

# Welcome to Zanzibar

Matlai travel-book



# Blue Lagoon and Starfish

Begin your journey by heading to a picturesque coral area, perfect for snorkeling. A short 15-minute boat ride will transport you to this stunning location. Following this aquatic adventure, prepare to explore the mesmerizing world of starfish. You'll be guided to a breathtaking lagoon, where you can witness the diverse array of starfish native to our island.

## Important:

1. Please don't step on the corals and don't take them - the latter is strictly prohibited. Corals are strongly endangered worldwide because of the growth of tourism.
2. Please never take the starfish out of the water! The sensitive capillary system of the starfish fills with oxygen instead of water, and when they are back in the water, due to the pressure ratio they can no longer press the oxygen out of the capillary system. They painfully pass away. If your boat driver wants to take them out, tell him not to do this!



## Important information:

Excursions booked with us are conducted by an independent, licensed tour operator. Individuals without a license are not permitted to arrange tours, and any violation will be penalized by the Commission of Tourism.



# *Butterfly Center*

Protecting numerous butterfly species indigenous to Zanzibar, this center is a huge tropical garden with net walls and roof. You can see the various life cycle stages of the butterfly, including some beautiful cocoons. The cocoons are sold all over the world. Profits support local conservation and community projects. It's on the main road between Zanzibar Town and Paje, near the village of Pete, and about 2 km west of the well-signposted Jozani-Chwaka National Park entrance.

Before you decide to do this trip you should know that you have to be lucky to see butterflies. Very often you can just see the cocoons.



# *Cheetah's Rock*

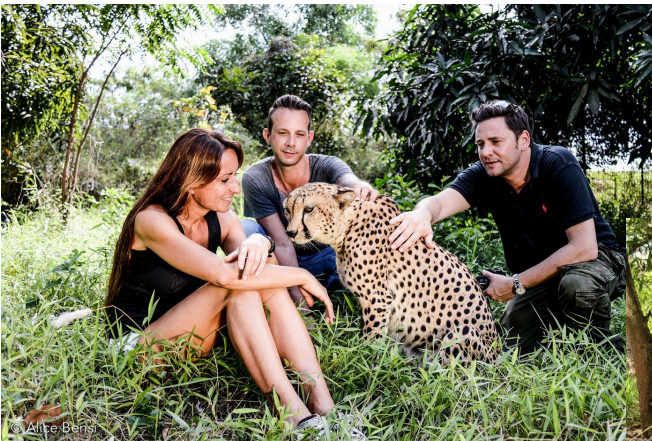
A once in a Wild-lifetime experience!! Get closer than ever imagined and support this ethical rescue and conservation center. At Cheetah's Rock, the goal is to rescue wild animals and contribute to conservation. They work tirelessly to give our animals the health, freedom & happiness they deserve and the perspective of a release into the wild (if possible) whilst inspiring people to make a change!

You can choose between different tour options:

**Great wildlife tour:** On this educational 4 hour experience, you will meet some of the rarest and most beautiful animals on earth, eye to eye, fur to skin.

**VIP otter experience:** Swim and play with our incredibly cute rescued otters in this exclusive event.

**Combined tour:** Prepare yourself for a magical and memorable full-day adventure by booking the Combined Tour!



# Deep Sea Fishing

The fishing charter is the perfect way to escape your hotel and spend a morning or afternoon looking for some Adrenaline filled fishing action! Join them on board for a few hours of fishing fun out on the warm tropical waters of Zanzibar!

→ incl. local guide, fishing gear, snacks, soft drinks, water, beer on request



# *Horseback Riding on the Beach in Michamvi*

**Do you want to make your dream of beach horse riding come true?**

Michamvi is the perfect destination for beach horse riding!

Take an unforgettable horseback ride along the beautiful Michamvi Beach, the professional and experienced trainers will lead you to the Mangrove Forest, taking memorable pictures and enjoying the view with a lovely sandbank. With a perfect combination of exercise and relaxation, beach horse riding in Michamvi allows people to get some fresh air while admiring stunning views of the sunset.

On the beach riders are allowed to gallop; however, galloping depends on the riders' skills which is a matter of safety measures.

It must be mentioned that only advanced riders with experience are allowed to join this horseback riding adventure, otherwise the safety of the rider is not guaranteed.



# Jozani Forest

The Jozani Chwaka Bay National Park is a 50 km<sup>2</sup> national park in Tanzania located on the island of Zanzibar. It is the only national park in Zanzibar.

The Zanzibar red colobus monkey, *Procolobus kirkii*, found in the park, a rain forest species, is also known as Kirk's red colobus, named after Sir John Kirk, a British resident of Zanzibar who had first brought it to the attention of zoological science. It is now adopted as the flagship species for conservation in Zanzibar, from the mid-1990s.

