

The Fumba Times

FROM ZANZIBAR TO THE WORLD – THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL

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DEAR SANTA, PLEASE BRING ME A NEW HOME...

By Tatjana Wenzl

Fumba Town is placing Zanzibar on the map for house hunters. Here's all you need to know about one of Africa's first eco cities. (And if you'd still need a present for your spouse – call us!)

Where is Fumba?
Fumba Town is located on the West Coast of Zanzibar on a peninsula of the same name. The 150-acre vision of urban living in Africa – with shining white houses, both large and small, and neat apartments – stretches 1.5 kilometres along the Indian Ocean with beautiful sea views and stunning sunsets for everyone to enjoy. Fumba lies just 15 to 20 minutes drive from the island's airport and its capital, while Zanzibar has daily international flights and is just a quick ferry ride away from Tanzania's capital Dar es Salaam.

Who can buy?
Anyone! Investing in Fumba Town is a unique opportunity for anyone who has ever dreamed of owning a property near the sea – and in Africa. Since its launch in 2015, people from 52 nations have bought a home in Fumba Town and the number is growing monthly. Payment is made in instalments and upon building progress.

Are foreigners free to buy?
Yes. Fumba Town is situated within a Free Economic Zone which enables foreigners to buy. Furthermore, a new condominium law also gives foreigners the right to acquire property. A 99-year title deed is granted to every purchaser with the right to inherit, mortgage, sell and rent out. The government of Zanzibar backs the project.

For whom is the new town designed?
Fumba Town is home to a very unique and vibrant community. Homeowners so far come from Zanzibar, Tanzania, from the diaspora (many from Oman and Dubai), Europe, South Africa and many other places. They are families, couples and singles, young professionals as well as residents wanting to retire. Zanzibar, as much of Africa, is in urgent need of living spaces. Some buy to invest and rent out, others to live here permanently or to spend their holidays. They share one thing in common: Their love and appreciation for Zanzibar and the desire to not only invest in a pro-



3000 homes for any taste and budget – that is Fumba Town. The Bustani Villas (photo) are high-end units

ject, but in a forward-thinking vision of sustainability, modernity and community values. 500 of 3000 planned units have already been sold and built.

How green is Fumba?
Very green. The entire landscaping is based on permaculture principles. Tree-lined avenues and verdant parks clean the air and provide shade. Drinking water comes from the tap. 94 per cent of household waste is recycled, grey water environmentally managed. Sustainable building methods have been adapted to tropical conditions (see article on page 2). You will often hear and see the phrase: Earth Care. People Care. Fair Share. Fumba Town aims to be a clean, safe and sustainable environment for generations to come. It is a green model for much of the continent.

How much is a flat or house?
Modern, affordable housing in a sustainable setting is the idea of Fumba Town. The result is a mix of low-cost and premium private homes. Studio apartments start from as little as 19,900 US dollars. Two-bedroom family homes from 54,900 US dollars. More luxurious villas from 199,000 US dol-

lars. Fumba Town is the fastest selling real estate development in Tanzania with complete municipal services.

What are the running costs?
There are no hidden costs! The monthly service charge is 1-2 US dollars per

sqm. This covers 24/7 security, efficient waste management, well-kept public areas, clean water, stable power, fast data – and a helping hand at any time. The Town and Property Management assists homeowners with maintenance, repairs and renting-out their properties.

SAFETY IN FUMBA

Fumba Town is a safe place to live, work and relax. In fact, security is one of the main pillars of Zanzibar's future town and already fully in place – almost invisible, but rigorous. You will not find heavily armed personnel but highly-trained, friendly and efficient security staff. Plus: State-of-the-art camera surveillance, motion sensors, a 24/7 gate service and 24/7 monitoring service for emergency calls.

Information on buying and renting: sales@cps-live.com or whatsapp +255 623 989 900. Website: fumba.town



Verdant parks, leisure grounds, lovely homes all with top-notch security

Is it a sleepy town?

Quiet yes, but not sleepy! Kwetu Kwenu, a first cafe, has already opened and residents love taking their meals or a cup of coffee there. A safe and clean playground is located right by the café. A first bus shuttle is running between town and Fumba twice daily; more bus services are in planning. A modern commercial center is currently being built and shall be fully functioning with a supermarket and other vital services towards the end of 2020. A resident doctor has opened her clinic (read her column on page 7). Schools, shops, restaurants, sport grounds and resident clubs are being planned as the town grows – and according to what residents will opt for. "The philosophy of Fumba is to make ground for commercial ventures and social amenities to foster economic growth and social inclusion of everybody around", says chief developer Sebastian Dietzold.

