Destination Showcase:

**Zanzibar, Tanzania**

The exotic spice island

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Map of Zanzibar

Tanzania

Main location
Towns & Cities
Places of Interest
Diamonds La Gemma Dell'Est
Sandies Neptune Pwani Beach
Baraza Resort & Bar
The Residence

Tanga
Dar es Salaam
Zanzibar Town
Airport
Pwani Mchangani
Mkokotoni
Kichwele Forest
Slave Caves
Jozani Forest
Paje

Indian Ocean

Tanzania

Sandies Neptune Pwani Beach
Diamonds La Gemma Dell'Est
Baraza Resort & Bar
The Residence
Welcome means KARIBU in the Swahili vernacular. Welcome to Zanzibar, the majestic spice island of the Indian Ocean. Zanzibar is an archipelago made up of Zanzibar and Pemba Islands, and several islets. It is located in the Indian Ocean, about 25 miles from the Tanzanian coast, and 6° south of the equator. Zanzibar Island (known locally as Unguja, but as Zanzibar internationally) is 60 miles long and 20 miles wide, occupying a total area of approximately 650 square miles. It is characterised by beautiful sandy beaches with fringing coral reefs, and the magic of historic Stone Town - said to be the only functioning ancient town in East Africa.

Over centuries different cultures have influenced Zanzibar to become what it is today. Sumerians, Assyrians, Egyptians, Phoenicians, Indians, Chinese, Persians, Portuguese, Omani Arabs, Dutch and British have settled here at one time or another and influenced the local culture into the present fusion. The island’s varied history has brought with it seafarers, explorers and traders, and during the 19th century the island became the world’s leading producer of cloves. Its plantations still produce more than 50 different spices and fruit.

The beaches in Zanzibar are a paradise, interspersed with picturesque fishing villages, where the people live a simple way of life, unchanged over the years. There are more than 25 fantastic beach locations in Zanzibar, and some are so peaceful and remote that the only noise breaking the silence is likely to be the ocean.
At present Oman Air, Ethiopian Airlines and Kenya Airways offer international scheduled flights to Zanzibar International Airport (the only airport on the island) via Muscat, Addis Ababa and Nairobi or Mombasa respectively. Several large carriers fly into Dar es Salaam, which is only a short trip by air from Zanzibar. Amongst them are British Airways, Qatar Airways, Emirates Airlines and Swiss Air.

From the rest of Africa, Kenya Airways, 1Time, Precision Air and Ethiopian Airlines have regular flights to Zanzibar. Dar es Salaam is also served by them, as well as Egypt Air, Air Malawi, South African Airways, 1Time and British Airways.

Zanzibar is a great option in combination with the full East Africa safari experience and there are regular scheduled flights from Arusha International Airport, gateway to the Serengeti, and other safari regions of Tanzania. Alternatively one can fly direct, via charter, from the Serengeti to Zanzibar.
Zanzibar experiences ideal holiday weather for most of the year. The heat of summer is seasonally often cooled by windy conditions, resulting in pleasant sea breezes, particularly on the North and East coasts. Being near to the equator, the islands are warm all year round, but officially, summer and winter peak in December and June respectively. This is illustrated by statistical weather information below.

Zanzibar is blessed with an average of 7-8 hours of sunshine daily.

Short rains can occur in November but are characterised by short showers which do not last long. The long rains normally occur in April and May although this is often referred to as the ‘Green Season’ and it typically doesn’t rain every day during that time.

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Located on the isolated south-west coast (55 minutes from the airport and Stone Town), the Residence Zanzibar is the only member of “The Leading Hotels of the World” in Tanzania and a stunning tribute not only to contemporary style, but also to the island’s African, Omani and European heritage.

The resort is tucked away amidst 32 hectares (80 acres) of palm tree forests overlooking a mile-long white sand beach; its 66 villas distinguished by private pools, personal butlers and their sense of understated luxury.

