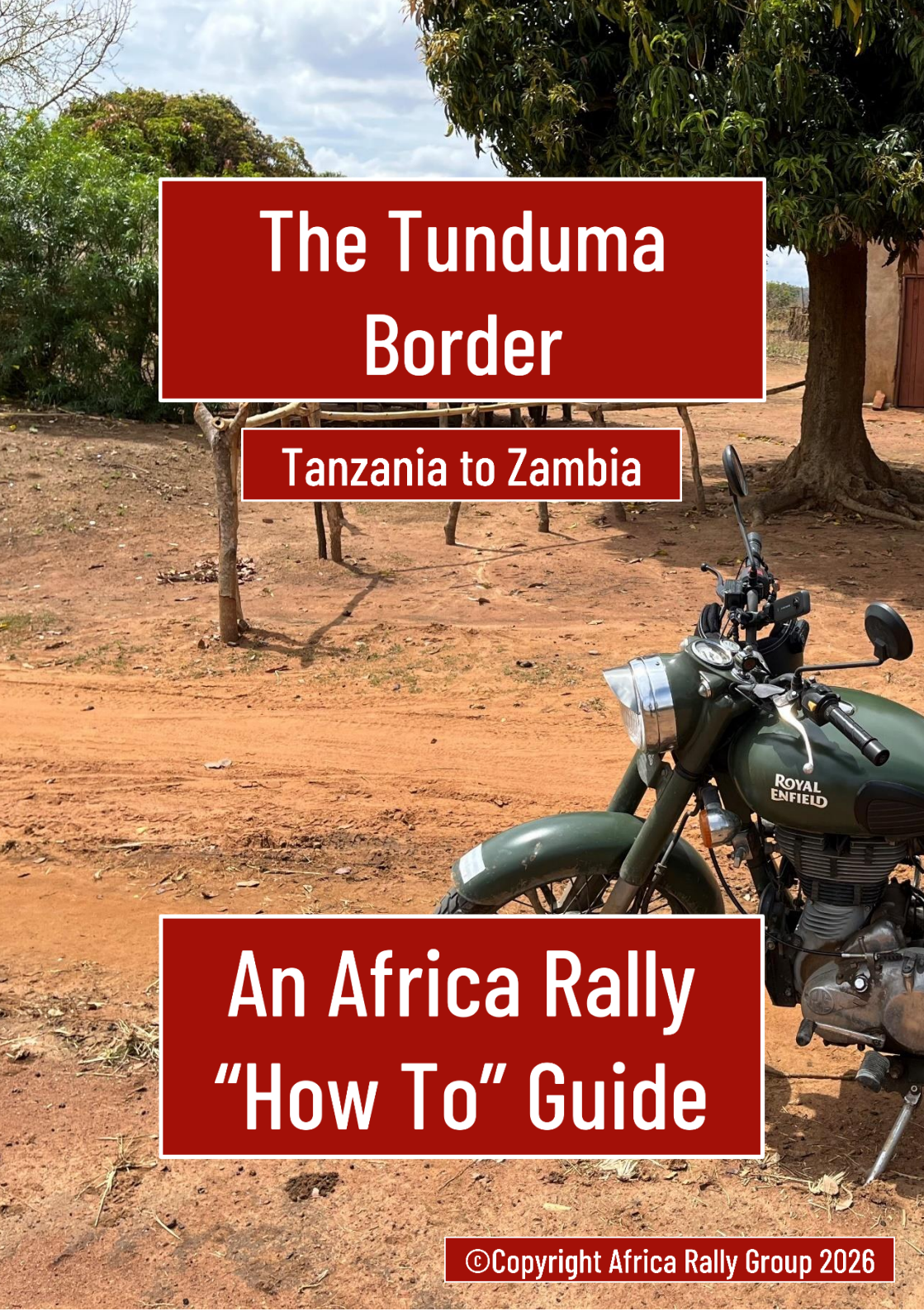




The Tunduma Border

Tanzania to Zambia

An Africa Rally "How To" Guide

Introduction

The Tunduma Border is not on the Africa Rally Challenger Route, however it has been utilised by many teams taking the “short way” home after completing the Africa Rally in previous years.

