



*Idyllic*  
**Zanzibar**



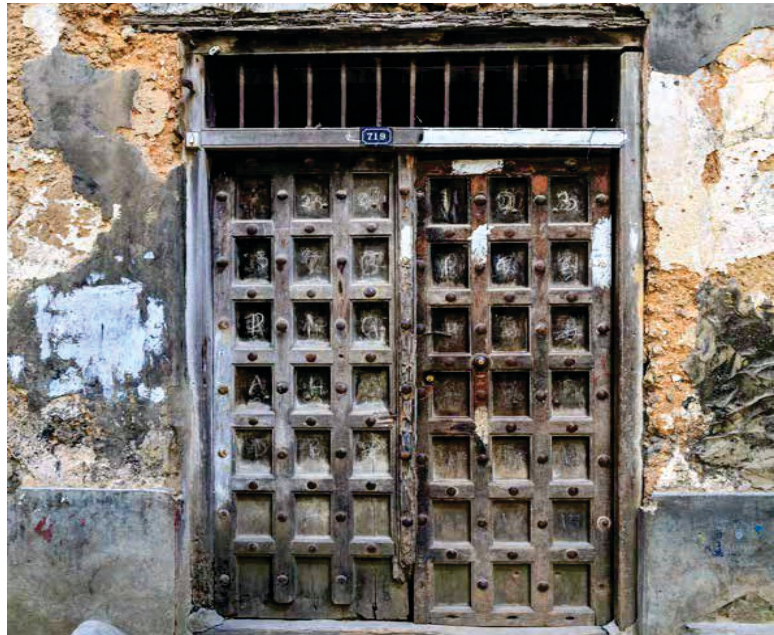
## About Zanzibar - A Brief

### Zanzibar - "The Island of Mystique, Spices & Classic Beaches"

Zanzibar is regarded as the most ancient place in Africa that is still unspoilt and inhabited. Located about 22 miles (35km) off the east coast of Tanzania, Zanzibar is an archipelago consisting of the main island of Unguja (commonly known as Zanzibar), Pemba Island, famous for its deep-sea fishing, and about 50 smaller surrounding islands and coral reefs.

Also known as the '**Spice Islands**', Zanzibar evokes images of an exotic paradise with white palm-fringed beaches and turquoise coves, dreamy dhows with billowing white sails, and ancient Islamic ruins. Today's idyllic beach resorts belie the island's haunting history of slavery, and Zanzibar combines Arabic alleyways and historic monuments with coral reefs and excellent diving and snorkelling opportunities. Activities in Zanzibar are simply endless.

# Faces of Zanzibar



# Activities Galore



## **Immerse into Tropical Nature - Butterfly Center (Sustainable Tourism)**

The beautiful Zanzibar Butterfly Centre near Jozani - Chwaka Bay National Park, contains all native species of Zanzibar. Butterfly farming in Zanzibar requires intact forest, thus providing an economic incentive to conserve habitats. Zanzibari women have the rare opportunity to participate, as farming can be carried out at home fitted around childcare and domestic duties. Feed the butterflies and watch them fly close at hand while enjoying the peace and quiet of nature.

## **Jozani Forest- A jungle and a monkey's paradise**

At Jozani National Park, there will be a guided tour through the forest to quickly learn about the different species of monkeys unique to Zanzibar (and yes, without a thumb). This can be followed by a short hop to the other side of the national park where there is an opportunity to uncover the magical world of the Zanzibari Mangroves.

A walk along the wooden trail and you will see thousands of crabs at work under the mangroves and if you are lucky you might even be able to hear the mangroves talking. See for yourself.

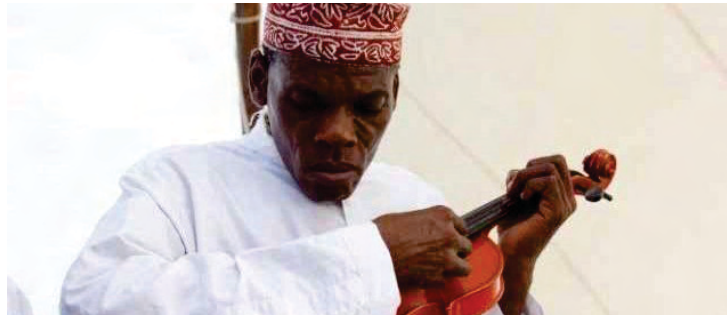


The northern beaches of Zanzibar are particularly celebrated for their beauty, and excursions to **Pemba Island** and **Mafia Island** are a treat for beachgoers. Other Tourist favorites include **Kendwa Beach** and **Nungwi Beach**, close together on the northwestern tip of the island, with good resort facilities; **Uroa Bay**, in the middle of the east coast, which still retains a pleasant local flavour; **Paje Beach**, on the east coast, said to be the best spot on Zanzibar for some kite surfing; **Nakupenda Beach**, accessible by a short boat trip from Stone Town, which is *pristine and usually deserted*, a true paradise beach; and the **beaches of Changuu Island (Prison Island)** where beach lounging can be combined with a visit to the old quarantine centre and the resident giant tortoises.

