

The Fumba Times

FROM ZANZIBAR TO THE WORLD – THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL

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SOLAR ENERGY ENTERING THE GREEN AGE

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LIVE YOUR DREAM

Zanzibar - your place in Africa. The island registered a stunning 23 % tourism growth this year. Visitors from all over the world (photos) love the beaches and exploring the magic of Stone Town. Some even make Zanzibar their second home



PHOTOS (4): ASH GALLERY

DEAR READERS,

the holiday season is here again: a time to reflect and a time to rejoice. High season, festive events, lovely markets. Zanzibar's unique beaches full of holiday makers, all enjoying the island to the fullest. We'd like to wish all of you who celebrate it, a joyful Christmas and everybody a wonderful and fulfilled New Year!

UPGRADE FOR PEMBA

As part of a \$428 million uplift package co-financed by the UK, Zanzibar's sister island Pemba will get an international airport. Currently 45,000 passengers fly into Pemba yearly, more than 110,000 tourists visit the island. Upon completion, expected by 2026, Pemba airport could accommodate 750,000 passengers per year, it was announced. The present airport was built in 1962.

THE GOLDEN VISA IS HERE

Buy a home and become a resident - Starting with an investment of \$100,000

By Andrea Tapper

Foreigners buying property in Zanzibar and Tanzania now qualify for residence permits under certain conditions. The new law has been eagerly awaited.

Turkey and Dubai have it. Portugal and Spain attract long-term residents with it. And now, Zanzibar (and Tanzania as a whole) also grant it: a residence permit for foreigners who invest and settle in the country by buying a home here.

The new law – also known as “Golden Visa” – is meant to encourage more foreign private investment and to make life for property buyers easier. “It guarantees unlimited access to the property you have invested in”, said Mudrick R. Soraga, Minister of Investment in Zanzibar, addressing home owners. Applications can be handed in with immediate effect.

Especially on the holiday island, hundreds of recent homebuyers have been eagerly expecting the new visa which will enable them to stay in their property without leaving every

three months to renew their tourist visa. Likewise, people who rent out their properties, can visit the island frequently to look after their affairs without applying for tourist visas all the time.

“This is a milestone for Zanzibar in opening up to the world”, said Sebastian Dietzold, CEO of developer CPS, who has sold more than 1,500 homes on the island. Buyers come from over 60 countries.

“The new law paves the way to apply for a residence permit from now on”, assured Minister Soraga, while online procedures “are being worked out”. The handling body in Zanzibar is ZIPA, short for “Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority”, a governmental one-stop agency within the Ministry of Labour, Economy and Investment. It endorses all legal investments on the island. This includes property purchases for private residential use and leases for hotels.

Only under certain conditions are foreigners allowed to buy property in Zanzibar. With the new residence visa “investment and immigration laws have been harmonised”, explained CPS lawyer Mohamed Yusuph. The

investor is called “Buyer of real estate” under the new law.

It was in the making since 2021, and finally gazetted in June 2023. Benefits include significant tax incentives such as 50% less tax on gains when reselling, and attractive residents' tariffs with airlines, ferries and events in Zanzibar. “We want to make investors more comfortable”, said minister Soraga who initiated the new law in Zanzibar, preparing the way for its extension to all of Tanzania.

Who gets the new visa?

■ The new residence permit – a so-called Class C visa - is valid for two years and costs \$500, \$250 for East Africans and the diaspora.

■ In Zanzibar it is valid for all home purchases above \$100,000 endorsed by ZIPA. It includes the investor, his or her spouse and up to four children under the age of 18. Family members pay \$50 each.

■ The visa has to be renewed every two years as long as the investor owns the property. It does not replace a work visa. When the property is sold, the stay permit is revoked. Not all countries handle foreign

investors the same way. Turkey, for instance, grants citizenship with an investment above \$250,000. In Portugal buyers have to spend at least €280,000; they can only sell after five years but remain residents. Dubai and the UAE demand one visit every six months.

It is estimated that in Fumba Town alone at least hundred homeowners are eligible to apply for residence status. The sprawling residential seaside development is situated on the Fumba peninsula near the capital. A similar number of residents-to-be is expected to come from condominiums. The Soul

holiday retreat on the east coast in Paje was the first residential project under the condominium act in 2020. Today, 21 condominium estates have been registered.

German developer CPS is presently selling a second wave of about 400 holiday and residential homes in Fumba. New house types include one-bedroom Skylofts on the 5th and 7th floor, new ‘Moyoni Bay’ rowhouse apartments with a common pool and The Soul holiday apartments with ocean views. The latter can be bought with monthly instalments starting at around \$1,270.

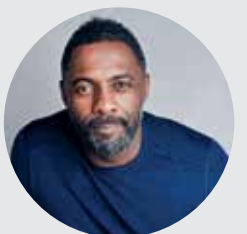
5 STEPS TO A RESIDENCE

When buying a holiday or residential home in Zanzibar, investors and their families can now acquire resident status. Documents to be submitted are:

- Proof that the value of the purchased property is not less than \$100,000 via sales contract and proof of payment
- Certificate of occupancy/title deed
- Police clearance from country of origin/residence
- Passport copy and photo
- All documents to be handed to Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (Mahurubi complex, Bububu area) in the case of Zanzibar and to Tanzania Investment Centre in the case of mainland, in person or online.

Information: www.zipa.go.tz/eservices.immigration.go.tz/online/web/permit

BIG BOYS IN TOWN



No sooner had Zanzibar announced an unprecedented investment boom, when British actor Idris Elba (photo) and Ex-NBA basketball superstar Charles Smith came knocking.

20 hectares of land have already been assigned to the US National Basketball Association (NBA) for a large stadium, disclosed Director Shariff A. Shariff of the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA) recently. The body regulates all investment in the islands. Another big boy venturing into Zanzibar is reportedly English actor Idris Elba, 51, aspiring to open a film studio here - also on the Fumba peninsula, it was said. Zanzibar has attracted \$3.73 billion in investments in two years, ZIPA disclosed. More than 180 tech companies have applied to join Silicon Zanzibar, a private-public initiative for tech start-ups.

SMART ARCHITECTURE WINS



PHOTO: SIBUSILE XABA

The winning CPS team with property jurors in Dubai

Zanzibar is famous for historic Stone Town. But now the island's modern architecture is gaining international recognition, too.

The white, modern living style of Fumba Town based on green principles has won a prestigious award in Dubai recently. CPS Live, which started the unique island development in 2015, received the ‘Residential Development 20+’ award by the African section of ‘International Property Awards’. The London-based organisation works with a jury of 90 architects and industry experts. The awards celebrate outstanding

achievements in various categories, including architecture, interior design and property development. The program is open to professionals worldwide. Fumba Town showcases half a dozen of different housing and apartment types for all budgets, including high-tech timber buildings. The growing sea-side suburb is embedded in permaculture, has Adobe playgrounds for kids and open-air organic restaurants.

Sebastian Dietzold, CEO of CPS, expressed his joy: “Winning the African Property Award is not only a recognition for Fumba Town but for the whole of Zanzibar and Tanzania. Our ambition is to shape spaces that redefine how communities live and thrive.” The company has offices in Zanzibar, Dar es Salaam and Nairobi.