In order to explore the extensive gardens, bicycles or a buggy with driver are provided for you to roam the property.

Meals can be enjoyed in one of the two restaurants or in the intimacy of your villa. The Dining Room offers international dishes with a hint of Zanzibar “spice”, whilst the Pavilion Restaurant showcases the best of Middle Eastern and Mediterranean cuisine. A walk along the 150-metre jetty perched upon the turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean rewards guests with the best views of the beach.

The hotel’s star attraction is The Spa, which features six pavilions and a rest area with a whirlpool set amongst 2 hectares of surrounding tropical gardens. The Spa blends seamlessly into the natural landscape providing the perfect escape for rejuvenating the mind, body and soul.

Built almost entirely from glass with views across the gardens, The Library makes the perfect venue for meetings (capacity of 60 guests) or private group dining and features a picturesque terrace, lit by candles at night. The hotel provides LCD projector, flip chart, and screen. Complimentary use of the kayak, pedal boat & Hobie Cat are available at the Jetty or Boat House. For an additional charge guests can enjoy kite surfing, deep sea fishing, scuba diving and a dolphin safari.
Set within exotic tropical gardens and waterfalls inviting guests to enjoy the pristine view over the Indian Ocean, Diamonds La Gemma dell’Est is located on the north-western shores of magical Zanzibar.

This enchanting, luxurious and environmentally friendly resort has a total of 138 rooms, all with private terrace and some with a sea views. There are 93 entry-level Deluxe Sea Facing rooms.

The four restaurants, three bars and oriental café offer a vast array of international and local cuisine, combining notable service with culinary excellence. The Pavilion Restaurant offers daily buffet and themed nights. Coral Cove offers light meals and pizzas, Sea Breeze is the a la carte restaurant and Beach Grill serves seafood menus and is located on the beach.

The all-inclusive package includes; a welcome drink to all arrivals, mini bar in the room, breakfast, lunch and dinner and soft drinks, house wine, local beer, juices, water, tea, coffee.

Capturing the beauty and magic of African décor, Mvua African Rain Spa blends earthy colours and dramatic images to evoke a sensory journey and invites guest to build a personal experience in its calming space.

A wide range of activities are organized on a daily basis with a program and booking system available at the water sports centre. Facilities available include diving, windsurfing, canoeing, sailing, deep sea fishing and windsurfing courses.

The Congress Centre has been built around two monumental and ageless Baobab trees. The Baobab meeting rooms can accommodate up to 160 people for a sit-down function and 220 for a cocktail reception.
Hideaway of Nungwi Resort & Spa is located in Nungwi, on the north west coast of Zanzibar, just an hours’ drive from Zanzibar Airport. Nungwi is famous for its beautiful, white sandy beach, crystal clear, azure waters - ideal for both swimming and snorkelling - and for its spectacular sunsets.

The resort features 100 luxuriously appointed ocean-front rooms, each boasting a private balcony with stunning views over the Indian Ocean and the tropical gardens. All suites and villas are purpose-built and structured to provide a private and peaceful environment. Rooms are decorated with contemporary, stylish furniture which reflects the island’s Arabic-African and Colonial heritage.

Enjoy the dining experience at: The Aqua Restaurant, Ishi-Teppanyaki and The Carnivorus.

The conference centre at Hideaway of Nungwi Resort & Spa features two Executive Boardrooms - intimate venues accommodating 10 - 16 people each and ideal for business meetings, training sessions or small private gatherings. The Main Ballroom is ideal for any kind of event with space for up to 140 seats. The hotel also specializes in themed gala dinners such as “Senses & Spices” - a journey of discovery of the African spices and “Pan Asian” - featuring a range of dishes from across Asia with the emphasis on fish and seafood of the Indian Ocean.

Take your body and mind on a journey of inner and outer peace at the Hideaway Spa & Health Club!

