

The Fumba Times

FROM ZANZIBAR TO THE WORLD – THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL

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NEW SERVICE
TOP EVENTS IN ZANZIBAR



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WHERE THE ACTION IS

From kitesurfing to the FuTopia festival - get into the groove now



Zanzibar is in full swing again. June to August means action: kitesurfing in Paje! International live music at the Fumba Town festival FuTopia on 8 and 9 August! And because there is so much to do, THE FUMBA TIMES is launching a new Mambo event calendar on page 3. Pick your favs, join the fun! Life is now in Zanzibar



THE EAST COAST SURF IS ON

Warm water, wild wind and total freedom – Kiter's heaven in Paje

By staff writer

At first glance, Paje looks too beautiful to be sporty. The beach is absurdly white. The Indian Ocean glows in fifty shades of turquoise. Masai sell rubber sandals. But then the wind arrives. Suddenly the horizon explodes with colour: red kites, blue kites, neon-green kites dancing above the lagoon like tropical birds on caffeine.

Zanzibar is now firmly parked on the list of the world's top ten kitesurfing destinations. With reliable monsoon



trade winds, warm shallow water and year-round tropical temperatures, the island has become a dream address. The holy grail is Paje on Zanzibar's southeast coast. Here, an offshore coral reef forms a natural pool stretching hundreds of meters. Beginners love the waist-deep water, pros the buttery flat sections for freestyle tricks, and "normal" surfers the waves breaking further out on the reef. With more than 200 kiteable days a year, Zanzibar is mentioned alongside legendary spots like El Gouna in Egypt and Jericoacoara in Brazil.

Students range from eight to eighty years, surf instructors say. "It's like riding a bike, once you know it, it's forever", says Bradley Thomas, 40, of "Aquaholics", one of half a dozen established surf schools here. "Zanzibar just ticks a lot of boxes", he says, "it has qualified schools and local pop-ups".

Mbuzi, the quiet surfer

Away from the buzz and clubs of Paje, flanked by casuarina plants in Jambiani, Othman Mwinyi opens a shed full of surf boards. His students call the 37-year-old Rasta Mbuzi (Swahili for goat), a school nickname which stuck. "Local pop-ups", he repeats with a sigh, "there are these and those. Some learn how to kite

and start teaching a month later." Not so Mbuzi himself. After a professional training in the Netherlands, he opened his fully-insured Mbuzi Kite School. He also has a rescue boat: "Kitesurfing is still a dangerous sport", he says gently. In general, however, Mbuzi and Thomas welcome the growing number of local instructors, "as long as they are qualified". How can a customer tell? Pros ask USD 60-80 per lesson (less for 10-hour-courses); bargains of USD 20 per hour should be a warning sign.

More safety

Modern kitesurfing was born in the 1990s when two French brothers developed the inflatable kite system. Within a decade, a niche obsession became a full-blown lifestyle sport. In terms of safety, it has changed dramatically. New kites feature quick-release systems; schools in Zanzibar now teach internationally standardized safety protocols. And then there is the feeling. One moment your board is skimming silently over water, the next, the kite catches a gust and suddenly you're floating above the lagoon with fishermen, dhows, seaweed farms and even cows beneath your feet. After all, you are in Africa.

Aquaholics Kite & Surf, Paje
aquaholics-zanzibar.com
Mbuzi Kite School, Jambiani
IG @mbuzikiteschool
Others: Kite Centre, Kite Paradise, B4 Kite, Lucky Kite

Floating above cows and dhows

MY FIRST TIME KITESURFING



Kites are big and powerful

Jenny Dietzold, 40, about overcoming newcomer's anxiety:

There's a very specific kind of humility that comes from being dragged face-first through the Indian Ocean by a giant kite while a cheerful instructor calls out "relax your arms!" My partner and I signed up for a ten-hour beginner's course for two with Aquaholics. At first, kitesurfing sounded glamorous: wind in your hair, effortless freedom. Well, you will get there. But before, count on: stumbling on the beach, learning how to control the kite before even touching the board. And that kite is powerful. Pull too hard, panic for a

second. Kitesurfing felt completely counterintuitive to me. My instincts were wrong. If the kite speeds up, my natural reaction is to pull harder. Exactly what you should not do. Control comes from gentleness, not force.

Once we moved into the water, handling both the board and kite at the same time felt almost impossible. Then the thrill: the first few seconds on the board. Probably not elegant. But suddenly I was gliding across the water instead of sinking into it. Three seconds like winning the Olympics! By the end of the ten hours, we could both stand and ride for some time; we'll definitely take more lessons in the new season.

EARLY BIRD WORLD CUP

Matches of the 23rd FIFA World Cup kick-off at rather inconvenient hours for African viewers.

Football I: Taking place from 11 June to 19 July, the World Cup 2026 is the biggest ever with 48 teams from around the globe competing in 104 games in 12 groups (A-L). The tournament is hosted in 16 cities across the USA, Canada and Mexico. For us on the East Coast of Africa, that means huge time differences of up to ten hours, many late night and early morning games.



Public viewing:
"Why not" pub Airport Road, every day | Fumba Town beach, from 7pm

FAST LANE

Football II: Zanzibar's first six-lane highway is being built for the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2027. Heavy machinery is enlarging the Fumba access road towards the 36,500-seat stadium still under construction. Some walls and houses are bulldozed for progress. "Compensation sometimes costs more than the actual infrastructure", conceded a senior government official recently.

150 YEARS AUSTRIAN CONSUL



Austrian Ambassador Dr. Fellner (middle) discussing historic photos with Acting Tourism Minister Mudrick R. Soraga (L) and PS About S. Jumbe

At a time when the average survival rate of a European in Zanzibar were a grueling three years, Austria established his consulate in 1876.

A distinct crowd including three Zanzibar ministers and several ambassadors commemorated the 150-year jubilee recently. Austria's ambassador to Tanzania and permanent representative to the United Nations (UN), Dr. Christian Fellner, dug deep into history describing the 19th century when "the Austrian-Hungarian empire was still a global player." It never had colonies, but Austrians came as merchants and explor-

ers; the turning point had been the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869. Several shipwrecks later, in 1889, Ludwig Purtscheller became the first to climb Mount Kilimanjaro with German explorer Hans Meyer.

The Austrian consulate did not start off on the right foot: Richard Brenner, the architect, died in March 1874 before it was opened. His successor Carl Fisch, the very first consul, passed one year after his appointment in 1876.

