

Traveling in Iringa: What will it cost?

This document includes the most up-to-date cost information for transportation, lodging, safari, and other expenses you and your group will incur over the course of your visit in Iringa. Please visit www.spas-elca.org/bkbtravel or contact begakwabega@spas-elca.org with questions.



	Cost	Notes																		
Transportation																				
<p>Tatanca Safaris Ground Transportation www.tatancasafaris.co.tz</p>	<p>\$270 USD per day <i>Coaster bus</i></p> <p>\$250 USD per day <i>Land Cruiser</i> (4X4 6 or 8 passenger)</p>	<p>Paid in USD. 18% VAT government tax will be added to fees.</p> <p>50% paid six weeks before departure, final balance due upon arrival.</p> <p>When budgeting for vehicles, please remember to account for luggage as well. Additional charges may apply for itineraries that do not begin/end in Dar es Salaam or involve vehicle sitting idle but held by group.</p>																		
<p>Auric Air Flights between Dar and Iringa or Ruaha www.auricair.com</p>	<p>\$150 or \$228 USD <i>per person</i> <i>One way</i></p>	<p>Paid in USD, flights can be booked directly through Auric or by Tatanca Safaris and other tour operators.</p> <p>A cost and time competitive alternative for smaller groups and individual travelers.</p> <p>Single propeller, 13 passenger plane. Significant weight restrictions on luggage of 20kg (apprx 40 lbs) - including carry on.</p>																		
Lodging																				
<p>Wistas Chalet Dar es Salaam www.wistasinn.co.tz</p>	<p>\$40 USD per night <i>Single room</i></p> <p>\$45 USD per night <i>Double/Twin room</i></p> <p>\$55 USD per night <i>Triple room</i></p>	<p>Night of arrival and night before departure depending on your itinerary. Breakfast included.</p> <p>Paid in USD upon arrival. <u>(Hand carry this payment with you)</u></p> <p>Additional Details on room types and costs</p> <table> <tr> <td>Standard Single:</td> <td>\$35 USD</td> <td>Smaller room, no fridge.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deluxe Single:</td> <td>\$40 USD</td> <td>Fridge included</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Standard Double/Twin:</td> <td>\$40 USD</td> <td>Smaller room, no fridge</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deluxe Double/Twin:</td> <td>\$45 USD</td> <td>Fridge included</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Standard Triple:</td> <td>\$50 USD</td> <td>No fridge</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deluxe Triple:</td> <td>\$55 USD</td> <td>Fridge included</td> </tr> </table> <p>Executive rates available for each room category. The difference is the room is large, has a balcony and a fridge.</p> <p>Rates: Single - \$45 USD Double/Twin - \$50 USD Triple - \$60 USD</p>	Standard Single:	\$35 USD	Smaller room, no fridge.	Deluxe Single:	\$40 USD	Fridge included	Standard Double/Twin:	\$40 USD	Smaller room, no fridge	Deluxe Double/Twin:	\$45 USD	Fridge included	Standard Triple:	\$50 USD	No fridge	Deluxe Triple:	\$55 USD	Fridge included
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<p>The Lutheran Centre <i>Iringa</i></p> <p>www.iringalutherancentre.com</p>	<p>\$30 USD per night per person</p>	<p>Breakfast included with the room rate. It is anticipated most travelers will be accommodated in shared rooms.</p> <p>All extra meals are paid in Tanzanian schillings (Tsh) and must be ordered in advance. Current prices are: Dinner (3 courses): 17,000 TSH Dinner (1 course & dessert): 12,000 TSH Dinner/Lunch (1 course): 10,000 TSH</p> <p>Luggage storage is available for groups larger than 4 people by reserving a single room at \$20/day.</p>
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<p>Village Lodging (Homestays)</p>	<p>\$20 USD per person per day <i>Suggested amount for food/lodging</i></p>	<p>Be sure to include your driver and translator. Parishes often come to the BKB office and request these funds ahead of your visit or money can be left with the parish treasurer.</p>
<p>Interpreter</p>		
<p>Diocese Interpreter</p>	<p>50,000 TSH for first day, 40,000 TSH for each subsequent day</p>	<p>Interpreters from the Diocese Head Office are an important part of your village visit. They help to bridge the language and cultural gaps between guests and hosts.</p> <p>The suggested per diem allows interpreters to provide for their families while they are off accompanying you.</p>
<p>Safari <i>Ruaha National Park</i></p>		
<p>Entrance Fee</p>	<p>\$35.40 USD per person per day.</p>	<p>Prepaid by BKB Iringa Office from your Travel account. Driver will provide proof of payment at the Park Gate. Fee is based on 24 hour period. (Example: Groups entering by 12:30pm must be out by 12:30pm the next day or they incur another day's charge).</p>
<p>Concession Fee</p>	<p>\$35.40 USD per person per day</p>	<p>Prepaid by BKB Iringa Office from your Travel account. Applies to guests staying inside the park. For those at Mwangusi, receipt should be addressed to Ruaha Safari Camp Ltd and shown to management upon arrival in camp as proof of payment.</p>
<p>Driver and Vehicle Fee</p>	<p>\$50.00 USD <i>Land Cruiser</i></p> <p>\$75.00 USD <i>Coaster Bus</i></p> <p>\$100.00 USD <i>Large Bus</i></p>	<p>Paid by Tatanca and included on Tatanca Invoice.</p>

