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AFRICA | ASIA | SOUTH AMERICA | PACIFIC

TOURING  
**ZANZIBAR**



## CLASSIC ZANZIBAR TOURS

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### ABOUT ZANZIBAR

As exotic as ‘Zanzibar’ sounds, the archipelago’s former moniker of the Spice Islands sounds so wonderfully romantic, and the experience more than lives up to the title.

Comprising over 40 individual islands, most uninhabited, the main island of Unguja or Zanzibar Island offers a wide range of luxury accommodation and facilities and a diverse collection of activities and experiences.

Stone Town, on the main island, takes you on a living journey back through time, reflecting the era in which the islands were a pivotal pinpoint on the spice trade routes. In its darker past, along with dates, iron, cloth and various spices, Stone Town traded in ivory and slaves.

Today, this rich historical town still reflects the times of old, and myriad spices can be found both in their pure form at the various markets and in the cuisine.

A tropical white-sand beaches and pristine waters offer ocean lovers a magical environment to explore.

### QUICK FACTS:

- Though settled for over 20,000 years, it was in the 17th Century that Zanzibar became pivotal to Western trade
- Conservation has become integral to Zanzibar’s sustainability, & reef regeneration & turtle protection are prevalent
- On land, one can find giant tortoises along with rare creatures such as red colobus monkeys, Zanzibar servaline genet, & the possibly extinct Zanzibar leopard subspecies
- The birthplace of Queen’s Freddie Mercury is wonderfully temperate, averaging 72 °F (22°C) to 86°F (30°C) year-round
- Though beachside relaxation is its primary attraction, history, culture & nature abound

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## CLASSIC CULTURAL TOURS

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### SPICE TOUR

Spices are integral to Zanzibar's modern history, and you can explore forests and plantations on various islands. Cloves, nutmeg, cardamom cinnamon and black pepper form much of the crops, but the islands are also home to coffee plantations and much more edible and delicious flora.

In addition to viewing these working plantations, you will learn of the history of the spice trade and how it led to the establishment of the islands as an outpost for Portuguese, Dutch and English traders. Sample jack fruit, pineapple, love apple, lychee, pungent durian and many more curious and lesser-known fruits.

### ISLAND TOUR

History is ubiquitous in Zanzibar and an innate part of daily life. As you wander the streets of Zanzibar City and Stone Town (which lies within the greater city) your guide will draw your attention to historical buildings, but also the echoes of influence that remain. Islam is the prevalent religion of the islands and the ancient Kizimkazi Dimbani mosque has been standing since 1107.

Zanzibar is a complex confluence of culinary influence, with a mixture of various influences, including Bantu, Arab, Portuguese, Indian, British and even Chinese cuisine. This is reflected in the marketplaces as well as on the plate.

Finally, the tour will highlight a long-established element essential to village life: the dhow. These sailing vessels have plied the waters of the world for over two and a half millennia and are still hand-carved and constructed by hand in the traditional manner and you will visit a working dhow-making site.

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### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Discover how numerous spices - including nutmeg, cardamom & black pepper - are grown
- Sample an array of local crops, such as jack fruit, & durian & love apple
- Learn the cultural history of the 400-year-old spice trade
- See living history in the streets of Zanzibar City & Old Town
- Taste the world, with global influences incorporated into delicious local dishes
- Visit a working dhow site & watch the craftsmen construct these vessels as they have been for millennia



## CLASSIC HISTORICAL — TOURS —

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### HISTORICAL STONE TOWN TOUR

Stone Town is the historical heart of Zanzibar City, reflecting architectural influences from India, the Middle East and Portugal, some dating back well over two centuries.

The tour will explore the winding alleys of the town and many sites of interest, including Dr Livingstone's former residence, the Kidichi Baths, the Sultan's Palace Museum the Old Fort, constructed by Arabian residents to defend against the Portuguese.

### PRISON ISLAND TOUR

Despite its name, Prison or Changuu Island was never used as a detention centre, though did function as a quarantine hospital for many years. After a 30-minute trip from the main island, you can wander the ruins and discover the building's history.

