

The Fumba Times

FROM ZANZIBAR TO THE WORLD – THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL

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Only 20 minutes from the airport and Stone Town: Newly-built suburb Fumba Town is filling up with life

TEST THE GREEN LIFE!

New sea-view apartments and houses ready to rent in eco city Fumba Town

Ready to move? The spectrum of rental space in Zanzibar increased substantially overnight with the new satellite town of Fumba opening up.

Immaculate living spaces embedded in well-kept tropical gardens, clean water from the tap. High-speed glass fibre internet, top-notch safety for you and your family. Zanzibar, notoriously short of decent apartments and houses - especially at affordable rates - has a new dream-community on the doorstep of Zanzibar City.

Recently the first two of an initial 11 shining white apartment blocks have been completed, with the rest being finished over the coming weeks and months. Each of the four-storey blocks contains 16 to 24 apartments - from modern studios to small two and three bedroom units. Rents start at TZS 275,000 (\$120), see box.

Also available for rent are a good number of spacious townhouses of two to six bedrooms with comfy amenities such as window shutters, cosy front porches and modern tiled, state-of-the-art bathrooms.

"Imagine to come home to a clean, welcoming environment with 24/7 service of water, electricity and top security in a lovely, cosmopolitan neighbourhood where your children can play safely, you can completely unwind - and even the corridors are being cleaned for you", says Sebastian Dietzold, who founded and developed

Fumba Town with his wife Katrin. "According to our real estate research there is no better value for money anywhere in Zanzibar", adds Tobias Dietzold. The two brothers - both engineers - are turning Fumba Town from a vision into reality supported by a team of local and international planners and builders.

"Tenants have zero hidden costs" such as for watchmen or gardeners, assures Tobias Dietzold. And a further advantage: If the owner agrees, rent is paid monthly and not months in advance as it is often the case in Zanzibar.

In has been unusually busy in the serene seafront community over the last weeks with pick-ups bringing in furniture, happy new house owners receiving their keys and potential investors coming to view properties. "From the placing of sockets to bedside lamps, every detail requires a thoughtful process", said designer Katrine Riekstina when showing new owners around.

All property is individually owned by private owners but managed by a town management on site. Situated on the shores of the Indian Ocean on the Fumba peninsula, only 15 to 20 minutes drive away from the airport and the capital, the Fumba Town development is a model town for Africa in terms of infrastructure, permaculture principles and innovative building methods.

Some of its rental units are fully furnished, some partly furnished and some may be rented empty to allow for individual styling and decoration. All kitchens have basic shelving and worktops.

When it comes to modern living, Fumba with its green eco-landscaping, climate-friendly buildings, a daily waste collection and 94 per cent waste

recycling is setting new standards. "It is a cosmopolitan community thriving in the equally multicultural society of Zanzibar", says Sebastian Dietzold. Among the owners of Fumba homes from more than 50 nations are African football stars playing for British teams, Zanzibar-born Omanis, Europeans as well as Tanzanian nationals. Some of them are already or will be living in Fumba themselves, others are renting out. "It's a mix-and-match situation", town manager Kristian Bollmann explains.

"A vibrant, eco-friendly community"

Manager Kristian Bollmann

"Some owners offer short-term rentals, some prefer to let long-term. We are flexible and can accommodate almost any personal preference."

The project stretches over 1.5 kilometres and 150 acres along the western

seafront of Fumba with "stunning sunsets guaranteed", as building engineer Akif El-Mauly puts it.

Fumba Town construction started in 2016. By now, more than 500 residences have been sold and are being built, making it the fastest-growing urban scheme in Tanzania. Eventually the new town will accommodate over 3000 units, from small apartments to fancy three-storey villas, from maisonettes with a common pool designed for young families ("Moyoni Homes") to a number of trendy beach duplexes. A commercial centre with an international-brand supermarket, shops and other amenities is due to open this year. A kindergarten is already in place, an international school in planning, as are bus shuttle services to town. "Fumba Town is for everybody, a mixture of low-cost and upmarket private homes", sums up CEO Sebastian Dietzold.

HOW MUCH IS THE RENT?

Apartments:		
Studio	21 sqm	\$120-180
1 bedroom	40-42 sqm	\$210-300
2 bedroom	49-50 sqm	\$250-350
Townhouses:		
2-3 bedroom	87-123 sqm	\$300-550
3-6 bedroom		
Grand	184-223sqm	\$600-850
3-5 bedroom		
Two-storey	168-178sqm	\$600-800
Inquiries: www.fumba.town/ +255 778 331 144		
Approximate rental prices, unfurnished & furnished, depend on house features such as AC and are subject to change.		



Friendly takeover: New owner moving in, assisted by the town management

HOLLYWOOD STARS IN TOWN

Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones in Zanzibar



Hollywood calling: Michael Douglas, Catherine Zeta-Jones and their son Dylan enjoyed Zanzibar with guide Rehani of Madeira Tours & Safaris

Discreetly they landed on the island, "impressed" they left after a three-day visit: Hollywood icons Michael Douglas, his wife Catherine Zeta-Jones and their two teenage kids.

The family was on a round-trip in Africa, arriving from Pemba in Mozambique, organised by Madeira Tours & Safaris. The top Hollywood stars came on a private charter and stayed at the Park Hyatt hotel in Stone Town. "We enjoyed the culture of Stone Town with its narrow streets and historic buildings", actress Zeta-Jones, 50, remarked after a tour arranged by travel agency veteran Tony Madeira. Looking glamorous as always, the Oscar-winning actress wore a white jeans with a colourful tunic.



Friends with celebrity: Tony Madeira (right) with Michael Douglas

Michael Douglas, 75, a two time Oscar winner and star of Wall Street, is not the first American VIP brought to Zanzibar by Tony Madeira. The tour operator also organised trips for ex-president Bill Clinton to Zanzibar.

INFRASTRUCTURE THE BIG FIVE

The biggest infrastructure projects currently undertaken in East Africa are done by Tanzania. Here the region's first five most valuable projects, according to financial analysts Deloitte in 2019.

- 1 Tanzania, Likong'o-Mchinga liquefied natural gas plant, value: \$30 billion
- 2 Tanzania, Bagamoyo mega port, value: \$10 billion
- 3 Kenya: Kenya-Uganda-Rwanda-South Sudan rail project, \$9.8 billion
- 4 Ethiopia: Ethiopian Renaissance dam, value: \$4.8 billion
- 5 Ethiopia: Tams hydropower project, value: \$4.2 billion

Tanzania has caught up with Kenya in terms of infrastructure projects, both recording 51 projects in 2019. Other mega projects in the pipeline are the Nairobi-Mombasa highway expansion and the new Addis Abeba international airport.

EMBRACING RAMADAN

The holiest month of the Islamic calendar falls into the timespan when this issue of THE FUMBA TIMES is on the market. Depending on the sighting of the moon, Ramadan will take place around 24 April - 23 May this year. To give you an understanding of this special time for Muslims, enjoy our articles on page 4, 5 and 7, and read what individuals think under #My Ramadan.

#MY RAMADAN "TIME TO LET GO"



Aiysha Mohammed, 30, female tour guide in Zanzibar

"Ramadan is a time to let go. I wash off my old fears. I cleanse my body. All the toxics go away. I renew myself. Even when working I always fast. I never stop because I am working."

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Urban scenarios: Fumba Town's masterplan shows how the new city on the seaside in Zanzibar is planned and laid out. Meanwhile the skyline of Dar es Salaam (photo right) is rocketing



THE FUTURE OF LIVING IN AFRICA

Housing prices, value for money, Africa's middle class – an expert speaks out

Megacities, a huge demand for living space coupled with a shocking lack of urban planning: How will living and housing unfold in the years to come in Zanzibar, Tanzania and Africa as a whole? FUMBA TIMES speaks exclusively to banking and real estate expert Heri Bomani in Dar es Salaam.

chaotic. Historically Dar has been considered a haven of opportunity, but such a population growth cannot be sustained even by a much improved infrastructure. Tanzania has a long coastline, vast natural resources, and rich arable land; new economic zones will emerge that will create various centres of gravity. Dodoma is already an example. Arusha with its mild climate is on the rise. On account of oil and gas finds regions such as Mtwara and Lindi will also come to the fore.

