



BRIEF GENERAL INFORMATION ON ZANZIBAR

Brief History of Zanzibar

The name Zanzibar is derived from suffix *bār*: "coast" and Zangi: "bruin" (iron after rust) which is Arabic. It is a semi-autonomous part of Tanzania, in East Africa. It comprises the Zanzibar Archipelago in the Indian Ocean, 25–50 kilometres (16–31 mi) off the coast of the mainland, and consists of numerous small islands and two large ones: Unguja (the main island, informally referred to as Zanzibar), and Pemba. Arab and Portuguese traders visited the region in early times, and it was controlled by Omanis in the 18th and 19th centuries. Britain established a protectorate (1890) that became an independent sultanate in December 1963 and a republic after an uprising in January 1964. In April 1964 it joined Tanganyika to form a new republic that was renamed Tanzania in October 1964. (Frommers, 2002) The capital of Zanzibar, located on the island of Unguja, is Zanzibar City, and its historic centre, known as Stone Town, is a World Heritage Site.

Zanzibar's main industries are spices, raffia, and tourism. In particular, the islands produce cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon and pepper. For this reason, the islands, together with Tanzania's Mafia Island, are sometimes called the Spice Islands (a term also associated with the Maluku Islands in Indonesia). Zanzibar's ecology is of note for being the home of the endemic Zanzibar Red Colobus Monkey and the (possibly extinct) Zanzibar Leopard.

Geography and Climate

Zanzibar is located in the Indian Ocean, 6° south of the equator and 36 km from the Tanzanian mainland coast. It is 108 km long and 32 .km wide. with an area of 2,461 km² (950 sq mi) Zanzibar is mainly low lying, its highest point is 120 metres. It is in the UTC +3 time zone, and does not use Daylight Saving Time. Zanzibar is characterized 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. The coral reefs that surround the East Coast are rich in marine diversity.

The heat of summer is seasonally often cooled by windy conditions, resulting in 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.

Short rains can occur in November but are characterized 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 does not rain every day during that time.

Culture and Languages

Zanzibar's local people are from a mixture of ethnic backgrounds, indicative of its colourful history. Zanzibaris speak Swahili (known locally as Kiswahili), a language which is spoken extensively in East Africa. Many believe that the purest form is spoken in Zanzibar, as it is the birthplace of the language. Many locals also speak English.

Zanzibar's most famous event is the Zanzibar International Film Festival, also known as the Festival of the Dhow Countries. Every July, this event showcases the best of the Swahili Coast arts scene, including Zanzibar's favorite music, Taarab.

Important architectural features in Stone Town are the Livingstone house, The Old dispensary of Zanzibar , the Guliani Bridge, Ngome kongwe (The Old fort of Zanzibar) and the House of Wonders. The town of Kidichi features the Hamamni Persian Baths, built by immigrants from Shiraz, Iran during the reign of Barghash bin Said.

Zanzibar also is the only place in Eastern African countries to have the longest settlement houses formally known as Michenzani flats which were built by the aid from East Germany during 1970's to solve housing problems in Zanzibar.



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Government

Zanzibar has a government of national unity, with the current president of Zanzibar being Ali Mohamed Shein, since 1 November 2010. As a semi-autonomous part of Tanzania, Zanzibar has its own government, known as the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. It is made up of the Revolutionary Council and House of Representatives.

The House of Representatives has a similar composition to the National Assembly of Tanzania: There are 50 members from electoral constituencies, directly elected by universal suffrage to serve five-year terms; 10 members appointed by the President of Zanzibar; 15 special seats for women; 5 Regional commissioners; and an attorney-general. Five of these 81 members are then elected to represent Zanzibar in the National Assembly of Tanzania.

Unguja comprises three administrative regions: Zanzibar Central/South, Zanzibar North and Zanzibar Urban/West. Pemba has two: Pemba North and Pemba South.

