

Zanzibar Retreat



trip highlights

Relax and recharge with a short beach break after your trek or safari

Stroll through Stone Town's spice-scented laneways and historic architecture

Unwind on Zanzibar's southern coast, with white sand and turquoise waters



Trip Duration	4 days	Trip Code: ZE4
Grade	Discovery and Cruising	
Activities	Adventure Touring	
Summary	4 day trip, 3 nights hotel	

welcome to World Expeditions

For over 50 years, we've been creating high-quality, expedition-style adventures for active travellers with a curious spirit. From our very first trek in the mountains of Nepal to pioneering remote routes across all seven continents, our journeys are built for those who want to truly explore – not just visit.

At the heart of what we do is a simple philosophy: take the paths less travelled.

This means travelling with care, supporting local communities, minimising our impact, and unlocking experiences that most travellers will never have.

If you're ready to go further and dig deeper, we invite you to join us on the Zanzibar Retreat, a journey that captures the essence of a unique adventure.

why travel with World Expeditions?

Combined with a Kilimanjaro climb or a safari in East Africa, our flexible options to Zanzibar are an affordable and easy way to extend your African experience.



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These short extensions usually operate for a minimum of 2 passengers travelling together, however most can be done if you are travelling alone (Solo Traveller Surcharge). If there are two or more people travelling together who cannot or prefer not to share rooms a single supplement cost will be added to your invoice.

the trip

If your post-trek or safari priority is rest and beach time, this three night retreat offers just that. Begin with a night in atmospheric Stone Town to soak up the spice island's unique culture, then head south for two nights on the coast, where you can relax, swim and dine with the sound of the sea.

Have more time and want to explore Stone Town in depth? See our 4 night Zanzibar Stone Town & Coast trip for a deeper cultural and coastal experience.

at a glance

DAY 1	JOIN ZANZIBAR AIRPORT, TRANSFER TO HOTEL IN STONE TOWN
DAY 2	TRANSFER TO COAST IN THE AFTERNOON
DAY 3	AT LEISURE ON THE COAST
DAY 4	TRANSFER TO AIRPORT, TRIP CONCLUDES

what's included

- 1 night in Swahili House boutique hotel (or similar) in Stone Town on a twinshare basis
- 2 nights in Zanzibari style bungalow at the well appointed Fumba Lodge (or similar) on coast on a twinshare basis
- 3 breakfasts and 2 dinners
- Airport transfers (day 1 and 4 only)

what's not included

- Flights to/from Zanzibar
- Travel Insurance (compulsory)
- Visa
- Optional activities such as Stone Town Tour, Spice Tour and Jozani Forest Reserve Tour
- Optional upgrade to sea view rooms at Fumba Lodge
- Items of a personal nature
- Meals not noted as included and all drinks

detailed itinerary

DAY 1 Join Zanzibar Airport, transfer to hotel in Stone Town

Arrive on the beautiful island of Zanzibar, "The Spice Island". From the airport you will be transferred to your hotel in Stone Town. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore this magnificent, ancient town which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Stone Town is a port city on the western coast of Zanzibar and historically significant as it was one of the main coastal and slave-trading ports in East Africa. Enjoy free time to stroll around the narrow alleys, bustling bazaars, mosques and grand Arab houses. You can spend many idle hours just wandering through the fascinating labyrinth of narrow streets, admiring the intricately carved wooden doors. Return to your hotel, which has local charm and character, authentic furniture and is in a good location. Be sure to take in the view from the rooftop terrace!

meals: NIL

DAY 2 Transfer to coast in the afternoon

Morning at leisure in Stone Town. This afternoon you will transfer to the South West Coast (approximately 40 minutes) to our peaceful beach hideaway accommodation. Once settled in, there are several activities to enjoy or you may prefer to relax and

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trip dates

Departs daily year round

important notes

HS - Holiday Season

Note: - Alternative accommodation at Unguja Lodge on coast available; supplement applies.

fast facts

Countries Visited:

Tanzania

Visas:

Please check visa requirements with your reservations consultant*

Vaccinations:

Please consult a travel vaccination specialist for up to date information

Private Groups:

Private group options are available for this trip*

Singles:

A single supplement is available for this trip*

Leader:

This journey is unescorted

Advice for people with limited mobility

This trip is not suitable for people with limited mobility.

thoughtful travel

The natural environments that you'll travel through are fragile; the cultures and traditions precious and often the communities we pass through are reliant on tourism. It is our responsibility as visitors to minimise the impact of our presence, protect what is precious and where we can leave a positive impact. Learn how you can do this by downloading the Thoughtful Traveller booklet from our website.

not move beyond your front door. You can swim in the clear blue waters, soak up the sun or try your hand at some water sports available at the lodge such as snorkelling, scuba diving, or a sunset cruise (own expense).

meals: B,D

DAY 3 At leisure on the coast

Time at leisure to soak up the peaceful atmosphere and enjoy the beauty of the clear blue waters of the Indian Ocean and this tropical island paradise. Take a Spice Tour, learn about the history of one of the most beautiful islands in the world, unwind at the swimming pool or enjoy the beach under the branches of the baobab and do nothing at all. Your time here will be relaxing and unforgettable.

meals: B,D

DAY 4 Transfer to airport, trip concludes

After breakfast this morning you will be transferred back to Zanzibar Airport. Trip arrangements end on arrival at the airport.

meals: B

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

places of interest

To take full advantage of all that Zanzibar has to offer, several sightseeing excursions are recommended. Most can be arranged either from Stone Town or from the coast and do not need to be booked in advance.

