

- Please do not make special arrangements with unauthorized guides along the road, as this undermines conservation initiatives underway and takes income opportunities away from the official guides.
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- Keep quiet. Loud noises such as clapping and shouting are inappropriate, as are throwing objects. Rapid movements, arm waving, or running are likely to frighten the troop away and make it more difficult for the next visitors to view the monkeys. Refrain from smoking.

Finally...

Giant land tortoises can be seen on Changuu (Prison) Island. Do not ride on the tortoises, or try to make them stand up or run by hitting them on the shell.



Cloves

Thank you for taking the time to familiarize yourself with these guidelines and we hope the information will help you enjoy your stay in Zanzibar. Please contact the Commission for Tourism for further tourist information: phone 054-33485/6, fax 054-33448, P.O. Box 1410. There are also airport and harbour offices. Tell your friends and family about Zanzibar. *Ahsante sana*, and *karibu tena*. Please come again.

Brochure prepared by Zanzibar Commission for Tourism, with additional funding from the Netherlands Assistance to the Department of Environment project.

Sketches by Ramadhan Hassan and Ram Moh'd.

YOU SHOULD KNOW...

Dress code is an important consideration in this predominantly Muslim society. While visiting please observe the following rules:

- Wear loose fitting, non-transparent clothing.
- Shirts should cover the upper arms and shorts should reach to the knees.
- Do not wear bathing costumes, running shorts, tank tops, or other revealing clothing in the villages or Stone Town. Beachwear is for the beach only.
- Topless or nude sunbathing is NOT permitted anywhere in Zanzibar or Pemba.

OTHER HELPFUL HINTS

- Always ask permission before taking photographs of local people.
- Do not take photos at sensitive government sites.
- Do not encourage children to beg by giving them money, sweets, pens, etc.
- Public consumption of alcoholic beverages is not permissible except on hotel and resort grounds, in bars, and some restaurants.
- Public displays of affection such as kissing are considered offensive.
- Mosques are sacred places. There is generally no entry to mosques for non-Muslims. Photographing the interior of a mosque during prayers is not allowed.
- Ramadhan is the Islamic holy month. Visitors should refrain from eating, drinking and smoking in public during daylight hours.
- It is illegal to buy or remove any turtle or coral products, and the purchase and collection of shells is discouraged. Visitors will find their home countries also forbid the importation of most marine and animal products.

For further information and specifics about language, environment, attractions, and shopping, read on... Thank you. *Ahsante sana*.

KARIBUNI ZANZIBAR

INFORMATION FOR VISITORS



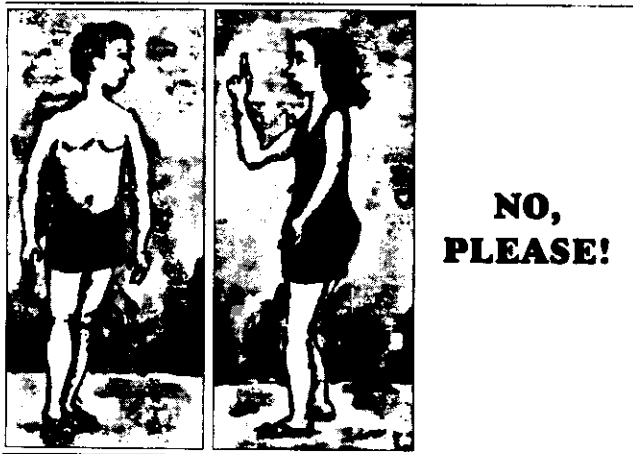
Karibuni - welcome - to Zanzibar, where Swahili culture and architecture meet tropical seas. This is a special place. Thank you for accepting our invitation to visit the island. We hope that visitors have fun in an atmosphere of mutual respect: your respect for our way of life, and Zanzibari respect for the needs of tourists. Please be conservative in dress and behavior.

Remember that tourism is very new here, with a potentially significant influence on Zanzibar's culture and environment. As a member of the first "generation" of tourists, you are setting an example for years ahead. We hope you enjoy your visit, but please travel sensitively.

Dress Code

Zanzibar is a traditional Muslim society, and dress code is important. Zanzibari hospitality and politeness mean that people will usually refrain from making any comment on inappropriate attire, but your respect for local customs is noticed and greatly appreciated.