And Zanzibar?

I am pleasantly surprised by the progress of Zanzibar. Tourism numbers have doubled in the last five years and will easily double again to one million visitors per year. Together with oil and gas discoveries this brings a lot of economic opportunities, leaving Zanzibar on a strong footing for rapid economic growth. That's why building projects such as the eco-city of Fumba Town are viable – and utterly needed, especially as they open up a part of the island which has seen limited investments despite close proximity to Stone Town in the past.



Visions for the future: Heri Bomani talks to chief editor Andrea Tapper of THE FUMBA TIMES in Dar es Salaam

What is Zanzibar's allure?

The island is East Africa's only natural getaway destination with a rich and unrivalled heritage not found in other islands along the eastern seaboard of the continent. An ideal place for holiday home investments by East Africans who live only few hours of flight away.

Zanzibar also needs to accommodate a fast growing local population. Who can afford a house nowadays?

Statistically, with an average per capita

"A decent house must not cost more than \$50,000"

income of \$1,090 in Tanzania, very few people. That's why most people in Dar es Salaam rent, or build from cashflow over many years.

Demand and supply seem to be unbalanced.

Very much so. There is too little and inadequate supply of housing. Buildings often have poor quality, are wrongly

located, and priced at a level that consumers can't afford. Most developers in Africa do not build efficiently or with scale to bring costs down. A bedroom of 9sqm is normal in Europe. Consumers in Tanzania are supplied with homes on average 50-80 per cent bigger than required for comfortable living.

In Fumba, the smallest studio apartment costs less than \$19,000.

That's why we consider Fumba one of the most well-structured building projects in the country.

What is the cheapest house possible, in Tanzania?

A decent quality house can be built between \$400-600 per sqm. But retail prices in Tanzania now average double of that. The challenge are developments of scale, a developer building 1,000 homes in one location complete with a decent infrastructure. The buildings should not be too high, we are not in Shanghai. Tanzanian buyers prefer to live privately within their own boundary and with space for amenities.

Your definition of affordable housing?

\$20,000 - \$50,000 for a flat or house with up to 3 bedrooms. But we need many more 1- and 2-bedroom units.

How do I know if costs and value match?

Many people may feel uncomfortable with current economic strategies in Tanzania. However, the government's approach has stabilised the market towards reality, for instance in land prices, removing a lot of speculative elements. What we need is a bolt of confidence.

Is the growing African middle class a myth or reality?

I would say more a reality rather than a myth. It is growing, and consumers are becoming more sophisticated.

Another challenge are huge mortgage rates in Africa, compared to only 3 per cent and less in Europe. It's an entirely different market. Here, in Africa, I would consider an interest rate of 10 per cent or lower as affordable; current rates in local currency are

however averaging nearer 20 per cent. If developers are able to offer units at half of the current costs and banks cut borrowing rates by half housing will become 100 per cent cheaper. Another way to go would be policy interventions on VAT for homes, infrastructure rebates from taxes, or infrastructure contribution by the State.

What were the biggest mistakes in urban planning in Dar and elsewhere?

Many. People are still allowed to build in flood-prone areas. Waste management is poor with significant amounts of waste dumped into the ocean without treatment.

The old African malaise. Where is the way out?

More infrastructure! And actually, infrastructure and compliance are hallmarks of the current government.

Give us an example.

The Dar rapid bus system (BRT) is the first to be rolled out in East Africa. You can see a bus stop just outside the ferry port when coming from Zanzibar. The first phase of BRT covers 25 kilometres from Kimara to the Central Business District, transporting 400,000 people daily. Traffic has been significantly reduced and residential developments are springing up along the corridor.

Heri Bomani, 48, has worked 15 years in banking, as Managing Director of the Tanzanian arm of Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), and Retail Director at Standard Chartered Bank. He now operates a financial services and real estate focused group under the brand Pangani Group.

MIDDLE CLASS OF COKE AND CHIPS?



New trend: Shop till you drop

Africa is said to have the fastest growing middle class in the world, but what exactly is it?

Some define the African middle class by income, others by spending.

- Some 330 million people, a good third of Africa's population, are considered middle class, a 100 per cent rise in less than 20 years
- A middle class person has a yearly income exceeding \$3,900, says the African Development Bank – or can spend \$2 - 20 per day after having paid for utilities

The largest middle class exists in Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa, Algeria and Morocco, Tanzania comes with almost 10% on 9th position. The pitfall of using income to define middle class: It leaves no room for income fluctuations and emergencies. Therefore now more often "shifts in consuming and spending trends" are used as an indicator of middle class. That's where coke and chips, fast food and supermarket goods enter the picture. This consumer lifestyle, however, comes at a heavy cost - increasing poor nutrition and obesity, not to talk of plastic waste, says McKinsey Global.

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EXCLUSIVE WATER REPORT

"I WILL BRING CLEAN WATER TO EVERYONE IN ZANZIBAR"

- 60% FRESH WATER LOSS THROUGH BAD PIPES
- SEWAGE WATER RUNNING DIRECTLY INTO THE SEA
- TOURISTS USING 690 LITRES OF WATER PER DAY, LOCALS 140 LITRES OR LESS

Where does Zanzibar's drinking water come from? How does the water system work – or not work? Why not clean water from the tap? ZAWA boss Mussa Haji shuns no question.

Inhabitants of Michenzani noted it first: The water is back. Having suffered under water shortages for years, they sighed in relief when their pipes were suddenly overhauled, leakages fixed and fresh water pumped with sufficient pressure to reach even the sixth floor of the buildings. "The infrastructure was there", Mussa Ramadhan Haji, director general of Zanzibar Water Authority (ZAWA) comments, "but no good management", a problem often cited for water problems in Africa. "The water supply has now certainly improved", says Rehema Nassor, a secretary living in block C of the complex. "Before, we endured water shortages for more than three years."

Compared to other African countries, Zanzibar is doing quite well", says director Haji, who took over the semi-autonomous water authority in 2018. "Half of the population has access to piped fresh water. No woman has to walk more than five kilometres to a water source." Critics, however, say that Zanzibar, with more than 400 hotels and half a million tourists annually, should long since have established a comprehensive and nationwide fresh water supply – and a functioning, eco-friendly waste water treatment system.

Sewage pipes straight into the ocean

For now, fresh water supply and waste water (as well as storm water) are separated in Zanzibar, with the latter falling under the authority of the municipality. According to Mussa Haji considerations are underway to bring both under ZAWA's roof. "In the end, sewage water is a resource going back to the land and the sea", the 46-year-old says. Environmentalists could not agree more: "Zanzibar is in urgent need of a comprehensive waste water treatment programme", says Fumba landscaping director Franko Goelche, "Dirty household or grey water, as it is also called, should be filtered and used for irrigation, rainwater should be collected. One can save a lot of water by reusing water", the expert explains.

Bacteria in front of Stone Town Today, at least nine sewage pipes go straight into the ocean in front of the capital of Zanzibar. "Many hotels are no different and release their dirt water into the sea", claims ZAWA boss Haji. Scif Miskry, however, chairman of the Zanzibar Association of Tourism Investors (ZATI), warns against "generalisations": "While it is true that there is a huge lack of water treatment plants in Zanzibar, private as well as public, most beach hotels use septic tanks and soakings to filter waste water before letting it go into the sea."

When organisers of the international TV show "Amazing race" wanted to film an episode in Zanzibar they conducted water tests and found the shore water at Fordhani so full of bacteria that they moved elsewhere. "It's a shaming story for Zanzibar", water director Haji concedes.

Where does Zanzibar's water come from?

"Our coral island has no lake, no ponds, no river", explains the ZAWA boss of 540 staff, who completed his Master's degree in development studies and water utility management in Tokyo. All fresh water is derived from wells or boreholes. Areas in Mioni and Bububu contain the largest fresh water springs. "We will protect these areas better", Haji promises.

including leaking pipes, deterioration of catchment areas and salination of spring water. "As it stand we loose around 60 per cent of fresh water through bad piping", Haji admits.