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Seeking Expert Guidance on the Zanzibar Real Estate Market?

Contact

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By John Okoro and Andrea Tapper

Power cut? Power cut! Almost on a weekly, sometimes daily basis, Zanzibar and Tanzania face challenges with electricity supply. As population and tourism grow, could solar be a solution?

Driving through Zanzibar, one can see an unusual site along the east coast just between Bwejuu and Michamvi. A whole field of shiny solar panels, glittering in the sun. The one-megawatt solar field (1 MWp) is the first large solar project in the entire archipelago. It supports three sister hotels of the ‘Zanzibar Collection’ with green energy, the Breezes hotel, the Baraza hotel and the Palms hotel. “During sunny days the entire hotels with around 90 rooms and villas runs

on solar”, GM Jacob Moywaywa said. The shining trailblazer is still a rare exception. Zanzibar as well as the Tanzania mainland are frequently suffering under blackouts. Dar es Salaam has been especially hard hit in recent weeks.

The solar paradox in Africa
What will be the power of the future in Africa? While China is spending more money on solar and wind exploration than the rest of the world

combined, and western states are shifting to alternative energies to halt climate change, the most sun-kissed continent of all seems to be lagging behind in the solar revolution. Limited infrastructure, financial constraints and a lack of widespread technology adoption contribute to the paradox of having so much sun but so little solar energy, experts say. A few sun pioneers are there: South Africa leads the pack with an impressive 2,500 megawatts (MW) of installed solar capacity, closely followed by Egypt and Morocco. Kenya, too, is investing substantially in solar. Nigeria, the African country with the highest population, wants



Fumba Town will go partly solar in 2024, CPS announced in a surprise move.

A first solar field and three additional generators will be installed in Zanzibar’s green residential city (photo above) near the capital. “Fumba Town is right on track as Zanzibar’s foremost low carbon city”, commented France-based energy consultant John Okoro whose company Growth Energy will put the plan into action together with developer CPS. The solar plant of initially 600 kilowatts is designed to provide all day-time power needs for about 600 households, and enough back-up for up to one full hour of grid

power outage. The first phase of the solar field covers an area of 4000 square metres near the Volkshouse factory. The modular set-up can be increased as more people move to Fumba. “We will finally have renewable and reliable energy for our city”, remarked Sebastian Dietzold, CEO of town developer CPS. Just like the rest of the island, Fumba Town residents have been battling with power cuts. Expert Okoro pointed out: “Large hotels and housing developments can contribute immensely towards a more sustainable power supply.”

Solar Project in Bambi
But in a new development, Zanzibar is set to embrace solar power on a grand scale with a planned 180 MW solar plant near Bambi. The first public-private solar project and a wind energy project are in the pipeline, local media reported. Fiction or reality? Okoro is cautious, especially with wind energy: “Zanzibar does not have the road infrastructure to transport heavy, long wind turbines across the island, especially not over weak and narrow bridges”, the expert points out – a simple but apparently overlooked challenge. More potential holds the “billionaire deal”, a partnership for solar between the Taifa Energy company owned by billionaire Rostam Aziz and Zanzibar Electricity Corporation (Zeco). Since

Sun-kissed continent has little solar power

Zanzibar’s blackout woes
Zanzibar receives all its electricity from the mainland, “supplied by a 100 MW, 132k volt submarine cable and there is no back up generation on the island” explains John Okoro, engineer and solar expert based in France. Originally from Nigeria he has worked in many African countries and is coordinating the first solar

HOMEMADE SOLAR: “HOW WE LEFT THE GRID”



Solar panels on the roof, a battery station in the house: no more blackouts for resident Frank van Bemmel (right)

Zanzibar resident Frank van Bemmel has successfully installed his own little solar system for his family of four in Fumba Town. Three bedrooms with AC, a fridge, washing machine and even a pool pump – all this is running on solar energy. “On a sunny day, we get all our electricity from solar”, the computer specialist explains: “We have a giant switch in our storage so we can get back to the grid at any time.” Costs for the setup: around \$11,000. A high investment in the beginning, but it will have paid off in 10 years.

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Membe Kayak Club & Restaurant
Fumba, Zanzibar
Christian R. Manahl/ Whatsapp +32 472 350 683 / crmanahl@hotmail.com

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ARNOLDI'S: TRY OUR SEAFOOD IN CHUINI...

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Rare beauty

Is Tanzanite really such a good investment?

By staff writer

There are more jewellers than bakeries in Zanzibar – and all have one bestseller: Tanzanite. A blue-violet gem only found in Tanzania, enthroned by Tiffany's, rarer than diamonds. Read here, what to look out for and where to buy it.



PHOTOS (B): SWAROVSKI ELIAS, LITHOS AFRICA

It's simple mathematics. If there is only one location in the world – west of Kilimanjaro mountain in Maasai land near the Merelani hills – and that location has a mining capacity of only a few square kilometres – it won't be too long until reserves are exploited. “In ten years”, some experts estimate, the last Tanzanite will have come to the surface. A maximum of 20,000 kilo of the gemstone (equalling 100 million carats) is still believed to lie under the earth. Most local mining companies are owned by Maasai.

One of them became known worldwide three years ago: Saniniu Laizer mined two stones of together about 14 kilogram and sold them to the government for seven billion Tanzanian shilling (three million dollars).



Fashionable: “Noto” bracelets with Tanzanites by Lithos Africa

The fairytale of Tanzanite started in 1967 with another Maasai sharing a crystal find with a prospector. More finds followed, a whole chain of middlemen, scientists and geologists identified the stone as Zoestite, until it landed on the desk of Henry B. Platt, vice-president of Tiffany & Co. The connoisseur, immediately realising the value of the newly discovered treasure, quickly changed its name to the more likeable Tanzanite. The origin of the precious stone, it was speculated, was a massive tectonic activity almost 600 million years ago. If you don't happen to know a mining Maasai and walk down Kenyatta Rd. in the centre of Stone Town in Tanzania, “We have deep roots in the gemstone sector of the country”, says junior chief Alexander Mantheakis,

1000 times rarer than a diamond: sophisticated blue-violet Tanzanite earrings and ring (photo above) by Elias. The bird brooch (photo left) is an iconic design by Jean Schlumberger sold at Tiffany's

jewellery in their windows.

But there is a main distinction to be made in Tanzanite retail: jewellers who cut the gemstone themselves, or shops that trade in ready-made rings, earrings and pendants fabricated mostly in India. Two family businesses have a long tradition as handcrafting jewellers of quality, Elias and Lithos Africa, each with two shops in Stone Town.

The Elias was founded in 1963 by local Zanzibari goldsmith Farook Elias whose family history in gem trading dates back even further, to the 1800s. Together with his wife Amina, also a designer and goldsmith, and son Anwar, Farook has become well known as a luxury brand in many parts of the world.