Stone Town Tour (1/2 day) – Explore the twisting and narrow streets of Stone Town with an expert local guide to gain a basic orientation and to visit some of the more famous sites. This includes the former slave market (now a cathedral), the former Sultan's Palace (known as 'the house of wonders'), the old Portuguese/Arab fort, the food market with its exotic fish and fruits, and the beautifully restored old dispensary. Equally important are all the stories of well known personalities such as Tippu Tip (probably the most notorious of the slave traders), Said Salme (a Sultan's daughter who eloped with a German), and the singer Freddie Mercury. It also includes a drive outside Stone Town to visit the Maruhubi Ruins, where the Sultan lived with his concubines. This can be combined with a Dhow Cruise at the end of the day, making a lovely ending to the excursion.

Spice Tour (1/2 day) – Much of Zanzibar is dominated by the production of exotic spices and you will visit several farms with a professional guide, with the chance to taste and buy. Cloves, cinnamon, cardamon, turmeric, chilli, black pepper and nutmeg are only some of the spices you will see, together with plants for medical and decorative use, such as henna, lipstick and mint. Another interesting feature is to see one of the farmers climb up in the coconut palm to harvest the coconuts. You can taste the fresh coconut water and maybe get a basket woven from the leaves of the coconut palm. Small villages set amidst the tropical vegetation are an additional attraction.

Jozani Forest Reserve (1/2 Day) – Jozani Forest Reserve is the largest area of mature indigenous forest remaining on Zanzibar island and it's most famous inhabitants are the Red Colobus monkey, an endemic species to Zanzibar. The monkeys are normally easily spotted with a professional guide, whereas Ader's duiker and the Suni, two very small antelopes, are more shy. Butterflies and birds are abundant. The trip includes transportation, entrance fee to the reserve and a guided walk. You cannot visit the reserve if you have a cold or the flu.

suggested extensions

→ Kilimanjaro Climb

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adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. In remote and developing countries do not expect standards you are used to at home. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable and itineraries may be altered. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise. If you are uncertain about your suitability for this trip we recommend that you speak with your consultant or travel agent.

important note

These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary, and may supersede any information on our website, including but not limited to the itinerary and price. The itinerary should be seen as a guide only. This itinerary may change at any time due to inclement weather, forces of nature and other circumstances beyond our control.

- Kenya Lodge Safari
- Kenya & Tanzania Migration Safari
- Culture and Wildlife of Tanzania

country information

The name Zanzibar conjures up images of exotic spices, palm-fringed beaches, slave trading and the narrow streets of Arabic bazaars. Arabs arrived in the 8th century, intermarried with the existing population and created the Islamic culture that still predominates in Zanzibar today. Zanzibar island lies 35kms from the mainland and was governed by a Sultan until 1964, when the island joined with the ex-colony of Tanganyika to form modern day Tanzania. The main town of Zanzibar, known as 'Stone Town', has graceful mosques, alleys filled with colourful shops, and a lively waterfront atmosphere. Cloves and many other spices are grown in the lush interior of the island whilst coral reefs, simple fishing villages, and unspoilt beaches are to be found along much of the beautiful coastline.

climate

Zanzibar enjoys a tropical climate year round, with warm daytime temperatures and balmy nights. Average daytime highs range from 28C to 32C (82F to 90F), while evenings typically stay mild at around 22C to 25C (72F to 77F). The warmest months are December to March, when both temperature and humidity rise slightly. June to October is the most popular time to visit, thanks to drier conditions, lower humidity, and cooling sea breezes. There are two rainy seasons: the long rains fall between March and May, with April being the wettest month, while the short rains usually occur in November, often as brief, refreshing showers. Even during wetter months, sunshine is common, and rainfall rarely lasts all day.

dietary requirements

Provided we are advised in advance of your departure we are able to cater for vegetarian diets and can assist with medically recommended diets (allergies and intolerances). Please ensure you discuss your requirements with us well in advance (at least 1 month prior to your trip) to determine whether we can cater to such dietary requirements on your chosen adventure. Please note that options are likely to be limited in very remote locations or alternatives may be more expensive or unavailable. There may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own food. We are unable to guarantee a peanut-free or allergen-free trip, and therefore, we strongly encourage that travellers with life-threatening or severe allergies take all necessary medical precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self-administering these medications.

accommodation on the trip

The price of this option is based on the following accommodation:

Swahili House Hotel – This is a pleasant hotel in a renovated old Arab merchant house built around a traditional central courtyard. The hotel is situated in the center of Stone Town and is equipped with authentic furniture. Rooms have European sized mattresses, air conditioning and a fan. The roof top terrace provides a wonderful view.