Zanzibar's water is also hard. The problems many households are facing with rust and corrosion of bathroom taps and kitchen sinks, however, stem more from salinity – the salt-content in water – than from the calcium and mineral-content, expert Haji explains.

Needed: 200 million litres fresh water daily

How thirsty is Zanzibar? Haji takes out his calculator and has the figures ready. "227,586,120 litres of fresh water are needed every day." But of these 227 million litres, based on a rapidly growing population of currently 1.6 million people and an estimated consumption of roughly 140 litres per person, only about 180 million litres are actually being produced – an undersupply of 20 per cent.

Hotels are the biggest swallowers. Various tourism organisations cite "690 litres per day and tourist" including irrigation of gardens and pool water in resorts; the German organisation "Tourism Watch" even talks of a consume of 2425 litres per tourist per day. In Zanzibar the scenario is often this: Hotels or other developers

"We will move from town to rural areas. In two years there will be 24/7 fresh water for everybody in Zanzibar. We leave nobody behind."

ZAWA Director General Mussa Haji

es, "to avoid that groundwater levels falls further." Until 1964 the two springs were serving the whole of Stone Town; since then 174 additional boreholes have been drilled in Unguja and 130 in Pemba. Coming from the underground "most of the water is safe to drink", Mussa Haji maintains, "contamination sets in later through pipe leakages, rust, dirt and interrupted pumping." The water scarcity in Zanzibar is attributed to continuous dilapidation of the water infrastructure

sucking so much water from private boreholes and water caves that community wells nearby run dry or become salinated (see box "Caring for the community"). "When sweet water reduces, salty sea water comes up", Haji explains. Especially in Nungwi, known for its dream beaches and 5-star-hotels, and along the east coast in Kiwengwa and Michamvi many village wells have become salinated and practically useless. While some experts favour desalination

projects for Zanzibar, especially for hotels, others are sceptical: "Sustainable management of natural resources is better than just high-tech solutions", says landscaper Franko Goelche.

Tanked water no solution

Seif Miskry of tourism body ZATI is noting with concern that "poor infrastructure forces many hotels to bring in sweet water by tank lorries". But some hotels may have also learnt some tricks, water director Haji argues. In Zanzibar the highest consumers pay the highest price for water. Water tariffs range between TZS 1,000 and 7,000 per cubic metre. Rather than using the (more costly) public supply, some hotels, even a five-star in town, closed the valves and shifted to cheaper port water.

What next?

Water director Haji has embarked on Zanzibar's biggest-ever water rehabilitation programme.

He was instrumental in raising around \$127 million from India, Japan, China and the African Development Bank to be literally pumped into the overhaul of Zanzibar's water supply. 35 million US dollars of the funding will be spent on a new treatment plant for sewage water, a bilateral project with India. Among the projects, already completed, or planned until 2022:

- 75 kilometres of underground piping recently renewed in Stone Town, the first overhaul since 1923
- two new water tanks erected along Nyerere Road in Kilimani and on Malawi Road in Saateni
- installation of 65,000 water metres
- rural supply lines including to the Fumba peninsula

If this sounds like a massive programme, it is. Haji says: "Little by little we shall progress, starting in town, then moving to rural areas. Will leave nobody behind." Once the new supply lines are fully integrated, an obscure Zanzibar specialty will not only become obsolete but forbidden, says Haji – the above-ground, privately installed water pipes, perilously hanging in bundles from deteriorating buildings, often close to electricity cables. "Those water pipes are unique in the world", the water director remarked with a laugh, "one of the wonders of Stone Town."

The challenge: paying for water

"The challenge still is to convince citizens to pay for water", the ZAWA director recognises. Water was long considered a free utility in Zanzibar – first under the sultans and later under the communist regime. ZAWA was formed in 2006; two years later the authority started demanding payments. Private households in Zanzibar currently pay between TZS 4,000 and 30,000 (\$2 - 13) for water per month. A quarter of households and companies have been issued water meters. Households without mostly just pay the minimum fee. "Water is a free resource but the service needed to deliver it to your house must be paid for," the director says. (A. Tapper)



Safe water for Stone Town: ZAWA director general Mussa Haji in front of the new tank in Saateni inaugurated by Zanzibar's President Hon Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein on 6 January. The large reservoir holds two million litres of water, the biggest installation of its kind in East Africa

CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY

When Fumba Town installed a new water system, a nearby village profited, too. Fumba prides itself of dumping zero sewage into the ocean.

Fumba Town has its own fresh water system and the man behind it is Baruti Kutua. "Our water is ph-neutral, bacteria-free, non-salty", he says. From scratch, or rather from coral ground to tap and back, he designed and executed the fresh water supply as well as the wastewater recycling in the growing eco-community on the Fumba peninsula. "You can actually drink the water as it comes from our taps", assures the 40-year-old civil engineer from Zanzibar, who studied and worked with large housing projects in Botswana and Lesotho.

In Fumba, the water system is growing with the town. For now, two boreholes and a number of tanks secure 24/7 supply. "When we noticed, that our borehole affected the level of ground water in the nearby village of Dintani, we immediately took action", the engineer says. Now the village with a couple of hundred inhabitants profits from

a new water tank and stable supply. For waste water, or grey water as it is sometimes called, the green town of Fumba aims at a 100 per cent recycling system with all sewage water being reused for irrigation, farming or other purposes. The grey-water network runs underground between houses into septic tanks and so-called soakaways for natural filtration. Eventually, an ecological waste water treatment plant will filter and recycle all used water. Kutua: "Even today we guarantee, no sewage water from Fumba is ever dumped uncleaned into the ocean."



Securing fresh water: Fumba Town engineer Baruti Kutua

MIND MY BUSINESS LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

THE CUSHION CONNECTION

The "Sasik look" has made it to Europe and America, as well as decorating countless local homes and hotels in Zanzibar.

Behind the beautifully hand-crafted cushion covers and wall hangings stands Zanzibar's oldest women co-operative. Gently led and managed by Aida Abdallah Suleiman, a well-known woman personality in Zanzibar, 43 women and their families benefit from Sasik, some of them crafting the colourful home decoration items from home, others right in the airy workshop-cum-shop on Gizenga St. What they do amounts to a modern women's start-up, albeit based in tradition.

It was Aida's mother Saada who created the very first appliqué pillow cover in 1993. "It took her months to do it", remembers Aida, all the while pressured and supported by the late entrepreneur Emerson Skeens, who urgently wanted some exotic seats for his rooftop restaurant still in place at the "Emerson on Hurumzi" hotel.

Little did the women of Sasik know that they were not only inventing a fashion but that celebrities such as Johnny Depp would soon come to rest on their comfy-casual invention. Abstract oriental style defines the cushions which come in different sizes: "We use traditional Arabic, Swahili and Bedouin patterns as well as architectural details of Stone Town", explains Aida. The ornaments, including bright Indian Mandala patterns, are hand-stitched. All prices at Sasik are fixed, starting at \$13 for as cushion, with a third of the

income going straight to the women, the remaining into running costs. Customised patterns and sizes are also possible. "It's not a huge income for the women", Aida says, but "enough to improve their standard of living and to educate their children." Sasik, directly and indirectly, feeds 300 family members.

"Sasik is more than a shop, it's a safe place for women of all ages to work, meet, talk, bring their children. We are like family", Aida says. The 47-year-old is also a yoga teacher and highly respected women's leader in Zanzibar; "definitely divorced twice", as she puts it, with a 22-year-old son, it's her dream to create a holistic wellness centre for women of all nationalities in Zanzibar with nutrition tips, yoga and spiritual teaching. The colourful Sasik pillows, if you ask Aida, are merely the beginning.