Can I rent out my unit?

Very much so. The very idea behind Fumba Town is to create affordable homes and rental living space for an ever-growing population in Zanzibar and Tanzania. The rapid growth of a middle class implies a high appreciation of investment for purchasers.

Who is behind Fumba Town?

The German-led family company CPS is behind Fumba Town and "The Soul", the latter being a brandnew development of holiday apartments for sale in Zanzibar. "The Soul" is situated on the East Coast near Paje. CPS is experienced in large-scale urban development and internationally recognised for its modern and forward-thinking approach in creating living spaces.

EXCLUSIVE

MALAIKA, OUR CHAMPION



Malaika Mhambo (photo) leapt to fame with 7,30 metres in long jump at the World Athletics Championships in Doha in October. Few people know that the gold-winning athlete representing Germany has roots in Zanzibar. FUMBA TIMES spoke to her in Germany.

Tell us about your Zanzibari roots?
My father is from Zanzibar, my mum from Germany where they met. I grew up speaking Swahili, English and German. I have forgotten most of my Swahili but I can still say *habari* and *nzuri*.

Have you been to Zanzibar? Not yet, but I am planning to visit soon. I am just discovering my African roots.

What is your „magic“ trick to jump that far - 7,30 m? It takes years of training and talent, especially fine motor skills. I started with ballet and judo with 4, moved to athletics when I was only 8 years old. In long jump it's the speed that carries you forward. That's why I also compete in 100 metres.

HAPPY NEW YEAR, ZANZIBAR!

For a decent firework display one still has to fly elsewhere but there are some promising parties in Zanzibar, too:

- **Beach House, Stone Town:** Christmas with DJs, bands & dinner (\$35 p.P.), 25-28 Dec, 6 pm. - New Year's Carnival, Samba, dinner, drinks (from \$75 p.P.), 31 Dec, 7 pm; res. 0774 271 435
- **Blue Oyster Hotel, Jambiani:** Big 20th anniversary celebration with bonfire & barbecue, 26 Dec, 7pm. - Traditional dhow race in front of the hotel, perfect to end the year, 31 Dec, from 1pm – 6 pm
- **Red Monkey Lodge, Jambiani:** New Year's brunch with hangover buffet & live music, 1 Jan
- **6 Degrees South, Stone Town:** New Year's Eve dinner & action, tbc
- **Taperia, Stone Town:** Spanish & Swahili fusion dinner, sparkle and live band (from \$30), 31 Dec, 9pm
- **Upendo, Michamvi:** dinner & show, res. 0777 770667

Pls note, events subject to change

ZANZIBAR GOES BUSARA

44 shows over four days and nights at 2020 music festival in February



Bold and beautiful: Zanzibar's "Siti and the Band" performing at Busara

Every year it's a roller coaster of hopes and fears for Yusuf Mahmoud, the tireless Busara festival director. But despite ever-present financial shortcomings, Zanzibar's only world class event, the "Sauti za Busara" (Voices of Wisdom) African music festival, will now celebrate its 17th year. The Norwegian embassy has been one of the faithful sponsors. Around 20,000 music lovers are once more expected to enjoy performances at the Old Fort and events in town. The festival will take place from 13th - 16th February 2020.

High on the agenda is Zanzibar's own *taarab* fusion star „Siti and the Band.“ Maghreb bands have been coming to

the forefront with remarkable sounds in recent years, so Mehdi Laifaoui from Algeria should probably not be missed nor should Mehdi Qamoum from Agadir, Morocco, who plays a rocky fusion of many styles. Oumar Konaté is emerging as a young African guitar master from Mali. Columbian music band "Yembemá" is celebrating its African roots with Latin-African fusion. "This year we received 500 applications from artists of 70 countries in Africa and elsewhere", director Yusuf Mahmoud elaborated. The 2020 festival carries the motto "Love Live Music" – a statement in favour of real music under African skies as opposed to computer generated sounds.

For tickets and information go to: www.busaramusic.org

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- Green infrastructure of parks and open spaces for recreation and well-being

PHOTO: BUSARA



Natural cooling: Green balconies and surroundings can lower temperatures by up to seven degrees Celsius, scientists say

SMART LIVING IN A HOT CLIMATE

Climate change is a hotly debated topic. In Zanzibar the heat, and how to reduce it by natural means, is a major challenge. Read here how architects cool down Fumba Town and what homeowners can do themselves.