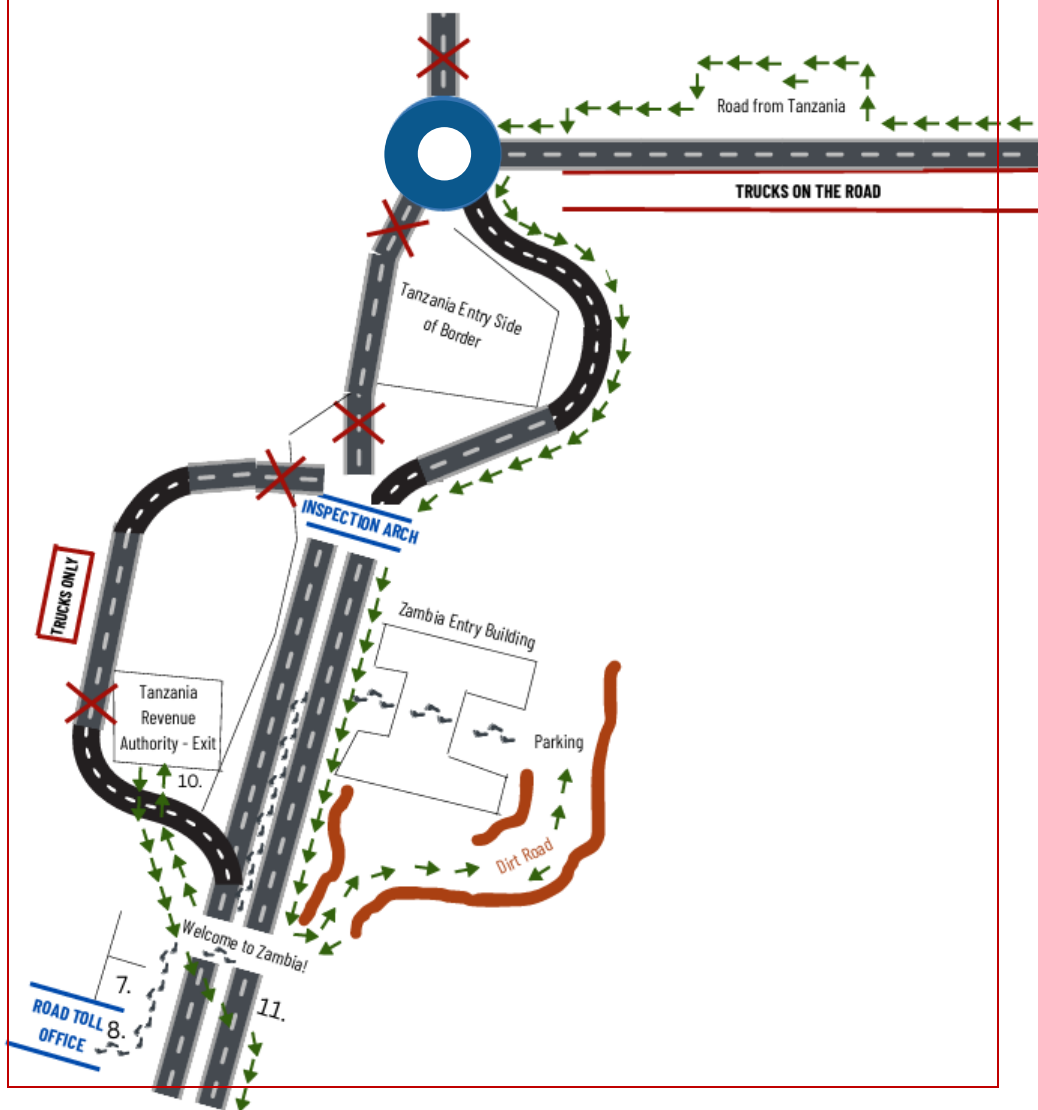
Given this, along with the mixed reviews, and stories of 7-8hour crossings, we felt we had to send our Advanced Research Team across to experience it for themselves.

Their experiences have guided the creation of this Africa Rally “How To” Guide.

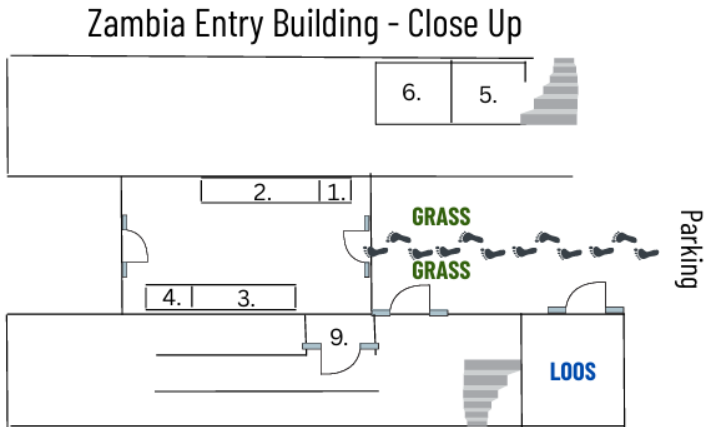
Please note, all information is valid as of December 2025, and personally verified by a member of the Africa Rally HQ Team.

Reference Map (Overview)

In order to help visualise the buildings on the ground, and to reference locations from the step by step guide (to follow), we have created this reference map.



Reference Map (Close Up)



Step by Step Guide

Please note the conditions with which the border were crossed:

- British Passport Holder
- Driving South African Registered Vehicle, in British drivers name
- No prior visa, or vehicle import documentation, all organised on border

Step 1:

While approaching the border you'll see a long line of trucks parked on the road often reaching back many kilometres. Initially you'll be able to overtake them on the alternative side of the road, but as you come into town, the sides of the road are marked off with concrete barriers, and oncoming traffic will inevitably cause gridlock, even for motorcycles.

At this stage, it's likely a local taxi driver will approach you, and offer to show you the "back route" to the border roundabout. This can save you a lot of time and stress, particularly if you are in a large 4x4, and will take you off onto dirt roads through the town, before rejoining the road by the roundabout. Shown on the first map with the green arrows.

