have been put into practice. Since independence, significant progress has been made in social services, though problems in the country's economic development have kept Tanzania's political and economical goals from full realization. Tanzania's political environment is more stable than in many African nations. Dodoma is the administrative capital; Dar es Salaam is the commercial capital and home to most political offices.

**Area & Population**

945,087 km, 362,340 square miles. It is the largest East African country. Tanzania is made up of the mainland known as Tanganika and the islands of Zanzibar, Pemba and Mafia. The population is 45 million with 4 million residing in Dar es Salaam. Dar es Salaam is the 3rd fastest growing city in Africa and the 9th fastest growing city in the world.

**Language**

Kiswahili and English are the official languages. Bantu, Nilo-Hamitic and Khoisan languages and Arabic are also spoken.

**Government & Religion**

Tanzania is a multi-party democracy. Christian 45%, Muslim 35% and indigenous traditional beliefs 20% make up the religions.

**Geography**

Bordered by Uganda and Kenya to the north; Zambia, Mozambique and Malawi to the south; Rwanda, Burundi and Zaire to the west; and the Indian Ocean to the east. The mainland has several distinct geographical divisions: the Coastal Plains, whose width varies from 16 to 64km and whose vegetation is luxuriant and tropical; the Masai steppe: the north side 213-1067m , 698-3500ft above sea level; the high plateau, located in the south towards Zambia, and Lake Nyasa.

**Time in Tanzania**

Tanzania is Eastern Africa Time Zone.

**Climate**

Tropical and coastal areas like Dar es Salaam are hot and humid, with the rainy season lasting from March to May. Temps can range between 19-31 Celsius or 66-90 Fahrenheit.

January – hottest and dry

February – hottest and dry

March - rain

April - rain

May - rain

June – cooler

July - cooler

August - cooler

September - hot

October - hot

November – hottest and dry

December– hottest and dry

**MONEY**

There are ATM’s at the airport on arrival, the hospital and all over the city where you can take out Tanzanian shillings, the local currency. Not all ATM’s accept all cards so do not be surprised if your card is rejected at a few places and many cards can run out of cash. It is advisable to have cash with you (dollars is fine) in case of emergency when you arrive. At the time of writing – February 2015 there are approximately 1,750 Tanzanian Shillings to the US Dollar. This fluctuates daily.

**Tanzanian Shillings (Tsh)** – accepted everywhere and necessary for taxis, meals and shopping.

**Dollars** – required for visa entry, CTA and medical council (as required). ALL bills you bring must be newer than 2012 and is good shape (no tears, wrinkles, etc) or they may not be accepted. US dollars are preferred for any safari or coastal holidays. US dollars are also accepted in most transactions but exchange rates may vary widely.

**Euros** – are accepted but not as widely as dollars. They can be converted to shillings if necessary.

**Credit Card** – accepted some places likes restaurants and large grocery markets. If using when traveling on safari or coast, you will expect to pay a service fee or added percentage to your bill.

**ATM** - There are ATMs in most cities and all throughout Dar es Salaam but only about $250 can be drawn at any one time. They dispense cash in Tsh.

**Managing your money** Online banking is a great way to manage your finances duringvoluntary work abroad. However, be aware that a reliable internet connection is not always readily available, so plan ahead for any important transactions. Check with your bank that your card will work in Tanzania and let them know the dates you will be there. You may also wish to insure your card and/or lower the daily limit in case it goes missing or stolen.

**Tipping**

Tipping in Tanzania is widely expected. 5-10% of a bill is reasonable. Taxi drivers are not tipped - bargain before hand and stick to the agreed price.

**Approximate costs for popular items in Tanzania.**

Taxi - $2.5-30 for anything from local transport to airport transport

Bajaj to local places - $2-$5

Coffee/Tea - $2

Soft drinks - $1 - 2

Beer - $3-5

Lunch - $6-10

3-course ex-pat style Dinner - $18-25

**LOCAL LIFE, EXERCISE**

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Dar Es Salaam is the biggest city in Tanzania. The airport is 30-40 minutes from the city. “The peninsula”, which centres around the Halle Salassi Road, is the main tourist/expat area with restaurants, western supermarkets and bars. The city centre also has a number of restaurants, banks, ATMs and the main post office.