Lithos Africa is owned by the Mantheakis family of Greek origin. Owing an artisan mine in Dodoma the family looks back on four generations of mining and in-house production in Tanzania. “We have deep roots in the gemstone sector of the country”, says junior chief Alexander Mantheakis,

enabling “a transparent and fair value chain.” The family's shops at the Hyatt and in the Livingstone House present a sophisticated upmarket collection but also more affordable elastic bracelets with gemstones, starting from \$150.

What is a fair price for the Tanzanian rarity today? Prices “widely vary depending on cut, colour and quality”, jeweller Mantheakis points out. The spectrum reaches from around \$400 to \$1500 per carat. “On average our customers spend around \$4000 on a Tanzanite piece of jewellery”, says manager Ebrahim Abdulmajid of Elias.

And as geological stocks dwindle, the value is likely to increase even more.

“Our average customer spends \$4000 on a Tanzanite”

Tanzanite Museum Zanzibar
Newly opened at Tembo House, Shangani Street - see how the stone is mined, cut and treated
Eliasjewellers.com
Kenyatta Rd. + opp. Tembo Hs.
LithosAfrica.com
Park Hyatt + Livingstone Hs.

ZANZIBAR IN SHANGHAI

Island enters Chinese luxury market

6000 invited buyers and the world's fanciest luxury properties. As the only African exhibitor, Zanzibar is taking part in an extraordinary property show in China.

In focus: The Burj, the world's largest timber tower, planned for Zanzibar with a mix of residential, hotel and holiday properties. The Luxury Property Show (LPS) in Shanghai – a three-day glamorous event – is being held for the 22th time. Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou have staged the event since 2010.

“We are excited to be in Shanghai and will present Africa with a most pioneering and visionary building”,

said Sebastian Dietzold, CEO of CPS and founder of Fumba Town. The Burj, a planned hybrid timber skyscraper with 28 floors and 96 metres high, is setting new standards for environment-friendly construction. “It will be a landmark for Zanzibar”, Dietzold said, “and a global landmark for green architecture.” The highest timber building in the world will bind more than 3,000 tons of CO2 whereas conventional building with cement contributes heavily to climate change. From 8-10 December 2023, six thousand property hunters are expected at the prestigious historic Shanghai Exhibition Center where 140 real estate companies are presenting unique estates. CPS is travelling to Shanghai with a team from Zanzibar. Fumba Town, the growing sea-side town near the capital of Zanzibar,



Property giants: the Shanghai skyline (above) and the world's highest timber tower planned for Zanzibar (r.)



PHOTOS (B): STOCK, CPS

LITERATURE BOOKWORMS ALERT!

By staff writer

Zanzibar – not really known for its love of the printed word – has put literature in focus lately with a first book fair and the opening of the library in Fumba Town.

It is our inaugural celebration of Zanzibari literature”, said Ally Baharoon who organized the very first book fair on the island end of October. A filmmaker and writer, Baharoon landed a scoop with getting the Zanzibari winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature 2021, Prof. Abdulrazak Gurnah, to attend the fair. Addressing the crowd in Swahili, the exiled author encouraged young writers: “Writing is a hard business, but if you have something to say, stick with it.” Gurnah's ten novels reflect on the effects of colonialism and cultural uprooting. “Peponi”, the Swahili version



of his 1994 novel “Paradise”, translated by London lecturer Dr. Ida Hadjivayannis, also present at the fair, is Gurnah's first book to become available in Swahili in his home country.

The inclusion of African writers is high on the agenda of the new Fumba Town library catering to international residents. Shelves and

furniture are still in the making but that did not stop cheerful volunteers staging a reading night with a Halloween theme for the youngest members of the seaside community.

How to use the new library in Fumba
“Do you have real books or e-books”, is the question I am asked most”, said resident Tracey Cripps-Manda, who has taken the library under her wing. The answer: the books are real, but the library system is fully digitalised, 1,200 books are available for lending including 330 books for children. 90 per cent of the Fumba library is made up of donated books. Membership packages for individual, couple or family use start at TZS 60,000 per year. Books can be borrowed online and picked up. African authors including Chinua Achebe, Chinamanda Ngozie Adichie, Abdulrazak Gurnah, Yaa Gyasi, Ben Okri and Ngugi wa Thiong'o, and a number of anthologies from the Caine Prize for African Writing are available.
IG: @fumbatown.library



Volunteering residents read to children in Fumba Town during Halloween; facilities for the Fumba Town library are getting ready; to become a member, email fumbatownlibrary@gmail.com

PHOTOS (B): FUMBATOWN LIBRARY

WELCOME NOTE
HOME OR HOLIDAY?



Andrea Tapper
Editor-in-chief
THE FUMBA TIMES

When I wake up in the morning I have a little ritual (you, too?). Mine is simple: get up, and get out! As I slide open the terrace door of my home in Fumba Town in Zanzibar, blue skies smile at me, an earthy fragrance envelops me.

Early explorer Karen Blixen once said: “You can identify a country, even a continent by its sensual smells.” Sensuality is the right expression: how I love the sea breeze above the plains of Fumba Town later in the afternoon, the cooling windbreaks between on-going construction (yes, it is still on-going). Walking from my home to everyone’s favourite beach restaurant Kwetu Kwenu, I’m taken back to the plains of Formentera, the smallest of the Balearic islands in Spain. In the 1980s, hippies from all over Europe hung out there, living of love and goat cheese, including myself. But I am dressing.

Home. A big word. Has Fumba Town, in my third year of living here and my fourth of working here, become home? Yes, it has!

1,200 units sold. The town is truly growing. For some of you who have bought property here, it may be decidedly a holiday home, a relax-oasis in your busy life. But from a sur-

vey conducted two years ago we also know that most home-owners want a “mixed-use” safe investment. To acquire some rental income but also to use the property for themselves, for friends and family.

This is where the new and long-awaited residence permit (see cover story), the so-called ‘Golden Visa’, comes as a major breakthrough.

Having passed all political hurdles, and being implemented at the moment, it “gives foreigners more comfort to invest and stay in our country”, said Investment Minister Mudrick R. Soraga. And there is more good news: Finally, the island is also talking about solar energy which will make power supply more stable and clean in the long run (see page 2).

As a fun-filled festive season embraces you, we are covering DIY tips, recipes and Zanzibar’s best events for you. And as always, it’s also our aim as nosy journalists, to find surprise stories - the Zanzibar’s intergalactic connection (page 3) certainly was one to me!

Home or holiday - we’d like you to feel comfortable with THE FUMBA TIMES, to explore the island with us, and wish all our readers who celebrate it a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy and sparkling New Year.

CARTOON



“He didn’t do anything, Gregory. This is a zoo.”

AGREE TO DISAGREE

By staff writer

Cultural misunderstanding happens on many different levels – at work, in relationships, inter-generational (see cartoon above) and certainly in a cosmopolitan society like Zanzibar. But it also has a humorous side, as participants of an intercultural workshop in Zanzibar discovered recently.

the calculation in his own currency. “We never heard from him again”, said the sales agent in the seminar. We asked coach Schuppener for his advice how to avoid such misunderstandings.

What simple rules can a company stick to, to avoid cross-cultural misunderstanding?
Jochen Schuppener: First of all, acknowledge the differences. For a company this means to involve mediators and to establish a proper and easy complaint management by all means. That will take the steam out of many operations.