Meditative stitching: Handmade Sasik pillows are a bestseller in Zanzibar. Aida Suleiman runs the women co-operative



Sasik Gizenga Street, near Maru-Marua Hotel, Stone Town Opening hours: seven days a week, ca. 9:00 - 17:00 +255 773 132 100

7 STEPS TO OWNING A HOUSE

Fumba's buying scheme for everybody

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- 2 Decide**
What are your needs? What can you afford? Small studios starting at \$19,900; 3 bedroom houses from \$69,900
- 3 Reserve**
Pay a refundable reservation fee while sales documents are being prepared
- 4 Sign your contract**
to seal the deal, pay first instalment of 20%
- 5 Pay in instalments**, 5 in total, along with construction over a period of max 30 months
- 6 Handover**
Collect the keys, pay last instalment of 20% and get 99-year title deed

7 Sit back and enjoy the sea breeze in your beautiful new home in Zanzibar

WELCOME NOTE
THE BEAUTY OF DIVERSITY



Andrea Tapper
Editor-in-chief,
THE FUMBA TIMES

The question I am most often asked: Who is Fumba Town made for? Who is going to live there? Translated it means: Tourists or Zanzibari? Wazungu or locals? Rich or not-so-rich? Well, none and all of it.

Anyone is welcome in Fumba. In fact, people from 50 nations have already bought or rented units in the growing eco town just outside Zanzibar city. Given Zanzibar's history, many buyers hail from Oman wanting to reunite with their homeland. Others come from Dubai or England. And there are also many citizens from Zanzibar and Tanzania investing in Fumba Town. Some want to retire here, others to start a family. Even a third-generation Zanzibari from China is our new neighbour, on page 4 we have interviewed him.

All these individuals have one thing in common: a love for Zanzibar and a

love for diversity. As the town is filling up with life, even the trees in Fumba reflect diversity – palm trees acting as windbreakers along the sea front, mango and jasmine trees in the back gifting us their valuable bounty of fruits, scents and shadow. As Bernadette Kirsch, chief landscaper, one day beautifully explained to me: "Diversity brings stability."

With this in mind, and true to the cosmopolitan spirit of Zanzibar, we created this new issue for you, dear reader.

We embrace Ramadan, which falls into our publication timespan, on page 4, 5 and 7. We look to the future with an inspiring urban expert on page 2. On the lighter side, I discovered ultra-trendy, locally made furniture for you on page 6 – adding that wow-factor to your new home in Fumba. Enjoy the beauty of diversity. Keep reading THE FUMBA TIMES.

GUEST COMMENT
GIRLS FOR GUIDES!



Jane Flood,
tourism consultant and tour guide teacher, ran "Maputo a Pe", a tour agency in Mozambique, before coming to Zanzibar where she now volunteers at Kawa training center

This local girl deserves a great career in tourism

I love walking urban spaces! Apart from occasionally finding myself back where I started, it has been a joy and never more so than when in the company of someone who knows and loves the city. Nothing beats getting the proper "low down" from a well-trained local guide however much googling you have done in prep for your adventure. What really encourages me here in Stone Town is the increasing number of young women who have chosen to become guides.

I met up with one such spectacular young woman recently and toured the city with her. Saidja just glows with health and competence; she doesn't go for sparkly bits on her Buibui, she is in a single dark colour from head to toe looking professional and smart. 27 years old, she was waiting for a call from her clients – four American women – to drop them back to their hotel. They had specifically asked for a female guide.

What then is Saidja's story? Born into a trader's family, Saidja Malik did her secondary school and when she turned 18, she knew "I wanted to work in tourism but neither as a waitress nor a room maid." Then she heard about Kawa training center, a well-known NGO institution with tailor-made courses for all aspects of the industry, and signed up. She decided she had better tell her father, when she had already been attending Kawa for six months. Such seem to be the misgivings of some parents to

encourage their daughters to go into the hospitality industry.

Top of her bucket list, Saidja says, is to get her Padi diving certificate; as the eldest of five siblings she knows what she wants. Back in 2017 she couldn't even swim but happily jumped off a boat to try her first snorkel.

In my experience, what sets young women apart from male guides is their maturity and ability to talk about the entire local culture whereas young men often think in boxes, talking about history, architecture or more specialised even, the famous doos of Zanzibar, but rarely the whole society. Young women break social norms and become role models just by making themselves visible and participating in tourism.

Encouraging girls to train as guides is something Suzanne Degeling, founder and director of Kawa training center, is committed to. "They are the ones putting the money into their studies and contributing to their family's income." Her non-profit center trains about 170 students annually in English, French, hospitality, tour guide and computer courses. This year, the well-respected institution celebrates its 10th anniversary.

As I'm off again on my walk with Saidja she points out the historic blue enamel street numbers in Stone Town, hardly noticed by most, I think to myself: This young woman is neither short of ideas nor drive and certainly deserves a great career in tourism.

Kawa training center: www.kawatrainingcenter.com
Tour guide Saidja Malik, What'sApp +255 655 279 341

CARTOON



by Danny Shanahan/The New Yorker Collection/The Cartoon Bank

"Would it kill you to combast?"

THE MEANING OF RAMADAN

By Staff Writer

Everything you need to know about the highlight of the Islamic calendar - coming up end-April to end-May.



PHOTO: ISTOCK

Sweet delights: dates and tea during Ramadan in respect in the evening meal

Often visitors to Zanzibar wonder if Ramadan (also: Ramadhan), the holiest time of the year for Muslims around the world, is the right time to visit the island. Holidaymakers need not worry: While it is true, that the mood during this time somewhat changes to a more quiet and meditative state, everyone's welcome to join in. In fact, it can be an especially enlightening time and tourists are encouraged to learn more about its meanings and customs.

Can I visit Zanzibar during Ramadan?

So the answer is a clear "Yes". The pole pole ("slow slow") archipelago may be even more pole, making it the perfect time to kick back and relax. While respecting the day-time fasting mode, most hotels and restaurants do offer food and beverage throughout, albeit a bit away from the public eye. In the evening they pull out all the stops for Iftar, the fast-breaking meal, with opulent local traditional and Arabesque menus. Serena Hotel for instance, a classic 5-star located in the capital city of Stone Town, is known for its wide range of exceptional Ramadan meals. Assistant Manager Ayoub Msoffe says, in 2020 diners can expect "coastal to Arabic, Swahili and Indian to African specialties all of which are delicious and healthy." Anyone is welcome to join. Remember to ask your selected hotel or resort, too, about their Ramadan offerings when booking.

What is Ramadan?

The ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar is considered the holiest time of the year by Muslims, in terms of festivities and spiritual thoughts, and perhaps comparable to Christmas or Eastern time in the Christian faith.

The actuals dates of Ramadan vary annually on the Gregorian calendar and depend on the sighting of the moon. This year Ramadan will occur around 24 April - 23 May. It is believed, that Prophet Mohammed revealed the opening verses of the Holy Quran at this time. The Muslim community marks this pivotal moment with self-restraint and devotion through faith (shahadah), prayer (salah), charity (zakat), fasting (sawm) and pilgrimage (hajj). These are the 5 pillars of Islam. While everyone may have his personal approach to it (see testimonials #My Ramadan) the essence of Ramadan is often defined as "self-restraint, empathy and generosity", as Omari Hamis, a Zanzibar teacher, puts it. Eid al Fitr ("Festival of Breaking the Fast") marks the end of the holy month with festivities and presents.

What do people do during Ramadan?

Islamic culture and hospitality are at their peak during the holy month. It is a month of mercy where noble intentions are believed to bring greater reward. Business is expected to slow down as the focus shifts to a more spiritual and family oriented state. After the sun goes down, family and friends come together for the breaking of the fast, or Iftar. Iftar begins at dusk and may continue into late hours, with a delectable array of foods to choose from, non-alcoholic drinks, coffee and

tea. Suhur is offered just before sunrise, before the day of fasting begins. During the fasting hours no food, no drinks including water and no cigarettes are consumed. "You get used to it", says guide Aiysha Mohammed, who works her normal hours during Ramadan.

Do's and Don'ts of Ramadan

Ready to immerse yourself in a new cultural experience? Here some basic rules of general etiquette in public spaces during the time of Ramadan:

- ✗ DON'T Eat in Public
In respect to those fasting don't eat or drink in front of them. Most hotels will have sections where one can eat away from those fasting.
- ✓ DO Be Charitable
Be generous to those less fortunate, donate what you can, food, clothes or money to individuals and charitable organisations.
- ✗ DON'T Smoke in Public
Smoking in public is not allowed for believers during the holy month, and may also be a good time to quit.
- ✓ DO Exchange Ramadan Greetings
Use the custom greeting "Ramadan Kareem" when meeting Muslims, and for Eid celebrations, "Eid Mubarak".