An estimated 1,000 to 2,500 Germans and 200 to 400 Austrian expats are living in Tanzania today. A portrait of Sissy, the famed Austrian Empress Elisabeth (1837-1898), once gifted to the sultans, is exhibited in the Palace Museum, temporarily in Kibweni.

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LET'S TALK

“ZANZIBAR IS A UNIQUE BRAND”

New generation reshaping the island - Transparency builds trust

Zanzibar is a brand, no longer an undiscovered paradise. But is the island heading in the right direction? Two leading experts from tourism and real estate discuss.

Zanzibar is transforming at extraordinary speed. Luxury residences rise where palm groves once stood. Tourist arrivals are nearing one million annually. Roads are expanding rapidly. Yet alongside the optimism lies a growing question: is the island modernise without losing itself?

THE FUMBA TIMES: Gentlemen, if you had to rate Zanzibar today on a scale of 1 to 10, where would you place it? Suleiman Mohammed: In tourism, I would place Zanzibar at a nine heading towards ten. The progress over the last five years has been remarkable. We are moving very fast. But development is not only about numbers. We must also ask ourselves what kind of Zanzibar we want to become.



Tropical getaway with a purpose
Ma'a Salama is a new eco-luxury Boutique Resort in Jambiani, Zanzibar with seven exclusive Villas and offers tuition-free Hospitality Training for young Zanzibari. Nestled among swaying palms and lush gardens on the shores of the Indian Ocean.

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From the beaches to town - which projects stand out for you? Masoud Salim: You cannot discuss Zanzibar real estate without mentioning Fumba Town. The pioneer project has opened up the island, and others followed. Now you have ultra-luxury developments like Anantara and a new wave of branded residences.

Suleiman Mohammed: I see it the same way. A jungle of bureaucracy often hinders quick solutions. For example, my wife is Dutch, our son lives in the diaspora in the Netherlands, just to work here in Zanzibar is a big problem for him. Masoud Salim: On the other hand, there has been probably more progress in the last five years than in the 50 years before. I am happy about the generational change.

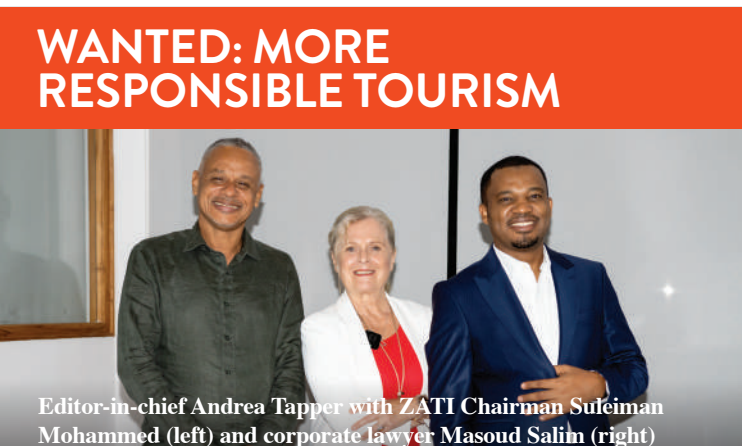
What are tourism stakeholders complaining about most? Suleiman Mohammed: Let's be honest, ever changing regulations... some hotels complain about Airbnb, too. But we believe both have their rights. There must be a balance. What's your personal favourite spot in Zanzibar? Masoud Salim: Stone Town. Take

TOURISM UPDATES 2026

- Flying high: Since June, Turkish Airlines flies up to 3x daily from Istanbul to Zanzibar, making it the international airline with the highest frequency of flights to the island.
Good low season: Though it seemed otherwise, during the long rainy season this year, tourism did NOT drop because of the Gulf war. 37,000 tourists visited Zanzibar in April, an increase of 3.8%.
Change of course: Authorities have stopped issuing new land leases in Pemba. Hafsa Mbamba, senior tourism official at the Presidential Delivery Bureau explained: "We want a better planned destination management"
Tourism: 80% of foreign earnings, 30% of GDP in Zanzibar



Big plans for the future: 7-star hotel in Pemba (large photo) and new apartment blocks for Kikwajuni (small photo).
your kids to the rooftops to appreciate the heritage! Suleiman Mohammed: Stone Town is our identity.
Ten years from now, what do you hope Zanzibar will look like? Masoud Salim: I hope that we build a mature investment environment with strong institutions, transparency and world-class infrastructure.



WANTED: MORE RESPONSIBLE TOURISM
ZATI - a strong voice
REDA - launched in 2025
The Zanzibar Association of Tourism Investors (ZATI) has over 600 members. The powerful private sector body represents tourism businesses of all areas and sizes - from hotels to tour operators. The association is a voice for responsible and inclusive tourism. Chairman is Suleiman Mohammed who recently also became the new chairman of the important Commission for Tourism. New members are welcome at ZATI.
Contact: zati.or.tz



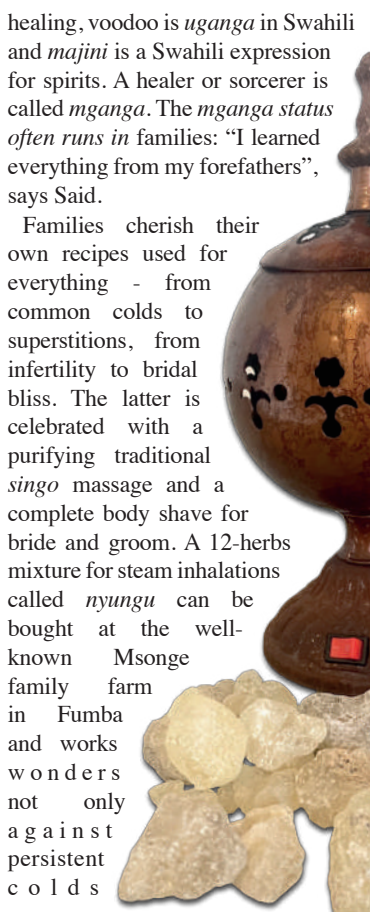
200 years old, thousands of natural medicines: herbalist Said in a duka la dawa za asilia shop in Stone Town

NATURE'S PHARMACY
Herbal medicine and health secrets of Zanzibar
By staff writer
Slimming with kurkuma, cloves for toothache: Zanzibaris believe in spices, herbs and charms. Island herbalist Said Suleiman Mohammed, 55, reveals secrets of the twilight world of dawa za asili.