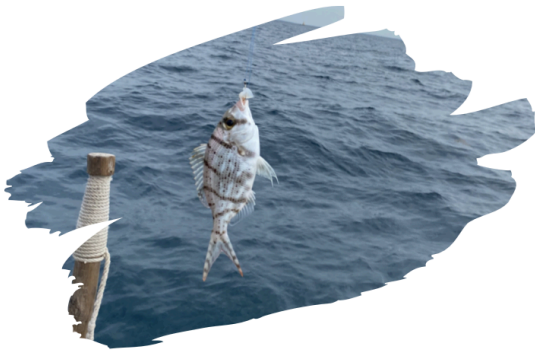
Other species of fauna found in the park are the Sykes monkey, bush babies, more than 50 species of butterflies and 40 species of birds. The nocturnal Zanzibar tree hyrax, which has four 'toes' on its front feet and three on its back, is said to be the first hyrax species that has acclimatized to the forest.



# *Local Fishing*

The local fishing tour offers you the opportunity to learn the traditional fishing methods. Sail out to sea with a Zanzibar fisherman who will show you what “fishing for a living” is really all about.

- Ask your butler for more informations



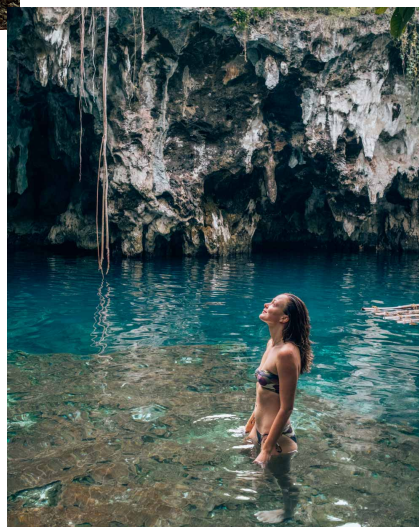
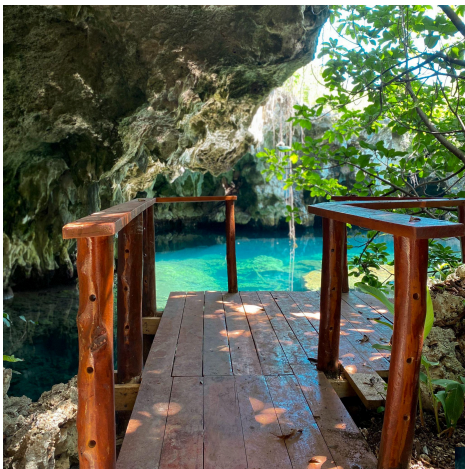


# Maalum Cave

## Welcome to paradise!!

Take a breath - love nature. Maluum cave is a unique natural swimming pool in Paje. A special place to reconnect with nature, explore the underground life, relax and enjoy the peace. Discover the cave by using the snorkeling gear provided by the establishment, listen to and observe the guide explaining its history and legends, and enjoy your time gazing at its wonderful and untouched environment. The word Maalum means Special in Swahili language.

- Ensure your spot by booking in advance
- The duration of the slot is 90min. inside the cave area



# *Makunduchi - Village Tour*

**Discover the beautiful authentic Zanzibar - untouched by tourism**

Red soil. Red clay huts. Banana plantations. Huge mango trees. A quiet, slow life. This is Makunduchi. Zanzibar's second biggest village and a typical African/Zanzibari village, where life just goes on. And on.

You will be taken through the gardens and plantations, bring up water from the deep well, pass the school, look at some stunning clay huts, visit Haji's aunt, who makes coconut ropes, chat with the locals and try fruits and local specialities on the way.



# *Mini Ocean Retreat*

Embark on a journey starting at midday, just a 5-minute stroll from Hotel Matlai to the boat. Discover the wonders of snorkeling and starfish exploration with complimentary fruits and water provided onboard. All snorkeling equipment is included for your convenience.

Afterwards, indulge in a full seafood lunch at a picturesque sunset beach restaurant. Relax and unwind until sunset before returning to the hotel by sundown.

Trip duration: 4-6 hours of blissful exploration and relaxation.