- Beach clothing should be kept to the beach. Don't stray into villages or Zanzibar Town in skimpy clothing.
- The beaches in Zanzibar are used by everyone. Topless bathing and nudity on the beach are absolutely NOT permitted.
- In Zanzibar Town and in villages, wear loose fitting, non-transparent clothing. Dresses, skirts and shorts should reach down to your knees and cover your shoulders and upper arms. Going shirtless is unacceptable.



- You will offend Zanzibaris and lose their esteem if you walk around in short shorts, sleeveless shirts or bare-chested: we consider that you are walking around in your underwear!
- The locally sold, colorful cloth wraps - *kangas* (prints) and *kikoi* (woven cotton) worn over shorts make wonderful casual wear and souvenirs and are universally acceptable attire.

Swahili Language

Zanzibaris will be thrilled if you try to learn and use some basic Swahili words - it doesn't matter if you make mistakes!

Greetings are important in Zanzibari culture...

Hujambo is the traditional Swahili hello; reply *sijambo*. If someone then asks you *habari?* (what's the news?), the appropriate response is *nzuri* (good!) or *safi* (ok, clear). Elders are greeted respectfully with *Shikamoo* to which the delighted reply will be *Marahaba*.

Ahsante sana - thank you - is invaluable. The polite way to ask for something is *naomba*; for example, "naomba soda" or "naomba room key." The friendly good-bye when departing is *kwa heri* (go with goodness).

Local People and Customs



Rope making

- Always ask permission before taking photographs of local people. Do not take photos at sensitive government sites including the State House, seaport, and airport. If uncertain, ask.
- Please do not encourage our children to beg by giving them money, sweets, pens, etc.
- Public consumption of alcohol is not permissible, except on hotel and resort grounds, in bars, and some restaurants.
- Public displays of affection such as kissing are not customary and are considered offensive.

Be sure to check at the Old Fort for schedules of traditional music performances and drumming and Zanzibari dance classes. For a special night out, try to see a *ngoma* - African drumming and dancing, or *taarab* - an Arabic, African, and Indian-influenced orchestra with singing.

Religion

- Mosques are sacred places. There is generally no entry to mosques for non-Muslims, and photographing the interior from the doorway is not allowed during prayers.
- The historic mosque at Kizimkazi is open for visitation, although menstruating women should not enter. Conservative dress is required.
- If you are visiting during Ramadhan, the holy month in the Islamic religion, you may find it difficult to find food and drink outside tourist facilities during the daylight hours. Muslims will be fasting from sunrise to sunset; we ask you not to eat, drink or smoke in public during daylight hours. Your hotel or guide can offer suggestions on which eating establishments are open during Ramadhan.

Tourist Services



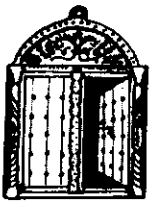
- Agree on a price with boatmen and taxi drivers before setting off. Pay on arrival or at the end of the trip.
- Tips are appreciated, at your discretion.
- Ask to see the identification and license of anyone who offers tourist services to you. Licensed tour guides and representatives of official tour companies are available and will provide professional travel-related services during your stay. Caution and common sense are the watchwords when dealing with the unlicensed touts at the port and in town.

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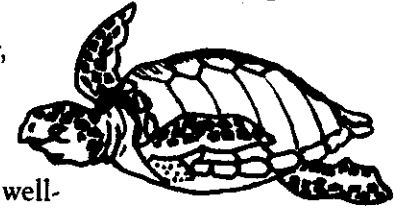
Safety and Health

- Keep your valuables in the hotel safe. Don't tempt thieves! Put valuables out of sight and keep a careful eye on your camera and video equipment while touring.
- It is advisable to carry a torch at night in Stone Town, and avoid walking alone. Many of the streets will be nearly deserted after 11 pm when residents retire.
- An international driver's license is needed in order to rent a car or motorbike. Rental agencies should process this paperwork, as random roads checks are conducted.
- Be aware of traffic when walking in Stone Town. Even some of the narrowest streets are in fact public roads.
- Exchange money only at the bank or numerous bureau de change.
- All firearms must be declared on arrival.
- Possession and use of illegal drugs is not tolerated in Zanzibar. Strict legal penalties include lengthy prison sentences and fines.
- The best preventative for malaria is not to get bitten. Cover up after sunset, sleep under a mosquito net, and use insect repellent. Get a malaria test for any fever.
- Take your unused medicines and prescription drugs home with you. **Do not** just throw them in the garbage as they may be recovered and misused. Don't complicate medical treatment on the island by introducing additional medicines. Bandages, plasters, syringes, and sterile, unopened needles could, of course, be donated to the hospitals or local dispensaries.
- HIV/AIDS is a worldwide epidemic, and Zanzibar is not immune. Exercise the same caution you would anywhere regarding sexually transmitted diseases.

