

1 Zanzibar, Tanzania

BY JAMES STURZ



EAST AFRICAN ESCAPE

WHY GO: Zanzibar, an archipelago off the Tanzania coast, has long attracted travelers to its capital city, Stone Town. **Visitors come to cap off a safari, dance to taarab music, and snorkel among dragon moray eels—all in the historic birthplace of the Swahili language.**

A Night at the Market

Each evening as the sun sets, Stone Town's Forodhani Park transforms into an open-air food market. Skip the fish kebabs and head straight to the vendors selling *urojo*, a thick mango and tamarind soup served alongside chickpea fritters, boiled potatoes, cassava flakes, chutney, and as much hot sauce as you dare. Follow it up with hand-pressed sugar cane juice with ginger and lime.

Between Mizingani Street and the beach



Chiseled Features
In Stone Town's labyrinthine alleyways, see the city's carved wooden doors. These massive works of art are detailed with benedictions from the Koran and augmented with brass spikes. Only a few hundred of these entranceways—some from the 17th century—remain. The best-preserved examples are in the Bhagani and Shangani districts.

Wordy Wrap

The cotton *kanga*, worn as a wrap dress, skirt, or shawl, is the principal item of clothing for East African women. Named for the dappled feathers of the guinea fowl, the *kanga* is not complete without a Swahili maxim printed along its border. One favorite: *Kupata na kukosa kwangu, wewe kunakuhusu nini*, or "Whether I succeed or fail, it's not your business."

Available at the Darajani Bazaar off Darajani Street



ISLE AWAY THE DAY

Sleep in one of the swanky palm-thatched *bandas* at the Mnemba Island Lodge, located on a private isle off Zanzibar's northeastern coast. While there, swim alongside dolphins, watch green turtles hatch at sunset, and relax on the beach as the island's Lilliputian suni antelope—which you'll swear have been cross-bred with Chihuahuas—scamper by.

From \$1,155 per person, season starts June 1, (888) 882-3742, andbeyond.com

Feel the Beat

Enroll in an afternoon class at the Dhow Countries Music Academy and learn how to play taarab music—a blend of Swahili poetry and Egyptian, Indian, Indonesian, and Western sounds. The instruments played include the violin, cello, oud, *qanun* (similar to the zither), *ney* flute, and tabla drums. Or simply watch professional musicians perform.

Old Customs House, Mizingani Road, 255/7774-16529 or 255/2422-34050, zanzibarmusic.org