Additional facilities include an on-site diving and kite-surfing school, a 50m freshwater infinity swimming pool (with a separate children’s pool), a tennis court, fitness centre, hobie cats, kayaking and windsurfing.
Located in the North of Zanzibar, the hotel is a magnificent private sanctuary of eleven exclusive villas with their own plunge pool and a tastefully furnished terrace, a covered Makuti patio and a large tropical garden to enjoy exclusive privacy and the supreme view over the Indian Ocean and the famous Zanzibar sunset.

The villas are named after eleven of the most precious gems in the world to match the modern and contemporary African style architecture. Personal butler service, a private beach and unmatched all-inclusive services accommodate the most discerning traveller with ultimate comfort, privacy and luxury. There are 9 one-bedroom villas (235 square metres in size) and 2 two-bedroom villas (300 square meters in size). Literally everything and anything you could dream of is catered for at the very highest level of all-inclusive services including access to all facilities, restaurants and bars of the neighbouring Diamonds La Gemma dell’Est resort.

Diamonds Star of the East is member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World.

The Ocean View Restaurant offers fine dining with an open view of the stunning gardens and the ocean.

Capturing the beauty and magic of African décor, Mvua African Rain Spa blends earthy colours and dramatic images to evoke a sensory journey and invites guests to build a personal experience in its calming space.

A wide range of activities are organized on a daily basis with a program and booking system available at the water sports centre. Facilities available include diving, windsurfing, canoeing, sailing, deep sea fishing and windsurfing courses.
Friendly and spacious, Sandies Neptune Pwani Beach is located in the North East of the island and is an ideal choice for guests in search of a retreat that offers the “special touch”, matched with attention to the finest of details.

The Resort has been meticulously created, emulating traditional Zanzibar style, using the best in local design, interiors and furnishing, meeting top international standards.

The Resort features 150 rooms all with a terrace, and some with an ocean view, and 4 individual beachfront suites with in-room Jacuzzi. The 72 Deluxe Sea View entry level rooms have been built on two storeys. All rooms are furnished in African style.

The resort offers 3 restaurants; the Main Restaurant, Samaki - an a la carte restaurant and the Pizzeria Restaurant. The all-inclusive package includes; a welcome drink to all arrivals, mini bar in the room, breakfast, lunch and dinner and soft drinks, house wine, local beer, juices, water, tea, coffee.

Facilities include 2 swimming pools, 2 bars, the Mvua African Rain Spa, the Spherique Boutique and a conference room with meeting facilities.

The terraced sea view meeting room can accommodate up to 90 persons seated in conference style set up. The terrace offers a large private area for exclusive coffee breaks and cocktail receptions with breath taking view of the resort and of the Indian Ocean.

A wide range of activities are organized on a daily basis with a program and booking system available at the water sports centre. Facilities available include diving, windsurfing, canoeing, sailing and windsurfing courses.
Located on the East Coast of Zanzibar, Diamonds Dream of Zanzibar is a superb, 5 star, all-inclusive resort located in the midst of exotic gardens. It is on the beach front at Pwani Machangani overlooking the turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean. The hotel offers an exclusive and elegant atmosphere for discerning guests.

Diamonds Dream of Zanzibar offers 104 Deluxe Garden rooms, 40 Ocean View Junior Suites, 10 additional Junior Suites with Jacuzzi and 3 Beach Villas with private pool. The Deluxe Garden rooms are fitted with furniture made by Italian specialists in elm wood; each room offers a spacious private terrace with a table and chairs for the comfort of the guests.

The all-inclusive package includes; a welcome drink to all arrivals, mini bar in the room, breakfast, lunch and dinner at the Main Restaurant and soft drinks, house wine, local beer, juices, water, tea, coffee served in the Main Restaurant.

The 5 restaurants offer guests an exceptional variety of dining options and 3 bars feature relaxing environments to enjoy refreshing drinks and cocktails.

Additional facilities include 2 swimming pools, the Mvua African Rain Spa, an indoor gym and conference facilities.