**Areas of town**

**Upanga –** location of hospital (See location of [Hospital in Google Map](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Muhimbili+National+Hospital/@-6.7820306,39.2722677,14z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x185c4b9bb8d71d0b:0x14ba7984fd6c1064))

**Osterbay** – location of Oysterbay Shopping Market, Triniti, Salt and Black Tomato.

**Msasani Peninsula, Masaki** – location of most up-market bars and restaurants and hotels

**City Centre** – restaurants, ferry to Zanzibar, cheap hostels.

**Exercise**

It is safe to walk or run during the daytime, although it can be very warm. Slipway offers yoga/pilates and dance classes. There are some gyms e.g. Colosseum that will offer short-term memberships. Some hotels will have gyms. These tend to be very expensive

**Team Tanzania**, is a group on Facebook which is a good source for information for the latest news on events, new shops, music and happenings in town.

**ACCOMODATION SUGGESTIONS**

**CEFA Hostel**. Popular place with volunteers but some distance from Muhimbili, would require using taxi/bajaji approx journey 10km. Managed by an NGO. Has good food available. Contact the reception at [cefahostel@gmail.com](mailto:cefahostel@gmail.com)

**Options with short commute to hospital**

**Safari Inn**. Cheap but basic hostel in city centre. (see trip advisor)

**Econo Lodge**- Gets very good reviews, clean but basic shared hostel type accommodation (see trip advisor)

**YMCA/YWCA**-Some of the cheapest options and in city centre

**FOOD & DRINK**

It might sound like obvious volunteer advice, but be careful what you eat and drink. Try to make sure that the food you eat is freshly prepared and thoroughly cooked and drink bottled water only. There’s nothing worse than being ill in the middle of your voluntary work! Tanzania has a hot climate where activities can become really draining. Dehydration can make you tired and even ill so make sure you drink plenty of water and stay hydrated while volunteering.

**Food in the hospital**

There are two small shops in the hospital, one at the entrance and one near Jengo La Watoto, which sell soft drinks, water, popcorn, nuts and cakes/samosas, as well as some deep dried foods at local prices. There are lots of fruit sellers outside the hospital gates but fruit should be washed and peeled before consuming. They will usually do this for you, find a vendor you like and who practices good hygiene. An avocado will run you about $1 and is a great healthy snack alternative to most of the fried food vendors. There are several canteens located near the university, including a student canteen and a VIP canteen, which both serve local cuisine. It is best to bring your own snacks/foods if you have dietary preferences or a sensitive stomach. Cereal bars and western style snacks are expensive to buy in Dar and so are handy to bring, especially for the first few days while you are finding your feet.

**Supermarkets**

* Shoppers Plaza- one branch in Masaki and one in Michocheni, which are both on the peninsula. Both have ATM’s outside. Most western foods are sold here like meat, vegetables, milk, cereals and snacks. All toiletries are available here, shampoos, soaps, sanitary items, razors etc. Most things are more expensive than you would assume.
* Shreejees – scattered throughout the Peninsula, a little cheaper than Shoppers.
* The Village Supermarket on the Peninsula – more expensive than Shoppers, you can get fresh baked breads, scones and cakes plus regular groceries and toiletries.

**Restaurants**

* Capetown Fish Café (peninsula) – open air, by the sea. Fresh seafood and cocktail
* Thai Kani (peninsula) – very good quality and tasty Thai food
* Shooters (peninsula) – rooftop bar and restaurant. Great food, lovely view
* Addis in Dar – open air roof top Ethiopian restaurant
* Badminton Club – good quality Indian food
* Rhapsody’s – city centre, has a dance club on some evenings
* Waterfront – at Slipway. Great for a pizza (about $10) on the water followed by a gelato next store.
* Karembizi Café, SeaCliff Hotel – best view in Dar, open air café overlooking the sea. Pricier but well worth the view.
* The badminton club – in town cheap and delicious.
* The Indian quarter in town – lots and lots of on the street options with Indian and barbecue options – most very cheap and good quality.

**Bars**

* Triniti- There is often live music. It has outdoor seating, and a mixed expat/local crowd.
* Sumaki Sumaki- open-air sports bar, shows most big matches on big screen TVs, cheap drinks and bar food.
* Mediterraneo – hotel resort about 30 minutes from the peninsula, with a restaurant and open air nightclub which opens on certain days.
* George & Dragon (peninsula) – English style pub with a beer garden out back.

**Lunch/Coffee**

* Epidor (peninsula)– bakery and restaurant. Nice place for breakfast. Does falafel, hummus, salads and good sandwiches as well as evening meals.
* News Café – good for brunch, sandwiches, salads, coffees
* SALT café – Oyster bay shopping centre – Western style café
* Kahawa café – upstairs in Shoppers plaza, Msaki

**TRANSPORT**

**Taxis** are usually easy to find. They can be hailed on the street or picked up at taxi ranks, airports and at the ports quite easily. Taxis are white with green stripes along the side and a TAXI light on the roof. It is a good idea to get an estimated price from somebody prior to your journey. It is also worth bargaining. If you find a driver that you trust and will be in Dar Es Salaam for a while it is a good idea to get a phone number to arrange pick ups ahead of time.