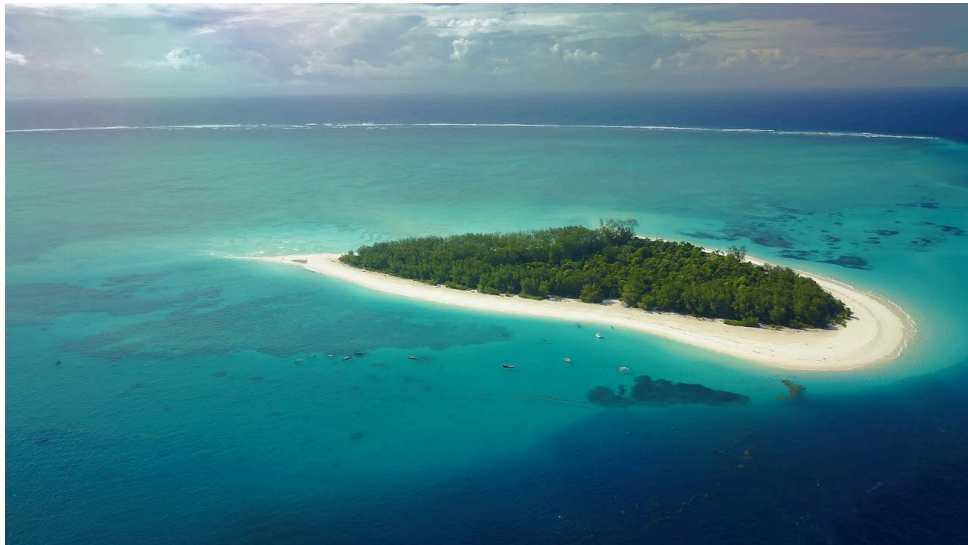
# *Mnemba Island- Snorkeling*

Mnemba Island, 2 miles/3.2km to the north-east of the island of Zanzibar (Unguja), is surrounded by a vast coral reef measuring several miles in diameter. Listed as a marine reserve, it is the most popular snorkeling spot in Zanzibar. Moorish idols, blue tang and clownfish are easy to see in a few feet of water, above a colorful, well-preserved reef.

It is important to mention that it is not allowed to enter the island, because it is private, so you're staying on the boat the whole trip.

Nowadays we do not recommend visiting Mnemba Island because it is very crowded and touristy. Most of the time there are too many boats and tourists.

- Ask your butler for more information

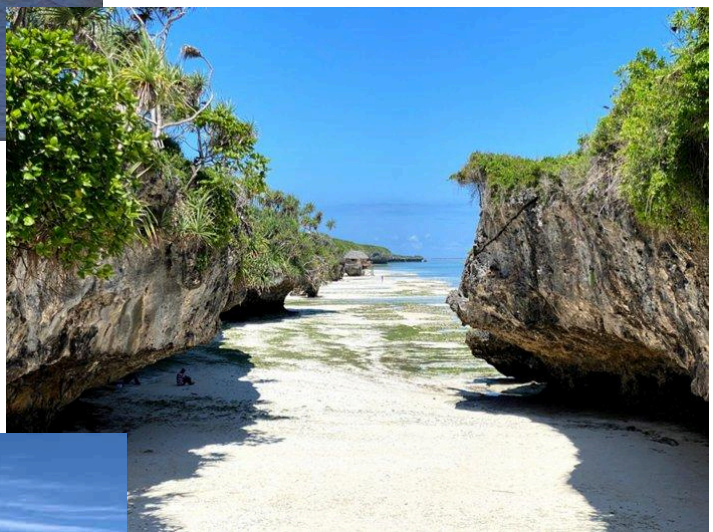


# *Mtende Beach*

If you consider yourself a beach person you should definitely add Mtende beach to your list. The main section of the beach is situated between two rock formations, in a big cove. It's absolutely stunning and a great place to watch the tides changing.

On top of the rock a nice local restaurant offers drinks and food.

Before you plan your trip to Mtende beach you have to check the tides. When the tide is low you can walk all the way down the beach, but when it is high tide the water comes all the way up to the stairs.



# Okala Swahili - Cooking Class

## Entertaining and tasty

In the middle of Jambiani Village, a mere 100 m from the Indian Ocean, lies the charming restaurant Okala - made only from wood and coconut leaves. The restaurant lends its name from Mr. Okala, who is not only a great swahili cooking chef, but also a marine preservation enthusiast.

With you Okala will share his skills in swahili cooking as taught by his grandmother, using only local ingredients in season and traditional cooking methods.

By the end of the class you will eat together - guaranteed tasty and entertaining.



# *Private Ocean Retreat*

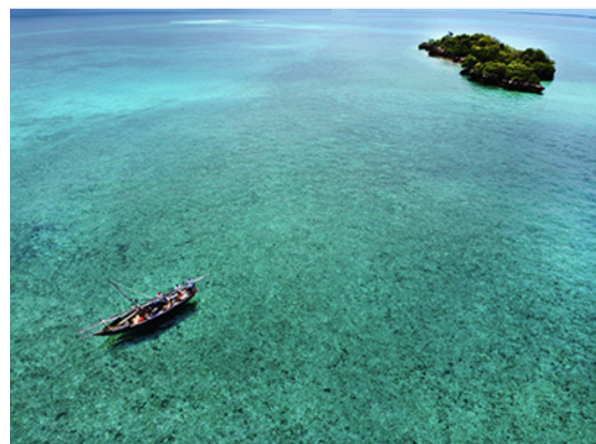
## **Experience the ultimate day out with us:**

Begin with a convenient pick-up from your hotel (time to be arranged 2 days prior). A 40-minute drive will lead us to our starting point where adventure awaits.

Embark on our private boat and set off on an unforgettable journey. Enjoy the exclusivity of a private sandbank where a delightful breakfast awaits, accompanied by freshly brewed coffee and tea. Dive into the crystal-clear waters with provided snorkeling equipment, exploring vibrant marine life. We'll visit several stunning islands before indulging in a sumptuous seafood lunch on a secluded island, complete with refreshing drinks.