It is possible to arrange many different **water sports and boat trips**, and the **scuba diving and snorkelling is World-class**.

Zanzibar is more than just picturesque beaches, however, with the Islamic heritage infusing the island with an exotic, ancient atmosphere, and the legacy of the slave trade ensuring some historical interest. The dilapidated beauty of **Stone Town** is a big draw card for travellers wanting a taste of culture.

The colossal **Anglican Cathedral in Stone Town** is located on the grounds of the island's largest former slave market. The cathedral's altar stands on the exact location of the former whipping post, a tree where slaves were brutalized to show their strength and resilience to potential slave owners.



A vibrant array of colours and spicy scents lures visitors to the vibrant **Central Market** in Stone Town. Opened in 1904, the numerous stalls run over with tropical fruits, exotic spices, brightly coloured khangas (worn by local women) and rare provisions such as pomegranates and red bananas



The first building in Zanzibar to have electricity and the first building in East Africa to have an elevator, **Beit elAjaib** (which translates into the House of Wonders) was the former ceremonial palace of Sultan Barghash and was built in 1883 on the site of the 16th-century Queen Fatuma's Residence

Other places to visit on a sight-seeing tour include the Tip Tip's House, Forodhani Park and of course the famous Zanzibar Doors in the petite little streets.

Built at the turn of the 17th century on the remains of a Portuguese church and crumbling Arab garrison, the burly **Old Fort** was constructed to fend off the enterprising Portuguese seafarers and Mazrui Arabs of Mombassa keen to gain power of the lucrative 'Spice Islands'.

See Henna Art and be ready for a walk through the long history of Zanzibar and its numerous rulers in the ages old city still alive.

Illuminating the lifestyle of the Sultans of Zanzibar, **the Palace Museum** (originally called the Sultan's Palace), became the official residence of the Al Busid dynasty in 1911. Built in the 1890s, the extensive white building is situated on harbour road with breath-taking sea views.



Home to a wealth of Zanzibar's memorabilia, the **Peace Memorial Museum** is a great place to discover the intriguing history and culture of the islands. With exhibits including traditional carvings and local wildlife displays covering reptiles and birds, visitors can also view relics from the age of the Sultans and early explorers





## **SPICE TOUR – Tantalizing Tastes & Smells**

A visit to the famous Spice Farms is recommended. First you will receive a short introduction in how to cook Swahili style with our many spices, Swahili cooking at its best.

Enjoy a tour through the farm learning about Each and every spice you can find in Zanzibar. You wouldn't believe it if you don't see it yourself; did you know that the Cinnamon tree has 3 different smells? After you have finished your tour, fully packed with nature's secrets, you may wish to buy spices, soaps and crèmes which are all hand made by the community within the farm and also enjoy a fun lesson on traditional weaving



## **SHOPPING**

Shopping in Zanzibar is varied, cheap and culturally exciting. The best shopping is available in Stone Town, where local goods and items imported from other African nations, as well as India, Arabia and the Far East, are good value provided you bargain.



There are a number of shops on Gizenga Street and Kenyatta Road that sell quality local artefacts, clothing, jewellery, massage oils and Spices - everything quintessentially Zanzibar.

Here visitors can find colourful kangas or kikoyo (sarongs), which make great souvenirs. Wooden chests and tinga tinga paintings are also sought-after Zanzibar souvenirs.

The silver shops on Gizenga, as well as in Sokomohogo Square, trade in antique or handcrafted silverware and jewellery, while gold is offered in stores on Tharia Street.

On Darajani Street visitors can buy almost anything, including fresh produce from the Central Market.

Most Zanzibar shops are open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 12pm, and then from 2pm to 6pm. Few shops will accept credit cards and it is also true that a shopper will most likely get a better deal by using local Tanzanian shillings.

# *Exotic Paradise*