Working in an environment as Fumba Town, with visitors and investors of different nationalities, where does harmony start?
Agree to disagree - from both sides. Tolerance is the first step to understanding, to coexistence and doing business together.

What is the most crucial “misunderstanding” between – generally said - Africa and the West?
The West has the notion of being performance-oriented, the South is clearly more atmosphere- and relation-driven. Another example: Asian cultures thrive on harmony, Western cultures on results.

You talk about culture stress in your coaching. What is that?
Culture stress is the continuation of culture shock. A Westerner will first admire the friendliness of an island such as Zanzibar. Then reality sinks in. Different values become apparent. Admiration turns to anger. Culture stress happens in both directions. The solution lies in compromise and in specific rules all sides can agree on.

GUEST COMMENT
“ATTENTION IS YOUR CURRENCY”



Motivational speaker and Member of Forbes Coaches Council, **Dr Shogo Oyeniyi** from Nigeria about “unlocking success in 2024”. Let’s listen in!

“Being busy - that alone is no business”

In the vibrant city of Zanzibar, I had the privilege of addressing the esteemed members of the Rotary Club, where I delved into the significance of strategic thinking as we prepare for the upcoming year. I will use the acronym: T.H.I.N.K., representing five essential areas that require your attention.

T for talent: Talent is your raw material. But people don’t pay you for your talent. Only talent plus skills make you competent.

H stands for hard work: It’s about the quality of effort we put forth. Contrary to the misconception that hard work may overwhelm, it, in fact, refines and elevates us. If you don’t move you will be removed!

I for Insights: As we approach the new year, acquiring insights from our past experiences are a big help. It’s crucial to have a clear perspective on where we’ve been,

where we are, and where we intend to go. Seeking guidance from mentors and coaches can be an invaluable step now.

N for network: If you are not networking, you are not working! Our work connections and friends significantly influence our journey in life. Don’t be shy to be intentional with your networking. Building a network of individuals who align with your goals and values can be transformative. But don’t confuse networking with expecting favors. In fact, it’s the opposite – bring value to your groups.

K for knowledge. 20 per cent of efforts create 80 per cent of your results, studies have shown. So slow down and focus. Being busy does not mean you are in business.

On the brink of a New Year, just remember that attention is your currency. What we choose to focus on, will shape the next year.

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TOTALLY SPACED OUT

Did you know that Zanzibar had an intergalactic connection?

By Andrea Tapper

A space tracking station in the midst of Zanzibar helped America to land on the moon. The remains are still there – while one woman keeps stargazing alive on the isle.

You may know a few things about Zanzibar but one story is almost too spaced out to be true: Zanzibar’s intergalactic connection. The island had a space station run by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for almost four years in the early sixties. One of only 16 stations worldwide along the Earth’s orbital track, it was vital in getting the first manned spacecraft into orbit, and to eventually land Apollo 11 on the moon on 20 July, 1969.

However, when Neil Armstrong made his “one small step for a man, a giant leap for

mankind”, the NASA ground station near the village of Tunguu was already abandoned and closed. In 1964, when Zanzibar became a part of Tanzania, the new left-leaning rulers made it sufficiently clear that the US station was to close down and the crew and their families – exactly 91 Americans – had to leave the island immediately. Even the New York Times reported about it on 8 April, 1964.

Few people nowadays know about the station and less where it was located. “On the way to the east coast we tried once to visit the remains of it”, recalls Faye Richardson: “We didn’t find much.” But when it comes to space activities of the present – especially when the International Space Station (ISS) is crossing the sky over Zanzibar – one can a hundred percent count on the 71-year-old star gazer to post an alert on the island residents chat group ‘Wanawatu’.

Hey, star gazers!

“Hey, Star Gazers”, started a typical post of hers on 8 September, 2023, “the International Space Station will be passing over tonight for 6 minutes starting at 7:10 pm. Start looking in the southwest direction for the light travelling across the sky towards the northeast.” How many people on the island can follow such advice?

There’s no space-watching society in Zanzibar nor is there a spaceport like the Luigi Broglio Space Center (BSC) ocean platform in Malindi in neighbouring Kenya. But on an island still widely free of light pollution, star-studded night skies are definitely watched by quite a few private gazers.

“Especially over the sea, on clear nights, one can identify all the big star signs with bare eyes”, says



PHOTO ©: KEEGAN CHECKS



The space connection of Zanzibar: Orbiting the earth every 90 minutes, the International Space Station, in space since 1998 and continuously manned until now (top photo), can often be seen from the island. Zanzibar’s NASA ground station (photo above left) paved the way for the first moon landing. Faye Richardson, here on a wedding photo with husband Tom Greens in 2005, leads the star gazing community in Zanzibar



Pete Hummonds, a frequent visitor to Zanzibar. Clever apps (Startracker3D, Star Tracker Life) help identifying the planets.

A few decades ago, things were different: no app and no internet were available. But the Zanzibar space station with its aluminium storage house, electronic equipment, cooling towers, generators and, most importantly, an intercom system was “part of the first real-time global communication system ever built”, according to the website zanzibarhistory.org with photos and memories of the time.

Before the internet, there was Project Mercury
“Before the internet there was Project Mercury” said American journalist Amanda Lichtenstein in a feature about the Zanzibar station published in 2019 on the media platform ‘Global Voices’. “Communication between the space

station and astronauts was a highly orchestrated dance”, she writes. But why was the station there in the first place? In case astronauts became incapacitated, there were “never to be more than ten minutes flying time between controls from the ground”, NASA had decided. 16 stations were positioned from Cape Canaveral to Nigeria, from Zanzibar to Mexico. The Sultan of Zanzibar – at the time and the British protectorate rulers were huge fans of Project Mercury. And Americans crews loved the island because they could bring their families on the assignment.

Zanzibar youth was also intrigued by “the high-tech equipment and the reach-for-the-stars attitude. They learned about the schedules and would lay on

the beach looking up waiting for the American spaceship to pass overhead”, recounts Torrence Royer, whose father worked with Mercury and who runs the website zanzibarhistory until today. And there was another Zanzibari boy equally fascinated by project Mercury: Farrokh Bulsara who later changed his name to Freddie Mercury and became a rock legend!

NASA Station in Zanzibar prepared the moon landing

When Faye Richardson, born under desert skies in Utah, arrived in Zanzibar in 1991 as a nurse practitioner with the UK agency Save the Children, “Zanzibar was still socialist”, she recalls. “The ferry was owned by Russians, and the USSR embassy located next to the State House.” In 32 years on the island she has seen many changes. She married the late American entrepreneur Tom

Space discoveries:
Spot the ISS from Zanzibar: spotthestation.nasa.gov/

Historical information:
www.zanzibarhistory.org

DINNER FOR ONE

A new hospitality school in Zanzibar trains local youth for jobs in the tourist industry. We tested it.