Diamonds Dream of Zanzibar features a fully equipped congress centre: The Arabesque, with an auditorium capacity of 112 guests for sit-down functions and 2 boardrooms with space for 12 seated guests (each).

The Water Sports Centre includes a Diving Centre and offers catamarans, windsurfing and canoes, bicycles, multi-sports court, tennis court and jogging trail, beach volley and beach soccer.
Breezes Beach Club is located on Bwejuu Beach, on the South East Coast of the Island of Zanzibar and was voted one of the top 30 Island beaches in the world in the article “The Ultimate Worldwide Island Beach Finder” By Conde Nast Traveller. Located a one hour drive from the airport.

The hotel offers 3 room categories - Standard (Terrace and Garden view), Deluxe (ground floor of Beach Bungalows) and Suites (upper floor of Beach Bungalows).

Zanzibar is famous for its abundant variety of exotic spices and seafood delicacies found in the untouched waters of the Indian Ocean. The hotel’s chef prepares a delicious variety of cuisine incorporating traditional Zanzibari elements. You can enjoy fresh lobster on the beachfront every day, along with a number of other special items including the Breakers barbecue and fresh catch of the day.

The Tides offers private beachfront dining, Salama Dining Room is the main breakfast venue and also offers themed buffet dinners.

The Sultans Table offers a fusion of Indian and Swahili spices and the very best seafood in a stunning venue overlooking the Indian Ocean. The Breakers Grill serves light lunches with Breezes features Zanzibar’s first spa. Located in tropical Gardens, The Frangipani Spa offers a world class selection of facilities, health and beauty treatments including their trademark Après Safari Treatment.

**Marine Activities Centre**

Offering a range of marine activities ranging from beach volleyball, pedal boats, canoes, to daily snorkelling trips to the lagoon by boat, windsurfing and sailing.

**Scuba diving Centre**

Breezes is home to one of Zanzibar’s most professional and experienced diving operations. The Rising Sun Dive Centre, which is a licensed PADI dive centre, offers all diving services from beginners to advanced diving.
The Baraza Resort is a one hour drive from Zanzibar Airport, on the East Coast. Located on the beach that was named as one of the top 30 in the world by Condé Nast Traveller magazine, it is one of Zanzibar’s most exclusive boutique resorts.

A fusion of Arabic, Swahili and Indian design, with Swahili arches, intricate hand carved cement décor, beautiful antiques and intricate brass lanterns; the hotel offers unparalleled standards of luxury.

There are 14 one-bedroomed villas and 15 two-bedroomed villas as well as a Presidential Villa. The spacious villas feature beautiful fabrics, large bathrooms with luxury fittings as well as a wide terrace and a private plunge pool.

The hotel offers three dining areas; The Livingstone Terrace, The Ocean Lounge Bar & Restaurant and The Sultans Dining Room.

The Frangipani Spa in Baraza is an oasis featuring its own lap pool with underwater music, indoor and outdoor relaxation rooms and the signature treatment for two, the Sultan’s Bath.

Facilities include a swimming pool, tennis club as well as a Water Club offering wind surfing, kite surfing & sailing. Different activities are offered dependent on the level of the tide. The nearby Rising Sun Dive Centre is the only PADI 5* Gold Palm and National Geographic Dive Centre in Zanzibar.
Melia Zanzibar is located on the beach in Kiwengwa’s East Coast Zanzibar neighborhood, close to Mapenzi Beach and Kiwengwa Beach. Melia Zanzibar is contained within a beautiful 40 hectare estate providing spectacular, uninterrupted views of the magnificent Indian Ocean. The resort offers a private beach of pearly white sand lapped by warm ocean waters.

Accommodation at Melia Zanzibar has been designed to offer the highest standards of European luxury ensuring that your stay is both personalized and memorable. As such, the hotel offers five accommodation options ranging from private villas complete with their own beautiful gardens and breath-taking infinity pools, to romantic garden rooms decorated with ornate Zanzibari beds and equipped with exquisite bathrooms. Choices of five individual restaurants are available to guests at Melia Zanzibar. The design and cuisine of these outlets provides guests with refreshingly different dining options throughout their stay.