By 3 pm, we'll make our way back to the car and return to your hotel, concluding our 7-8 hour trip filled with joy, relaxation, and unforgettable memories.

The tour is a great event for honeymooners, groups or families.



# Quad Tour in Zanzibar

Driving your own quad bike, enjoy a rich off-road-itinerary into wild landscape through local farms, sugar cane plantation, quarries, spice trees and secular baobabs.

During the tour you'll have the possibility to take stunning pictures of the beautiful landscape and of the smiling inhabitants.

You can start at different spots to decide which tour you'd like to do. There are some safety instructions and other rules you have to follow.



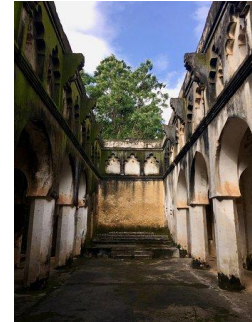


# Ruins Tour

Daudi is an expert on the history and culture of Zanzibar and he brings this across in such an understandable and entertaining way.

## **Mbweni Ruins**

Very nice complex in a hotel complex (Protea Hotel Zanzibar by Marriott) south of Zanzibar City. The complex was originally a school for freed former slave girls (St Mary's school for girls). The mission was built between 1871 and 1874 by Bishop Tozer and Dr Edward Steere. The ruins are still in their original state and are therefore very photogenic; the church in particular is worth seeing.



## **Khole (Bi Khole) Ruins in Bungi**

Residence of Princess Bi Khole bint Said bin Sultan, a daughter of the first Sultan Said. The ruins have since been completely renovated, including the interior. The renovation has actually been quite successful, even if the complex has lost some of its charm as a result. In the course of the renovation work, a freshwater grotto was found. Next to it is a stone tub in which the princess is said to have bathed.



## **Persian Baths in Kidichi**

A gem in the middle of a hilltop. A still quite well preserved small complex built by Sultan Seyyid Majid bin Said around 1850 for his second Persian wife Bint Irich Mirza (also called Sherazade). Very beautiful stucco frescoes are still preserved inside. The baths and the massage tables can also still be visited.

## **Ruins of the Dunga Palace**

Built by Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Hassan el Alawi, better known as "Mwinyi Mkuu", in the years 1845 - 1856, it has been completely renovated in the meantime. Overall, it is quite interesting, especially the outbuildings like the prison and the well.

## **Ruins of Maruhubi Palace**

Built around 1882 by Sultan Barghash bin Said Al-Busaid for his harem. The palace was almost completely destroyed by (arson) fire in 1899. Today, all that remains are the three water basins for the concubines, some foundation walls and stone columns as well as the two public baths.



## **Ruins of the Mtoni Palace**

Built between 1828 and 1834 by Sultan Sayyid Majid bin Said Al-Busaid as his main residence after he left Muscat and settled in Zanzibar. It was the first royal house on the island, the ancestral palace, so to speak. The foundation walls of the main building with various stone arches are still very well preserved and photogenic. Behind the palace, there are still baths to visit.

### **Portuguese House Fukuchani**

Built in the 16th century of coral, this square house has been completely renovated. The house has pointed arches and appears to have been a fortified residence. It is surrounded by a wall in which loopholes are built in (according to other sources, these are supposed to be recesses for wooden planks so that one could also look into the property from the outside). The house was completely renovated with the old building materials and is said to have a Swahili origin. This already gives you some idea of what it may have once looked like.



### **Mvuleni Ruins Fukuchani and Coral Cave**

Like Portuguese House, this building was probably once a fortified house belonging to a powerful member of society. Again, the origin is more likely Swahili. To the north-east of the building is a large natural freshwater cave. The water is crystal clear; you can swim in it and also dive to another grotto.

What we advise you to do:

- Bi Khole
- Ruines de Mbweni
- the Persian Baths at Kidichi
- the Mtoni Palace, preferably combined with the Maruhubi Palace and the Dhow Yard



# *Safari Blue*

Safari blue trip in Zanzibar is a full day sea adventure tour with lots of fascinating things including swimming, snorkeling, sea foods testing and sailing on a traditional dhow. The Safari Blue Trip in Zanzibar is yet another popular tour that we have been organizing for quite a while. This tour is the perfect option for sea lovers, and those who would like the opportunity of experiencing the sea and sea creatures in a unique way. This tour is in fact not only about a traditional boat trip or swim, as you will be able to do more than that.

For this trip you should know that you always go with a group of around 20 people and not on a private tour.

- Ask your butler for more informations



# *Spice Tour & Prison Island*

Zanzibar has been known for its spices for decades and is famous for the cultivation of spices like vanilla or cloves. By visiting a spice farm and doing a tour you get the opportunity to see how these spices we know from our kitchens grow and get produced. These spice farms are touristic and well known, but it's very interesting to experience the procedure of our spices.