**Bajajs** are small covered vehicles similar to a ‘tuk tuk’ in Asia. They are everywhere. These are cheaper than taxis and will get you to your destination faster when traffic is bad. They are generally safe during the day (although some of the driving tactics are questionable) but are not advised at nighttime as they do not have doors.

**Transport to and from the hospital:**

It is safe to walk during daylight hours, but it is best not to carry a bag and certainly no valuables such as a laptop. It is better to take a taxi if it is dark or you are carrying cash or valuables, or wear a money belt under your clothes. The taxis at the rear entrance to the hospital are reliable although they might charge slightly more. If you want to take a bajaj, there are usually some at the front entrance to the hospital.

Estimated Taxi and Bajaj Pricing. Every driver will be different, be prepared to agree to a price ahead of time.

Taxi Airport to Dar: Tsh 30,000 - 45,000

Taxi Peninsula to Hospital: Tsh 15,000

Bajaj Peninsula to Hospital: Tsh 7,000 – 10,000

Taxi within Peninsular: Tsh 5-10,000

Bajaj within Peninsula: Tsh 3,000-5,000

**COMMUNICATION/ELECTRONICS**

**The local electricity** supply is 220 volts. You will need to supply your own international standard adapter for your electrical appliances. It is best to bring both the European “two prong” and British “3 prong” adapters for devices as you’re never sure which type of outlet you’ll encounter.

**For cell phones,** check with your phone company about roaming and network coverage if you plan to stick with your home plan. Vodacom and Airtel are the two major networks in Tanzania that you can use with a local SIM card as long as your phone has been unlocked (check with your phone provider). There are stalls at the entrance to the university, where you can buy and register SIM cards; you will need a copy of your passport to do this. They will also cut a SIM card if needed for a smart phone. Credit is available in most shops. There are good call bundles available for internet, calls and texts that range from $5 - $20 for a week to a month and can be replenished easily if you run out of data. Internet cafes are difficult to find but some hotels/cafes such as Kahawa Café in Shoppers Msaki and News Cafe have free WiFi.

**For internet on your computer,** a portable internet modems (USB type) can be bought for $20 at the airport and a range of packages can be prepaid eg 5GB for 30days is $15. A computer is not provided and internet cafes are hard to come by. If you do not have a computer and need access to one, most hotels have business centers that you may be able to use for a fee.

**PACKING LIST**

**Attire**

Tanzanians generally dress more conservatively than Americans/Irish/Europeans do. During your volunteer work, you will be expected to dress professionally. Although you can dress more casually while at home, most Tanzanians do not approve of short shorts, tank tops, or dirty or ripped clothing. Remember that Dar es Salaam is hot and many areas of the hospital do not have air conditioning so lightweight lose clothing are ideal. Resident doctors dress smartly and conservatively. For women, three quarter length trousers, light blouses, dresses are acceptable but shoulders and knees should be covered. Male doctors usually wear long trousers (not jeans) and short sleeve collared shirts; ties are not expected. Scrubs are acceptable attire but the ward can be very warm, so this is down to personal choice. Comfortable close toed flat shoes, such as pumps or light trainers are best.

**Daily Essentials on the oncology ward:**

* Stethoscope
* Pen torch
* Good supply of pens
* Pocket size alcohol gel
* Calculator (or phone)
* Water bottle (e.g., Nalgene) for drinking water
* Snacks

**General Clothing**

* Comfortable skirts, pants or khakis
* Shirts (short sleeved collar shirts are acceptable for men)
* Sleepwear
* One or two long-sleeved shirts
* Windbreaker or rain jacket
* Dresses or skirts (below the knee or longer)
* Socks (Tanzanian women generally do not wear pantyhose)
* Underwear (women must wear bras)
* Casual short-sleeved T-shirts, shorts for evenings or weekends
* Swimsuit for beach or pool

**Shoes**

* One pair of nice but comfortable shoes or closed-toe shoes (to wear with professional clothes)
* Sandals for evenings and weekends
* One pair of sneakers or running shoes

**Miscellaneous & Toiletries**

Most toiletries are readily available in Tanzania, but you may not find your favorite brand.