A beach bar, a poolside bar, and a bar/lounge are open for drinks. Melia Zanzibar provides an exclusive, private beach club -comfortable sun loungers draped in soft towels are arranged under the palm trees to allow you to enjoy your ‘own piece of paradise’. Volleyball, canoeing, snorkelling equipment and lifejackets are also available for guests use.

The resort has an abundance of bicycles and guests are welcome to make use of them to enjoy the fresh air and perfect weather or enjoy a game of tennis at one of the two courts.

One of the landmarks of Meliá Zanzibar is the beautiful jetty that transports you out into the Indian Ocean. At the end of your walk you will discover the Jetty Bar & Restaurant - ready to welcome you for pre and after dinner drinks and snacks. The hotel has event space consisting of banquet facilities, conference/meeting rooms, and a ballroom.
Sea Cliff Resort & Spa | 5* Property | 120 rooms | www.seascliffzanzibar.com

A beautiful 120 room resort located on the West Coast of the exotic Island of Zanzibar, conveniently located 20 minutes from the historical town of Stone Town.

The 4 km road through a coconut plantation that leads to the hotel is a reminder of the Zanzibar of old. As you enter the courtyard filled with tropical flowers and palms the view of the ocean stands before you. With the traditional makuti roofs and Arabic towers lit by brass lights you know this is not a typical hotel - it’s a unique combination of modern facilities mixed with the original exotic architecture of historical Zanzibar.

The hotel is situated on a cliff overlooking the Indian Ocean and offers panoramic views from the lounge, restaurant, bar and even the recreation area. You can enjoy breakfast overlooking the ocean; have dinner under the stars or a sundowner on the jetty.

Sea Cliff resort & Spa is the ideal location for conferences, board meetings and incentive groups. With a full conference centre with three conference rooms the resort can host groups from 10 people up to 120 people.

96 of the rooms offer panoramic ocean views from the bedrooms and private balconies, so you can sit and watch the dhows sail past and watch the sunset from the comfort of your room. The natural colour scheme of creams and gold are complimented by all the antique furniture that has been specially sourced to show the culture, the history and the influences that make Zanzibar so unique.

The hotel offers 2 infinity swimming pools overlooking the ocean, the largest being 85 meters. There is also a children’s swimming pool as well as a plunge pool in the spa. There are a number of activities for the more energetic guests, including a fully equipped gym, a water sports centre and 2 tennis courts as well as a squash court and bicycles. The resort also has walking trails through the coconut plantation and viewing decks along the cliff.

For guests that are looking to relax and rejuvenate, the hotel offers a 5 treatment room Shawri Spa overlooking the ocean.
Idyllically situated on the sea-front of ancient Stone Town, and flanked by an exotic mix of sultan’s palaces, Portuguese forts, ancient dhow harbours, and bright bazaars, the Zanzibar Serena Inn is a haven of tranquility and opulence amongst the bustle of one of Africa’s most ancient and most enchanting towns. A member of the prestigious Small Luxury Hotels of the World, the inn has been styled to represent the epitome of Swahili style, ethnic elegance and Arabic opulence. The airport is approximately 20 minutes driving distance.

After the heat and dust of Stone Town, the rooms in the Zanzibar Serena Inn are havens of cool and shade. With high ceilings, shuttered windows and cool white walls, they are constructed in the traditional Swahili manner, whereby the size is dictated by the length of the mangrove poles that make up their ceilings. Adorned with arched niches, antique plates and brass lamps; and featuring traditionally carved furniture with basket weave and ceramic inlay, the rooms are predominantly royal blue and white. Four-poster, net draped beds dominate, offset by delicate side tables, vanity units and louvre doors giving onto balconies, some of which feature massive free-standing hammocks. The Zanzibar Inn Conference Suite is located on the ground floor of the Inn and has been decorated in traditional Zanzibar style. It can accommodate up to 40 participants in a range of different room layouts. Other facilities available are a swimming pool and pool deck, live music nightly and treatment rooms.

