

Introduction for new parents and teachers coming to Moshi

Moshi has grown considerably over the last few years, and we hope this information will lead you to the best it has to offer. Not only is Moshi popular because it nestles on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro and is an ideal base for climbers, but the pleasant atmosphere and local friendliness make visitors return again and again.

This information is for new parents and teachers alike; The sections include helpful information for new residents coming to Moshi. Before you hit the streets and enjoy the sights and sounds, we encourage you to take a moment to read the section "Hints, Tips & Helpful Advice" .

Getting around Moshi is quite easy as most places are within walking distance, and there are taxi's and local dala dala's in abundance. The three roundabouts make it relatively easy to find your way around town. The centre of town is marked by the roundabout with the clock tower on (at the end of J.K. Nyerere Road); on the north side of the town (on the Arusha-Dar highway, near the YMCA) the Askari monument on the roundabout commemorates African members of the British Forces who lost their lives in the two world wars, and lastly, on the south, the Kibo roundabout is marked by a representation of the Uhuru Torch. The original was placed on Kilimanjaro's summit on the day of Tanzania's independence in December 1961.

The town centre has a wide range of dukas (shops) and a variety of curio shops. The colourful market on Chagga street sells fruit, vegetables, spices and grains, along with some curios and jua kali (literally 'sharp sun') craftsmen who have mastered the art of turning old tins and cans into oil lamps, pans, kettels, ladles, and more. Kiboriloni is a lively market that attracts people from miles around for second hand clothes of every variety and an endless array of colourful local cloth.

Moshi has a wide choice of accommodation and restaurants fitting all tastes and pockets. Add to this the ethnic diversity, national parks in close range, the welcoming residents and, of course, the splendour and grandeur of Mount Kilimanjaro, we are confident that your stay in Moshi will be memorable and enjoyable.

The most frequently asked questions are where to buy a car and where to rent a house.

For buying a car, please go to section "car repairs" and ask these companies. There are no specific car dealers in Moshi.

Information about which houses are for rent, please look at the notice board at the Coffee Shop .

The complete Moshi guide is available at the reception of International School Moshi. The full guide includes also information about; Mount Kilimanjaro, Coffee shops and Restaurants, Hospitals, Travelling/safari, Travel Agents/ Tour Operators, Banks, More shopping and Services, Leisure Activities, Sports Activities, Clubs and Gyms, Moshi Map, Local Non-Governmental Organizations and Charities, Education and Places of Worship.

A special thank you towards the Coffee Shop, a project of St. Margaret's Anglican Church in Moshi for making a section of the Moshi guide available for the International School Moshi website, parent pages in kind cooperation with the Parent Association.

For any further information for new parents coming to Moshi, you are very welcome to contact the PA Chair through the Parent Association mail address; pa@ismoshi.net

Hints, Tips & Helpful Advice

Behaviour, Local Customs & Laws

Whilst Moshi is a multicultural and generally very accepting town it is still a good idea to show respect to the community by following a few simple guidelines.

- Dress accordingly and you will be treated with greater respect by those that you deal with. Women should try to cover their shoulders and be covered to below the knee. For men, wearing long trousers is more respectful than shorts. Men should also refrain from removing their shirts in public.
- The rule for unwanted attention on the street is to be firm, polite, and keep walking. If however you choose to buy something from a street seller, have a look at all his wares, he will be glad for the business.
- Overt public displays of affection and anger are inappropriate. Homosexuality is illegal. However, men holding hands is a cultural tradition here.
- Taking photographs of people without asking can be offensive. Also, be very sure never to point your camera in the direction of a governmental building.
- Police enjoy authoritative status, always be exceptionally polite. Traffic police wear white or pale blue uniforms while civil police wear khaki.
- Petty offences might solicit a masked bribe; you might be offered an 'on the spot' fine. Establish the amount requested, and then offer to go to the nearest police station to pay, at which point you will probably be released with a warning. Always ask for a receipt when paying fines.
- For any serious charges, contact your embassy or consulate.

Money

- Keep money well hidden; keep small change handy so you aren't waving wads of shillings around. Many stall holders and street sellers may find it hard to break some of the bigger bank notes.
- Think about where your money goes, and try to support local people. Haggle fairly and with humour, remember that you are probably better off than the person you're buying from. A few shillings means a lot more to them than it will to you.
- Change money in an authorised bank or bureaux de change, and obtain a receipt.
- US dollars and Euros are widely accepted. The exchange rate will however probably not be as good as the banks or bureaux de changes.
- A 10% tip is appreciated by hotel and restaurant staff. Most companies may add a service charge for the porters climbing Mount Kilimanjaro – check this out before signing up. In Moshi, tourists are less likely to be harassed by beggars and street children - this is due to support of local charitable organisations. We would encourage you to help by giving food, or contributing money to charitable organisations.