1 Blissful breeze

"Natural ventilation and creating shade are the two most important allies against heat in a tropical climate", explains Katrine Rieckstina. Talking about letting the breeze in: In Fumba Town the architecture is based on calculations of wind directions. The prevailing wind direction is north to south and vice versa depending on the monsoon season. Thus, from public spaces all the way to private living rooms, wind and ventilation corridors have been created. Entering an apartment building one will notice a strong draft, a fresh breeze. The open-circuit ventilation is made possible by holes in outer walls and balustrades. Additionally, ceiling fans pre-installed in all houses and flats are helping with natural air distribution.

2 Natural light & shade

"The advantage of Fumba Town's unique location is to experience a natural light circle", says Rieckstina. Every day residents see the sun rising and setting. "In our first generation of Fumba family homes we have equipped all windows with easy controllable roller shutters", the designer explains. They help to monitor light and heat during the day, while keeping the house safely locked at night and when homeowners are away. The shutters, usually in a light white colour, are perforated creating flexible levels of shade and light. They also help to monitor strong rains and wind. Last but not least, Fumba buildings are embedded in lush green gardens. According to climate experts, a green layer of trees, especially a canopy of trees of different heights, can lower the temperature up to seven degrees Celsius in a city. "That's why in Fumba, we plan the landscaping first, creating sidewalks of shade within the whole settlement", Rieckstina explains.



3 Cool windows

When the heat hits, you want to keep your home cool, hopefully without seeing a spike in energy bills. "Don't make your AC unit work so hard, use smart window styles, from blinds and drapes to curtains", advises designer Rieckstina. Being smart about window coverings can reduce heat gain by up to 77 per cent, experts know. It all starts with the architectural design. Canopies and overhanging roofs create shade. Used as a style element above windows in Art Deco architecture, these concrete canopies are called "eyebrows" and can be seen everywhere in Miami's Art Deco district, for instance. When it comes to glass windows, "in Japan UV-protected glass and curtains are very common", says Rieckstina, who worked there for 12 years. In Africa the thermal insulation of windows is not yet much known, designers experiment however with tinted glass. Meanwhile, owners can improve cooling with the right choice of curtains. Medium-toned drapes with white plastic backings cut heat by more than 30 per cent. "Make sure the curtains hang as close to the windows as possible", experts recommend, possibly even seal them with tape at the sides. Inner shades are a simple way to keep heat out, too. Again, install them as close to the window as you can. Always use the white side facing out to reflect heat.



Kids' paradise: The colour domes at the Fumba Town playground are made from waste material and equipped with light allowing for parents and kids to use the playground in the cooler hours after work and sunset

4 The fabrics of summer

Let the sunshine in...! Light but cool, that's how we love it, but is it possible? "A lot depends on the materials and fabric you use for your interior", says Katrine Rieckstina: "Natural material is the way to go." That involves wood or cane furniture and natural fabrics such as cotton and linen. A sofa set made out of bast, rattan or raffia is a perfect interior item; the same goes for cupboards, beds and day-beds. Such furniture is comfortable and feels fresh even in the rainy season. Preferable fabrics for bedroom sheets and covers are again cotton, linen, silk and natural satin.



5 Clever cabinets

No *dudus*, please, but well ventilated cupboards (and non-mouldy bathrooms for that matter!) That is what we all dream of - for our kitchen as well as for our clothes closets. But how to get there? "The best solution are open built-in closets as we provide them in Fumba buildings", says designer Rieckstina. Basic Fumba Town kitchens come already equipped with natural wood or stone counters, together with half-open wood cabinets. Creativity is important: Cabinets with wicker doors stay airy and look beautiful, too. For instance at the "Zari Resort", a posh hotel in Zanzibar, we saw cupboard doors consisting of nothing but strings of pearls, designed by local company Chako - a great idea! "Open wood closets with flexible sliding doors also work perfectly in humid weather", says Fumba Town designer Rieckstina: "Customers are welcome to discuss interior ideas with me."



EXPERT'S ADVICE
Katrine Rieckstina, interior and light designer, recently joined the Fumba Town team. Born in Latvia, she has worked as a designer in Japan for 12 years.