Fumba Beach Lodge – This hotel offers well-designed elegance, with friendly excellent service. Approximately 40 minutes from the capital, Stone Town, the lodge is situated on the South West Coast, away from busy tourist areas, and on one of Zanzibar's most secluded beaches - it is a peaceful hideaway. Set on forty acres of the Menai beach conservation area, Fumba beach peninsula is both a large marine haven, and an eco-project. The rooms have an ensuite bathroom, terrace and stunning ocean view; all rooms have king size double beds, mosquito nets, fans and quality imported bed linen.

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non exclusive trips

Please note that this trip is not exclusive to World Expeditions clients and is operated by our partners in Tanzania.

vehicles & safety

During the course of your trip, we will use a variety of vehicles, all of which are fit for purpose and the conditions encountered. It should be noted that laws governing transportation safety may differ from those in your home country and whilst wherever possible, vehicles with seatbelts are provided, on occasion some vehicles may not have seat belts fitted.

visas

Visas are required for passport holders from the following countries:-

Australia

New Zealand

Canada

United States

United Kingdom

Travellers can now apply online for the Tanzania visa <https://visa.immigration.go.tz/>

A single entry visa costs USD\$50 and is valid for a stay of up to 90 days.

A multiple entry visa costs USD\$100 and is valid for 12 months. No one stay can be longer than 3 months in duration.

NB: American nationals who wish to visit Tanzania for tourism or holiday purposes MUST select a MULTIPLE entry visa while applying online. American nationals are not entitled to a single entry visa.

All other nationalities should check with your nearest embassy or consulate.

Multiple entry visas are not issued, however, those who travel between Tanzania and Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi will not need a new visa to re-enter Tanzania provided they re-enter Tanzania while the visa is still valid. Those who go from Tanzania to countries other than Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi, will need to obtain a new visa at the entry point to Tanzania.

TRAVEL VIA KENYA

Kenya became a visa-free country in January 2024. However, all visitors to Kenya will need to apply online and pay for an Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA) (Kenya Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (eTA) (etakenya.go.ke) at least 2 weeks before the start of their journey.

The following documents are required for your eTA application:-

Valid passport for at least six (6) months after your planned date of arrival into Kenya, with at least one blank page.

Upload a photograph or passport-type photo of yourself.

Contact information, email address and phone number.

Details of your arrival and departure itinerary.

Copy of your itinerary or accommodation booking confirmation(s).

Credit card, debit card or other means of payment.

Processing time is minimum (3) working days, however it is recommended applications be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to travel to ensure adequate time for processing. Travellers can submit their applications up to 3 months prior to travel. It is highly recommended that travellers apply as soon as they have booked their accommodations and transport tickets.

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You will need to print out the eTA approval and present it to an Immigration Official upon arrival in Kenya.

Please bear in mind that visas may be required for countries you are visiting en route or transiting through on the way to your destination. It is important that you check the requirements of all countries you will visit. Visa costs and requirements do change regularly so we suggest you check with your travel agent or World Expeditions reservations consultant. It is your responsibility to obtain all necessary visas.

webinars & events

Catch a Webinar – Live or On Demand - to learn more about a particular trip. Make sure the trip you choose is right for you. Watch them live, so you can ask our presenters a question, or catch the recording later at your leisure and watch it On Demand. Visit our website or keep an eye on our newsletter for upcoming presentations.

private groups

The adventures that you see on our website are just a starting point. We operate many of our trips, which means we can be flexible and create an itinerary to suit your interests and dates. Talk to our team, you'll be surprised how much more affordable it can be when you get a group of friends, colleagues, a club – you name it, to travel with you!

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social networking

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Share the love

Use the hashtag #WorldExpeditions on your best travel photos and videos to be featured.

trip availability

We operate small group adventures, which means availability is always worth checking early. Check trip availability online or call our team who might be able to dig a little deeper for you to find what you want, when you want.

Many adventures require services that, if not available at the time you book (like an internal flight or permit) could mean the trip is unavailable. So, book early to avoid missing out on your dream adventure.

how to book

Check trip availability and book your tour online, or call or visit one of our offices. To book a trip, you will need to complete a Booking Form (online or request a PDF) and pay a non-refundable deposit. Please note that when booking our tours to not confirm any additional arrangements until all services related to your tour are confirmed by your dedicated Reservations Consultant.