Prison Island, also known as Changuu island, is located 30 minutes from Stone Town by boat. Changuu Island was used as a penitentiary for rebellious slaves by the Sultans between 1860 until the end of the slave trade. Here you will find giant tortoises which were donated by the Seychelles in the 19th century. Unfortunately we cannot recommend visiting the giant tortoises because they are not handled very well and live in bad circumstances.

- Ask your butler for more informations

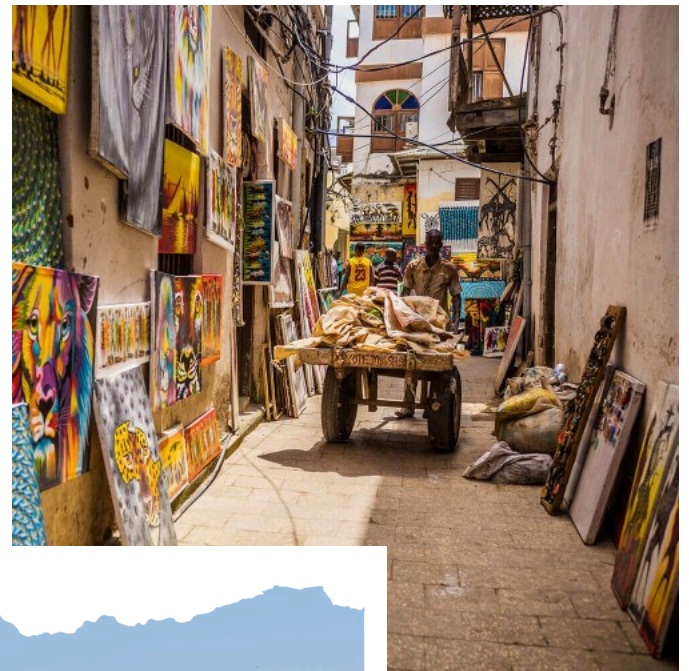


# *Stone Town (with or without guide)*

Stone Town of Zanzibar, also known as Mji Mkungwe (Swahili for "old town") is an outstanding example of a Swahili trading town. This town developed on the coast of East Africa further expanded under Arabian, European and Indian influences but retained its indigenous elements, to form an urban cultural unit unique to this region. Former capital of the Zanzibar Sultanate, flourishing center of the spice trade, and the Christ Church Anglican Cathedral commemorating the work of David Livingston, as well as the slave trade in the 19th century can be visited in Stone Town. Many buildings and monuments remind of the history of the Island.

It's definitely worth experiencing this city and gaining an expression of the historical background of Stone Town and the whole Island.

- Ask your butler for more informations



# *Sunset Cruise*

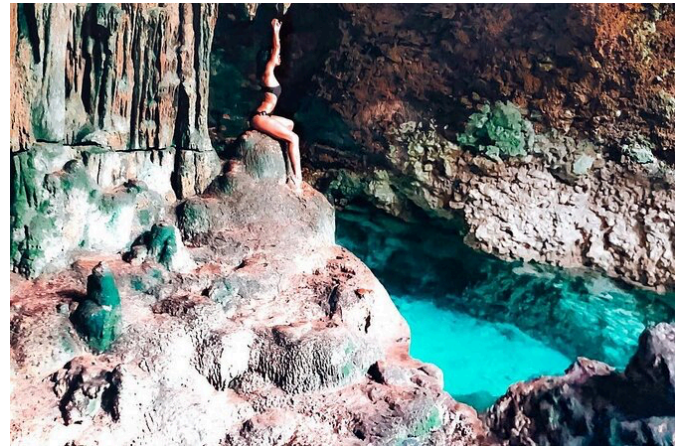
Don't miss the opportunity to see the sunset although you're on the East coast of the Island. Therefore our captain will pick you up with the boat and take you to the other side of the spit of land. You can watch the sunset and take beautiful pictures while sailing on the ocean.

- Ask your butler for more informations



# *Swim in Cuza Sweetwater Cave*

When reaching the North of Jambiani we cross the main road into the farming area where we find Cuza Cave. Cuza Cave is being used for spiritual activities but also it has a large swimmable sweetwater reservoir. The villagers come here, to pray and burn incense to call the spirits to them and influence them with prayers and sacrifices if someone is sick, if they want to change things or just get better luck.



# *Taste Stone Town*

## **Meet the people through the food**

Try the newly baked Chapati and Mandazi (local doughnut) done by the women in Stone Town's alleys. Taste the best Urojo (traditional soup). Go treasure hunting and find the homemade Zanzibar candies - Ubojo, Kashata, Ufuta, Balfin. Try the ubiquitous "Mishkaki" (skewer) smoking hot from the BBQ. Visit the bakery where they bake 200 breads per day over open fire, stop for the best juice in town and continue for a local lunch sharing bowls of octopus, fish, vegetables and mussels - the way Zanzibaris want it.

## **Indian/ Arabic/ African inspired food**

Get inspired by the local food and ways of cooking. Our guide takes you around the whirling alleys of Stone Town and shares with you the local food customs of this Indian/ Arabic/ African inspired Spice Island.