6 Outdoor fun

On the balcony or your terrace you want to feel cool and not like in an incubator. How to achieve this? Simple awnings can cut down on solar heat by 65 per cent on windows that face south and a whopping 77 per cent on windows facing west, experts say. It's best to go with light-coloured awnings for increased sunlight reflection. On top of that: Go green on your balcony! Place and hang plants everywhere to cool down your outdoor space. If the balcony faces south use plants which love sunshine such as hibiscus, olives, lavender and lemongrass, the latter is also known to chase mosquitoes away - an added benefit. An outdoor shower or sink, provided in most of Fumba house designs, helps in watering and cooling.

WHAT'S UP IN ZANZIBAR 2020

Save the date: Your personal preview for the year

December 2019

December 6-9, 2019
End the year at the Zanzibar Beach and Watersports Festival in Jambiani with beach life, culture and music

February 2020

African music under African skies.
Zanzibar's own Woodstock, the annual Sauti za Busara Festival, expected to draw 20,000 music lovers at the Old Fort for the 17th time (February 13-16, 2020)

April 2020

Depending on the sighting of the moon, **Ramadan** commences. Wishing all our Muslim readers Ramadan Kareem! (approximately April 24 - May 23, 2020)

May 2020

Together we are greener.
After last year's success, a 2nd Permaculture Day with farmers' market is planned at Fumba Town Service Centre (FTSC), check for exact dates

July 2020

Zollywood calling.
Zanzibar International Film Festival (ZIFF) with lots of free movies and workshops set for its 23rd edition. Dates to be announced

July 2020

Go to Makunduchi to celebrate **mwaka kogwa**, the traditional Shirazi New Year including bonfire, dancing and singing (July 23-24, 2020)

August 2020

Reggae vibrations at the Old Fort during the **Zanzibar Reggae Festival**. Watch out for dates

September 2020

All eyes on tourism!
A 3-day-networking event, a trade fair and an experts' panel is the Zanzibar Tourism Show, planned for the 3rd time

October 2020

And the winner is...?
General elections for president and national assembly in Tanzania and Zanzibar

DON'T STOP THE MUSIC!

Zanzibar's only music school needs urgent support to keep going



Piano lessons: A third of the teaching staff are academy graduates. "We almost feel like family", students and teachers say

Residing in the historic hallways of the Old Customs House, the Dhow Countries Music Academy (DCMA) is on the brink of closure. It needs urgent donations to keep the music flowing.

Sometimes, when holidaymakers stroll along the recently (at last!) restored sea promenade in town, the drumming starts. Seemingly coming from nowhere, it creates a duet with the sounds of waves hitting the shore. A flute melody arises, backed by scratchy violin sounds, and then it dawns on the visitor: These are music students practising!



Musical thrill: A wide array of instruments, including a horn section and rare traditional instruments, are being taught at the music academy

Indeed they are. It's a good sign that Zanzibar's only music school has been able to remain at its privileged site directly on the beach front, just up the way from the Royal Palace Museum - not having been replaced by yet another hotel. But now the school, which has given free education to 1500 students over the years, is struggling for survival.

Long time Zanzibar resident and writer Amanda Lichtenstein, who has started a campaign of crowd funding for the academy, explains why: "For 17 years, the school has preserved, promoted and celebrated Swahili culture. Nearly 100 per cent of the students are on scholarship and can't afford the modest 13 US dollar tuition fee per month. The school receives donor support but not for operations, and the government

offers no financial support, either." Franko Goehse, chairman of the board of directors, says about the role and value of the music school: "Culture is important for the community, it's Zanzibar's unique selling point and sets it apart from other places."

500 international concerts, 15,000 visitors per year

The academy needs 70,000 US dollars to cover a gap in funding into 2020. "We are facing a very challenging financial moment," said Alessia Lombardo, managing director of the DCMA. "From now to the next six months, we are not sure that we can guarantee the salaries of 27 teachers and staff."

As Zanzibar's tourism sector grows, the academy preserves the heritage of the so-called dhow region along the shores of the Indian Ocean and the Arab Gulf where dhow sailing boats traded for centuries in the rhythm of the monsoon winds. Zanzibar, Comoros, Oman, Kuwait, Iran, U.A.E and India are part of this region. Traditional music styles emanating from here are *taarab*, *kidumba* and *ngoma*. The music was almost forgotten but now, thanks to the DCMA, the ancient sound can be found all over the internet and on Youtube. "Zanzibar, the birthplace of legendary *taarab* singers Siti Binti Saad and Bi Kidude, is home to musical genres unique in the world", supporter Goehse adds. The school teaches violin, piano, drums, horns and singing but also traditional instruments such as *qanun* and *oud*.