* A small current converter (if you bring small appliances like a shaver, etc.)
* Adapters for electronics (see section on communication and electronics)
* Books – just bring one or two. Plenty of shops carry books and sell used ones as well.
* Multi-purpose knife (handy but not necessary)
* Flashlight/headlamp and batteries (Note that AAA batteries are hard to come by)
* Money belt (critical for traveling on public transport)
* Travel alarm clock
* Day pack
* Journal or diary
* Travel mug for coffee
* Tupperware or plastic container to bring lunch to work
* Snacks
* Toiletries: toothbrush, toothpaste, small face towel, baby powder, hand sanitizer
* Sunscreen (plenty, it is expensive here) and bugspray for evenings
* Wet wipes are also a luxury we recommend
* Hair brush
* Razor
* Bandana- it can get very hot at the hospital, it is nice to carry one.
* Travel tissues
* Personal First Aid and Drug Kit
* Spare Eyeglasses and Sunglasses
* Hat
* Waist belt for money
* Note that if you plan to travel to the beach or safari, 15 kg if the limit for bag allowance for in country flights. Bring a duffle bag that you can take with you and leave your large cases behind in Dar.
* PASSPORT! Leave extra photocopies at home with family. Bring photocopy with you and it’s a good idea to take a picture with your phone of your passport info page as well as your Visa page so you have it handy.
* Zip Ties or combination locks for your bags in transit
* Donations for the ward – it is best to liase beforehand with us to see if anything specific needs to be brought over. Useful things to bring are pens, gloves (sterile), oxygen/nebulizer masks, tape, toys/colouring books for the children.

**KISWAHILI LANGUAGE LESSON**

The language is Kiswahili. Even if you are only on the ward for a short time, the staff, parents and children will really appreciate if you try to learn a few words, and it will enhance your experience. It is pronounced more or less how it is written.

Mambo = hello/how are you; answer is ‘Poa’ (cool, good)

Jambo = hello; answer ‘Jambo’

Habari = how are you; answer ‘Mzuri’ (good)

Asante (sana) = thank you (very much)

Karibu (sana) = you are welcome (very much)

Kwaheri = goodbye

Pole (sana) = (very) sorry

Jina lako ni nani? = what is your name ?

Mzungu = foreigner

Rafiki = friend

One = moja

Two = mbili

Three = tatu

Ana homa? = does he/she have a fever

Ana mumivu? = does he/she have pain

Kutapika = vomiting

Kuharisha = diarrhoea

Ana kula ?= is he/she eating

Ana kahowa? = is he/she coughing

Ana pata cho? = has he/she passed stool

Lala = lie down/sleeping (useful if you want to examine a child’s abdomen)

Dawa = medication

Mama = mother

Baba = father

Bebe = grandmother

Babu = grandfather

Mtoto = child, Watoto = children

Asubuhi = morning

Mchana = afternoon

Jioni = evening

Leo= today

Kesho = tomorrow

Jana = yesterday

**WEEKEND GETAWAYS**

**Slipway**: this is a large waterfront development on the peninsula with shops, restaurants and a hotel. There are a number of market stalls, where you can buy everything from Tanzanian football jerseys to ornaments, local crafts, paintings, and clothes. Prices are reasonable but don’t forget to bargain and shop around as many places sell similar crafts. There is also the Waterfront restaurant with good reasonably priced food ($10 for a good pizza) and nice views of the sunset, as well as the more expensive ‘Terrace’. **You can also scuba dive from here.**

**Golden Tulip Hotel**: lovely pool, with a fantastic view of the bay. It is a nice place to relax for a day at the weekend; 20,000TSH for the day, poolside snacks are available for additional fees.

**Beaches near Dar**

Although Dar is on the sea, and there are some beaches in the city, it is not considered safe to swim here. There are several beautiful beaches to go nearby just out of the city, which are good for a day trip or to stay the night.

* Bongoyo Island: Boats go from Slipway and take approx. one hour, starting from 9.30am. They are not that frequent so check the times before you go. Cost is approx. 36,000 TSH per person for a return trip. There are bandas and chairs for hire, and a restaurant, which sells drinks and simple BBQ fish and meats.
* Mbudya Island: The boat to Mbudya goes from the White Sands hotel all day and is quite cheap. However, you will need to a taxi / bajaj to get out there and back which costs around 20,000 TSH.
* South Beach: You should take a bajaj or taxi to the Kunduchi car ferry and then a daladala on the other side of the ferry to the beach. A great day out.

**EXPLORING TANZANIA – EXTENDED STAYS**

Tanzania is one of the most beautiful countries to visit in the world and offer a variety of weekend or extended stay excursions from the white sands of exotic Zanzibar to the vast plains of the Serengeti. Options include safaris, coast excursions, city tours and more. Safaris can be pricey due to park fees. Most places prefer US cash dollars for payment. Best to bring this with you when you come. Tanzanian shillings can be used but exchange rates can vary widely. Some places accept credit cards but additional service fees will apply.