PLEASANT SURPRISE

What a pleasant surprise when we opened our mailbox in Switzerland to find the latest issue of your newspaper delivered to our doorstep!! Thank you for keeping us informed and updated. We can't wait to move into our house in Fumba.
Swiss investor from Zurich

CORRECTION

Erroneously it was stated in the guest comment of Bi Mariam Hamdani (THE FUMBA TIMES No.2) that she was born in Fumba. Fact is, she was born in Mkunazini but knows Fumba since her early childhood. We apologise.
the editor

#MY RAMADAN

"TIME TO FOCUS"



Faridi Hamid,
historian and
journalist

"Ramadan is a healthy time. I realise I can concentrate and focus much better. The focus is on the inside. Visitors ask, how can you go on without drinking water all day. The answer is: I don't feel it. I am used to it."

DRESS TO IMPRESS

From traditional buibui to trendy abayas – there are new twists to cultural gowns

Before black, there was colour. At least that's what cultural expert Faridi Hamid says about buibuis.

Colourful scarfs called kitambi, in thick, intricately woven material, were worn by Swahili women (and men) long before the Portuguese arrived at the shores of Zanzibar in 1503". Zanzibari historian Faridi Hamid says.

Writing about traditional dresses, no matter in which culture, from Christian to Greek orthodox, from Roman togas to folk costumes like Scottish kilts, one is entering a minefield - so many rules to follow, details to adhere to, each and every one with a distinct meaning. For those who wear the attire it is much more than just a dress: a testimony of faith, a way of life.

And yet, even the buibui, the traditional black Swahili overdress, has come a long way from the days when Bibi Sayyida Matuka bint Hamud, wife of long-time sultan Sayyid Khalifa II bin Harub proudly wore it to receive her royal highness, Princess Margaret from England, on her first ever visit to Zanzibar in 1956.

While women have put on their buibuis and men their airy, long-sleeved kanzu (see box on this page) along the East African Swahili coast for generations, it doesn't mean they are immune to fashion. Nowadays, flashes of colours, patterns, embroidery and evenbling effects with sequins are playfully added to buibui styles. And there is a differentiation of terms: Abayas, as the Arabian counterparts are called, are kaffan-like long dresses. The modern buibuis are like open coats with a matching headpiece or scarf and always worn on top of other dresses - not rarely a flashing mini, or tight jeans and tops.

The holy month of Ramadan "is a good time for ladies to showcase your dress sense since we have so many get-togethers", says Aida Busaidy, a tourism manager from Dubai.

Comeback of old styles?

The specific cutting pattern of buibuis has evolved over the years. "I would like to create some original buibui styles again" says contemporary fashion designer Amina Bilal Pira, who runs a popular boutique in the middle of Stone Town on Gizenga Street. It's not an easy cut for dressmakers though, with the skirt-like lower part and the veil sewn together. The veil can be put back over the head or let down over the face. But as one can see from historic photos, the traditional buibui was not a complete "cover up" but often exposed the dress worn underneath and the décolleté as in Bibi bint Hamud's photos (see far right).

How did it all start? "With ever more waves of traders from Yemen, Arabia, India and Portugal coming to Zanzibar, the new immigrants brought dress codes and veil styles with them, gently flooding the island", Faridi Hamid says.

The Portuguese brought materials later called lesos in Swahili from which the colourful kanga evolved, a pareo-like wrap-around always sold in

pairs and often worn by rural Swahili women instead of a buibui. "The scarf or veil itself, however," Himid stresses, "is not a Muslim invention. Even in Christianity, on historic paintings or in photos of the last one or two generations, one can see women wearing head scarfs, often in lace or white material." Certainly, many Western women recall their grandmothers wearing head scarfs in church.

married to a Dutch businessman, "but the essence remains. You show you are respecting society." - "Isn't it very hot under a black veil?" western visitors often ask. "Yes and no", says Sarah Mustapha, a 21-year-old beautician. "we all wear them since a young age. I suppose you get used to it. I still like my buibui to be black, but others prefer them in cream, blue or with pink stripes nowadays." (by staff writer)



Buibui, the spider

Swahili people don't miss a touch of humour when talking about their traditional dresses. To start with, the word buibui means "spider" in Swahili, "but it is not meant to describe the appearance of women", Amina Pira believes, "it just happens to be the same term for two different things." When covering mouth and nose with a veil, the look is called ninja just like the comic turtle with its trademark face mask. Kizoro, named after the hero of the film Zoro, describes a style where the woman does not cover her face permanently but only ever so often seductively "draws the curtain". A complete cover is known as gubigubi (translated: from head to toe) - and according to Faridi Hamid symbolises more than the idea of hiding female features from public view. Freely exploring the cultural philosophy behind it, he says: "The woman chooses the man, not the man chooses her. A woman does not have to expose her beauty or show off her figure."

The very idea of modesty

Modern day buibuis and abayas are often made of flowing soft fabrics, silk, cotton, linen or chiffon. Some have heavy drapes and folds, others are simply elegant or casual depending on the occasion. While respecting tradition and preserving culture, they are pushing fashion boundaries. But don't the very elaborate designs contradict the new idea of modesty in a Muslim dress code? "Somehow they do", says Zakia Ageterdenbos, a Zanzibar lady



Latest abaya styles, ready to order from Alibaba.com: lacework in yellow & white, green Dubai Kaffan

Buibui history: Fashion designer Amina in a buibui worn with a special kanga (left). A traditional buibui is shown in the historic 1956 picture of Sultan Khalifa and his wife Bibi bint Hamud (right)



PHOTOS (6): ISTOCK, TAPPER, ALIBABA.COM

RAMADAN
THE KANZU CODE

KOFIA
Kofia simply means "hat" in Swahili; but the kofia accompanying the kanzu is a special cylindrical cap embroidered with floral motifs. In East Africa, it stands for both, Muslim and Swahili identity

KANZU
Like a well-made suit, a kanzu (or dishdash in Arabia) can tell a lot about a man. Basically an ankle-length, long-sleeved shirt without collar, connoisseurs would prefer it in immaculate white or cream colour. Recently blue and brown kanzus have also become fashionable. Best handmade of pure cotton, it's a heat-friendly gown providing ventilation. It is worn to mosque on Fridays and for traditional events, also during Ramadan, at times with a black coat.

MAKUBADHI
Typical leather sandals worn with a kanzu.



LOCAL HEROES

RICH OR POOR, FAMOUS OR UNKNOWN - THE FACES OF ZANZIBAR

THE CHRONICLER OF NEWS

He is a fixture of local life as much as a chronicler of it. Ramesh R.T. Ozas's "Capital Art Studio" on Kenyatta Road in Stone Town shows the entire history of Zanzibar - in black and white.

He has captured heads of states and other visiting dignitaries to Zanzibar from all over the world including former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon in 2009. Extraordinary photos of the celebrities now decorate the walls of his photo studio in Stone Town together with dramatic shots of palm trees, sunsets, historic buildings and everyday life in Zanzibar - much of it in black

and white photography. "I still like to process my own pictures", explains Ramesh Rohit T. Oza who has chronicled life in Zanzibar since his early youth and later took over the craft and rich heritage from his father Ranchhod Trikam Oza.

Oza senior opened the studio in 1930. Through thick and thin, a revolution and changing governments, it has never closed ever since. "I still remember learning everything about photography from my father following him around as a young man", says Oza, to friends simply known as Rohit.

Now 65 years old, the good looking character of Hindu origin has become slightly camera shy himself. He does not agree very often any more to being photographed in his "Capital Art Studio". The reason has to do with ever growing tourism and visitors taking in-habitants of Stone Town somewhat for granted: "Everybody wants to benefit,

using our stories, our memories, even with my photography. Copy cats are everywhere". Oza shrugs and has developed a strict "buy a photo but leave me alone" policy towards strangers.

Still, his studio door remains wide open all day while the photographer, whose hair has started turning from black to silver, casually sits on his entry steps often reading a daily newspaper. Like his father, Oza junior is a man of the news with every fibre of his body. He constantly does assignments for the government and government media, and also for private parties. He takes passport photos and family portraits, too, and roams streets and events in Zanzibar for current shots.