To understand the rich tradition, Dawa za asili means natural medicine, useful for physical as well as emotional health. Bad sleep can be cured with habasoda (Black Seeds). Cummin cures diarrhoea. There's even a cure against "aggressive husbands", Said Suleiman Mohammed tells me with a smile. Perhaps nobody knows more about natural medicine in all its facets - from bottled pharmacy products to whispered tradition - than the 55-year-old traditional daktari who

Healing has a long tradition

even became a lecturer at the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA). The father of nine invented a 12-herb slimming mixture, popular with virtually all the ladies on the island. He conducts "Herbal Medicine Tours" for tourists, treats cancer patients, as well as unhappy wives. And when we meet at Forodhani, his mobile constantly rings with patients asking for advice. Passers-by stop to greet him to share quick updates of recovery. In Zanzibar, local herbal medicine is popular and frequently used. Throughout the centuries, the islands Ugunja and, to an even greater extent, Pemba have been famous as centres of "traditional religion and witchcraft alongside their better-known role as spice isles", writes Chris McIntyre in his bestselling Bradt Travel Guide. "Herbal medicine has been here for 2,000 years", adds herbalist Said. No wonder then, that shops with essential oils, crystals, herbs and traditional tinctures can be found everywhere, especially around



Herbalist Said in a duka la dawa za asilia shop in Stone Town

SAID'S PROVEN REMEDIES HERBS TO HEAL



- DRESSING WOUNDS: Mix turmeric and honey, apply 3x a day
BETTER DIGESTION: Add cardamom to your tea or coffee for 3 days
MOSQUITO REPELLENT: Make oil with lemongrass, basil and curry leaves, apply on skin
PURIFY NEW HOME: Place bowls with salt water in rooms, pour away after 1 week
STIFF NECK: Massage affected muscle strands 40x, drink cinnamon tea
DIARRHOEA: Fry cummin, grind it, make a tea, drink with honey

but helped many through Covid times. Traditional beliefs are deeply rooted in Zanzibar's society. Often one will see tiny babies with kajal make-up. This too, has a deeper meaning: the dramatic eyeliner is supposed to keep demons away from the newborn. A shetani spirit - when seeing such a baby - will be repelled and fly away, the belief goes. Zanzibar has tried to bring classic scientific medicine and natural healers closer together - with mixed results. "Uganga is actually forbidden in Islam", Said points out, adding, "but sometimes you have no choice." There

Information, appointments and Herbal Tours (in English): Said Suleiman +255 777 415 558

FUMBA TIMES | MAMBO - What's on

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Our team of passionate explorers has ventured out far and wide to bring you the hidden gems, beating hotspots, and must-attend events that locals love and the world hasn't found yet. If not mentioned otherwise, regular events take place every month.
Not yet listed? Mail us your events for the upcoming Sept-Nov 2026 edition until 1 August.
Mail to: events@fumbatimes.com

CLUB OF THE MONTH
NEVER TOO EARLY TO PARTY
Zanzibar's iconic electro beach club since 2017, B4 on Paje beach, opens earlier this season, turning lazy beach days into music-filled after-kite events. Afro house, deep electro & funk with Zanzibar's first female DJ Zainooba and international DJs. Balearic tunes on Sundays.
Where: B4, Paje, Tuesdays 3 pm, Sundays from 12pm
Info: b4beachclub

BEST RESTAURANT
DUMPLING LOVERS UNITE!
Kim Nguyen, a Vietnamese in Zanzibar, has blended history, dumplings and Pho soup into an irresistible mix. Her latest of five outstanding dining spots, inspired by Hanoi street food and Vietnamese coffee specials, is hidden in a romantic garden near Jaws Corner. A must-try!
Where: Hanoi House Café, Stone Town
Info: IG @kim_dining_concept

BEACH SURPRISE
SUNSET ON THE EAST COAST?
Only in westward-facing Michamvi Bay! Several hotels and restaurants are tucked away there at the northern tip of the South East Coast, a 20-minute drive from Paje. Kae Funk beats drift over the water. Jaz Elite Aurora features a jettty bar; a Floating Bar is coming in Jun
Where: Kae Funk Beach Bar, Michamvi
Info: IG @kaefunkbeachbar; Sundays: DJ KCM & band

SPOTLIGHT ON...
FROM FIJI TO ZANZIBAR
The 120-year-old teak staircase may be creaking, but events are strictly contemporary. Open mics, clothing swaps, movie nights: Lucy and Gillead Mziray, Londoners with Fijian roots, have spiked up a former Omani royal mansion with Swahili health food and a culture garden.
Where: Habari House, Stone Town
Info: habarihouse.com, boutique hotel & event hub

Table with columns for JUNE, JULY, and AUGUST, listing various entertainment events like B4 Beach Club, DJ Sessions, DCMMA Afro Kabisa Night, Jamaican Special Buffet, Slay Queen Party, Juneteenth Festival, African Pub Quiz, Karaoke Night, Full Moon Party, Pilates with Oscar, Girls football camp, Farm-to-table buffet, Thrifty Thursday, Kwetu Kwetu Community Market, 29th Zanzibar International Film Festival (ZIFF).



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WELCOME NOTE
WE LOVE STONE TOWN



Andrea Tapper
Editor-in-chief
THE FUMBA TIMES

I still remember the day I came to Zanzibar for the first time. I arrived in Stone Town in 2012, smitten by its rooftop terraces and crumbling palaces, its unexpected charm and morbid beauty. Frankly, I hadn't heard much about the UNESCO-protected gem on the holiday island. It was love at first sight. "It feels like Marakessh on Sylt (a northern German island) with a touch of Havana" became my favourite way of describing the look and feel of the unique historic quarter in the Indian Ocean. My love first led to a book, then to a residency. And although I now live a more suburban life in Fumba Town - the island's green estate 25 minutes away from the capital - I am still in love with Stone Town, and was happy to rediscover it during my recent "holiday from Fumba" featured on page

8. I would like to recommend such a holiday at home to any resident. Staying in the midst of the action in a cool Airbnb, surrounded by city hotels, boutiques and nightlife, I observed both remarkable restoration progress and ongoing ignorance. The island has yet to make its peace with its history - and develop a fearless approach towards preserving it. A similar sentiment came up in an eye-opening panel discussion we staged for you on page 2 between two leading figures in tourism and real estate. Truly utopian sounds and real estate. And although I now live a more suburban life in Fumba Town - the island's green estate 25 minutes away from the capital - I am still in love with Stone Town, and was happy to rediscover it during my recent "holiday from Fumba" featured on page

GUEST COMMENT
GENERAL MANAGER WITH A MISSION



Hamadi Zaid, originally from Tunisia, GM of three RIU hotels in Zanzibar, has a soft spot for culture - and rediscovered an iconic woman here

As I mark my eighth year as General Manager at RIU Hotels in Zanzibar, by now the largest hotel chain on the island, I find myself reflecting on a journey that has transformed not just my career, but my heart and soul. Arriving here from afar, I came with the intention of leading a world-class hospitality team and delivering unforgettable experiences to our guests. What I discovered, however, was something far deeper, the timeless beauty, rich culture, and resilient spirit of Zanzibar itself.