But historical buildings aren't the only appeal of this exquisite little island. Snorkeling equipment will be provided for you to drift in the warm ocean and observe the life that lies beneath the waves. Sunbathe on the soft sand, take a stroll along the coastline or meet the star attraction - the giant tortoises that reside on the island. Despite being iconic residents, the tortoises aren't native, brought to the islands in the 1820s by Sultan Majid bin Said.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Visit the Anglican Church of Christ - a former slave-trading auction house
- Step back in time through quiet alleyways, fascinating markets & historical buildings
- Try myriad produce & dishes sold in the marketplaces for hundreds of years
- Visit the 200-year-old ruins used as a quarantine hospital to protect against yellow fever & other tropical diseases
- Enjoy the picturesque beaches & coastline
- Meet the endearing giant tortoises of Zanzibar

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## CLASSIC NATURE EXPERIENCES

### UNJUNGA ISLAND & JOZANI FOREST TOUR

Covering 1,000 hectares (2,470 acres), Jozani Forest lies 22 miles (35km) from the capital and is home to one of the world's rarest species - the red colobus. These charmingly friendly primates can be approached (though, of course, never touched) for wonderfully-close photographs. They share the mangrove and ground-water forest with the blue Sykes monkey and numerous bird species.

The island was once also home to several types of antelope and the Zanzibar leopard. Found exclusively on Unjunga, the Zanzibar leopard is now presumed to be extinct due to over-hunting, though footage from a camera trap in 2018 gave a glimmer of hope to the species' survival.

### DOLPHIN TOUR

The Kizimkazi Channel is renowned for its large populations of bottle-nosed dolphins and this three-hour tour will allow you to observe them playing and socializing.

For the more intrepid traveler, it is also possible to hire snorkeling equipment and swim with these fascinating and lovable marine mammals. Though participants are instructed not to approach the dolphins, they are naturally inquisitive and frequently investigate their visitors at close quarters.

Upon return to the mainland, the tour also includes a visit to a 12th-century mosque, the oldest evidence of Islam in Eastern Africa.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Get exceptionally close to one of the world's rarest creatures
  - Wander the elevated boardwalks of the lush ground-water and mangrove forests
  - Though possibly extinct, keep an eye out for evidence of the Zanzibar leopard
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- Take a cruise on the Kizimkazi Channel
  - Swim with large pods of bottle-nosed dolphins
  - See the ancient Kufic scripts carved into the walls of a 12th-century mosque

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## CLASSIC OCEAN EXPERIENCES

### DHOW CRUISES

Boarding one of Zanzibar's traditional dhows to ply the tranquil waters of the Indian Ocean is utterly enchanting. Several options are available:

Take a full day's tour of the coastline, visiting sand bars and the exquisite Minai Conservation Area, where you will have the opportunity to plunge into the crystal-clear water and snorkel over abundant reefs. A barbecue of freshly-caught local seafood, including fish and lobster, will be provided.

Alternatively, set sail at the end of your day for a wonderfully-romantic sunset cruise, enjoying light snacks and beverages in the golden light of dusk.

### MNEMBA ATOLL SNORKELING TOUR

This protected haven for marine life is simply spectacular, offering wonderful opportunities for snorkeling and diving, the pristine water offering incredible levels of visibility.

The region is abundant in marine life, and you will have the opportunity to see a wide range of fishes, invertebrates and possibly turtles and dolphins. The half-day morning tour will return you to your hotel in time for lunch.

*For all ocean tours, it is recommended that you take swimwear, a towel, hat, reef-safe sunscreen and a drybag for valuables.*

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Experience a timeless trip aboard a traditional dhow
  - Visit secluded stretches of coastline & snorkel over colorful reefs
  - Explore Mangapwani cave - a former secret hide-out for the illegal trade of slaves
  - Indulge in a wonderful barbecue lunch of freshly-caught seafood
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- Venture from the main island to the Mnemba Conservation Area
  - Swim with fishes, turtles & dolphins
  - Get a breathtaking perspective of the archipelago from an oceanic viewpoint

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