In 1985 he took over the charming old fashioned studio with its antique wooden vitrines from his father. Especially popular is the "Then-and-now" section depicting Stone Town benchmarks such as the historical post office in earlier days.

As it turns out, some of the locations looked better 70 years ago than today!

When asked if he remembers any unusual episode during his photography career, Oza drily says: "No it was always business as usual" - whether catching the Iranian president Rafsanjani during his visit to Zanzibar in 1996 or Paul Kagame, head of state of Rwanda, in 2005. But one anecdote Oza does remember. When Hans-Joachim Gauck came calling in 2015, the German pastor-turned-president humbly proclaimed "I am a learner in Africa" and walked with his entourage the entire sea promenade from the ferry port to the House of Wonder. "Everybody liked that in Zanzibar", Oza recalls, "he did not require a motor escort but was simply a peasant mixing with local people." (AT)

Capital Art Studio, Kenyatta Rd, next to Stone Town Cafe



Old school charm: Photographer Ramesh R.T. Oza in his studio in Stone Town

PHOTO (1): TAPPER



STYLISH START FOR YOUR HOME

Beautiful nature inspired furniture and deco items handmade in Dar

Cosy, solid, well-crafted: locally made four-poster-bed from The Green Room collection

By Andrea Tapper

It's simply called 'The Green Room' and located at Slipway in Dar es Salaam. But the creative deco heaven is nothing short of an upmarket "Mini-IKEA" in Africa.

Founder and owner Elmarie van Heerden, a native South African, would probably strongly reject that definition. And truly, her fine and trendy furniture repertoire is neither a mass production, nor of questionable material but handmade ecological design. And yet she does have one immensely valuable trait in common with the Swedish homeware giant: Hers is a ready-to-order furniture collection, on display and in an online catalogue.

Everything can be adapted, customised and mix-and-matched and yet there is a solid, fixed-priced range to choose, order and buy from – an invaluable asset for anybody in Africa wanting to furnish a new home or refurbish an old one. No more endless talking to the *fundi*-craftsman explaining how you want your dream sofa to look like, tiresome exchanges of photos to copy from – often with questionable results. Van Heerden knows from experience what home decorators lack and need here: "When I first came to Tanzania eleven years ago for a refurbishing project, I could not find anything," she recalls with a smile, "that's how the Green Room and workshop started." Meanwhile, she employs a permanent staff of nine carpenters; local women do fantas-

THE GREEN ROOM

All the store's furniture can be shipped to Fumba by ferry, usually arranged by shipping agents. The Green Room also offers design consultancies for private homes, offices, hotels and other enterprises.

Info:
www.thegreenroomtanzania.com
Fb@thegreenroomtanzania
Tel. +255 757 279405
Inquiries for Fumba orders:
editor@fumbatimes.com

tic weaving jobs for chairs, headboards and wardrobes – the latest must-have in global design, called *uzi* in Swahili. Her boutique has matured into an African lifestyle brand including products by more than 40 East African artists and craftspeople.

Enter into Elmarie van Heerden's realm one finds great inspiration. Her flagship store in Dar – others are located in lodges and hotels from Pemba to Selous – has a maritime-African flair, a perfect blend of beach, bush and town. Customers have the choice of three collections. The Pemba Collection is made from solid woods with African flavour and "maximum comfort in mind", as the designer puts it. Her Contemporary Collection has a more edgy feel using industrial metal and reclaimed wood. The

Perfect blend of beach, bush & town

plants – also available at The Green Room – and her belief in nature inspired designs gave the shop its name. "All our wood is locally sourced, supporting sustainably grown wood mills and salvaged finds", she says. Prices start at around \$800 for a double bed, \$700 for a large dining table. Another design highlight is her unique and bespoke furniture, for instance a rustic yet dainty home office desk from salvaged wood. "Live edge furniture" she calls her one-of-a-kind dining and coffee tables made of mango wood with metal legs.



An expert when it comes to design: Elmarie van Heerden



Comeback: hand-woven chairs and stools are the latest in furniture design

INSIDE FUMBA TOWN TRUE STORIES OF NEW RESIDENTS



Red lanterns in Fumba: Hoko Kai in front of his three bedroom unit

"A ROUND TABLE IS A MUST FOR US"

Hoko Kai, 50, is a Chinese businessman and third-generation Zanzibari. On the porch of his new three bedroom house in Fumba, a red lantern clearly signals who lives here.

A Chinese in Zanzibar – how did you get here?

Well, I was born here and so was my father. I am proud to say I am a third-generation Zanzibari. My grandfather came here around 1920 to export sea cucumbers, and stayed. I have six sisters and brothers and two sons, one of them studies in Australia, the other one is here. A cousin of mine runs the most popular Chinese restaurant in Zanzibar, the Pagoda.

Why Fumba?

I was one of the very first to sign up and buy a house when the area was still nothing but coastal rock land...

When was that?

In January 2016.

And you moved in now, in January 2020?

Yes, there were building delays but it's forgotten now. Understand it, I'm in construction and hotel business myself. We celebrated the Chinese New Year with a lovely housewarming party on January 26 and hung up the red lantern then. The wok in the kitchen and party glasses are also remains from that party. Everybody was enjoying it. The neighbours are great.

Your house is still largely unfinished...

We have not decided yet if we shall live here ourselves or first rent it out. But it will be our family home.

What do you like about Fumba?

It's friendly, you get to talk to your neighbours, it's like a village. In Zanzibar everybody is the same, no matter where you come from. Look, I speak better Swahili than English and I am from China.

The security...

...is perfect. Not compounded as such but security all over. My wife and me feel perfectly safe in Fumba.

What style will be your furniture?

I leave that to my wife but we both like to have a Chinese style. And certainly, a round dining table is a must for our way of eating. Best with a revolving part in the centre. I can't wait to dine in Fumba Town!



Chinese cuisine: a wok cannot be missing

THE SEDUCTION

The signature scent of the Middle East – and of Zanzibar – is the sensual, woody, mysterious *oud*. Read here, how the fragrance is made and how to use it.

Subtly might not be a priority when it comes to oriental fragrances. But you can't help being seduced by the sweet and lingering aromas that fill the air in every

part of Stone Town. The concert of jasmine, cardamom, rose buds, musk and sandalwood forms a fragrance fingerprint that is unlike anywhere else in the world. No better place than traditional Mrembo Spa in Stone Town to turn to for a lesson in *oud* usage.

What is *oud*?

Al oud is actually a tree from the forests of Southeast Asia, also

called agar tree. When the wood becomes infected with a particular type of mold, the tree reacts by producing a dark scented resin, popularly called "liquid gold". The bark of the tree also contains the aroma. Just burn it and you get the "amazing *oud* fragrance used especially for festive occasions and during Ramadan", explains Mrembo owner Stephanie Schoetz.

In the Middle East, entire industries manufacture *oud* oils and perfumes, with one of the best known – and most expensive – being the Muscat based "Amouage", a family owned company. Since 1983 they have been distilling one of the most luxurious perfumes in the world, which starts at \$400 for 100 ml (www.amouage.com).

"*Oud* is deeply rooted in Arabian culture". Amouage specialists explain to tourists in the company's visitor's centre just outside of Muscat. "It is one of the prime ingredients of perfumes but every note has its story to tell. Thousands of years of legacy go into the making of the craft perfume."

How to make your own *oud*
"Homemade *oud* making is like perfume making", adds Fatma Hussein, one of the nine therapists working at Mrembo Spa. "You chop the bark, combine it with all sorts of other essential oils and fragrances, add sugar to caramelise and cook the mixture over a charcoal burner. Do not add water, just essential oils and stir it until it has become a heavy paste. Leave it to set overnight." Many women in Zanzibar have their personal *oud* formula, and so does the Mrembo. "We would not give away the secret recipe of our bestseller," says proprietor Schoetz with a smile.

Beauty parlor and wellness centre Mrembo Spa, founded and led by Stephanie Schoetz, has been around for 15 years, pampering tourists and local ladies alike with sublime massages and home-made beauty products from soap to body lotions. Popular are strictly herbal facials and other traditional beauty treatments including the Zanzibari *singo* massage, a body scrub performed before a wedding. Mrembo is nestled in Sokomuhogo near Jaws corner. As soon as one enters the cosy salon, one leaves the hustle and bustle of busy Stone Town behind.