Shopping

Retail shops generally close by 1 or 2 pm in the afternoon, and many reopen again around 4 pm in the evening. Some bartering about prices is common in Zanzibar, except in hotels, restaurants, and tour operations.

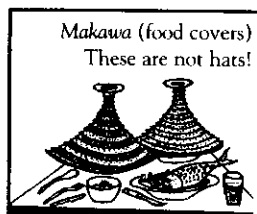
- Don't buy products made from endangered sea turtles, such as jewelry, leather, shells, and stuffed turtles. Turtle shell items look like well-known "tortoise shell" [a mottled, brown plastic], but can be hard to recognize - so look closely. Sea turtles are a protected species both here and internationally, so you risk being fined heavily and/or sent to prison if you return home with such items, in addition to having your souvenir confiscated.
- Seek out and support gift shops displaying the 'turtle-friendly' certificate; these have pledged not to sell sea turtle products. If you are interested in sea turtle conservation, look for locally run projects and consider making a donation.
- Don't buy corals. Under Zanzibari law, it is forbidden to take corals for any purpose. Some Western countries also have laws prohibiting their importation.
- Please resist buying shells and other marine souvenirs. They are collected from the reef while they are still alive. While current legal restrictions are inadequate, many species are over-harvested, causing damage to the reefs and marine ecosystems.



Many locally produced arts and crafts are attractive and good value for money:

- ▶ the woodcarvers are famous, especially for doors and Zanzibari chests

- ▶ embroidered kofia, the traditional head covering for Muslim men
- ▶ the whimsical animals of tinga-tinga paintings
- ▶ colorful printed kanga cloth and kikoi worn as a skirt or wrap
- ▶ woven mats, fans and picnic food covers of ukundu
- ▶ hand-embroidered cushions and pillowcases
- ▶ clay pots for burning incense and candles
- ▶ hand-carved coconut shell pots, bracelets, earrings and mobiles
- ▶ Zanzibar spice baskets will remind you of this spice island many times back home in your kitchen.

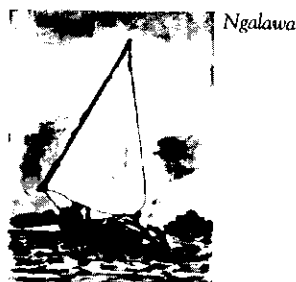


- ▶ women's henna painting on hands and feet is wearable art available from local boutiques

At the Sea...

Take only pictures; leave only your footprints! Swimmers, snorkelers, scuba divers, anglers, and dolphin watchers note:

- Seaweed farming is a major income earner on the East Coast - its presence is marked by small sticks that support the seedlings growing in shallow water. Sticks can also mark the position of coconut husks soaking for making rope. Be careful while swimming and don't disturb the seaweed plots or sticks.
- **Protect corals.** Coral is a living organism and can easily be damaged or destroyed by even the lightest contact. It can also cause nasty cuts which are prone to infection. Do not stand on or hold on to the coral when snorkeling, and watch that your fins do not break the coral.



- The dragging of anchors and anchor chains across the reef causes significant damage. Make sure your boatman throws the anchor into an area that is free of coral, or uses specially provided buoys.
- Avoid kicking up sand while swimming and snorkeling as this can suffocate and kill the coral.
- Please do not collect shells, coral, starfish or any other souvenirs - these may still be alive. They certainly all play an important role in this fragile ecosystem, and should be left in place.
- It is illegal for tourists to use spearguns. To protect reef ecology and productivity, the government is also working to discourage spearfishing as a harvest method used by resident fishermen.
- Leaving litter or food waste on the beach or in the sea is unsightly and irresponsible. Many marine creatures are killed by ingesting garbage, especially plastic.

In the Forest...

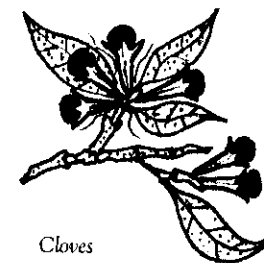
If you visit Jozani or Masingini to see the rare red colobus monkeys unique to Zanzibar, trained personnel (stationed at the office where the entrance fee is paid) can provide a guided tour.



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What Are You Wearing?