Discovering how deeply she was connected to traditional healing and initiation rituals. Her role in preserving these cultural traditions for generations of Zanzibaris cannot be overestimated. My research combined conversations with elderly people in Zanzibar who still remember her, and historical material available online. These sources helped me piece together a fuller picture of Bi Kidude's remarkable life, and of her contribution to conserving a wider culture, common to all of us.

Her life story moved me profoundly. It inspired me to dive deeper into Zanzibar's musical and historical legacy and, as a result, I will soon publish a book about her. I can truly say, Zanzibar has inspired me. It has given me so much professional growth, personal joy, and a profound appreciation for its past. To my fellow Zanzibaris: thank you for embracing me.

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Icon of strength: the late Bibi Kidude

NOW & THEN



AN ERA ENDING...
Saying farewell to a chilled club that shaped Zanzibar

It began and ended with a container. Four years of Kwetu Kwenu Chill, the pioneering beach club and restaurant of Fumba Town, have left sweet memories - and a lasting mark. Making sure that everything at the unique neighbourhood hub and islandwide attraction was either re-used (the container), recycled (a legendary dhow table) or ecolog-

ical (the amazing sunset deck), the founders Franko Goeshe and his wife Bernadette Kirsch created much more than a beach club. "It became home", resident Petra van Bommel summarised the feeling of many. Open mic nights, movies, ZED talks, live bands; a thousand sunsets and BBQ chicken later, the show is over and our hearts are full of gratitude - thank you, Miss B. and Franko!



Founders of a legend: Franko Goeshe and Bernadette Kirsch



Unforgettable sunsets above the ocean: at Kwetu Kwenu Chill neighbours became friends & everybody was welcome



No beach? Lets create one! A fine white sand patch with sunbeds and movie screenings was added in 2025



The boss at the grill station: a Munich "Oktoberfest" was one of many theme parties

...A NEW BEGINNING

A crowd favourite at Slipway centre in Dar es Salaam and on the beach of Kigombani (photo below), the award winning restaurant Thai Kani has landed in Zanzibar. The worthy successor of Kwetu Kwenu Chill prom-

ises a rich Thai fusion menu with sushi and seafood (small photo), skewers and pizza. With a temporary food & drink bar already open, the family-run business plans to add a fine dining at the same location in Fumba Town shortly. Renowned chef Tanakrit sees to the menu while the team assures that "music and beach vibes will continue in Fumba Town". We can't wait! Information: IG @thaikanitz



Coming to Fumba: Thai Kani beach club and restaurant from mainland

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THE WOMAN WHO GOT INTO FORBES

Miranda Naiman is the first Tanzanian among Africa's 25 most influential women



PHOTOS: G. KANAIMAN, K.CHECKS

By Andrea Tapper

Successful against the odds - that's how you could describe Miranda Naiman. The 43-year old founder of consulting firm Empower in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar has a lot to say about common business traps, Zanzibar and women careers in Africa.

We want to photograph her at her desk but she laughingly declines: "I don't have one." We settle for the Yana Garden Bakes cafe in Fumba Town and Miranda Naiman brings her eight-year-old niece along. Radiating a casual vibe and a focused attitude at the same time, Naiman's secret to success quickly becomes obvious. She certainly delivers the impression that she'll solve a client's problem, whatever it is, with or without a desk.

One of Africa's best head hunters, experienced staff trainers, most sought-after company consultants and a member of several corporate boards, Miranda Naiman, who is married with two kids and originally a teacher for adult education, is the only Tanzanian woman to hit the new Forbes Africa list of the continent's most influential women aged 30 to 50. "These women are united by one defining trait, the willingness to take risks", the magazine says of them.

Investing in people, building up people is a big part of her job. Empower has operated in 17 African countries partnering with over 320 organisations, and has trained 2,000 leaders and professionals. Naiman is a board member of the CRDB bank, the Global AI council and several other institutions - that adds up to a good amount of influence for a 43-year old. But it is not the career aspect,

which drives her. "Success, for me, is peace of mind", she says.

Key tools of Empower's activities are "leadership development" and "strategy execution". Miranda Naiman has observed: "Strategy is rarely the problem in companies. Most leaders know what needs to be done but struggle to maintain discipline and

pace." That's where Empower comes in: "We push when required, support when needed, and hold execution to account until delivery is complete." How does this play out in practical terms? Naiman runs the firm of 45 employees together with her sister Ella and her brother Joshua. They are not just rendering a diagnosis and suggesting solutions - like classic consultants - but are going right into companies "to drive the change." "It always starts with defining the problem", Naiman says. Define, design, drive is her motto. In Zanzibar, for example, she developed a "robust sales and tracking system" for a real estate company. An energy company called her when leadership became stagnant and team leaders needed a push to step-up. "We created for them a test phase of challenges and projects", she explains, "that brought the desired push."

Africa has its special challenges. "Many countries are evolving rapidly against a backdrop of infrastructure gaps", the entrepreneur says. And there's the gap between education and employability. In Tanzania, 50 per cent of the population is under 18. In partnership with six leading universities, Empower has developed a one-year skills development training. "We have a collective responsibility to equip young people with 21st century skills", the consultant firmly believes. Zanzibar especially needs a talent pipeline - qualified people ready for the labour market or to set up business. "There is exciting momentum but the rapid growth must be supported by the system", says Naiman who signed a co-operation with the university of Zanzibar last month.

Women's progress is another matter close to her heart. "Luckyly we are seeing more and more women step into spaces historically closed to them", she says. "Women in Africa have become decision makers."

ART
"TOTAL FREEDOM"

A rising Nigerian artist explores female experience and self-empowerment in her art available at Forster Gallery.

As it is thrown at women, but at the same time these pearls are lending aesthetics to the picture", she interprets her own elegant work. "I want to make women of Africa more visible and empower them", the Nigerian artist said.