Safety

- Wearing expensive jewellery and cameras invites trouble. Remember, a \$100 camera represents 2 months wages for some people.
- Be careful at markets and busy places. Pickpockets love crowded places, especially the bus stops and markets.
- If using the main bus station, keep a close hold of all bags as they can be snatched if they are put on the ground for even a few seconds.
- If possible travel in pairs, especially at night.
- Avoid walking in the streets after dusk – take a taxi instead. They don't cost much and are plentiful.
- Use a marked taxi. Assess the safety of any vehicle you use and complain if the driving is dangerous. Negotiate the price before you get in. See page 7.
- Cars drive on the left hand side of the road.
- When driving be sure to stop at railway crossings, be especially aware that there are generally no barriers or warning lights.
- Not all junctions are clearly marked with the right of way, always approach with caution.
- As a pedestrian be alert to poor driving; as a driver be alert to pedestrians/cyclists who do not check for cars. Also be on the look out for open drains. The minibuses here tend to pull in and out of traffic as they pick up and drop off. Always be alert and look all around you before you step off the pavement.

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and trousers at night to avoid mosquito bites which may carry the risk of contracting malaria (especially during the rainy season). Use insect repellent and a mosquito net. If you are bitten, avoid scratching as this can leave an open wound that can pick up all sorts of germs and grime.
- At certain times of year there are small insects that, when squashed on skin, secrete an acidic fluid that causes a blistery rash that can be very painful. If you feel something crawling on you, brush it off rather than squash it.
- Iron clothes to kill any eggs laid by mango flies.
- Remember the old adage 'Boil it, cook it, peel it or forget it' when eating fruit and vegetables – be wary even when eating out, especially if you have just arrived in the country.

Time

- Swahili time is counted from dawn, not midnight, and is 6 hours different i.e. 7 o'clock = *Saa moja* (1 o'clock). People jump from one system to the other.
- The 24 hour clock is never used.
- Always double check an arranged time, specifying morning, afternoon or evening. If you use Swahili, Swahili time will be assumed.
- Keep in mind that time keeping is not at the top of the priority list for most people – "No hurry"

National Holidays

1 January – New Year's Day
12 January – Zanzibar Revolution Day
7 April – Karume Day
26 April – Union Day
1 May – Mayday Workers' Day
7 July – Farmers Day
8 August – Peasants Day
14 October – Nyerere Day
9 December – Independence Day
25 December – Christmas Day
26 December – Boxing Day

Good Friday, Easter Monday, Id-ul-Fitr (end of Ramadan), Id-ul-Haji (Festival of Sacrifice), Islamic New Year and Prophet Mohammad's birthday are holidays that vary year to year. Christian holidays will not always be observed by all Muslims, and vice versa.

Moshi and its History

By Ahmed Daya

Moshi municipality is situated 2,657 ft above sea level on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa. Moshi literally means 'smoke', but a few reasons have been given for the name. Some suggest that it is because it lies on the slopes of a volcano, others are sure it is because of fog due to cold and chilly weather experienced a century ago. Others suggest that is derived from the market name 'Kimochi' to 'Mochi' to the present 'Moshi'.

The then Moshi village was about seven miles from the present town which was known as German Moshi and later Old Moshi. The reason for shifting the village to the present Moshi Municipality was due to the availability of water and a suitable area to build a railway line.

I was born and brought up in Moshi and for the past half century, I have seen Moshi growing into a busy, clean and an attractive town. My father (who came to Moshi in the year 1921) told me that Moshi at that time was nothing but a small village surrounded by a jungle. They could hear the roaring of lions at night as close as the place where today the market is situated. The village gradually turned into a town and now the municipality. Today, we can still see some buildings built during German times like the Railway station and 'Boma' which is presently housing the offices of the District Commissioner.

The ethnic tribe of the region is Chaggas who have their homes and small farms called 'shambas' in the nearby villages. Even today, one finds people who do business or work in Moshi and go back to their respective villages in the evening. Arabica coffee is grown on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro. The area is well known for its quality coffee from Tanzania. Kilimanjaro coffee is exported in many countries including Japan, Germany, Italy, UK and the United States.

Moshi is a clean and beautiful town and was voted twice as the cleanest town in the country. It has all the facilities to cater for the needs of one and all.

Welcome - 'Karibu' - to Moshi in the land of Kilimanjaro.