# *Tumbatu Island*

## **A rare opportunity to experience something untouched and authentic**

The inhabitants of Tumbatu live an isolated life and the island is powered entirely by solar panels, allowing them to be independent. Everyone who is not from Tumbatu, even people from Zanzibar, needs a written permit by the village elder to enter the island. This trip is a rare opportunity to experience something untouched.

After a 30 min boat trip to Tumbatu Island from Nungwi the Sheha (village eldest) welcomes us. Voodoo is still exercised on the island and the magic man “Mganga” will do the “pururu”, future telling in sand and reading your signs. As we walk on the island you will see the people plant and harvest their beans and peas. You will pass women in the water, surrounding the small fish with their net or collecting the crabs and clams on the beach. 5 USD/person is given to Tumbatu Island to support the community besides the rest of the fees being paid.



# *Turtle Aquarium*

In 1993 the villagers of Nungwi opened this turtle sanctuary in a large natural tidal pool near the lighthouse and since then these sea creatures have enjoyed a degree of protection from being hunted and eaten. You can see turtles of various species and sizes, and proceeds from entrance fees fund an education project for local children, hopefully demonstrating the benefits of turtle conservation. If fishermen accidentally catch a turtle in their net, they bring it to the aquarium. Likewise, turtle eggs discovered on the beach are brought here to hatch.

On a single day every February, a highlight of the year is when local people, tourists, hotels and dive centers cooperate with conservationists to assist hundreds of hatchlings survive their perilous journey across the beach and out to the open sea.

This center should not be confused with the nearby Baraka Natural Aquarium, which unfortunately allows guests to swim with turtles (an activity that conservationists believe is harmful for the animals).



# Uzi Island

## Untouched and real

Uzi island is not involved in tourism development and most of the Uzis are fishermen and farmers. The island's scenery is lush with mangroves, banana plantations and huge mango trees.

The island can only be reached by boat or at low tide when the only road to the island surfaces.

### The tour:

Hotel Pick-Up: Notification will be sent 2 days prior to the trip.

Location: Unguja Ukuu (40-minute drive)

Meet with the Captain for a brief.

Tour begins with a safety briefing and kayaking training.

Explore the mangroves and sandbank.

Water, fruits, and equipment provided.

Embark on a village tour at Uzi Island.

Return after the completion of the tour.

Duration: 3-4 hours.



# Zala Park

ZALA (Zanzibar Land Animals) Park was founded as a project to help local people appreciate the value of wildlife, with funds raised by tourist visits. The park belongs to the village of Muungoni.

## 1. Cultural Tour + Canoeing Adventure

Explore the mangrove trails for insights into mangrove ecology and conservation efforts.

Duration: 2 hours

Experience coconut climbing in Muungoni village.

## 2. Embark on an Adventure to Uzi Island

Join us for a captivating day trip to Uzi Island, where you'll journey across the Uzi-Pete sea channel to Muungoni village by canoe, ngalawa, boat, or ngwanda (depending on the group size - private trip cannot be guaranteed), experiencing the island's unique culture. This journey is exclusively accessible during low tide. Wander through the mangroves and explore the village on a cultural tour. Indulge in delicious local seafood and fruits.

Trip Details:

Advance booking required (at least 2 days before).  
ct to sea tides).  
o extend).





OUR  
RECOMMENDATIONS

*Sport  
activities*

## *Cycling*

Discover our beautiful island by bike. We have bikes in our hotel, so just ask the butlers for some information about the bicycles!

## *Diving*

Discover the sea by diving with a guide. Diving in a fascinating underwater world of untouched reefs surrounded by barracudas, marlin, turtles and lots of tropical fish and sometimes even a reef shark or inquisitive dolphins.

- Rising sun dive center
- Buccaneer diving
- Paje dive center
- Pole Pole Diving

## *Fishing*

Our ocean has a lot of tropical fish and deep fish. Try to catch your best fish !

- Adventure fishing

## *Gym*

- Karafuu
- Boaz's Gym
- Jumbo Gym & fitness

## *Padel*

→ padel is a mix of tennis and squash: played with the scoring rules of tennis, the other rules are different from normal tennis. The main difference is that the court has walls and the balls can be played off them similar to squash.

- Zawadi
- The Palms
- The HUB Padel Center



## *Kitesurfing*

Zanzibar is very famous for the kitesurf, here, the wind is always perfect to learn or to improve performance in your kitesurf.

