

Tanzania Ecology & Evolution

What's the best advice you can give future students to maximize their experience abroad?

"Be open to anything and go with the flow! The best way to get the most out of your experience is to just let whatever happens, happen. Trying to stick to a strict schedule or refusing to do something out of your comfort zone could result in some incredible opportunities being missed!"

"Pay attention in class the week before you leave. Take good notes and consider bringing them with you to Tanzania so that you can read through them as you travel."

"Participate in everything and make friends with the other students. There is no reason not to have the time of your life while abroad."

"The program leaders are fantastic educators and responsible, caring people. The scientific experiences are simply unmatched to anywhere else in the world, especially here in the US. The people of Tanzania are kind and helpful people with a beautiful culture that we can all learn from."

"Actually sitting on the front porch of Jane Goodall's house in Gombe is an experience I will hold near and dear for the rest of my life."

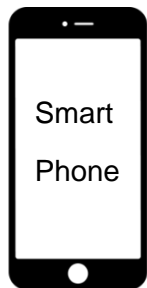
What items did you not bring that you wish you had?

- Extra converter
- Extra cash
- Camera batteries
- Portable charger
- Bug Spray

What items did you pack and NOT need while abroad?

- Too much soap
- Books for free time reading
- Nice day time clothes

Which devices would you recommend others take in the future?



Most common ways to communicate with family and friends back home:

- #1. Through WiFi-enabled smart phones apps
 - Skype
 - Whatsapp
 - iMessage
- #2. International calling/text plan with U.S. cell phone

Approximately how much did you spend out of pocket during the program (in USD)?

	Max Value	Average Value
Communication (cell phone, Internet charges, etc.):	150.00	16.67
Food:	100.00	38.89
Going out/free time:	100.00	30.56
Required books/supplies:	30.00	3.33
Souvenirs/gifts:	420.00	216.11

What advice do you have for students to budget and spend money wisely?

"The markets in Zanzibar are a great place to spend money. Do not spend too much on drinks, as water is typically provided in hotel rooms and safari vehicles."

"There will be tons of places to buy gifts. Don't blow it all on food and drinks. Spend more money than you think you should when you visit the tribes."

"Transfer all the money you will need when you get there and don't mess with debit cards."

"Don't buy souvenirs that you know are completely pointless. Your second cousin does not want that wooden-carved impala mask."

How might students best get to know the people and culture of your host country?

“Just be kind and interact at their digression, don't force yourself on anyone and don't be rude. Be kind and patient and you will have the best interaction.”

“Take the opportunity to talk to people, especially children who likely know English better, because they often have interesting things to say.”

“Take advantage of riding with the local van drivers for hours on end. They are usually full of knowledge and willing to share with you. It's a great and easy way to learn about the culture.”

What do you wish you had known more about before you left?

“I wish I had been able to speak more Swahili.”

“How much money to bring and when to spend it, especially to have known to spend more when we interacted with the tribes.”

“I wish I had known more about the history of Tanzania, including the slave trade, wars, and colonization.”

“Bartering. It's a necessary skill.”

“I wish I had known more about evolution and the various theories.”

How did you pay for things on a daily basis?

1. Cash (exchanged from US currency)
2. Cash (withdrawn from local ATM/bank from US bank account)
3. Bartering

Did this program deepen your interest in your academic field of study?

“As a computer engineering major, the courses really peaked my interests in subjects outside my own discipline. However, I learned that I can apply my programming skills to my interest in biology by creating mapping programs and tagging animal locations and tracking behavioral patterns. So even though this program was not strictly directed for my discipline, I enjoyed it so much that I might try to make that connection.”

“Being able to have the hands on experience was amazing and deepened my passions. I am already trying to figure out how I can get back to Tanzania.”

“My field of interest is unrelated to the topics that we studied. However, I learned a lot about evolution which I have continued to research since getting back to the States. I also learned a lot about the people of East Africa and would like to expand my knowledge in that area, possibly returning to Tanzania one day to work/ do research.”