Main crops of Zanzibar

The main crops grown in Zanzibar include, many spice species such as cloves, ginger, cardamoms, cinnamons, food crops such as rice, maize and some horticultural crops.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Language

Swahili – spoken by all locals in Zanzibar

English – Spoken by many but not **all**

Other common languages - Portugese, Spanish

Dialects

Kiswahili Sanifu Swahili Zanzibar Urban Area

Kipemba Swahili Dialects Pemba

Kitumbatu Swahili Dialects Tumbatu

Kimakunduchi Swahili Dialects Southern part of Zanzibar

Currency

Local current = Tanzania Shillings (TZS)

Exchange rate = US 1 = TZS 1550

Bereaus De Change = Available at the airport and all streets of the Stone town,

Old Towns in Zanzibar

Zanzibar Stone Town

Tumbatu

Unguja Ukuu

Towns in Pemba Island

Chake Chake Central part

Mkoani Southern part

Wete Northern part

Historic Monuments/buildings in the Stone Town

Swahili name	English name	Location/street
Biet al Ajaeb	House of Wonder	Forodhani
Kwa Mtip-tip	Tip – Tip House	Shangani
Kanisa la Minara Miwili	Two Tower Church	Shangani



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Old Dispensary Jumba la Nyenginezo	Old Dispensary Palace Museum Others	Mizingani Forodhani
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Historic Monuments in Tumbatu

Makutani Msikiti mkongwe	Makutani Ruins Old Mosque	Jongoe Jongoe
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Historic Monuments in Unguja Ukuu

Nyumba ya Mawe Kisima Kikongwe	House of Stones Old Well
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Historic Markets in the Stone Town

Soko la Darajani Soko la Watumwa	Old Market Slave Market	Darajani Mkunazini
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Historic Monuments out of the Stone Town, Zanzibar

Magofu ya Maruhubi Magofu ya Mfalme Kanisa la Mbweni Magofu ya Bihole Misikiti wa Kizimkazi Magofu ya Mwinyi Mkuu	Maruhubi Riuns Palace Ruins Christian Church Hole Ruins Old Mosque Mwinyi Mkuu Ruins	Maruhubi Mtoni Mbweni Bungi Kizimkazi Dunga
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Historic Monuments Pemba

Mkama Ndume

Zanzibar Antique

Mlango wa Zanzibar Kofia ya Kiuwa	Zanzibar Door Zanzibar Muslim hat
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Zanzibar Caves

Mwana wa Mwana
Mwana Mize
Kisima cha chini kwa chini
Kiwengwa Caves

Forestry attractions

Msitu wa Kiwengwa Msitu wa Jozani Msitu wa Ngezi Msitu wa Vuma Wimbi	Kiwengwa Forestry Jozani Forestry Ngezi Forestry Vuma wimbi Forestry	Zanzibar Zanzibar Pemba Pemba
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Water Streams

Mto Mwanakombo Mto Mawe Mto Mwera Gae la Mtungi Giriama Mangwena Dodeani Tibirinzi	Zanzibar Zanzibar Zanzibar Pemba Pemba Pemba Pemba Pemba
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Endanger Animals

Kima Punju	Red Colobus	Zanzibar
Chui wa Zanzibar	Zanzibar Leopard	Zanzibar
Popo wa Pemba Pembas	Pemba	

Zanzibar Culture

Mitaa/Vijiji vya Waswahili	Swahili Wards and Villages
Nyumba za Waswahili	Swahili Houses
Vyakula vya Kiwahili	Swahili Foods
Vazi la Waswahili	Swahili custom dressing
Vifaa vya Waswahili	Swahili crafts and utilities
Nyimbo na Ngoma za Kiswahili	Swahili Songs and Drums

Zanzibar Peoples

Wazanzibari (Waswahili)	Zanzibar People
Prefix "Wa" and the location say "Wapemba" = People from Pemba	
Wamakuduchi	= People from Makunduchi
Wamatemwe	= People from Matemwe

The SPICE WORLD

Zanzibar as Spice Islands, has among others, the following famous spices which are used as Medicine, Food, Decorative, Mosquito repellent, Air Freshner and Attractants:

Swahili name	English name
Karafuu	Cloves
Hiliki	Cardamoms
Mdaldasini	Cinnamons
Vanilla	Vanilla
Kungu manga	Nutmegs
Pilipili manga	Black Peppers
Tangawizi	Ginger
Ukwaju	Tamarind
Manjano	Turmeric
Mchaichai	Lemon grasses
Muolspisi	Allspice

Welcome to Zanzibar, Tanzania – The home of spices