Drops the glass stand to the right of the plate, or the left? Can VIPs register in their room instead of at the reception? What is cereal? Tumaini Kiwenge is one of five teachers at a new vocational training- the ‘Zenj Centre of excellence for tourism’ (ZCET), located within the property of a hotel. She talks about “the sequence of service” as if it’s a ballet choreography: light as a feather and yet mastered only by persistent training. In front of her: a class of a dozen students, the majority girls, listening eagerly.

This year, 115 students have joined the boarding school, which opened in Zanzibar two years ago. It stands out for two aspects: courses of nine

months consist of one third theory and two thirds practical training. Through a government-initiated program, the education is aimed especially at girls. Front office and housekeeping, cooking and serving – all these skills are tested in real time at the 4-star Sansi Kae Kae resort in Michamvi. One of the school founders, Talal Atturkhan from Mauritius says: “75 percent of our students are female: attitudes towards girls’ education are positively changing.”

With more than 30 percent youth unemployment according to official labour statistics, the booming tourism industry in Zanzibar seems indeed not a bad place to make a living. But that’s not where students’ ambitions end: “Certainly something bigger than reception”, says student Shine, 20, when asked about her future plans. As we put her fellow student Rabea to the test with a dinner for one, all goes smoothly, from presenting the menu to taking orders. The fork is placed on the correct

side, too. But then comes the dessert and Rabea stumbles. As she introduces a “smooth mango”, I inquire: “A mango smoothie as dessert?” It turns out it’s a mango mousse. Does it matter? Hardly. But the context is interesting: “80 percent of the food here I have never heard of before”, the apprentice admits. And how does that feel? “It’s okay”, another student says, “it’s just like learning a new language.” (AT)

Information: zcet.org



Learning from the chef: ZCET students during a cooking class

LOCAL HERO

RICH OR POOR, FAMOUS OR UNKNOWN – MAKING A DIFFERENCE COUNTS!

THE “ERIN BROKOVICH” OF EAST AFRICA

She freed her community of toxic waste. Now Phyllis Omido from Kenya has won the ‘Alternative Nobel prize’.

End of November the mum-turned-activist received the prestigious award in Stockholm together with three human rights laureates from Cambodia, Ghana and the Mediterranean. “I am very happy about the prize”, she said in Mombasa, “for poor communities it is a global struggle.” Omido became well-known in her

country Kenya after she managed to shut down a battery smelting plant that was polluting the Owino Uhuru neighbourhood in Mombasa. She won a landmark court ruling that awarded 10.2 million euros to the victims of the lead poisoning caused by old batteries. But the struggle took 14 years, from 2009 to 2023 during which the brave activist faced harassment and threats, and unknown gunmen even tried to attack her.

A three-months old baby died from the toxic poisoning. “In the beginning nobody believed us”, said Omido, also known as ‘Mama Mushi’ (Swahili for ‘mother of smoke’). She has been dubbed the ‘Erin Brokovich of East Africa’ after her American activist counterpart, portrayed by Julia Robert in a Hollywood movie.

Thanks to Omido’s struggle, 17 toxic sites have been closed across Kenya. The United Nations issued a resolution on lead-acid battery recycling in Africa. In a telephone interview with THE FUMBA TIMES the brave activist said, she had been to Nungwi in Zanzibar and plans to return. Addressing environmentalists here, she said: “All our struggles are interconnected.”

For more than 40 years, the ‘Right Livelihood’ prize has widely known been known as ‘Alternative Nobel Prize’. It came into being when the Nobel Foundation turned down a proposal in 1980 to create a special category for the environment and development. To date 190 laureates from 74 countries have received the

award – among them another famous Kenyan, the late tree saver and activist Wangari Maathai of the Greenbelt movement in 1984.

Deadly batteries
Lead-acid batteries are used in everything from cars to backup storage for mobile phone towers and solar panels. But the batteries don’t last very long: it is estimated that 1.2 million tons of used lead-acid batteries accumulate across Africa annually. 45-year-old Omido already has her eyes set on the next danger: nuclear power plants planned along the Kenyan coast. In a short timespan, she collected 1000 signatures against such a plant in Kilifi: “Our government has far too little knowledge about such complex operations”, she argues, “they could harm public health and the environment of coastal communities.”



Information:
About the alternative Nobel prize: rightlivelihood.org
Phyllis Omido: centerforjogees.com; Instagram: @mamamingira



Table decoration in natural tones add warmth to the home; dad and daughter take care of cookies (photo r.)

By staff writer

Palms and presents: Fumba residents share their creative ideas for crafting a tropical Christmas.

In Zanzibar, where the air is warm and the sun dances on palm fronds, celebrating the festive period takes on a distinctively different but yet vibrant flavour. True to the cosmopolitan spirit of the predominantly Muslim island, many shops and restaurants in town (and most hotels anyway) come up

with Xmas decorations and events to welcome the New Year (see next page). But how to let your home shine for the occasion? “When you don’t have a big choice of decoration, you must be imaginative”, Fumba residents say and shared some of their ideas and long-rooted traditions with us (see boxes below). From imaginative table decorations and delectable pastries to unconventional tree adornments and a handmade German “Adventskalender”, they help to create an atmosphere that’s both merry and bright.

For table decoration, natural earth colours, elegant white table clothes or the classic red-and-green Santa Claus look are popular options this

year. Transforming your dining area into a tropical wonderland with vibrant colours and exotic accents is fun: “I simply bought red cotton material in Darajani and had a local tailor sew it into some runners and napkins”, remarks resident Petra van Bemmel. “Incorporate fresh red flowers, like hibiscus and orchids”, says permaculture expert Bernadette Kirsch. Paired with palm leaves, the table-design gets an even more striking, unique southern feel.

New china from China!

You may also freshen-up your dining style with some newly acquired plates and glasses which don’t have to cost a fortune. “I like

shopping for new plates at the street kiosks on the corner of Mlandege and Malawi road”, recommends THE FUMBA TIMES editor Andrea Tapper. The kiosks have a surprising collection of ceramic plates on offer, in different mix-and-match designs. Imported most likely from China, they do however add an artisan feel to your festive table.

When it comes to presents, go local, but in style. African designer fashion is offered for instance by Doreen Mashika and The Wonders boutique in Stone Town. Innovative vendors at Kwetu Kwenu market (special Xmas edition on 2 December!) sell craft, beauty and food items. If you want to dig deeper into your pockets, contemporary African art (found in galleries such as the Forster Gallery in Mbweni) or Tanzania’s very own rare jewel, the Tanzanite (see page 3) make not only fabulous presents but a good investment.



PHOTOS (L-R): GUGULU PETRA VAN BEMMEL, DR. JENNY BOURAIMA

INSIDE FUMBA TOWN
TRUE STORIES OF NEW RESIDENTS



PHOTOS (L-R): AT

Sundowner pilates: Oscar, 29, and his wife Grace, 28, practicing at the Chill deck in Fumba Town

“MAKING FRIENDS
IN FUMBA”

Oscar and Grace Marwa-Pattison are the latest addition to Fumba Town. The fitness trainer and his wife, a gender researcher, find Fumba’s quietness “just right”.

But surely, it’s very different here from Sydney, even from Nairobi...

Indeed, it is. But we love the quietness, actually. And we love the community. In Fumba you make friends fast, especially when everybody wants fitness training...