In a South African music hall, recently, a fascinated audience watched the up-and-coming *taarab* fusion outfit "Siti and the Band" merge these rare instruments with modern sounds.

"DCMA is very active in creating job opportunities", stresses Goehse. Almost a third of the teaching staff are academy graduates. The school organises around 170 paid concerts yearly and co-operates with hotels, restaurants - and also with Fumba Town. Franko Goehse, music enthusiast as well as the head of landscaping in Fumba, recalls: "We had musicians from the academy play during our Fumba opening and at the recent visit of chimpanzee researcher Jane Goodall."

Over 15,000 visitors per year pass through the academy's iconic building to enjoy live performances, workshops and classes. Musicians have mastered over 500 international concerts. "I have always been impressed how the academy has kept running under very challenging circumstances," says Goehse. But now it does need a little help from its friends.

HOW TO DONATE

- www.zanzibarmusic.org
- #FollowTheMusic crowdFunding campaign
- For local contributions, easily contribute via EzyPesa: +255 777 416 529 (Dhow Countries Music Academy)

MIND MY BUSINESS LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

MOROCCAN OASIS IN STONE TOWN



Khadija Marsouk, the owner of Argana Salon & Spa

American and Spanish ladies are worldwide the best hairdressers' clients, says a survey. At least once a week they turn to a salon for a blow-dry. In Stone Town, Khadija works wonders on women of all origins at her Argana Salon & Spa.

"Some ladies get their eyebrows and upper lips waxed or threaded every three weeks. Some do their nails every two weeks, others come for hair colouring or highlights every 8 to 10 weeks", Khadija Marsouk talks about her daily routine and customers' beauty habits in her spa nestled in the centre of Stone Town. The 32-year-old beautician from Morocco opened her first beauty salon in Zanzibar a few years ago at Lebanon Square. It quickly became well-known and well-loved although the place was tiny. Recently she established her bigger and brighter "Argana Salon & Spa" on Kenyatta Rd.

"My clients come from everywhere"

It's a salon for all your needs, from waxing to massages, pedicures and manicures, facials and hair-care, from haircuts to colouring and highlights, beads and braids or simply blow-drying and styling. "I have clients from everywhere", says Khadija. "Zanzibari, Arab, Indian and *mzungu* women". Her salon is relaxed, but professional, taking the golden middle ground, so to speak, between a hotel spa experience and a basic local facility - prices, too, are in the medium-bracket.

The interior of Argana is chic and creative, with built-in foot basins, Moroccan plaid and a *hamam* in planning. Everything was created by Khadija herself with the support of her husband, whom she met in Zanzibar. Born in Fes in Morocco, the beautician first arrived in Tanzania in 2015 to work as a hairdresser at Serena Hotel in Dar es Salaam "My home town Fes is a city as old as Zanzibar", Khadija says, "so I quickly felt at home here." And when baby boy Ahmed was born 2 1/2 years ago, the feeling of taking roots in Zanzibar grew even stronger. One difference between Morocco and Zanzibar she has discovered: "In Morocco, it is common for male hairdressers to do women's hair, but here the ladies don't seem to like it." Khadija talks with her customers in Arab, Swahili and English. "But women in a salon understand each other anyway" she says with a smile, "even without words."

Argana Salon & Spa
Open daily 9am - 9pm
Kenyatta Rd.,
opp. Dhow Palace Hotel
Ph. +255 629 968 118
Whatsapp +255 755 667 721



Oriental interior: "Argana" lady customers get their pedicures and other beauty treatments in a relaxed, feminine setting

EXCLUSIVE

THE MIRACLE MUSEUM

This is how the House of Wonders in Zanzibar could look in the future - a magical place with traditional artefacts in a smart, modern display. The photo shows the National Museum of Oman which houses more than 5,000 precious exhibits on 4,000 square metres - among them this true-to-scale replica of a *badan*, a boat similar to a dhow. "Good museums can truly dynamise culture and tourism", says José María López-Galiacho, "we stimulate emotions through most innovative technologies." López-Galiacho is production designer of a renowned Spanish company specialised in designing national museums and other cultural treasures all over the world. In Oman, he was supported by no less than the Royal Police who provided pilots and helicopters to shoot aerial views for a film that shows the history of Oman in only twelve minutes. Other attractions are interactive and audio-visual gadgets as well as an original *minrab*, a prayer's corner, from the 16th century. The Oman museum opened in 2016. When will the House of Wonders shine in a new light?