Step 2:

Once at the roundabout you want to take the first left, following the traffic down the hill, around the compound on your right, then back up and under an inspection area arch. Here due to construction work, our team had to drive right under and past, before doubling back round on a compacted dirt road, past some shipping containers, and into the car park next to the Zambia Entry Building. This is

shown by the green arrows on the map, however note it may be possible in the future to turn left at the inspection arch and drive straight into the parking next to the Zambia Entry Building.

Step 3:

Walk into the building and proceed to window 1. marked on the close up map, this is your Port Health Authority check, and will usually just involve stating you are healthy, and potentially showing your Yellow Fever Certificate.

Step 4:

Queue up for the windows immediately next door to Port Health, on your right hand side as you've walked into the building – shown on the map as office 2. This is to receive your immigration exit stamp from Tanzania.

Step 5:

Walk across to the opposite side of the building, shown on the map as office 3, to receive your tourist visa and entry stamp for Zambia. For the majority of tourists, such as those from South Africa, or Europe, there is no cost for the tourist visa.

Step 6:

Go to the next window, which is the County Tax window marked on the map as number 4. State the amount of time you'll be in Zambia, and the type of vehicle you are driving and pay the tax. For 30 days, on a motorcycle this was 100 Zambian Kwacha (roughly \$5 USD). For a car, this should be roughly 200 Zambian Kwacha, or \$10 USD.

Step 7:

If you have printed photocopies of your vehicle documents and IDs already, then you can proceed to Interpol up the outside stairs to the left of the way you initially came into the building, marked as office 5. on the map. If not, you'll need to get photocopies done, which will involve walking out of the Zambia Entry Building and following the footsteps marked on the larger map, to office 7.

This is a photocopy and internet shop on the side of the road, roughly 100metres from the border post where you can get photocopies done. Roughly \$1 USD per page, although we were allowed to pay in South African Rand at R20 each.

While here, you can get your Road Tax paid next door, office 8. (vehicle dependent, but in the region of \$20), or head back to Interpol and do this later.

Step 8:

Interpol (in office 5.) will stamp your documents, but may ask to check the vehicle first – we were able to do this from the balcony without needing to walk down and check it. There is no cost for this stamp.

Once Interpol have stamped your documents, proceed to office 6. still on the upper level, and acquire insurance for your vehicle. For 30 days for the motorcycle we paid \$9 USD, for a vehicle it should be in the region of \$20-\$30 USD.

You'll receive an insurance sticker which needs to be stuck to the inside windscreen of your vehicle, at the top on the passenger side. On the motorcycle we had it in our bag as we didn't have a windscreen.

Step 9:

At this stage, if you didn't visit the photocopy shop earlier, you need to head out of the border post now, in order to receive your Road Tax from office 8. next to it.

Step 10:

In theory, you should now have all of the documents you require with the final step visiting the Customs Office shown as office 9. on the close up map. To enter, you need to walk up a set of stairs to the left of the door to the main complex on the ground floor, then turn immediately right. It's the first wooden door before walking down the corridor. It's usually shut, so knock politely and wait for someone to open up.

They should photocopy all of your documents, complete a temporary import form for your vehicle, potentially inspect the vehicle to ensure chassis and engine numbers match, stamp everything, and allow you to proceed.

Unfortunately when we were there, their photocopier didn't work, so we had to walk back to office 7 and do our own copies. Upon returning, their system was offline and we were forced to wait over 4 hours for it to come back online. There are multiple reports of this happening, so our advice is to take a good book, and sit on the steps outside their office checking periodically so they don't forget about you.

We've heard of teams breaking out the kitchen equipment and making food in the parking while waiting, but in these situations maybe best to also bring them a coffee.

Step 11:

All of your documentation for Zambia is now complete, so collect your vehicle from the parking, and head over to the Tanzanian Customs office across the road to have the temporary import form for Tanzania stamped out.

So long as your vehicle hasn't overstayed in Tanzania this should be a straightforward stamp with nothing to pay, and you can now proceed to drive into Zambia – congratulations!

Considerations:

This is known to be a particularly painful border, however there are a couple of things you can do as an Africa Rally Team which may make things easier.

- 1) Have pre-existing copies of all vehicle and ID documentation (this will help up until the Zambian Customs Office).
- 2) When entering Zambia on The Africa Rally get 30 days on everything from the Kazungula Border, and so long as you don't stamp this out when entering

Malawi (say you'll be back), then you'll be permitted to use the remaining days on your insurance, temporary import form, and taxes back in Zambia on the way home.

- 3) Don't turn up around lunchtime, as all the offices close for an hour or so while people go for lunch.
- 4) Be patient, there are a lot of "fixers" on this border, not all of which have your best interests at heart, so it's often better to follow the steps yourself, and only use them if you need to head into town.

A Note on Copyright

This "How To" Guide is copyrighted to Africa Rally Group, however it's creation is designed to help all overlanders in their stress free crossing of the Tunduma Border between Tanzania and Zambia.

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Safe travels!