Oscar: Besides my pilates workshops in Fumba I give classes at Masara Fitness and Wajamama, from step aerobic to weight lifting. Karibuni, everybody!

Oscar, before anything else: Is it true that you one can lose a big belly with pilates in no time? Yes, with some consistency, and training three times a week, you will see fast results.

And if I practise only once per week? You’ll need to stick with it at least three months.

Grace, you hail from Sydney in Australia. Where did you meet your husband?

We met in Arusha where I was volunteering after finishing school in Australia. I returned several times and eventually we became a couple and moved together to Kenya for studies where I did my master in development and gender studies.

How did you discover Fumba? We were looking to move back to Tanzania, Oscar’s home country, when we discovered Fumba in the internet. If you click on property in Tanzania it’s the first thing which comes up. We chose a Moyoni row house. We like that it’s built from timber. Grace: For me it was important to live by the sea, the same way I used to live in my hometown Sydney. I just love swimming!



Shared housework, shared fitness: Grace and Oscar in Fumba Town

Pilates & Personal Training Oscar Ph/WhatsApp +255 717 690 525 IG @Zanzibarpilates



PHOTOS (L-R): AT, KEEGAN CHECKES

Bar with a view and bespoke cocktails: the Upendo House overlooking Stone Town

#1 BEETROOT BEAUTY

Zanzibar’s best cocktail as chosen by THE FUMBA TIMES is a red rich beauty called Beet Ginger Slam. “At Upendo one of our cornerstones is creativity”, explains owner Trish Dhanak. “We ask guests to pick a fruit or spirit or both and craft cocktails out of it.” The beetroot cocktail is a guest’s favourite. The trick: a crown of beaten egg white.

50 ml Bombay Sapphire gin
20 ml beetroot/ginger juice or syrup
20 ml honey
10 ml egg white
20 ml lime juice
Mint leaves



EMERSON’S MARGARITA

The classic Margarita served at Emerson Zanzibar restaurants stands in a league of its own, perfectly prepared, with the right balance of sweet, sour and salty (and is probably so excellent because it used to be the director’s fav!). Sharp and refreshing, never watery. If you’ve had a bad Margarita, you’ll know the difference!

60 ml Tequila Blanco
30 ml fresh lime juice
15 ml Cointreau
15 ml syrup
Garnish: lime wheel & Pamba sea salt

Add ingredients in a shaker with ice. The trick: strain into a prepared glass over fresh ice. Frozen Margarita: blend with ice to slush instead of shaking and straining.

#3 BLUE ON IT’S OWN

Coming straight from the gardens, and how it could be otherwise in eco-town Fumba, the signature cocktail of beach restaurant Kwetu Kwenu Chill is naturally blue, using the velvet, edible Butterfly Pea flower (Clitoria ternate). The “KK Ocean Blue” comes in two iced versions, virgin or with rum. Typically The Chill, measurements are flexible.

120ml of butterfly tea
60ml white rum
10-30ml of lime juice
Wedge of lime to garnish



COOKING À LA CHUMBE

Zanzibar’s award-winning eco-island Chumbe has created its own cookbook – and it’s not just pilau & co. With many surprising recipes (passionfruit and calamari salad), classics (kachori) and rarities (passionfruit dressing), the booklet gets you straight into the kitchen. With 56 recipes and colour photos, aptly called “Kitamu” (Swahili for tasty), it is not only the perfect souvenir, but a great addition to anyone’s kitchen.

“We have compiled the recipes with the aim to spread the Zanzibari culinary offer and to show more sustainable food choices”, said Diana Koerner, marketing manager

of Chumbe Island Coral Park (CHICOP). A sustainable seafood guide using a traffic light systems with green, yellow and red markers for fish is in the works.

“Many of Chumbe’s guests have fallen in love with the dishes which the kitchen team under chef John King prepares and have asked for recipes”, said Koerner - that gave birth to the cookbook. Zanzibari cuisine reflects Arab, Indian and African influences.

On Chumbe Island with its seven eco-bungalows, only fresh food with local ingredients is served, supplies are brought to the island by boat twice a week. The booklet mainly contains veggie dishes and sustainable seafood dishes. “We decided not to include an

extra meat section. For environmental reasons, we are trying to reduce meat consumption as much as possible” manager Koerner explained. Chumbe Island is a snorkeling, diving and nature reserve located six kilometers off the coast of Zanzibar.

Cooking and travelling

The cookbook “Kitamu” is available in print and as a digital version. You can order your version via marketing@chumbeisland.com. Print: \$30; Digital: \$17

Staying at Chumbe Island in one of seven eco-bungalows, overnight rate starts at 280 USD per person per night, full board, inclusive guided activities. East African resident rates available. book@chumbeisland.com; www.chumbeisland.com



PHOTOS (L-R): KEEGAN CHECKES

Traditional kitchen, beautifully arranged on straw mats

Season highlights

CELEBRATE INTO
THE NEW YEAR!

Europe’s World Music Top 20: Gogo Hip from Bagamoyo at New Year’s party in Fumba Town



PHOTO (L-R): BONDI

The festive season is around with wonderful markets, parties and dinners. Here our pick of events.

■ Kwenu Kwenu market, Fumba Town
2 December - Xmas special with car boot sale!
3 February - 1st market 2024
The place to be! Shop and meet with friends, lunch at food stands, admire Fumba Town! 10am-5pm
Phone: +255(0) 783045796

■ Christmas Buffet at 6 Degrees
25 December
6 Degrees South Plot 60, Waterfront, Shangani St
Enjoy a christmas buffet lunch with friends a family 12pm – 3pm
Contact: +255 620 644 611

■ Emerson Art exhibition and awards
Hadiyya ya Bili, 2-8 December
Emerson on Huruma, Stone Town
11 young artists exhibit at the Emerson’s Foundation’s 3rd Art Award;
opening 2 Dec. 4 pm, award ceremony 8 Dec. 4pm

■ High cuisine @Upendo
Upendo House (Stone Town):
25/12 Christmas Lunch & Dinner
31/12 Celebrate NY’s Eve in style
5 course dinner, bubbles and live music from Kenya (duddule, official; no entrance fee)

■ Upendo Beach (Michamvi):
31/12 NY’s Eve Brunch & Dinner
Evening live: Olmak, adem
01/01 NY’s Brunch & Dinner
Live music, DJs and acrobats
Information: upendozanzibar.com

■ Sit and the Band
Xmas & New Year Tour
24 December, White Sands Hotel, Paje
+255 778 923 854
1 January Dinner, Mr. Kahawa, Paje
1 January Dinner, Khulala Ocean Blue, Paje
+255 777 533 257

■ CANDLE LIGHT DINNER + BBQ
Blue Oyster Hotel, Jambiani
24 December: 3-course dinner served in candlelit restaurant with sea view and special a la carte Christmas menu
25 December: tasty barbecue buffet, live music
Entrance price: 35\$
26 December: Boxing day anniversary dinner, live music, a la carte
Contact: booking@blueoysterhotel.com
Phone: +255(0) 783045796

■ Christmas Buffet at 6 Degrees
25 December
6 Degrees South Plot 60, Waterfront, Shangani St
Enjoy a christmas buffet lunch with friends a family 12pm – 3pm
Contact: +255 620 644 611

■ COMMUNITY SHOW RACE
31 December, from 11am
Blue Oyster Hotel, Jambiani
Your warm-up for the night! Annual community show, beach race, beach bar open
Phone: +255(0) 783045796

■ GO FOR THE GOGO PARTY!
31 December
Titi Beach Club & Resort, Bwejuu
Ring in the New Year in style with a salty breeze in your hair – the ultimate east coast NYE bash!
Contact: +255 777 033 303

LAGOON WITH ME!