Transport

Air

Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) is 34 km west of Moshi off the road to Arusha. A shuttled bus runs from the Air Tanzania Office on Rengua Road two hours before scheduled flights departure. The same shuttle meets incoming Air Tanzania flights – be sure to double check the shuttle is running and be there in plenty of time to allow for a contingency plan. Some hotels run small buses for their patrons for up to \$50, others don't charge. The other option is to get a taxi.

Buses

Buses

It's reasonably easy to get a bus to and from Moshi. Tickets can be booked in advance at the various stands, but there are often spaces available on the day - just turn up. Often the more you pay the better the service is in terms of safety and reliability, however, this is not a guarantee. Prices can vary.

Be aware that speeding buses are an enormous problem, the perilous road between Moshi and Arusha (not to mention the road between Moshi and Dar) has been known to induce flashbacks of your life. Buses for Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda all leave from the main bus stand in Market Street unless otherwise stated. There are dozens of competing companies: before purchasing a ticket seek unbiased local advice to find a preferred bus company. Most buses stop along the journey - take your own toilet paper. To avoid being hassled by touts trying to persuade you to go on their bus, it's a good idea to go to the bus stand the day before (without your luggage) and book your ticket then, so you can just arrive and board the next morning.

Car Rentals & Driving

Cars and small buses can be hired in the market area, and from Davanu, Maily Tours, Laka Tours and Riverside. Car hire can be rather expensive, and most companies will insist on you hiring their driver too. This is not a bad idea when you're only hiring the car for a short while, as they will know their way round and know procedures at police checks etc.

Don't automatically assume your rental vehicle is roadworthy, insist on a test drive and check absolutely everything before signing anything. A quick check should include a test on the brakes, working clutch, presence of all the wheel nuts, condition of the spare tyre, thread on the tyres and a working mileage gauge, if you are paying per mile/kilometre. It may be overly cautious, but some people suggest that it's a good idea to stay relatively close to the place you hired a car from for the first day, so that you aren't miles from anywhere if you do have a problem.

A Tanzanian once tried to prepare a European about the driving here, and explained it like this: "In Europe, how do you spot a drunken driver? He's zigzagging his way across the road. How does one recognise a drunken driver in Tanzania? He's driving in a straight line." Driving is on the left side of the road...although you may not find this necessarily true - on roads peppered with potholes drivers tend to go whichever way seems less bumpy.

When driving, be especially conscious of animals, pedestrians (particularly near schools where there are children crossing roads), and cyclists (particularly those with wobbly loads larger than your vehicle). Remember that there are generally no barriers or warning lights at railway crossings.

Dala Dalas (Local Transport)

Another cultural experience...some consider it taking your life into your own hands. Usually you are crammed into limited seating like a sardine, only to experience haphazard driving...it's all fairly hair raising. The small buses travel to most of the local destinations.

If you stand in the right place (ask someone nearby if you have any doubts) the dala dala will pass you, stop, and the assistant - that will be the guy precariously hanging out the door - will shout the direction the bus is going. Just get in. If you are uncertain, ask the assistant or another passenger to tell you when to get out. At some point during the journey the assistant will jingle coins in front of your nose; that's your cue to pay the fare - have change ready. Good starting points are the central bus stand, opposite the court on the Arusha Road, at the Kibo roundabout, south of the market along the double road, and near the YMCA. The dala dala's might wait until they're full at the starting point before travelling along their route. Most Moshi residents will be happy to point you in the right direction.

Taking a dala dala around town costs about TSh 100 to TSh 250.

Taxis

These are available from the clock tower, the bus stand, Kibo roundabout and upper market area on Market Street. There are also many in front of the larger hotels and at major junctions. Discuss the fare with the driver before getting in: there are no metres in the taxis. The fare is usually TSh 1,000 - TSh 3,500 around town.

If you need a taxi at an unusual hour, arrange a time with a taxi driver, take the driver's mobile number and make contact to confirm. When you use a taxi that you like, it's a good idea to take his mobile number and use him again, or ask him to recommend someone reliable to you. Assess the state of the driver before you get in if it's late at night - you might have hauled him out of the bar!

Pedestrians

Moshi is a safe and quiet town but accidents do occur. Be sure to double check before crossing roads, look about before stepping out of a vehicle and be alert to poor driving. It seems like the bigger you are, the more right of way you have on the road: as a pedestrian you are the lowest rank. Don't assume a vehicle will stop if you're crossing a road – even if you are on a pedestrian crossing! Avoid walking in the streets after dusk, take a taxi instead. Keep your eyes on your bags and avoid flashing your money. Watch out for open drains or manholes, and remember the rule for unwanted attention: be firm, polite, and keep walking...