Constructed so that the waves lap to within inches of its open windows, the Baharia Restaurant features fretwork screens, Omani carvings, Persian rugs and bright Swahili artifacts. The Zanzibar cuisine meanwhile, blends freshly caught seafood, fresh spices, luscious fruit and delicately flavoured vegetables. A short drive from the Inn, the Serena’s exclusive beach hideaway, the Mangapwani Beach Barbeque offers a superb Swahili seafood lunch buffet.

The hotel offers some unique incentive ideas including; lavish seafood suppers on the panoramic Roof Top Terrace, a Swahili banquet around the pool, a traditional display of Swahili dance, music and cultural performance and a private performance of Taarab Music. A combination of African, Arabic and Indian influences that was first played in the 1820’s at the Sultan’s palace, Taarab is usually performed by a singer and accompanied by an orchestra comprising the Kanun, (similar to a zither) accordion, the nay (flute) and drums.
**Dhow Trips**

Dhow cruises are without doubt one of the highlights of Zanzibar. Dhow is the generic name of a number of traditional sailing vessels with one or more masts with lateen sails. The Dhow cruise can be incorporated into a full day tour as below or a sunset cruise with entertainment onboard.

Leaving from Stone Town in the morning, sail on a dhow to Prison Island. The island gets its name from the prison built by the Sultan to condemn Zanzibari citizens to isolation. Previously owned by an Arab to house his rebellious slaves, the prison was never used, and the island is now home to a tortoise sanctuary, prison ruins and a hotel. If you’re feeling active, explore one of the hiking trails, visit the tortoise sanctuary or just sit on the beach and relax in the sun or snorkel in the crystal clear water. After snorkelling, you’ll sail down to Mangapwani, where your dhow will drop anchor on the coconut fringed beach in time for a seafood lunch. The journey from Prison Island will take approximately two hours. When you’ve eaten your fill, you’ll have the opportunity to learn about khangas, a long piece of rectangular fabric, traditionally worn in Zanzibar with a multitude of uses, and adorn your hands and feet with henna.

There’s time to relax on the beach before exploring the Mangapwani Slave Caves. From here, you’ll be driven back to your hotel in the afternoon.

**Deep Sea Big Game Fishing**

Experience a day of big game fishing out in the waters of Zanzibar and the Pemba channel. The deep sea fishing charter boats are fully rigged and ready to take you out for a fishing experience you will never forget. Fish by trailing a combination of lures, natural dead baits or live bait. The well-equipped sports fishing boats and resourceful crews will make sure you enjoy yourself out on the water. Spend either a half or full day out at sea with professional anglers and generally it is on a catch & release basis. Striped, black and blue marlin can be found on the Zanzibar coastline, as well as acrobatic sailfish and elusive spearfish. Dorado, yellow fin tuna, wahoo, barracuda and king fish all provide endless hours of action packed game fishing out on the ocean. August to October is peak season for tuna, with marlin and sailfish running from November till March, following the pattern of the monsoons. Fishing in Zanzibar is a delight, with the turquoise and deep blue of the ocean contrasting against perfect powder blue skies, waves lapping against the prow of the boat. Whatever time of year you visit, you’re sure to have a great day out, with a chance of landing a personal best and epic tales of the one that got away.
**Jozani Forest Tour**

In the south of the island, Jozani Forest is a wonder and delight, with tales of Zanzibar leopards, medicinal cures and stunning scenery. Currently under consideration to become Zanzibar’s second World Heritage Site, the Jozani-Chwaka Bay area is a hotspot of biodiversity. The forest is home to a number of endemic species, including the Zanzibar Red Colobus Monkey.

Your guide will take you on a nature trail, lined with eucalyptus and mahogany trees and will explain the medicinal properties of various plants and tell you about the animals, birds and reptiles that make their home in the various habitats of this tropical rainforest.