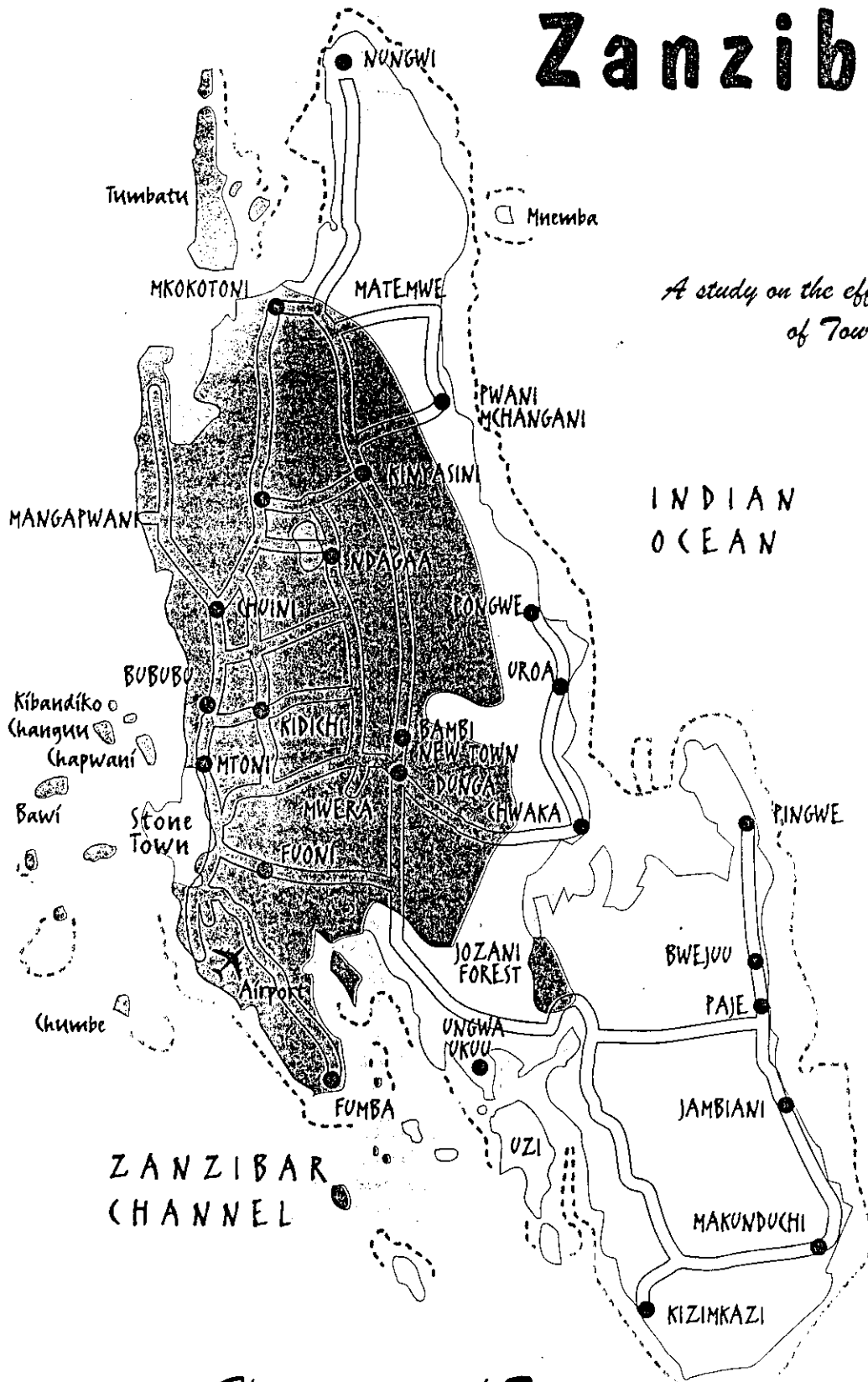
A Few Things to Remember...

...You are welcomed by the people of Zanzibar, and this being a predominantly Muslim society, it is important to dress appropriately.

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- Shirts should cover the shoulders and upper arms and shorts/skirts should reach the knees.
- Do not wear bathing suits, short shorts, tank tops, or other revealing clothing when not on the beach.
- Topless or nude sunbathing is extremely offensive.

~KARIBUNI ZANZIBAR~

Zanzibar



*A study on the effects
of Tourism*

INDIAN
OCEAN

ZANZIBAR
CHANNEL

Harmony out of Transition