<p>Lodging:</p> <p>Mwagusi Camp</p> <p>www.mwagusicamp.com</p>	<p>\$184 USD per person per night (Children 5-12 are \$123)</p>	<p>Three meals included per day. Alcoholic beverages and sodas are <i>not</i> included. Extra box lunch can be preordered for \$5 USD.</p> <p>Safari drives: \$35.40 USD per person per drive. (\$30+18%VAT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Early morning drive</u> (6:30 a.m.) <i>Breakfast in the bush, return to camp for lunch.</i> • <u>Morning Drive</u> (8:30 a.m.) <i>Leave after breakfast, return for lunch around 12:30 p.m.</i> • <u>Late afternoon drive</u> (4:00 p.m.) <i>Leave after tea, return in time for dinner around 7:00 p.m.</i> • <u>Gate Transfer</u> (8:30am) *Optional w/Extra Charge* <i>Leave after breakfast. Game drive and transfer to park gate.</i> <p>Prepaid by BKB Iringa Office from your Travel account. Drinks and additional charges paid in TSH or USD at time of check out. Credit cards are not accepted.</p> <p><i>FYI – Camp Management supports the work of BKB by offering our guests preferred rates for a luxury boutique experience.</i></p>
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<p>Lodging: Other</p> <p>www.ruahariverlodge.com www.tandalacamp.com www.ruahatungacamp.com</p>	<p>Varies</p>	<p>BKB-SPAS maintains working relationships with other luxury lodges in the park, including Foxes' Ruaha River Lodge (from \$230/person).</p> <p>Cost-conscious groups looking for alternatives may be well served by seeking lodging outside of the national park. Options include Tandala Tented Camps and Tungamalenga Lodge. Full-day game drives may then be arranged using Tatanca drivers or the lodging vendor.</p> <p>Contact assigned travel coordinator for more information.</p>
<p>Day Excursions</p>		
<p>Boma Cultural Museum, Iringa Town</p>	<p>10,000 TSH per person</p>	<p>Located in the historic Administration Building across from Neema Crafts, this museum tells the story of the people of the Iringa Region.</p>
<p>Gangilonga Rock, Iringa Town</p>	<p>5,000 TSH per person</p>	<p>Offering incredible views over Iringa, Gangilonga Rock is a relatively easy hike from The Lutheran Center. Entrance fee pays for security at the site. Check-in with Lutheran Center or BKB staff before going.</p>
<p>Isimila Stone Age Site, Isimila</p>	<p>20,000 TSH per person</p>	<p>An archaeological and hiking area outside of Iringa town with fascinating rock formations.</p>
<p>Additional Meals</p>		