- Tsunami village
- Paje by night (hydrofoil also)
- Kite center Zanzibar
- Lucky kite
- Aquaholics
- The Palms
- Sharazad Boutique Hotel
- Watersport center

## *Skydiving*

- Kendwa

## *Yoga*

- Paje by night (everyday except on Sunday)
- Sharazad Boutique Hotel
- Private lesson in the hotel on request

## *Other activities*

- **Karafuu Hotel**
  - Tennis courts
  - Soccer & beach volleyball
  - Petanque
  - Table tennis
  - Diving
- **Aquaholics**
  - Surf lessons
  - Surf guiding
  - Gear rental
- **Scooter rent**
  - Paje scooter rent
  - Kapengaro scooter rent (Paje)





OUR  
RECOMMENDATIONS

Shopping



## *Kumi Gifts & treats*

- Decoration
- Kenyatta Road

## *Sasik*

- Decoration with typical tissue
- Gizenga street

## *The wonders Boutique*

- Clothes & accessories
- Gizenga street

## *Africa body shop*

- Oil & perfume
- Kenyatta Road

## *Inaya Zanzibar*

- Cosmetic products
- Kenyatta Road



## *Elias Jewellery*

- Jewelry with tanzanite stone
- Kenyatta Road 307

## *The coins shop*

- Jewelry with local money



- Soko Muhogo street

## *Aromas of Zanzibar*

- Decoration with kitenge
- Gizenga street

## *Hellen art gallery*

- Batiks & traditional paint
- Kenyatta Road

## *Hurumzi henna art gallery*

- Body painting with henna and cultural tours
- 242 Hurumzi street

## *Memories of zanzibar*

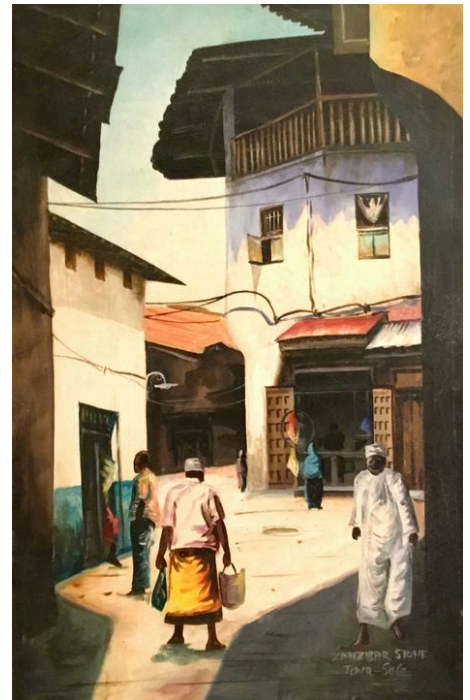
- Souvenir presents
- Kenyatta Road

## *Zanzibar Curio Shop*

- Antiques and souvenirs from Africa and all over the world
- 200 Hurumzi street

## *Zanzibar secrets*

- Design objects for the house
- Kenyatta Road



## *Cho*

- Clothes with kitenge
- Kenyatta Road

## *Fahari*

- High quality bags
- Kenyatta Road 62



## *Kanga Kabisa*

- Clothes
- Kenyatta Road- shangani

## *Kihaga*

- Clothes
- Gizenga street

## *Mago East Africa*

- Clothes
- Gizenga street

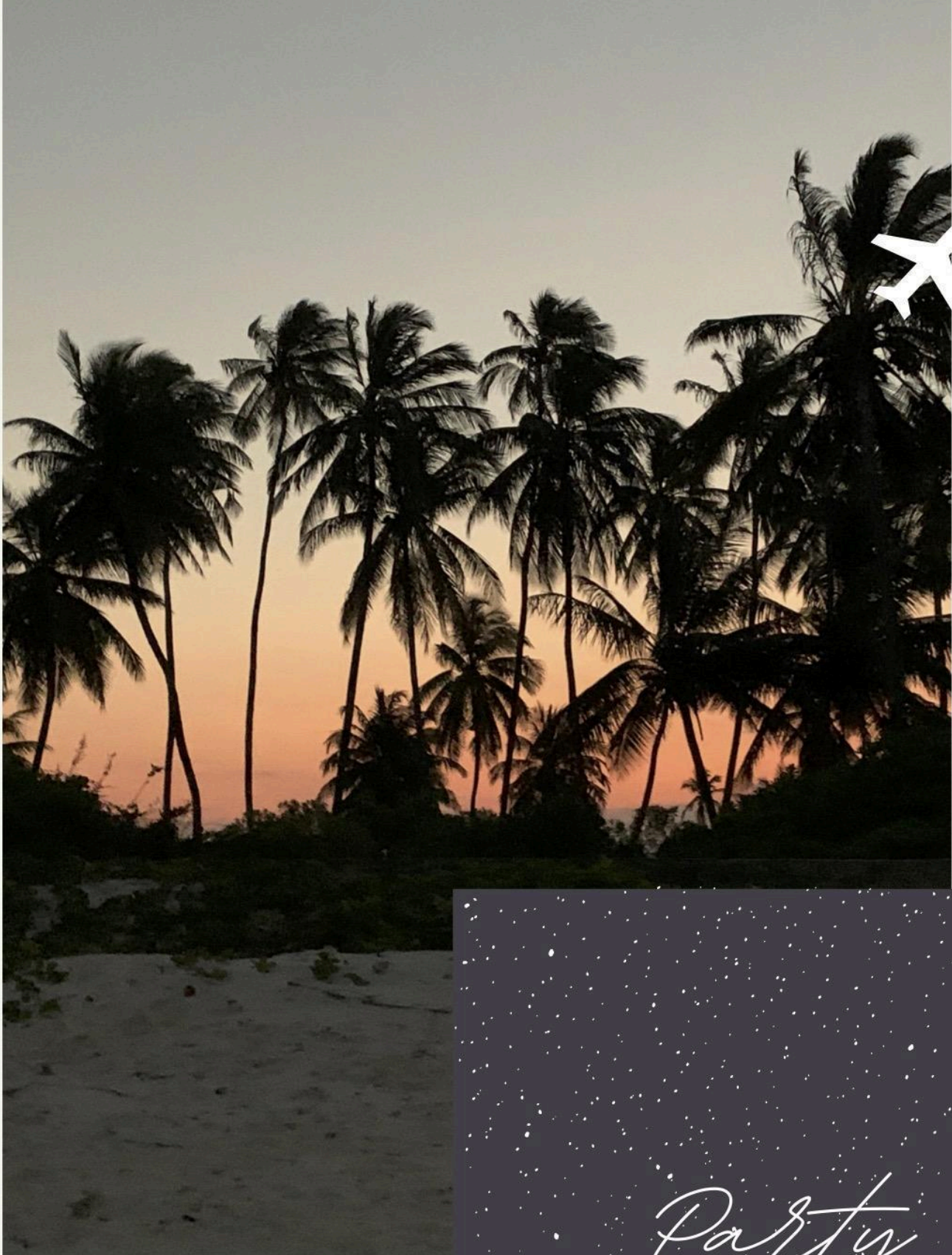
## *Market fabrics*

- Kitenge fabrics
- Market street



## *Njija Designs*

- Clothes & jewel