PHOTO: NICCOLO GUASTI

WELCOME NOTE
QUALITY OF LIFE



Tobias Dietzold
Chief Operating Officer
of CPS Live Ltd

Today I woke up with a stunning view of the Indian Ocean. I walked through lush greens with smells of herbs and flowers, birds were twittering in the background. I grabbed my first coffee at the kiosk inhaling the peaceful environment around me. Another day in Fumba Town had started.

Having lived in Zanzibar for many years, Fumba Town truly offers an unmatched quality of life I haven't experienced before. I can't imagine living anywhere else since I moved here earlier this year. Clean roads, carefully maintained parks, proper waste management and all-around security - which sometimes makes you even forget to lock your own door!

It makes us unbelievably happy and proud to see how more and more residents are moving in, filling the town with life and giving testimony about this new

Zanzibar lifestyle.

With our quarterly published THE FUMBA TIMES we want to share this experience with you. Zanzibar is moving rapidly and promoting itself as a top-class destination for visitors and residents. Its diverse history and culture is for sure one of the biggest selling points for Zanzibar.

In this issue we bring you a glimpse of this diversity with stories about the famous Dhow Countries Music Academy on page 3, the upcoming "Sauti za Busara" festival and even culinary highlights from one of the best chefs in Zanzibar on page 7. It is an issue full of music as we are entering the festive season and the New Year is upon us.

Our island has much to offer and we hope you'll enjoy immersing yourself in our newest edition. Wishing you, dear readers, a wonderful New Year from the shores of Zanzibar!

GUEST COMMENT
THE ROOTS OF FUMBA



PHOTO: DECALOGUEOFVALUES

Bi Mariam Hamdani,
75, Zanzibar's first female journalist & fine tarab musician. Extracts taken from decalogueofvalues.com

Heading to Fumba, serenity and quietness suddenly embraces you.

I was born in Fumba. The peninsula on the south-west coast of Zanzibar was then very different from what it is now. The name Fumba stems from the Swahili word *fumbate* which means "few people". Fumba had a very small population hence the name was formed. Today Fumba is becoming famous because there are not only one but two towns erupting from nowhere, the green city Fumba Town and Fumba "uptown living". Fumba is now almost a suburb of Zanzibar city and Stone Town. It is popular because it is near the airport - and a nice array of villas, shops and even schools is already lining the tarmac road all the way from town.

Still, if you leave town and head to Fumba you are greeted by a lush, green frame of tropical trees, serenity and quietness immediately embrace you.

If we can believe statistics, Fumba is now a prime location where properties grow in value 15 per cent per year. The figures also say, that home units for 300,000 people have to be built here because Zanzibar's population is growing rapidly, from 600,000 in Urban-West today to 1.2 million in the next twelve years or so. This is really a far cry from how I experienced Fumba. I had a wonderful childhood. We lived together with my grandmother, my mother and also a *somo*, a godmother. She would teach us what to do and what not to do. Where are the *somos* nowadays? I remember

everybody in our neighbourhood were fishermen. It was a typical coastal community. We would live off fish and harvest sea life such as oysters. The women would mostly collect shells and other intertidal marine resources.

There were the villages Fumba Chalenii and Fumba Bondeni located on the southern points of the peninsula. Towards the north-west part you'll still find Dimani Nyamanzi and Ndamhani; on the east part the Bweleo village.

And there is culture! Remember, that the great Siti Bin Saad, the grandmother of *tarab* music, was born in Fumba. Stemming from a simple pottery family she became the first woman to play for the sultans! She was sitting at her local well composing hundreds of unforgettable *tarab* melodies and lyrics, sung by the late Bi Kidude and others until today. Those Zanzibari women heroes opened the way for women musicians including myself and my Tausi Women's Tarab Orchestra which has performed in Kenya, Egypt and other places.

Myself, I only took up an instrument with 65 when I learned to play the *qanun*. I was the first woman to do so. And why not? It is not a question of age but of vitality and mindset. I am a 75-year-old woman feeling like a woman who is 25 years old. I am grateful for everything that has happened to me. From my childhood in beautiful Fumba - until today.