Around Iringa Town	\$5-10 USD per meal	Varies based on preference and taste; suggested cost listed here reflects more expensive 'Western-style' restaurants. See BKB coordinator when you arrive for a list of currently recommended places.
Suggested Gratuities		
Drivers	20,000 Tsh per day	This can vary based on length of trip, etc.
Restaurants	7-8%	For any of the restaurants in Iringa Town
Safari Camps	\$15 USD per person per day	Includes: Accommodations, Game drives; Alcoholic beverages and sodas. Tips are shared by all staff.
The Lutheran Centre	\$2 USD per person per day	Give directly to Management at check-out. Tips are divided among the whole staff.

Travel Cost FAQ

1. What currency is used in Tanzania? What is the exchange rate?

The Tanzanian Shilling (TZS) is the national currency in Tanzania. It comes in coins and cash in denominations up to 10,000 TZS. The United States Dollar (USD) is often the preferred currency of lodging and transportation vendors. You'll use a mix of both currencies during your stay. The exchange rate in 2022 has averaged around 2300 TZS for 1 USD.

2. When do I exchange my USD for Tsh?

You will get the best rate of exchange at the airport in Dar Es Salaam immediately upon arrival. Guests are encouraged to exchange personal spending money there. Group leaders should exchange enough group funds to cover expenses before they arrive in Iringa (e.g. lodging at Wista's Inn and lunch along the way).

3. What about ATMs? ATMs are now readily accessible in Iringa Town. Local fees vary from TSH 15.4000 (Barclays) to TSH 8000 (CRDB) per transaction; currently Diamond Trust Bank charges no additional fee. Daily withdrawal limit is set at TSH 400,000. Contact your home bank to ensure that your card will work in Tanzania and for more information about fees and surcharges they may impose.

4. What about Credit Cards?

Tanzania is primarily a cash-only economy; especially in Iringa credit cards are rarely, if ever, accepted. The one major exception is for entrance to Ruaha National Park where fees *must be* paid via credit card. To avoid difficulties, a BKB-SPAS debit card is available for Group Leaders to use for entrance and concession fees. Credit cards may also be used at some major vendors and shops in Dar es Salaam. Visa and Master Card are more widely accepted than American Express.

5. Can we send money over before departure so we don't have to carry lots of cash with us? For safety and security purposes, groups are encouraged to wire travel funds for major expenses (i.e. transportation and lodging) to Iringa through the Saint Paul Area Synod ahead of their trip. To allow time for processing, money should be sent to David Roinas at david.roinas@spas-elca.org at the synod office **at least six weeks** prior to your departure date. *There is no additional surcharge on Travel Funds wired through the Synod Office.*

6. How much personal money should travelers bring?

Suggested amount of personal money for each individual is \$200-500 USD. **PLEASE NOTE: All US currency should be in \$100 bills and must be 2006 or newer—\$50 and \$20 bills do not get a good exchange rate.**

7. What are Bega Kwa Bega's cancellation policies?

Apart from our Travel Fee, refundable in full up to six-weeks before travel, the Saint Paul Area Synod Bega Kwa Bega office does not have a blanket cancellation policy. Specific terms and conditions vary from vendor to vendor, if you would like a copy of current cancellation policies for our preferred vendors, please email begakwabega@spas-elca.org.

8. Can we use alternate vendors for our travel in Iringa?

The Saint Paul Area Synod Bega Kwa Bega office has negotiated preferred arrangements with vendors in Iringa. If your group would prefer to use alternate vendors, please email begakwabegal@spas-elca.org early in your travel planning process. We'll do our best to accommodate your wishes however specific arrangements will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

Still have questions? Visit www.spas-elca.org/bkbtravel or email them to begakwabega@spas-elca.org

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