

July in Tanzania? For All Good Reasons!

Dear Traveler-to-Tanzania,

We are active supporters of the Cigogo Festival of Central Tanzania, a colorful three-day festival of music and dance of the Wagogo people. From the village of Chamwino Ikulu, as well as from surrounding villages in the region of Dodoma (Tanzania's new capitol city), about 60 Wagogo village groups are invited to sing, dance, and play traditional Wagogo music. They create their own music, and audition and rehearse the music for public performance at this festival. Envisioned by Dr. Kedmon Mapana, now Executive Secretary of BASATA (the National Arts Council of Tanzania), the Cigogo Festival will celebrate its 15th year this July 19-20-21, 2024. The Chamwino Arts Center (CAC) administers the festival there in Chamwino village, but does not charge an admission fee. Past festivals have drawn many Tanzanians, especially people of the Wagogo villages, as well as visitors from Canada, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Philippines, Spain, Thailand, the U.S., and elsewhere. All are welcome to the festival, a celebration of cultural heritage and traditional artistic expressions.

If you've never been to Tanzania, we're here to help you. We are members of the fund-raising arm of the Chamwino Arts Center (known as Chamwino Connect), and have been travelling to the Cigogo Festival since 2009 (between us, about 15 times!). Below are helpful information-bytes for you, including recommendations for flights, hotels, and costs for side-trips (arranged by CAC), and other matters.

Please know that we're available to answer questions, and at least one of us will be on site at the Cigogo Festival this July. So, please do think of it. If you've ever dreamed of going to Africa, to East Africa, to Tanzania, perhaps 2024 is your time to make it happen! Be in touch, please do!

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Flights

(Some choose to fly to Dodoma, then taxi (board a bus) for a 45-minute ride to Chamwino - Cigogo Festival)

Seattle to Dodoma, Tanzania

Emirates	\$1744 (2 stops; Dubai layover)
Qatar	\$2100 (2 stops; Doha layover)

(Some choose to fly to Dar es Salaam, then travel on to Chamwino-Dodoma)

Seattle to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Qatar	\$2100 (through Doha-8hour layover, to Dodoma)
KLM	\$3649 (2 stops)

[Dar es Salaam-Dodoma]

Precision Air	\$110
VIP Bus	\$ 20

Lodging

(Some choose to stay in Chamwino for the Festival, and even for several days before or after)

Lodging in Chamwino

Mapinduzi Lodge	\$10/night
Mazoya Lodge	\$ 6/night
Chamwino Lodge	\$ 6/night
Green City Lodge	\$ 6/night
Mayo Lodge	\$ 6/night

(Some choose to stay in Dodoma for the Festival, and to travel daily to Chamwino for the Festival)

Lodging in Dodoma

Dodoma City Hotel	\$90/night
New Dodoma Hotel	\$56/night
Royal Village Hotel	\$70/night
Hotel Meyzieu	\$30/night
Hancol Hotel	\$40/night
Taxi from Dodoma to Chamwino:	\$15
Dala Data from Dodoma to Chamwino:	\$ 1

Meals

- Local restaurants feature foods such as kuku ugali (chicken/maize) or chicken/rice, spaghetti, French fries at a cost of approximately \$1-\$2 per meal. Soft drinks, beer, bottled water, and wine are also available at the village cafes.
- Performers and visitor are invited to meals during festival days @ no charge.

Wagogo Country Travels

(Village visits -from Chamwino to small/remote Wagogo villages)

Package of Visits \$200

- Visit to Village 1, by car (Kawawa)
- Visit to Village 2, by car (Majeleko)
- Visit to Village 3, by car (Nzali)
- Visit to Hombolo Town 4, by piki piki (motorcycle, passenger)

Footnote: Support of the Cigogo Festival of Central Tanzania, as a major event in the sustainability of traditional cultural heritage, comes from grants and donations. Please consider a donation to the Chamwino Arts Center through its fund-raising arm, [Chamwino Connect](#)



Elsewhere in Tanzania

As long as you're in Tanzania, there may be other enticements that call your attention, especially in Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, and Arusha. Check the website for places to go and things to do, especially Trip Advisor and Expedia.

(Some choose to spend time in Dar es Salaam to see its historic buildings, museums, art centers, universities, shops/stores, and beach hotels.)

Dar es Salaam: The old capitol city, Tanzanian center of commerce, on the Indian Ocean



(Some choose to spend time in Zanzibar, to visit a core Islamic culture, sample fresh seafood at the market, loll at one of the many beach resorts that offer swimming, snorkeling, diving.)

Zanzibar: Once an Omani sultanate, and its own island-country



(Some choose to see the wildlife of the Serengeti or the Ngorongoro crater, or to hike all or part of Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest peak on the African continent)

Arusha: Gateway to the Serengeti, Ngorongoro, Kilimanjaro