Troops of Zanzibar Red Colobus monkeys can be found scrambling from branch to branch, in search of food. The monkeys have become acclimatised to people and allow you to get close to them to take photographs as they eat, play and jump from the treetops.

The mangrove boardwalk takes you above the swamp, where, depending on the tide, you can see tropical fish flitting between the mangrove roots and crabs scuttling across the mud.

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**Zanzibar Spice Tour**

In days past, Zanzibar was known as a spice island, exporting cloves, vanilla, nutmeg and cardamom across the world. The spices were brought over from Asia and South America and flourished in the tropical climes. Nowadays the plantations are a tribute to the island’s past, swapping spices for tourism, combining both in a spice tour, one of the most popular excursions on the island.

Walk through the spice farm with your guide. Touch, smell and taste different spices and tropical fruits. Try to guess which is which, from the crushed leaves, the fruit, shoots and vines and creepers crawling up the trees. Learn about their properties, their origins and their use as medicines and in food and drink.

A visit to a spice farm village gives you an insight into local life and also the opportunity to taste the fruits in season and try some spiced tea. Most of the spice farms are located approximately 20 minutes from Stone Town and the tour takes approximately 2 hours.
Kizimkazi Dolphin Adventures

Take a one hour drive from Stone Town to Kizimkazi, on Zanzibar’s south coast for a day of dolphin spotting. Kizimkazi is home to large numbers of bottle-nosed and spinner dolphins, beautiful coral reefs and tropical fish. On arrival, visitors are given a short safety briefing and the dos and don’ts when faced with these wild animals. Then board a traditional ocean going dhow, and set sail on the Indian Ocean in search of dolphins.

The dhow can get as close as 10 to 20 metres away from the dolphins. Sleek and grey, they jack-knife through the water, sometimes showing off with jumps and twists. In the past, some tourists have been lucky enough to swim and snorkel with these magical animals. However, the dolphins aren’t tame, and can be shy and elusive. Although visitors see dolphins on the majority of outings, there are no guarantees. Whether you’re fortunate enough to see dolphins or not, you can enjoy two hours on the boat and taking in the sights of the ocean. There’s superb snorkelling in the pristine coral reef and swimming in the clear, warm water of the Indian Ocean. You’ll return to the beach for lunch, where you can swim in the shallower waters.

Beaches - Snorkelling and Diving

Zanzibar’s brilliant white beaches lapped by the warm turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean provide the perfect place to relax, soak up the sun and take a break from some busy sightseeing. At the northern tip of the island is Nungwi, approached by a road lined by banana palms, mangroves and coconut trees. This is the dhow building capital of Zanzibar Island, so it is a good place to see traditional craftsmen at work. On the west coast of Zanzibar, Mangapwani beach is worth a visit, and to the east are the beaches of Matemwe, Pwani Mchangani, Kiwengwa, Uroa, Bwejuu and Jambiani, all with stretches of beautiful and uncrowded sands.

Zanzibar also boasts several small offshore islands which are ideal for a day-trip. Prison (or Changu) island is the most popular with tourists because it is only a short trip from Stone Town. Other islets near to Stone Town are Chapwani, Chumbe and Bawe. Regarded amongst the best in the world, Zanzibar snorkelling and diving areas provide an unforgettable experience. More than 350 different fish species are recorded here alone, and most of the reefs are covered in beautiful hard and soft coral. Some of the common species you can expect to see whilst snorkelling include butterfly fish, parrot fish, clown fish, box fish, angel fish, sting rays and many more. Other Zanzibar snorkelling wonders include turtles, dolphins, squids, crabs and the list goes on.
Experience the way Livingstone felt discovering untouched land and sail away with us to sandbanks around the magnificent island of Unguja, Zanzibar. Board a traditionally crafted dhow, put your feet up and allow the staff to pamper you as the Sultans of Zanzibar were once upon a time.