First man-made beach

A lagoon in the making: the Paje residential resort The Soul nestles around a huge trademark lagoon, the first man-made natural pool in Zanzibar. 90 metres long and 10 to 30 metres wide, it contains one million litres of water, two islands, a shallow children’s area, a north-side beach and a south-side cliff-like entrance. The super lagoon is laid-out with natural limestone instead of tiles,

and filled with freshwater. A saltwater pipeline from the sea to the inland lagoon “would not have been possible due to the distance and several village houses near the project”, explained manager Milan Heilmann. To minimise environmental impact, the resort uses rainwater collection and grey water recycling. The Soul is the first residential leisure facility in Zanzibar with more than 200 apartments. A second The Soul is planned for Fumba Town.



PHOTOS (L-R): KEEGAN CHECKES

A masterpiece in the making: for the first time the artificial lagoon at The Soul holiday apartments in Paje was filled with water last month

NEW

MOYONI BAY

The Heart of Fumba Town

starting at

\$139,900

NEW

MWANGANI SKYLOFT

Enriched Living Quality

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\$149,900

+255 623 989 900

www.fumba.town

a project by CPS

ASK DR. JENNY BOURAIMA

READERS' QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY OUR OWN MEDICAL EXPERT

SAFE AND SOUND
IN FUMBA

Dr. Jenny Bouraima answers:

Belinda Mayor, Fumba Town

Dear Dr. Jenny,

As we are enjoying Fumba Town and expecting visitors during the holiday season, would you have an emergency phone number and instructions for First Aids for us - from town security to medical advice? Just to make us feel safe and sound! Thank you so much!

Household injuries? Clinic is on call

In case you get injured during the holiday season our on-call medical team is available to assist. Cuts while preparing the festive dinner, injuries when decorating the home and similar accidents happen more often than one would think!

A few precautions and a well-equipped first aid box at home also make sense. Safe storage goes a long way to prevent cuts and other injuries such as burns.

■ For cuts you should always have some antiseptic solution (like iodine) for immediate cleaning of the wound and some dressing material in different sizes. Deeper and bigger cuts might require stitching and more care, that you can get at our center.

■ Simple burn wounds can also be

cared for at home - cool packs are a great first aid measure to avoid blistering, you just have to remember to wrap them in a towel before applying on the burned area. For more advanced burns (when deeper skin layers or large areas of your body have been affected) do consult our doctor on call for adequate treatment.

■ Fall prevention

when applying your beautiful festive decoration remains number one to prevent injuries. However, should you fall from a high ladder, severely hit your head - and even pass out, even just for a few moments - it is safest to consult with a doctor.

I am wishing you and your family an enjoyable accident-free holiday season and all the best for 2024.

Happy&Healthy

HAVE A HEALTHY HOLIDAY!

URBAN CARE CLINIC is there for you, also during the holidays. We are situated at The Pavilion in Fumba Town. For any health or lifestyle questions, write to us at: Dr. Jenny@fumbastimes.com

Your FIRST AID numbers:
Fortitude Total Security (FTS) Control Room: +255 682 412 488
Town Management (TOC): +255 778 331 144
Urban Care Clinic, Fumba Town: +255 622 820 011
Opening hours: Mon-Fr., 9am-8pm/
Saturday, Sunday and holidays on call.
www.urbandcare.clinic



The author (centre), his brother (left) and their father conquered the mountain together

He skydived for us from a plane over Nungwi; crossed northern Tanzania by bike with his ten-year-old daughter. But climbing the Rwenzori mountain range in Uganda, literally topped it all for our adventure correspondent Mike El Pike.

I was sitting in an Airbnb in Portugal with my family for my parents' 50th wedding anniversary. My brother said, "yeah dad, I'll climb the Rwenzori with you. Mike, do you wanna come?"- "No chance", was my response. My folks have a coffee farm and lodge in western Uganda; it has the Rwenzori mountains in the background. I suppose you may say, the mountain was the backdrop of my childhood.

My dad in the past years has taken a different direction in his life in Uganda, he stopped being a doctor and became a fulltime tree hugger. While he was farming, I guess he developed a bond with the mountain; he always jabbered on about climbing it. I had heard about the Rwenzoris and knew they weren't something to be dabbled with. Apparently they make Kili look like a walk in the park. So when my brother and dad said they were going to do it, I wished them well. Ten days before the climb I got a text. "Mike, if you remember, your brother and I are going to climb the Rwenzoris soon and I would be delighted if you came." I mean I dunno. If you get this text from your 71-year-old dad who wants to do this bucket list thing with his sons and you say, "oh no sorry I'm washing my hair", then you're a bit... It was the word delighted that made me think about it. I owe so much to my

dad, the least I could do was make him slightly delighted. Ten days to prepare. First, I watched a lot of YouTube videos, although I gotta say they didn't prepare me. Second, walk a lot. I started walking ten kilometres a day on the beach, at low tide over tough coral terrain. Then I realised, I'm a beach boy, I was supposed to go over 5,000 metres! Where in Zanzibar has any kind of uphill? My mate Reda's hotel has a lot of steps. So I spent a week walking up and down steps and doing squats in Kiwengwa.

Then the day came. We arrived at the national park and I've gotta say it was truly breathtaking. I don't say that a lot, I now regret saying it. The

first half a kilometre was great and lovely and high-fives all round. But when we went downhill for like a kilometre the realisation set in, that what goes down must come up, or vice versa, and reality struck in. I brought some nice shoes I borrowed from my mate Paul, but I never used them. I wore Wellington boots the whole time as this mountain is wet! The rainmaker. I thought bogs were horizontal, but no, in western Uganda on the foothills of Rwenzori, the bogs are vertical! Reminiscing, it is a magical place. The fauna changes every few hours from tropical to African alpine, to how-anything-exists-in-this-place. There were three of us. Every day got harder. We had 19 porters. Only two of us made it.

This mountain is wet! The rainmaker!



The mountain is still permanently snow-capped, although scientists say, the glaciers are getting smaller because of climate change



Snow and a Zanzibar t-shirt at the peak: at 5109m, the Rwenzori range is less high than the Kilimanjaro but harder to climb

My dad turned back on the last summit day, 600 metres from the top because the oxygen got too reduced. He went back to base camp with some of the porters where he waited for us with open arms. He said that he fulfilled his bucket list. He did climb the mountain with his sons. On the third day we had witnessed a rescue mission for a mountaineer off the top who had climbed Rwenzori once and Kili five times. The team we had was astounding. Every day three times a day, hot cooked food, cheery faces. The Bakonzo people are Batman.