Together with other prominent Zanzibari voices Bi Mariam Hamdani was interviewed by Polish author Agnieszka Pietruszka for the book „Decalogue of Values“ and the website decalogueofvalues.com

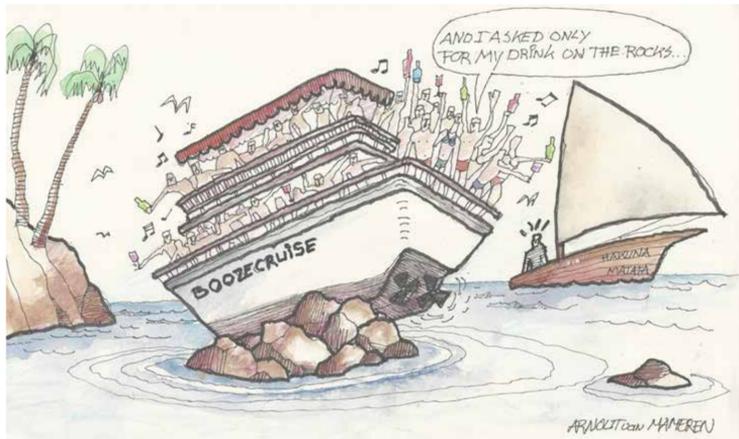
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CARTOON



by Arnold von Marmoren

HIGH SEAS(ON)

OBSERVATIONS OF
A WELL-MEANING TOURIST

Widely travelled writer CATHARINA AANDERUD fell in love with Zanzibar at first sight but is wondering where the island might be heading - because sometimes there is just too much *jumbo*, she says.

But... even though I realise that greeting rituals are an integral part of the Zanzibari culture, it sometimes can be too much for a foreigner. Feeling somewhat forced to respond to hundreds of *jumbos* in order not to appear unfriendly I found exhausting. Especially if the underlying motives - selling tours or whatever - were all too evident.

When I refused to react to a man, who had repeatedly bothered me and didn't understand that a "No" is a "No" I got a rude reaction: "We are a communicative society and if you are not ready for this you better stay in your hotel!" Friendliness or the offer of friendship driven by purely economic considerations almost certainly results in disap-

pointment - on both sides. When I first saw the fifty shades of blue and green in which the ocean at Jambiani presents itself my heart made a big leap of joy. Observing its constant changes as they occur due to sun reflection, cloud movement and the tide can be a very meditative experience. Walking along the wide beach with its small hotels and guesthouses I was glad to see that tourism hadn't pushed aside local fishermen and seaweed harvesting women - a process unfortunately happening in many other tourist areas of

the world. The relaxed coexistence of two worlds in Jambiani gives the visitor the chance to experience a different culture in a casual way. As an ecologically minded European I took great delight in hearing that Zanzibar has banned plastic bags. Still, plastic and garbage everywhere appears to be a real challenge for the island. The worst thing I saw was a whole lake turning into a garbage disposal. Setting up more garbage cans in public, ideally already separating glass, plastic and paper could be helpful.

What is the future of paradise? Having returned to Zanzibar three times since that February I saw how quickly changes happen. New hotels are



PHOTO: ASHQALLERY

Assessing each other: a young local girl looking at the outside world from behind her mkeka

"A lot of Zanzibar's charm roots in the kindness and the youthfulness of its people"

A lot of if not most of Zanzibar's charm evidently roots in the kindness of its people, their relaxed way of thinking and living, a tolerant "live and let live" attitude. With *pole-pole* (slowly) ever present, it contrasts the *haraka-haraka* attitude in which most of us tourists arrive here, used to a multi-tasking life in our home countries. The cordial smile accompanying *karibu* for welcome can indeed be a tension-breaker and conveys a quick feeling of connectedness and this is wonderful.

READERS LETTERS

Dear reader, we at FUMBA TIMES welcome your opinion, story ideas, suggestions and feedback.

Mail us your comments. If published we reserve the right of editing and shortening.

E-mail to: readersletters@fumbatimes.com

MORE JANES PLEASE!

I'd like to congratulate you on having brought the famous researcher Jane Goodall to Fumba Town. I had the pleasure of being present that night and listen to her. It was a very touching experience, especially in the surroundings of new Fumba Town. Are you planning to invite more famous speakers and environmentalist to Zanzibar? That would be most appreciated. I also congratulate the whole team on your wonderful new newspaper. Mary Uhuru, by e-mail

Dear Mary, we could not agree more and will certainly do our best to get more relevant speakers to Fumba Town - the Editor

DR. JENNY'S ADVICE

Dear Editor, we enjoy THE FUMBA TIMES and especially your health column. It is very helpful and we like the way Dr. Jenny is making her point. Often doctors do not take the time to talk and explain matters to their patients leaving them unaware of the consequences of their doing. I'd say a pill does not always help but understanding does. Thank you, Dr. Jenny! Aisha Saadi, by e-mail