How to use *oud*

There are many ways to use *oud* – as a perfume, a room fragrance and even as a gentle scent for your clothes. In Zanzibar there is a special device, a wooden stand called *chetezo*, to place over an *oud* burner and to drape your clothes over it, to be infused with the sweet fragrance.

"Forget about industrial room sprays", Stephanie Schoetz says, "*oud* is a much healthier and more sensual alternative. It's all about seduction", explains the natural herb specialist who has lived in Zanzibar for twenty years, "not necessarily seduction of a partner, but also a seduction of yourself. It's about rediscovering your senses and getting into a different, more meditative or even spiritual mood."

Towards that end, *oud* is used in mosques, during funerals and during Ramadan *iftars* at night (see article on page 4) as well as during *idd* festivities at the end of the holy month. *Oud* is also widely used for aromatherapy invoking a deep sense of relaxation and balancing the mind.

Mrembo spa (translated: beauty spa) sells a whole range of *oud* products including perfumes, a beautiful souvenir for visitors, too. The price range of original *oud* varies a lot all over the world depending on quality, starting at a mere \$10 per 100 gram to \$100 for the rarest and finest quality. The reason why *oud* can be so expensive is because of its rarity. Less than two per cent of wild agar trees produce it. Some experts claim that the best *oud* comes from the oldest trees, which are even scarcer.

Mrembo Spa
Massages, mani/pepi, facials, beauty products, workshops
+ 255 777 43017
mrembospa.com
Stone Town

3 EASY WAYS "TO OUD"

- 1 You can use *oud* in a little charcoal burner. However, as this sometimes turns out a bit messy and you might also not always have charcoal at home, an electrical *oud* burner (starting at \$5 - 10 in supermarkets) is a neat alternative. Simply place a sheet of aluminium foil in the burner, some *oud* on top and switch on. Discard of the burnt *oud* and foil afterwards.
- 2 If the *oud* smell is too sweet for you, burn frankincense as an alternative, for example during yoga or for house cleansings (*ubani*). It has a balancing effect.
- 3 When using *oud* perfumes dab them onto pulse points rather than spritzing them.

LIFESTYLE NEWS GET YOU DREAM HOUSE



The new and first CPS office in town with plenty of information about Fumba Town. Here, site visits can be arranged

CPS has opened its first town office in Zanzibar where you can ponder your sweet dreams of a new house or holiday home in Zanzibar... even over an ice cream (with the new "Mama Mia" ice cream parlour situated just next door). The new CPS sales office is centrally located in Shangani opposite the "Silk Route" Indian restaurant. Open seven days a week, from 10am to 5pm,

friendly staff are available for property inquiries, booking of appointments and arranging of site visits. CPS, a German-led company, currently runs two eco-friendly, sustainable building projects in Zanzibar: Fumba Town offers seafront apartments, villas and bungalows for sale, just 20 minutes drive from Zanzibar city. "The South" holiday apartments are located in surfing hotspot Paje. At both locations, for the first time, foreigners are free to buy. (Info: www.fumba.town)

BOTTLES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Tired of mountains of plastic water bottles at your home? Read here about some alternatives.

Around the world, one million plastic drinking bottles are purchased every minute. Half of all plastic produced is made to be used only once. Be part of the solution, not of the problem. Reduce plastic waste in your household in Zanzibar.

Trendy & reusable water bottles made from durable stainless steel with double wall vacuum insulation (also available in aluminum) keep you hydrated without a bad conscience. These come in an especially lovely design with African and beach life motifs, designed by Raveesh Hans, a young entrepreneur from Anusha. Available at his eco-friendly, tiny design shop "Zivanshi" in Stone Town, located opposite the Serena Hotel. (Info: Instagram.com/zivanshi)

First step: A water dispenser is certainly not the ultimate but a first step to replacing your hellish use of 1.5 litre plastic bottles. There are advanced dispensers with hot and cold water. But the cheapest versions available start at only TZS 20,000 to be hooked up with a 20-litre-water bottle, for instance at Kwaliti supermarket in Nlandege. Better still: Boil or filter your water, refill it in glass bottles.



Aluminium reusable bottles and mugs with nice designs at „Zivanshi“

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ASK DR. JENNY BOURAIMA READER'S QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY OUR OWN MEDICAL EXPERT

STOP THE SNEEZING!

Amanda S., 32, housewife, Paje

My family and myself, we tend to get a lot of colds. Every time the weather changes and especially during the rainy season my children, 12 and 8 years old, develop a cough and / or a running nose, often with raised body temperature. How can we avoid falling sick all the time?

Dr. Jenny Bouraima answers:

Dear Amanda, a common cold with symptoms like runny nose, sore throat, sometimes accompanied by a cough and aching joints is usually a quite harmless illness. Many times it's caused by viruses, which means that antibiotic treatment is ineffective. Symptomatic treatment and a lot of physical rest will help to recover quickly, normally in less than one week.

Symptomatic treatment can be over-the-counter antipyretic medication such as paracetamol or ibuprofen and nasal sprays. Natural remedies play an important role as well and should be given

preference, especially in the beginning: organic honey as a natural humectant will soothe a sore throat and help with thick mucus obstructing your upper respiratory tract; fresh ginger with its antiviral and antibacterial properties and fresh lime juice can boost your immune system and help your body fight off infections.

However, with the current outbreak of Covid-19, as the Coronavirus is now officially called,

there are a few signs you have to keep in mind, that indicate, a visit to your medical doctor is advised. If you have the above-mentioned symptoms relating to a common cold and additionally develop a severe cough, high fever and difficulty in breathing, you should be consulting your medical doctor. If you additionally have a recent travel history in one of the countries, where cases of Covid-19 were detected, it is crucial that you inform your doctor. Not every case of infection with Covid-19 is ending in severe illness and hospitalisation, but older persons with a weaker immune system and children are at risk. If an in-

fection with Covid-19 is suspected or confirmed, treatment is supportive and symptomatic to avoid complications.

How to protect yourself

Prevention of spread of the Corona disease includes the same basic protective measures that you would take preventing the spread of a common cold:

- Wash your hands regularly with water and soap, potentially using hand sanitizer
 - Cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing with flexed elbow or tissue (discard tissue after use)
 - Maintain distance of at least one to three metres from people who show symptoms of a respiratory infection to avoid getting in contact with droplets (small amounts of mucus containing the virus, that are projected when a person is coughing or sneezing)
 - Avoid contact with potentially contaminated animal waste or fluids on soils and avoid contact with stray animals
- Follow these and your family will experience less common colds and other viral infections.



Happy & Healthy



WRITE TO US!

Do you have any health or lifestyle questions? Dr. Jenny Bouraima at THE FUMBA TIMES will be happy to answer them. Her "Urban Care" clinic in Fumba Town has recently moved to a larger building and now offers modern inpatient facilities as well. A committed team of four medical professionals is looking after you, headed by doctor Dr. Jenny Bouraima, born and trained in Germany. Lab and ultrasound services, vaccination and baby-checks, psychotherapeutic and nutritional counselling are provided; also First Aid and emergency services.

Please e-mail: Dr.Jenny@fumbatimes.com
Urban Care, Fumba Town, +255 622 820 011
Opening hours: Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm | www.urbancarespa.com

UP IN THE AIR

Northern Nungwi boasts of the best beaches in Zanzibar and lots of entertainment



PHOTOS (A) ASH GALLERY, TAPPER, BADOLINA

Spectacular view: The roof terrace of the trendy Z-Hotel right on the beach of Nungwi

By Staff Writer

Nowhere are the two sides of 'holiday hotspot Zanzibar' more tangible than in Nungwi - a crumbling fishing village surrounded by five-star-hotels. Still: Nungwi is fun, beaches are superb and there is talk of even an airport coming up.