Forster Gallery, visits upon appointment, +255 654 269 654



Powerful, beautiful women: painting by Yakno Abasi Ene

SECURITY
MEN IN BLUE

Talking about job creation: A large recruitment was recently celebrated by Fortitude Total Security (FTS), a leading security firm in Zanzibar. Ready to go after a two-week intensive training, the hundred new recruits will work in Zanzibar and Pemba, announced Dalmas Gregory, director of FTS. The firm was founded in Fumba Town to provide security to the new development; meanwhile, the well-

trained 300-strong troop protects diverse industry clients such as the Hyatt and Serena hotel, Turkish construction company IRIS and the music festival Sauti za Busara.

Gregory allowed some insight into operations during the ceremony, citing "competent management, effective training and respect for human rights" as keys to success. He modestly skipped over other important criteria: the outstanding politeness and charm for which his male and female officers are known and loved not only in Fumba Town.



Learning how to stand still but remaining vigilant: new recruits of Zanzibar's leading security firm Fortitude Total Security (FTS)

SPORT
MARATHON RECORD

A Kenyan broke the world marathon record this spring finishing in less than two hours. 31-year-old Sabastian Sawe from the Rift Valley won the famous 42.2-km run in London with an official time of 1 hour 59 minutes and 30 seconds. Celebrated by a huge crowd upon his return home, he simply said: "I did not expect it." Kenyans, together with Ethiopians, have been holding premier positions in long distance running for decades. Especially the highland farmers of the Rift Valley are famous for producing the best runners.



Fastest marathon runner on earth: Kenya's Sabastian Sawe

MIND MY BUSINESS
LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS MAKING A DIFFERENCE - THIS TIME: FISHAPPY

GOOD CATCH
Better deals for the fishing community?

A local startup wants to close the gap between the fisherman and your plate. Order seafood at a restaurant or pick some up at the market. Either way, chances are high you will find something you like. But the story behind that fish, between the fisherman who caught it at 5am and the plate it lands on, is more complicated than one might think. In fact, it's quite broken. A local startup wants to fix that. Godfrey Muganyizi, 24, recently

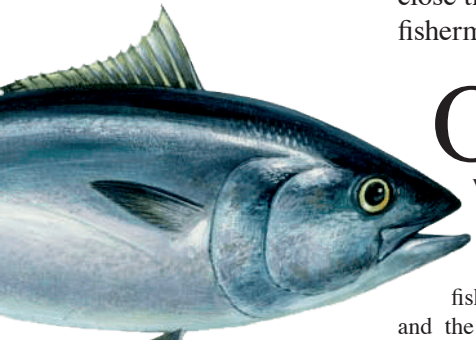
won a business plan competition with Fishappy, his startup aimed at tackling the island's seafood supply chain - what the industry calls "cold chain". The competition was organised by Co-Prosperity, a new business incubator here in Zanzibar. In 2023, Zanzibar recorded roughly 100,000 tonnes in total catch - more than enough to feed the 1.9 million residents, who consume on average of 21 kilograms of fish per year, as well as some of the one million tourists. Fish production - accounting for 15% of the islands' GDP - has quadrupled in the last two decades. And yet up to 40% of Zanzibar's catch is lost or wasted. Everybody's talking about the Blue Economy but few seem to know how to make it work. Zanzibar does not lack supply, but infrastructure. Hotels' longterm payment policies and the fishermen's need for immediate cash also collide. By mid-morning, across Zanzibar's more than 300 landing sites, the

cooling problem becomes obvious: the catch is fresh, but there is little cold storage. What doesn't sell on time goes to waste. That's where Fishappy, the startup with the catchy name, wants to step in. Using the prize money of roughly USD 3,000, a first solar-powered cold storage unit, the size of about four fridges, will be installed at one of the main landing sites. Next step is to improve communication between the players: Fishappy invented an app to connect fishermen and clients. Hopefully, the digital approach will bring a first breakthrough in improving the island's traditional fishery market.



A rare ice storage (left) and a fisherman at the market in Malindi

Information: fishhappy.co.tz; coprosperity.com



Hotels import fish, because there's no cold chain



HOW DO YOU WANT TO LIVE?

What affordable housing really means in Zanzibar

Green vision: Courageous design for low-income apartments

Affordability is one of Zanzibar's key challenges in urban development. Rent-to-own could be the golden strategy. And it could start in Fumba.

According to official statistics, 10,000 new homes per year are needed on the island. What should these houses look like and how can they be financed, are key questions in urban development. Based on ongoing research and discussions with employees as well as self-employed workers - from secretaries, to drivers to farmers - the limitations emerging are not unexpected and yet shockingly realistic. Many describe "the gap between housing costs and income as one of their biggest challenges". The research showed in particular:

- A house or apartment should not cost more than 20-40million (USD 7,500-15,000) for low- and middle income groups
- Rent limit for most is TZS 200,000 (USD 75) per month; many people pay as little as TZS 50,000 rent (less than USD 20)

Julia Verne, professor for cultural geography from Germany pointed out: "There is often a misconception about

the middle class. 60% of the middle class in Zanzibar earn only two to four dollars daily."

"To reach the bottom of the population pyramid in Zanzibar is difficult", said Tobias Dietzold, one of the directors of CPS, the developer of Fumba Town in Zanzibar. A third of buyers in the new seaside town are locals - but belong to a more affluent section of society. In Tanzania, housing loans are quite expensive. A multi-faceted approach is required to enable affordable housing. "We need to invest in cheaper building material. Zanzibar has a high unemployment rate and many households lack regular income", Dietzold said. With expectations high, and spending power low, rent-to-buy schemes could be the best option, experts suggest.

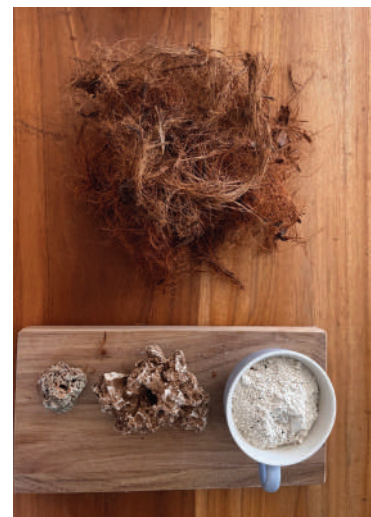
Expectations high, spending power low

Utopia on its way
Jorgen Tycho agrees. Together with CPS, the Norwegian architect is researching new construction options with innovative materials like "coco-crete" (THE FUMBA TIMES reported in edition 26) and sustainable high-rises. His designs of radical eco-affordability and high-density look fascinating and alienating at the same time. They include:
- Six to nine-storey highrise buildings made of wood with a concrete foundation. Both, timber and the new building material coco-crete - ground corals mixed with coconut fibre - would be used for the fragile looking, yet solid

vertical villages (see photo above).
- One-room micro apartments for many purposes - as family room, school, bedroom, nail salon. There are communal laundries, kitchen and working spaces. Apartments are connected via verandahs.