The last day, 2am start. Charge your torches. We were already over 4,000 kilometres up. You put one foot in front of the other and try not to breathe too much. Then you get to the ropes. I hadn't seen these on YouTube.

You reach the glacier, take off your wellies, put on your shoes, then put on your snowshoes, tie yourself into a rope, don't look down, avoid the crevices and think about the hip flask of single malt whisky you'll share with your brother at the top. And then you're at the top! After all the photos you realise you're over 5,000 metres and you have to get down. People say the descent is worse than the ascent. It ain't easy but I don't agree. This trip made me realise a few things: For one, if I put my mind to something I can do it with minimal training. It made me respect my father and my brother more than I ever have. And this trip made me realise that I have been blessed. Blessed to spend 35 years in Africa which is just drop dead gorgeous. Our writer Mike El Pike alias Michael Clarke is the owner of Season's Lodge in Zanzibar.

MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON

En route: The Rwenzoris are a mountain range in Uganda on the border of Congo and Rwanda and have 16 mountains, the highest is Margherita peak at 5109 metres. Mount Kilimanjaro (Africa's highest mountain) has 5,895 meter. The Rwenzori's upper regions are glaciated. European explorers linked the Ruwenzori with the legendary Mountains of the Moon. Travel arrangements: @onkwanzitravel, Kampala

JUST DISCOVERED FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN ZANZIBAR

Music for kids: try the Dhow Music Academy in Zanzibar

5 BEST PLACES TO TAKE YOUR KIDS

For residents and tourists

By Sine Heitmann

1 Speak to the crabs Low-tide-love at Mtende Beach. This 'hidden' beach offers a fantastic day out for a family with kids. Like many beaches on the South East Coast, it is subject to tidal differences and at high tide, there is no beach – you need the low tide to enjoy Mtende. Explore and discover natural pools, observe the many crabs in the coral rocks and if you have not brought your own picnic, there is Usumba Rock, a locally owned and managed restaurant spectacularly built into the coral rocks and offering great Swahili cuisine with the best views to be enjoyed at either low tide or high tide. Open every day, TZS 2,000 access fee/village contribution Location: south of Makunduchi, just follow your navigation. Tide calendar for Zanzibar: www.tide-forecast.com

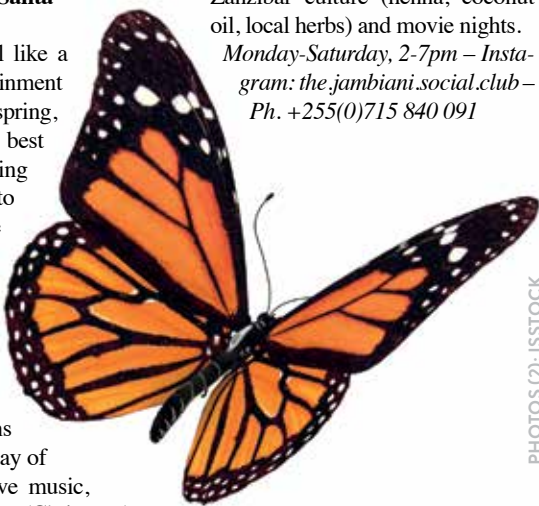
2 Meet Santa Claus We all like a bit of entertainment for our little offspring, and one of the best events happening in the lead up to Christmas is the Island Festival at New Teddys on the beach in Jambiani. All year round, it happens every first Sunday of the month – live music, acrobats show, a (Christmas) market under the trees for shopping and kids entertainment. The central pool and a generally family-friendly vibe make a great day to spend. Also, for a special Santa Claus experience, watch Mustaphas Place in Bwejuu, where every year on 24 December, Santa Claus comes to bring presents to kids, in the afternoon. Island Festival Christmas Edition, 3 December, 12-9pm, teddy-place.com Santa Claus at Mustapha Place, Bwejuu, 24 December, 5pm, reservation for Christmas BBQ recommended mustaphasplace.com, Ph +255 (0)772099422

3 Butterfly Beauties Since children love all sorts of animals, take them to the Zanzibar Butterfly Centre, located in Pete near to Jozani Forest.

A guided tour takes about 30 to 40 minutes, and you learn about the life stages of a butterfly, see many flying around and learn to understand the importance of the conservation of the tropical forest. What makes this trip worth it, is that the centre is completely community-run and the fees also contribute to conservation and preservation. And since you are near to Jozani Forest, you may even combine it with a visit to the monkeys. zanzibarbutterflycentre.com Ph +255 767 074 446, 9am-5pm, entry TZS 14,000

4 Children united The Jambiani Social Club is a new project established by east coast resident Launi Makame Launi. Located on the village road in central Jambiani near Visitor's Inn, the kids club has the mission to connect guests and residents with local Zanzibar culture as well as offering a social meeting point with a small kids' library (growing every day), both Swahili and popular games, workshops on Zanzibar culture (henna, coconut oil, local herbs) and movie nights. Monday-Saturday, 2-7pm – Instagram: the.jambiani.social.club – Ph. +255(0)715 840 091

5 Beat it! The Dhow Countries Music Academy (DCMA) in Stone Town offers music education for children, and while you can sign up your children for music, singing and movement classes on a regular basis, the special concerts and performances are also great for family entertainment and to learn about Swahili music during a visit to the island. In the lead up to Sauti za Busara in February 2024, check their program on a regular basis and do not miss letting kids learn more about the wonderful heritage of Zanzibar and its instruments. Dhow Countries Music Academy // Culture Musical Club, Vuga Road // P.O. Box 4055, Zanzibar, Tanzania Ph +255 (0) 777 416 529 // Email: admin@zanzibarmusic.org



PHOTOS (2): ISTOCK

NATURE SPA DE LUXE

Fortress-like Bamboo Hotel in Jambiani is in a class of its own and so is the new Elements Spa within.

The latest endeavour of Kim Nguyen on the east coast, the generously designed new Bamboo Elements Spa with an all-natural but sophisticated vibe, is definitely a must-do on your coastal activities list. Vietnamese entrepreneur Kim, who manages the new beauty and relax oasis, has infused it with Asian wisdom and style. Intuitional massage is the message, including a novel hair and scalp treatment. "We want to

know a bit about our clients before we start the treatment", explains Kim. Rooms are based on the five elements: wood, fire, earth, metal and water. Modern-minimalistic, they still radiate a warm deluxe feeling. On the menu are 'Slim and Trim' massages, even pregnancy massages and anti-stress rituals. A good number of facials, foot treatments and hand care are also offered. Make of it a whole day off with an additional hotel day pass (\$30) granting access to all facilities including an amazing 50m cliffhanger pool and grill lounge, all designed by Lucas Otyeza, a Spanish architect living in Zanzibar. The Dome restaurant under Chef Woytek is one of the best on the island. Try

prawn dumplings and bao bans - and book the next slim massage! bamboozanzibar.com



Designed to relax: bamboo, concrete and teak harmonise in the Elements Spa at Bamboo Hotel with intuitive Asian massages



PHOTOS (2): BAMBOO SPA

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