



Welcome to Zanzibar

Jambo! This is the Swahili greeting that you will hear on arrival when you are welcomed by the warm and inviting locals. Zanzibar is the name of an archipelago in the Indian Ocean just off the coast of East Africa. There are many small islands and two large ones: Unguja (the main island, sometimes informally referred to as 'Zanzibar'), and Pemba Island. As the number one beach location in East Africa, Zanzibar is a wonderful island, with classic tropical beaches, lush plantations, an incredible history and a fascinating culture. Apart from historic Stone Town, with its labyrinth of narrow streets, Zanzibar is known for its beautiful palm-fringed beaches and pristine coral reefs.

HISTORY

Zanzibar was inhabited by Portuguese navigators at the end of the 15th century. They were ousted 200 years later by the Omani Arabs and Zanzibar became a major centre for slave trading. The island became an Arab state and was an important centre of trade and politics in the region. European explorers, including Stanley and Livingstone, began their expeditions into the interior of Africa from Zanzibar in the late 1800's. In 1964, the sultan and the government were overthrown in a revolution and in the same year, Zanzibar and Tanganyika combined to form the United Republic of Tanzania.

LANGUAGE

The indigenous language spoken throughout Zanzibar is Swahili (called Kiswahili locally). English is widely spoken and understood. Jambo Rafiki – Hello my friend!

CULTURE

Most of the people in Zanzibar are Muslim and all towns and villages on Zanzibar Island have mosques. There are also small populations of Christians and Hindus.

CLIMATE

Zanzibar is a few degrees south of the equator and enjoys a very tropical climate. The average daytime high is between 28°C and 32°C and the night-time lows are between 20°C and 25°C. Temperature wise – this island is an all-year-round winner. February is very hot and very humid and March to May are the wettest months.

CURRENCY

The local currency is Tanzania Shillings (TSH) but the currency cannot be bought outside of the country. Cash (US Dollars) and credit cards are accepted at hotels and at any Bureau de Change. We strongly recommend that you take USD cash in small denominations for incidental purchases, tips etc.



ELECTRICITY

220/230 V. square pin adapter (same plugs as UK). It is advisable to take along an international adaptor.

MALARIA

As Zanzibar is situated in a malaria zone, it is recommended that you consult your physician on the correct preventative medication required before you travel.

WHAT TO DO IN ZANZIBAR

Whether you spend your days lazing by the pool, sipping cocktails on the beach at sunset, diving in warm waters or enjoying a Dhow cruise around small islands, your Zanzibar holiday will be a memorable experience.

- Diving
- Shopping
- Stone Town
- Excursions like The Spice Tour and Safari Blue

WHAT TO PACK

- As a guide, the maximum weight for checked luggage is 20kg in economy class.
- Your hand-luggage should not weigh more than 6kg and needs to be small and compact
- Take along your best beach and casual wear, perfect for the day
- The dress-code for dinner is usually smart casual and gents may be required to wear long trousers
- Take an umbrella or rain poncho if travelling from March to June
- When in town, men & women should have their shoulders and knees covered. Bermuda shorts and a polo shirt are perfectly fine but halter-tops and miniskirts are insulting to locals
- Sunglasses and suntan lotion are a must
- Don't forget any medication that you might need, and be sure to pack it in your hand luggage
- Chargers for all your devices (it's a good idea to take along a few movies on a tablet or something similar as the English TV channels in your hotel may be limited)
- Swimming shoes and goggles
- Mosquito repellent
- A sun hat or cap

TRAVEL TIPS

- Pack a change of clothing in your hand luggage in case of baggage delays (and a spare cozzie so at least you can have a swim when you get to your resort)
- Clothing creases less if rolled in a sausage shape when packed – so roll, don't fold
- No sharp objects are permitted in your hand luggage (yes, tweezers are sharp!)
- Travel insurance is a must. If you can't afford it, you can't afford to travel!
- Travelling with kids – please check that you have all the relevant documents including unabridged Birth Certificates
- Put electronics, medication, toothbrushes and jewellery in your carry-on bag
- It's often a good idea to let your bank or credit card company know that you're going overseas
- Be patient, be flexible, be spontaneous and have the best time ever!



DID YOU KNOW

- Due to its proximity to the Equator, Zanzibar is warm throughout the year and has equal days and nights (12-hours each)
- Zanzibar is popularly known as the Spice Islands.
- Zanzibar has the largest number of carved doors in Africa
- Freddie Mercury, lead singer of the band Queen, was born in Zanzibar in 1946. His birth name was actually Farouk Bulsara.



Joburg: 011 233 2300 | Cape Town: 021 015 0999

Joburg: First Floor, 345 Rivonia Road, Edenburg, Rivonia, 2157

Cape Town: Office 105, First Floor, The Gatehouse, Century Way, Century City, 7441

www.holidayfactory.co.za