"Our research showed that people live a lot outside", Tycho said. Even the wind direction of the Fumba peninsula is critically included in his design; the wooden apartment blocks would be built on an east-west axis to allow for maximum ventilation.

Who wants to live like that?
"I'm sure it's ideal for young professionals, they would love the opportunity", Tycho says about his unusual, futuristic vertical village. The target group are people earning between USD 125 and 500 per month, he explained. Social housing is often undersupplied in most developing countries. More common is company housing. How, then, could one cater to a home-demanding population? Urban specialists like Kurtis Lockhart, who has founded a research and study centre "African Urban Lab" in Zanzibar, advocates for more infrastructure planning. Prof. Julia Verne remains sceptical. "People are used to a life without running water and garbage collection. Building a simple house for themselves, often gets them more for their money than a housing scheme with infrastructure."
"The gap between what people want, and what the market can supply is big", concedes Jorgen Tycho. Low income groups cannot pay garden or other service fees. Low-cost



New building material: Coconut and corals

buildings should therefore be "embedded in productive landscapes" is the concept of Franko Goehse, head of the Permaculture Design Company (PDC). His vision comes with urban farms, market gardens and rain water collection, with football grounds and health centres - nothing less than a wholesome community for even the smallest budget.

RENT-TO-OWN - how would it work?



Director Tobias Dietzold with students

- Tenant pays a monthly rent, part of which is credited as equity ("savings" component)
- Developer holds the asset until a threshold is reached (after 1-2 years of on-time payments)
- Tenant transitions into a micro-mortgage or long-term payment plan
- Additional finance could be built up with saving groups, targeted subsidies assist lowest-income households

INSIDE FUMBA TOWN TRUE STORIES OF NEW RESIDENTS



First residents in the new CheiChei buildings: Prof. Sanjeev Sabnis and his wife Sheela

"WE LIKE THE CATS OF FUMBA"

A group of six teachers of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) and their families have moved into the first finished, manor-like CheiChei apartments. How comfortable are they, we asked mathematics professor Sanjeev Sabnis, 67, and his wife Sheela, 62.

A welcome for new arrivals?
Exactly, but we don't want to complain. We have a nice kitchen to prepare our vegetarian dishes. We have already discovered Darajani market and an excellent Indian restaurant, Krishna Food House, in Stone Town.

Sheela: During our first two months here, we did a lot of excursions - to Paje Beach, Safari Blue, even to the Serengeti. Everywhere people are very friendly.

Do you sleep well here?
Oh yes, there is a beautiful cross ventilation in the house when we open the windows. They all have mosquito netting.

How do you like the concept of the town?
Prof Sabnis: We are quite impressed. The estate is well maintained. We love the closeness to the ocean, the views...

Sheela: ...and the many cats! We had a cat at home for 14 years who passed recently, so now we enjoy the cats of Fumba.

Prof Sabnis: We meet them every evening when we go for our brisk one-hour walk, about five rounds from the intersection to the sea. It's lovely.



"Missing a blender": Sheela loves cooking

You have come from India to teach in Fumba?
Prof Sabnis: I taught for 35 years in Mumbai, then retired in Poona, now they lured me back to the campus here in Zanzibar to hold an introduction course about probability.

Sheela: All our life we lived on a campus, it's the first time to reside in an outside estate. But I feel quite at home already and safe here, even when my husband is out teaching.

Your two-bedroom on the second floor is fully furnished?

Sheela: Yes, but I rearranged everything, the big green sofa, the couch table, it was a little bit crowded. When we moved in, we missed some kitchen equipment like a blender. When you come here short term you don't want to buy everything new.

Prof Sabnis: As far as we understand, the flats were bought by a person who is now renting them out fully equipped - one would expect a little pre-charged electricity, cleaning utensils, some water just for the start.

YELLOWSTONE IN FUMBA

Happy horses, happy people - a special ranch for Zanzibar



Western vibes at the west coast: how horses could be integrated into Fumba Town



Mingling with horses - fun even for non-riders

By Andrea Tapper

A horse ranch for leisure and therapeutic riding - or just to be "between horses" - is coming to Fumba Town. We spoke to the initiators, a family of dedicated horse lovers based in Germany and Greece - now relocating to Zanzibar.

Added attraction to beach, sun and sand

Not long ago, Fumba residents fell for a sort of communal addiction - binge-watching Kevin Costner's acclaimed neo-Western drama Yellowstone to the very last of 53 episodes. After that, a void sank in. Luckily, Western vibes are now returning in real time to the eco-town 25 minutes south-west of Zanzibar City. A German family of horse lovers - new Fumba residents - are establishing a ranch here, an added attraction to beach, sun and sand. "It will be a horse ranch for everybody", explains Daniel Tab-

orek, 56, business and tax consultant by profession and horse enthusiast by passion - "for tourists as much as for residents, for the young and old, for visitors and locals, and also for people with special needs."

Wind is blowing across the prairie aka the coral-stone highlands of Fumba as he points to the blue ocean just 80 metres away. Workers are busy putting up wooden fences and ma-kuti-roofed structures. Five horses - among them a Welsh pony and an Anglo Arabian horse - were on their way overland from South Africa to Zanzibar, accompanied by a vet, when Taborek spoke to THE FUMBA TIMES onsite.

"We will have open horse stables and five paddocks surrounded by a riding trail here", he explained. But isn't Zanzibar too hot for horses? "Trees will provide ample shade, plants and vegetation a healthy green setting for the permaculture ranch" he assured us.

Horse-riding in Zanzibar - is it a far-fetched idea, a lucrative business or a mission? The Taboreks would probably see it as the latter. While other horse-riding enterprises on the island - the Zanzibar Horse club in Nungwi and a school at the Sea Cliff - mainly offer lessons and rides along the beach, the Fumba ranch intends to go beyond that. "Horses are not just a sports tool and not just to sit on", said Anna Taborek-Kyriazelli, 29, youngest daughter of the horse-loving family. "We invite visitors to re-connect with nature, animals and even with themselves", she added. Therapeutic lessons and horse encounters, walks and village rides, as well as "burn-out retreats" and glamping are among the activities planned at the ranch named "Fumba Town Ranch - Between Horses". Dr. Andrea Maria Schoenhart, a therapist from Germany, says this about human interaction with horses: "Just like dolphins they help reducing stress." Local children and adults will also be invited to spend time with the horses.