Largely spared by the huge tidal differences typical for the East Coast, Zanzibar's most northern tip, the palm fringed beaches of Nungwi and Kendwa are rightly considered the best on the island. Powdery white sand, turquoise water, top diving and snorkelling options and a vibrant nightlife, powered by Kendwa Rock's legendary full moon parties, attract individual backpack travellers and an ever-growing number of package tourists alike. Zanzibar's largest hotels, from Doubletree by Hilton to the stylish Z-Hotel and Zuri, and most recently the RIU Palace Hotel (see hotel test on the right) are situated along the Nungwi coast line which also prides itself of one of the most "local" beaches of Zanzibar. Here, just in front of the vil-

lage, rustic pubs cover their tables with red-and-black checkered maasai cloth. Rasta guys and Maasai mingle with backpackers at Cholo's Bar.

Apart from Stone Town, the beach of Nungwi is the best place to witness spectacular sunsets in Zanzibar. A good dozen of small hotels of various price categories complement the all-inclusive resorts, particularly in and around Nungwi itself, shielded towards the sea by a not-so-nice concrete accumulation of beach gastronomy among them local Italian pizza hub "Mama Mia", known for the best pizza on the strip.

"I love Nungwi because locals and visitors do really get together here", says Paula Hass, a tour operator. "Mama Africa" and "Mama Sele" serve up local rice dishes like *pilaw* at budget prices in wooden sheds.

"Locals & visitors get together"

More sophisticated, the airy "Badolina Secret Garden", situated in the village, which surprises with an eclectic Middle-East-Western-African fusion kitchen with dishes such as "The Yogi", a food platter of humus, beetroot puree and lentils or "Mistaken identity", a real Austrian schnitzel. Yoga teacher



Young and local: Maha Seif, 32, operates the M&J Café in Nungwi

Marisa and Oori Levy from Israel, who run the popular restaurant, recently added 11 guest-rooms to the property.

Another well-received newcomer, the simple, industrial-look M&J Café, next to the village soccer ground, offers fresh juices and local food in a kiosk-like setting. And then there's the slightly shady side to sun-kissed Nungwi: the relentless agitation of ever more beach boys, a shabby drinking area "Manchester" where the smell of beer lingers day and night and - probably most disturbing - a dirt road access to all major hotels cutting right through the village, virtually on the doorsteps of the 5000 or so inhabitants.

Giving these challenges, Nungwi's future development seems somewhat "up in the air" - especially with an airport planned which would be only the second in Zanzibar after Abeid Amani Karume International Airport near Stone Town. Will the airstrip just serve as a domestic feeder, as it is said, or eventually become an international budget-airline hub?

FAVOURITES IN NUNGWI

Where to stay: Unusual, modern budget B&B in the village: Nungwi House

Bungalows in tropical garden: Flame Tree Cottages flametreecottages.com

Friendly resort at the lighthouse: Mnarani Beach Cottages lighthousezanzibar.com

From London with love: Z-Hotel, thezhotel.com/

Upmarket, design-oriented: Zuri Zanzibar, zurizanzibar.com

Where to eat and drink: Badolina Secret Garden Restaurant +255 625 507 508 www.badolinazanzibar.com

Gerry's Bar Beach bar, barbecue, life music, next to Hilton, Gerrysbar.com

Mama Mia Zanzibar Italian Restaurant and delicious homemade ice cream Nungwi Beach +255 773 360 584, FB & Insta



Popular: Yoga enthusiast Marisa and her partner Oori serve yummie fish and fresh fusion dishes at their "Badolina Secret Garden" restaurant

MANDELA'S GRANDDAUGHTER VISITING

Ndileka Mandela launched her biography at Livingstone restaurant



A crusader for women: Ndileka Mandela (second from right) with fans

There was a full house at the Livingstone restaurant when Ndileka Mandela's granddaughter recently launched her biography here. "I wrote the book because I wanted to tell how the great Nelson Mandela was as a family person, not as a politician", she said. The book titled "I am Ndileka" was released in South Africa earlier and immediately climbed to No. 1 in book sales there. In Zanzibar, the famous *mjukuu* signed books, read extracts from her story and answered questions of the audience.

Ndileka Mandela, 55, is the eldest grandchild of Nelson Mandela, a social activist and the founder of the Thembekile Mandela Foundation. During her three-day-visit she also spoke to readers at the Zanzibar Book Worm Lounge in the Old Dispensary and at the WAJAMAMA Women's Centre "Wom-

en's Dignity Workshop".

Her book, as the title suggests, is also about herself - and her life in the shadow of her famous grandfather. Her mother was the first wife of Mandela, her father his first son, who died in an accident when Ndileka was only four years old. Her life was not easy, at times she was "practically homeless shifting from one flat to another", she discloses in her book.

"I am Ndileka, more than my surname", by Ndileka Mandela, now available in bookstores and at Amazon



TESTING HOLIDAY HOT SPOTS HOTEL RIU PALACE



A SPANISH TOUCH IN ZANZIBAR

✓ **LOCATION** One of the best beaches in Zanzibar

✓ **SPECIALS:** Two à la carte restaurants

✓ **SERVICE** All-inclusive formula by Spanish hotel chain

✓ **THE BOTTOM LINE** Major group testing the waters in Zanzibar

HOTEL RIU PALACE ZANZIBAR The new kid on the block has arrived in Zanzibar with a solid, award-winning hotel history. Not many people in Zanzibar will know that RIU started as a tiny fishermen's family hotel in Majorca in 1953 only to become one of the world's most successful hotel groups. The third successive generation of the Riu family, in partnership with travel giant TUI, runs the chain and now owns 99 hotels in 19 countries with more than 31,000 employees and five million guests every year. It's the most popular hotel in the Caribbean, the third largest in Spain.

Game changer: With such a major player in the hotel industry appearing on the scene, it is a game changer for Zanzibar, especially because RIU has - besides the former Hideaway in Nungwi - quietly acquired the neighbouring Gemma de l'Est, too, a Zanzibar Italian classic.

I had the chance to meet RIU owner Carmen Riu Güell on several occasions in Mauritius and Germany. A dynamic personality and mother of three she steers the huge hospitality outfit with a lot of enthusiasm. Her brother Luis Riu oversees every detail of hotel planning: "We don't change a nail without his okay", told me Hamadi Zaied, the Tunisian-born GM of the first Zanzibar RIU during my recent visit.

What to expect? RIU is a well-oiled tourism machine with a tested global formula, adjusted over and over again, so do not expect a boutique feel - but do expect and enjoy a refined all-inclusive system. I was pleasantly surprised that a) the natural friendliness of Zanzibar staff did prevail the takeover, with everybody knowing my name after the first day and b) my extra-wishes like a second fan in the room were immediately taken care of. Climate management can still be improved in my opinion, especially in the pool area.

Rooms: Plenty! RIU has refur-

bished 100 existing rooms, suites and villas in the vast mature garden of the former Hideaway and built another 100 rooms with an extra large pool in the back, which makes it 400 beds (for RIU standards still small, most of their hotels have 1,000 beds and more). I enjoyed the new wing most, nothing beats a completely new hotel room, mine



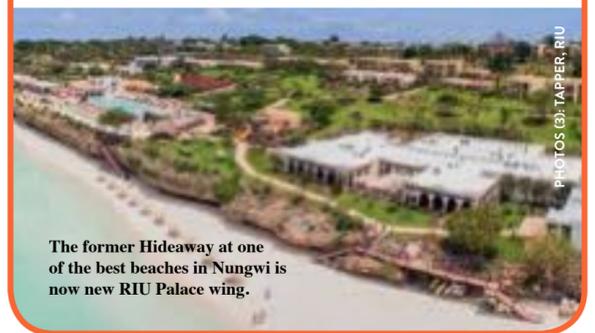
Perfect: The new RIU wing and the Steak House

even with a hamam-like beautiful bathroom.

Food: Anything you want and more - with Spanish touches like tortillas, tapas, olives and good wine. I also loved the date shakes and smoothies. Two modern à la carte restaurants feature a small extra pool. Once I discovered that, I never went back to the main area except for long swims in the crystalline ocean which comes just up to the stairs of RIU Palace.

Andrea Tapper

Hotel RIU Palace Zanzibar 400 beds, 3 restaurants, bar, animation, spa, west facing beach, Nungwi, www.riu.com



The former Hideaway at one of the best beaches in Nungwi is now new RIU Palace wing.

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