Hitch Hiking

As in any other part of the world hitching is taking a potentially serious risk, and we don't recommend it. Good common sense will tell you it is absolutely not a good idea for women, but for men and mixed couples it is perhaps safer. If you are determined to hitch, use precautions such as letting someone know your whereabouts, keeping a mobile phone handy and using common sense to assess the driver and vehicle before getting in. While many will offer free lifts, it's wise to establish from the outset whether or not you are expected to pay. To flag a car down, wave your hand up and down at waist level. Holding your hand palm upwards is generally interpreted as asking for a free lift.

Email, Internet & Fax

There is no shortage of internet cafés in Moshi. Persevere if you've had a bad connection or if it was unavailable at one café. There are excellent internet cafés in Moshi with pleasant atmospheres and helpful staff. At the time of print, the standard price is TSh 300 for 15 minutes and TSh 500 for half an hour. Most have printing facilities. Cafés listed are mostly in the town centre, hotels or shops will give you directions to the closest internet access point - though more and more hotels have internet access now.

Mobiles/Cell Phones

The popular networks include CelTel, tiGO, Vodacom and Zantel. Sim cards are readily available at shops for about TSh 500 and can be used on most phones. Credit can be obtained from nearly all shops, even restaurants – look for signs.

Emergencies

Police Station

Market Street (next to the bus stand).

Open 24 hours

Tel: (027)2755055

Jaffery Charitable Medical Services

Ghalla Street, next to the Sikh Union Club.

Tel: (027)2751843

Open Mon – Fri 08:30 – 13:00

14:00 – 17:30

Sat 08:00 – 12:30

KCMC Hospital

From YMCA roundabout onto Kilimanjaro Road, past Mr Price, right onto Sokoine Road.

Open 24 hours

Tel: (027)2754377/8

To have a file opened in order to see a doctor will cost \$50, to be admitted costs \$250.

Kilimanjaro First Hospital

Rindi Lane (next to Standard Chartered Bank).

Open 24 hours

Tel: (027)2754051

Dr. Makupa

On the left corner as you turn up on Lema Road.

Tel: (027)2751418, 2751606, or 2753658

Open Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri

09:00 – 13:00, 15:00 – 17:00

Sat 09:00 – 13:00, Tues and Public Holidays 13:30 – 16:00

Night and Day Dispensary

Sima Hospital, Kenyatta Street.

Open 24 hours

Tel: (027)2751272

Malaria diagnostic tests are done here.

Evacuation

Mission Aviation Fellowship

Dar es Salaam:

Tel: (022)2131409, 2125200, or 2112626

Dodoma:

Tel: (026)2352810, 2352816, 2354701, or 2354036

Kigoma:

Tel: (028)20490

Emergencies outside office hours:

Tel: 0754308440

Hospitals

KCMC (Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre)

From YMCA roundabout onto Kilimanjaro Road, past Mr Price, right onto Sokoine Road.

Bureaux de Change

► Shopping & Services

If you are going shopping and changing money to TSh, ask for a few smaller notes than TSh 10,000/- – you will need smaller change if you are going to markets or are buying something on the street.

Chase Forex

Subzali Building, Rindi Lane.

Tel: (027)2755220/1/2

Open Mon - Fri 08:00 - 17:00

Sat 08:00 - 14:00

Shopping & Services

Moshi has an amazing variety of shops, and a walk down Market Street or J.K. Nyerere Road (the double road) leaves one with the feeling that there's not much that cannot be acquired here. Shopkeepers are friendly and will point you in the right direction if they don't have what you are looking for. Use discretion, in some shops you will be able to barter for the goods you want, in others there are set prices. For a real taste of Moshi, visit one of the markets – a truly fantastic experience. Keep your wits about you and be sure valuables are hidden (don't wear jewellery), then delight your senses with the sights and smells of East Africa.

CAR REPAIRS

Chuni's Garage Ltd.

Boma Road.

Rajinder Motors Ltd.

Majengo.

Tel: (027)2752883

Specialists in Toyota vehicles, repairs and parts.

Imran Motors

Rindi Lane.

Tel: (027)2753883

Markets

Central Market

Chagga Street.

Open Mon - Sat 07:00 - 17:00

Sun 07:00 - 11:00

Fresh fruit and vegetables, spices,

Kiboriloni Market

Kiboriloni, 5 km out of Moshi on the Dar Road.

Open Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat

07:00 - 18:00

Second hand western clothes, shoes, bags, suitcases household linen and local cloth. Freshly slaughtered pork .