Daniel Taborek and his wife Corinna left Germany 18 years ago for the Greek island Lesbos - their horses and two daughters in tow - to establish a horse farm there. "My sister Sarah and I grew up horse-riding", recalls Anna who is a horse trainer and an expert in art-appropriate animal husbandry. As a consultant for relocation, her father's attention fell on Zanzibar a few years ago. For the whole family and for Zanzibar, the Fumba Town ranch - at the same time a paddock paradise and a tourist attraction - may well become the icing on the cake.

Fumba Town Ranch
IG @Betweenhorses.zanzibar



"Horses not just sport tools", says Anna Taborek-Kyriazelli

Lifestyle - News

HOME OF WELLNESS



Relaxed: Sebule, Zanzibars newest spa

What do you expect from a good spa? State-of-the-art professional treatments, an inspiring atmosphere, innovation. If this was somewhat hard to come by in Zanzibar, things might be about to change. Sebule, Swahili for living room, is a new beauty and wellness establishment set to open on 27 June on the upper floor of the Pavilion mall in Fumba Town.

Several extravagant features are incorporated: an outdoor shower at a lofty height, shielded from view by a coral stone wall. A private rooftop garden with plants and sunbeds inviting customers to relax or sunbathe. A first-row manicure and pedicure with breathtaking views across Fumba Town to the sea. "Retreats and special events for groups like a spa birthday can also be booked", explains Catherine Decker, 31, also the managing director of Fumba's green heart, the Permaculture Design Company (PDC). The beauty spa is her next venture.

Besides massages of all kinds including lymphatic massages and reflexology, facials, pedicure/manicure and other treatments, Sebule will provide face aesthetics

in co-operation with Dr. Jenny Dietzold, director of the Urban Care Clinic in the same building. "We also plan to have external therapists visiting, be it a nail specialist from Dar es Salaam or an international aesthetician", Decker announced.

The spa will use natural local products and international beauty brands. Lush wallpaper gives the home of wellness its own distinct look - a perfect calm and relaxed living room of beauty.

Sebule Spa & Aesthetics
Opening: 27 June, Pavilion, Fumba Town



Effective: facial aesthetics by Dr. Jenny Dietzold

HOW TO USE REMITLY IN ZANZIBAR EASY TRANSFERS

TECH TIPS FOR ZANZIBAR by Alex Keller



If you want to purchase a fridge, pay a larger bill, or simply pad-up your mobile account by using money from your bank abroad instead of first withdrawing from an ATM and then carrying cash to the Wakala, a transfer app called Remitly makes your life easier - and works fine in Zanzibar.

Digital payments have become part of everyday life here, even the smallest roadside shops often no longer require cash. Benefits become even more obvious with larger purchases when cash quickly turns impractical given ATM withdrawal limits. But how does money get into your wallet, or into someone else's? This is where services like Remitly come in. An American online remittance service based in Seattle and founded in 2011, Remitly has 9.6 million clients. The app makes it easy to send money from abroad directly from your bank account or credit card to mobile wallets or local bank accounts. Say you want to pay for a car here, you can also transfer your money with Remitly directly to the seller's account - mostly free of charge and within minutes. Compared with traditional international bank transfers, providers like Remitly are faster, simpler and more cost effective. To set up the app (blue with white hands) you connect your bank account or credit card and verify your identity. Shortly after that, money from abroad becomes part of your everyday life within minutes.

Information: remitly.com

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ASK DR. JENNY DIETZOLD READERS' QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY OUR OWN MEDICAL EXPERT

HEALTHY BUDGET

Rolf Speitel, 67

Dear Dr. Jenny, I heard that you are offering memberships for your Urban Care clinic in Fumba, and that homeowners can benefit. Kindly specify, what is the purpose of the unusual initiative and whom would you advise to join? I am a retired teacher from Germany living in Fumba with my wife.

Dr. Jenny Dietzold answers:

Dear Rolf, first of all, welcome to Fumba Town and thank you for the thoughtful question. You and your wife are exactly the kind of residents we had in mind when creating Urban Care Access+.

The purpose of this membership is simple: to make healthcare accessible. It places the focus on prevention, and allows for a closer relationship between doctor and patients; especially for people who are living/traveling internationally, or are far from the health systems they have known all their lives. Too often, healthcare becomes reactive: people wait until

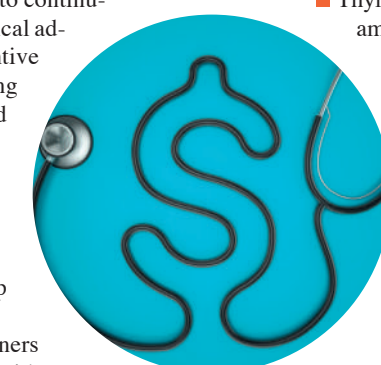
something feels urgent before actually seeking help. Access+ was designed to shift that behaviour towards early guidance.

In practical terms, the membership gives residents in Fumba Town direct local access to continuous reliable medical advice and preventive care, including WhatsApp-based pre-clinical triage, consultations, annual health check-ups, and coordinated follow-up support.

New homeowners are welcomed with a one-year membership. It includes four comprehensive consultations annually, preventive health screening, an extended annual check-up and additional discounts.

Extended check-ups include:

- Ultrasound
- ECG
- Glucose testing
- Cancer screening
- Thyroid and lymph examinations



For many residents relocating from Europe, especially retirees, what matters most is not only emergency care, but having a reliable local medical partner. You can budget better for your health. Access+ is not intended to replace international insurance or specialist care abroad. For more information visit us at Urban Care.

Happy & Healthy



URBAN CARE: 24/7 AVAILABLE

The Urban Care Clinic is situated at the Pavilion in Fumba Town and provides medical service 24/7 - for outpatients and inpatients. Medical director is Dr. Jenny Dietzold from Germany. Together with several general practitioners, a dentist, physiotherapist and other specialists, she also offers home visits and remote consultations. Urban Care has a branch in Jambiani.

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TANZANIA'S WINELANDS

Discovering the hidden vineyards around Dodoma



Cheers to new discoveries: red wine is more common in Tanzania than white wine. Farm workers explain the vineyards during our visit (small photo)

By Michael Gerber

Tanzanian wine, besides being rare, used to have a bad reputation: too sweet, immature, not refined enough. This is changing. Our reporter explored the vineyards around Dodoma – and returned to Zanzibar not only with precious bottles but also a revised opinion in his luggage.