You first set sail to Prison Island. It is now home to a tortoise sanctuary, the prison ruins and a hotel. Watch the giant tortoises shuffle through the trees, with the patience that old age brings. Swim in the crystal clear blue water around the island and snorkel to discover a whole new underwater world filled with marine life and corals of brilliant colours.

Then sail away to an untouched sandbank an hour away from Stone Town. Tables are set out on the golden sand and a five star lunch extravaganza, prepared by the talented chefs from the a local hotel. After lunch, relax on the sandbank listening to the hush of waves lapping against the shore, or discover more underwater life around it and listen to stories from your crew about sailing the seven seas. Watch the sun start to set as you slowly sail back to Stone Town, after a day of relaxation and fun. This activity is suitable for anyone, from those who wish to completely relax to those who want adventure and excitement. This is a full day activity and the group capacity is 40 guests.

Learn to cook a traditional Swahili meal and wow your friends with your culinary expertise when you get home. There's no better way to get to know a culture than learning how to cook a traditional meal - and there are plenty of opportunities to learn in Zanzibar. First stop on the tour will be one of the Spice Farms outside Stone Town. Touch, smell and taste different spices and tropical fruits. Learn about their properties, their origins and their use as medicines and in food and drink. Depending on the season, you can find anything from vanilla, cardamom, cinnamon, nutmeg, turmeric, lemon grass, cloves, ylang ylang, cumin, coriander, pepper, tamarind, chili and more! After your tour of the spice farm, you’ll be whisked away for some spice shopping in the bustling Darajani market.

From here you’ll put your purchases to good use with a Swahili cooking lesson from the skilled chefs at a local hotel, where a cooking lesson is like a lesson in poetry. Having already received worldwide recognition for its cuisine, the Serena Inn has opened its kitchen doors, offering to immerse bland palates in spices, and to share the secrets of their 5 star Swahili cuisine. Cooking lessons can also be arranged on Pange Sandbank for those who wish to stir the pot beside the fisherman’s shows. This is a full day activity and the group capacity is 20 guests.
Sunset cruise with dinner at Mbweni Ruins

Set sail for Mbweni Ruins, an hour by sea, south of Stone Town, framed by the ever stunning African sunset. On arrival, you will enjoy a cocktail or two on the jetty as you watch the sun set into the ocean. After drinks you will be escorted down the jetty of Mbweni Ruins Hotel to the ruins themselves. There you will enjoy fine dining in the light of a thousand candles, set in these magical, historical ruins. An evening you will never forget. Departure is at 17h30 and guests return at 22h00. Maximum group capacity is approximately 60 guests.
For incentives to Zanzibar, most groups will stay at resort-style hotels and these are mostly on an all-inclusive package. This means meals will be enjoyed at the resort. Most resorts will offer a variety of cuisine to suit all tastes. There are also a number of good restaurants located in Stone Town.

With Zanzibar known as the ‘Spice Islands’, it’s little surprise that spices play an important role in the cuisine here. With African, Arab, Goan, Indian and Chinese influences, traditional food is truly a fusion experience. Most restaurants feature spices in their menus although there are also Italian, Thai and other international establishments for those looking for something a little closer to home!

Zanzibar’s specialities are also centred on what is available locally, so it is best to take full advantage of the variety of spicy seafood dishes on offer and tailored to suit every taste.

Lobsters, kingfish, calamari, prawns, octopus, crabs and squid are just a few of the many types of local seafood available. Coconut also features in many dishes. Meat, Vegetarian and International Cuisines are also readily available across the Island.

As Zanzibar offers such fine weather throughout the year, meals are best enjoyed al fresco, with beach barbeques being a highlight.

In Zanzibar there are a few local Tanzanian beers you should try, namely Safari, Kilimanjaro and Tusker. There’s also a variety of brightly coloured Tanzanian soft drinks you might want to taste. In larger restaurants and hotels in Zanzibar, visitors can order imported beers and beverages.