OUR  
RECOMMENDATIONS



## *Coral Rock*

- Live music
- Monday
- Entrance fee: 10 000 Tsh
- Jambiani

## *Summer Dream*

- Pool party
- Tuesday
- Entrance fee: 5 000 Tsh
- Paje

## *Oxygen*

- Wednesday
- Paje

## *Tiki Beach Club*

- Foam party
- Friday
- Entrance fee: 10 000 Tsh
- Bwejuu

## *Jambo*

- Beach party
- Friday
- Entrance fee: 10 000 Tsh
- Paje



## *B4*

- Electronic music
- Saturday
- Entrance fee: 20 000 Tsh
- Paje

## *Red Monkey Beach Lodge*

- Live music
- Sunday
- Entrance fee: 10 000 Tsh
- Jambiani

## *Kendwa Rock Hotel*

- Full moon party
- 1 time per month
- Entrance fee: 20 000 Tsh
- Kendwa



## *Other Useful Information*

### **Restaurants on Michamvi Beach**

If you don't just want to dine at our Zatiny Restaurant (which is of course the best) but also wish to explore other culinary experiences, the beach of Michamvi offers several options. All restaurants are reachable within approximately a 15 to 20-minute stroll along the beach.

- Mnana
- Baladin
- The Wishing Tree
- Upendo (Boho Social)
- The Rock Restaurant
- Karafuu

### **Where to buy good spices?**

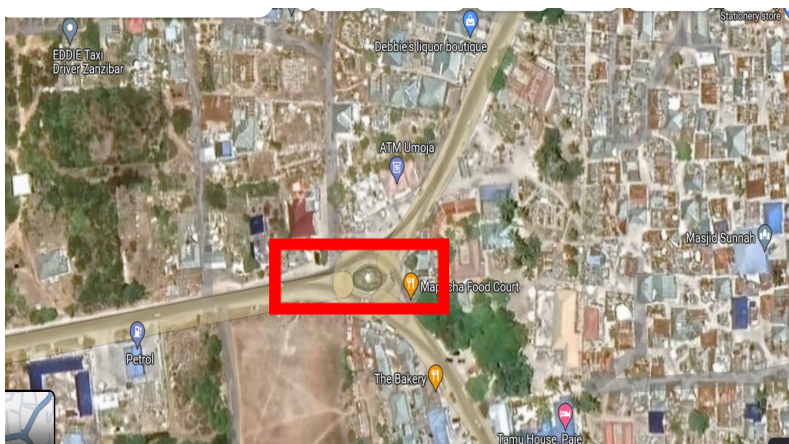
- the best and cheapest spices can you find in Stone town on the market
- in Paje is a good spice shop near the roundabout on the way to Jambiani

### **Where to buy souvenirs?**

- small Boutique in Karafuu Hotel next to our hotel (good for swimwear)
- along the beach in front of the hotel are some small shops where you can buy souvenirs
- in Paje you can find small shops everywhere to buy different souvenirs
- best opportunities are on the markets and in the small shops in Stone Town

### **ATMs and Exchange:**

- opposite of Karafuu Hotel you can find an ATM
- at Paje roundabout are some more ATMs located as well as a money exchange shop



All information is compiled to the best of our knowledge; we do not guarantee the accuracy of the content.

# MATLAI TOUR AND SAFARI

## What to do in Zanzibar