Anton Mwasongwe may not fit the stereotype of a winemaker. The 21-year-old production assistant wears sneakers instead of muddy boots and talks about fermentation tanks with the calm confidence of a sommelier twice his age. But as he leads us through the vast cellars of Alko Vintage, he knows every detail by heart: why the sandy soil around Dodoma supports the growth of vines, why the dry climate matters more than altitude, and why Tanzanian wine is finally shedding its bad reputation.

Outside, the afternoon sun hangs low over ochre-coloured hills. Rows of

vines stretch into the distance, interrupted only by a baobab tree here and there. Birds chirp above us while workers move carefully between the vines. This is not Tuscany, nor Stellenbosch – and that is precisely the point. Tanzania's wine country feels wonderfully unexpected.

I came with my mother - a wine enthusiast on holiday from Switzerland – and my son Gabriel. We travelled from Zanzibar via Dar es Salaam by train to Dodoma. For my mother, this wasn't just a welcome holiday excursion; it was professional curiosity. In the weeks leading up to our trip, her conversations often turned to the untapped potential of sub-equatorial viticulture.

Too sweet?

For years, Tanzanian wine carried a reputation for being overwhelmingly sweet, the kind of bottle politely accepted at dinner and quietly forgotten afterwards. But producers in Dodoma are working hard to change perceptions. Dry reds, balanced whites and even oak-aged reserves are increasingly replacing sugary blends.

And yes - Tanzania is still mainly a red wine country. Around three-quarters of production comes from red grape varieties, particularly Makutupora, a hardy local descendant linked to Cinsaut and Pinotage grapes. White wine is produced mainly from Chenin Blanc.

In and around Dodoma, the dusty political capital of Tanzania, 99 percent

of Tanzania's wine is cultivated. The country produces roughly nine million litres annually. That may sound substantial until compared with South Africa, Africa's wine giant, which bottles around 800 million litres every year. Yet despite its tiny scale by global standards, Tanzania is considered the second-largest wine producer in Sub-Saharan Africa after South Africa.

Dry plains dotted with acacia

Wine arrived here through missionaries and Catholic priests. In the 1930s, nuns near Hombolo began planting grapes for altar wine. Tanzania's first president Julius Nyerere encouraged expansion efforts. The roads out of Dodoma cut through dry plains dotted with acacia trees and giant termite mounds. Every now and then, women carrying baskets balance impossible loads on their heads while motorcycles overtake us in clouds of red dust.

One of our destinations on the wine trail was Domiya Estate, a boutique retreat that feels Mediterranean in the middle of Tanzania's capital region. Bougainvillea spills over stone pathways, geraniums bloom in neat gardens. The estate is home to CETAWICO, an Italian-led winery producing quality labels such as Presidential and Ambassador. During a tasting session paired with local cheeses, nuts and cold cuts, staff explain how Tanzanian winemakers are increasingly focusing



Nuns planted the first grapes in 1930



Tanzania is Africa's second largest wine producing country after South Africa. From left clockwise: workers in the vineyards, FUMBA TIMES contributor Michael Gerber, and oak barrels at Domiya Estate



JOURNEY TO THE VINEYARDS

How to get there: By ferry to Dar es Salaam, then by train to Dodoma in 3 hrs 42 min with the new comfortable electric speedtrain SGR | sgrticket.trc.co.tz/home/index

Where to stay: Some wine estates offer hotels and fine restaurants

DOMIYA ESTATE
Winery retreat with spa
+255 735 008 801
domiyaestate.co.tz

CETAWICO
Dine and wine
+255 786 799 010
cetawico.com/

ALKO VINTAGE
Tours & Tasting
Closed mid-July - Oct
+255 653 023 866
alkovintages.com/

JUST (RE)DISCOVERED

STONE TOWNS MAGIC TRIANGLE



First row sushi: the brand new Mara at Africa House Garden

HOLIDAY TRIP TO SHANGANI

✓ **LOCATION**
Ocean view with history

✓ **THE BOTTOM LINE**
Where Stone Town comes alive

Zanzibar's Stone Town is the largest living Swahili settlement in the world. It is also almost falling apart. And under permanent renovation and construction. But Shangani, the most western tip of the historic triangle, has become Stone Town deluxe. With restoration projects like the Africa House Garden completed, and flanked by Zanzibar's best city hotels Serena and Park Hyatt, the seafront is arguably the most night-active, but also the cleanest and best-preserved corner of Zanzibar's historic heart.

We chose an Airbnb as our base for a weekend exploration – dozens if not hundreds of Airbnbs have meanwhile sprung up in the city. Standing out by location and history, is Kale Stone Town flat at 114 Shangani Street. The 1950s building is said to be one of the houses where rockstar Freddie Mercury lived with his family as a child – a museum dedicated to him is only a ten-minute walk away. Stepping out on the small balcony of the neat, Indian-style apartment, one can monitor the entire street scene coming alive Thursday to Sunday. Options to go out, from breakfast to dining, are plenty.



Perfect for a weekend: cosy Airbnbs, historic buildings, the well-kept Kelele Square, and Zanzibar's city beach at your doorstep

Shangani is full of popular bars and restaurants like Beach House, 6 degree and the everlasting Tatu club. Not a bad idea, re-exploring this urban corner of island charm.

Promenading around Kelele Square with its well-kept green lawns and trees is delightful. Shangani is a busy, not a quiet corner, but that's why we came here after all. (AT)

• **Shangani, the seafront of Stone Town, UNESCO World Heritage since 2000**
• Accommodation: airbnb.com
• Restaurants, bars: Archipelago, Beach House, Travelers, Tatu



PHOTOS (6): AT

Livingstone Bar in the former British consulate in Shangani

SANAA - THE GLASS HOUSE



The Zanzibar collection shines in all shades of blue

Handmade glasses, vases, plates and a few selected safari outfits are sold at the new Sanaa outlet in Shangani. And the best: prices are reasonable.

It's a dream in colour: glassware in all shades of blue, turquoise, red, green and even brown nuances, with or without patterns, await customers at the recently opened Sanaa shop in Shangani. Located opposite Hyatt, it presents a fine selection of top quality glassware produced from discarded glass. A Zanzibar collection features

turquoise vases, a sunset collection is made of glass in red and brown shades. Unique large vases, for example, cost between TZS 80,000-120,000.

Sanaa is a social enterprise based in Arusha employing workers with disabilities. "Stay social, stay unique" is the company's motto. The art of craftsmanship can be seen in hundreds of different objects such as unique plates or a carafe set with drinking glasses. A collection of linen safari dresses in pastel colours, and robust safari bags in khaki-green with leather handles are also available. Sanaa is a rare new gem in Stone Town.

• **Information:**
• Sanaa.co.tz

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