REGARDS FROM PAJE

Thanks to the editor for featuring Paje and the vibrant surfing scene, The Mr Kahawa Team

THE FASHION QUEENS OF ZANZIBAR

Three lady designers making a mark in authentic clothing & accessories



Blue explosion: Amina Bilal Pira returned to Zanzibar after 20 years in Australia

Sweet Homecoming

Amina Bilal Pira, Tuntufady: Has her homeland forgotten her, Amina Bilal Pira wondered when she was about to return to Zanzibar after twenty-plus successful professional and family years in Australia. She needn't have worried. Not only came she back in style in 2018, but her warm nature and creative ideas were immediately embraced by the community. A truly regal homecoming it was and ever since Amina has rendered glamour and soul to many stylish activities, from food festivals to fashion shows and bridal extravaganzas. She was lucky to find a tiny but central shop opposite the entrance of "Taperia" on Gizenga Street to instantly re-establish herself.

Few know that she is an actress, too, and has starred in "Pirates of the Caribbean" with Johnny Depp. "The movie world in Brisbane was always looking for multicultural, exotic extras", she says, "now I'd want to do more movies in Zanzibar."

Sitting behind her sewing machine in her shop, the 51-year-old designer says: "I never learnt tailoring in a school but I did observe my mother who was a seamstress and copied her craft meticulously." Hard to believe when you

see Amina's sleek refined jump-suits, dresses and tops and her glamorous evening wear. "I'm having a blue phase since I am back in Zanzibar", tall and striking Amina says with a big smile. "Turquoise like the ocean, blue like the sky." Blue blouses with embroidery and light, ankle-length vests to be worn over and with anything (we are in Zanzibar!) immediately became a bestseller. The shop is named after the initials of her three daughters; she also has a grown-up son. Her African designs were also "very much in demand in Brisbane within the Afro community", Pira says, calling her collection "free-style tailoring" for all sizes and tastes. Does she miss anything since her homecoming? "Only my husband", she replies - but Shane, a marine engineer whom she met in Zanzibar in the nineties when he was delivering the ferry "Flying Horse" to the island, is bound to follow his wife soon. Golden retirement days in Zanzibar are lying ahead of both of them.

Tuntufady
Gizenga Street
(opp. Taperia), Stone Town
Ph. +255 692 22 99 39
fb Amina Bilal Pira

Playing in the big league

Doreen Mashika, DW: A lady like Mashika knows she'd better be close to a prominent hotel to get a steady flow of affluent walk-in customers. First situated near Emerson on Hurumzi, an elegant boutique hotel in Stone Town, Doreen Mashika has meanwhile shifted opposite the Park Hyatt, a superb location near the sea. Breezy and light is the feeling when you enter Mashika's boutique which simply uses her initials DW as the shop's name. Breezy AND sophisticated, one might add. The young designer and mother of two has already been featured in Vogue and is arguably the most classic and advanced female fashion designer of Zanzibar - yet very approachable, often serving customers herself. "I love contact with my clients", Doreen Mashika says and shows her latest creation - a "Kanga shopping bag", made of "noble Kangas", as she puts it, the traditional Swahili cotton wrap-around. "Kangas were losing their valuable appreciation in society", she ex-

plains, "my brand has brought them back and we are definitely not getting bored of it." There's also a wonderful collection of hand-made fashion jewellery on display, of rings and necklaces with bones and semi-precious stones; T-shirts with artful Maasai photo prints in black and white; loose shirtdresses with bold jungle motives and last but not least her very own sleek, cutting-edge design dresses, some with lace, resembling a long forgotten Jackie-Kennedy-style. Doreen Mashika was born and raised in Tanzania, studied and worked for 17 years in Switzerland until she came home with a degree in business administration considering herself "part of a growing homeward bound African diaspora". She says: "In Switzerland I gained a wealth of experience in the business of luxury goods." "Discipline is the secret weapon to my brand's success", the designer adds with a smile, "but I couldn't juggle designing and kids without my supportive husband." As for unwinding, DW finds solace in the green of her garden, enjoying family time with her children. "Staying at home is true luxury to me", she says.



Luxury queen: Doreen Mashika

DM
82 Shangani Street
Stone Town, Zanzibar
Ph. +255 783 084 383
fb doreenmashika,
doreenmashika.com



PHOTOS (4): BILA PIRA, HEINRICH, SCALFARI

Italian nomad: Francesca Scalfari (below in circle) celebrates African style

Ciao, bella Africa!

Francesca Scalfari, The Wonders Boutique: Such a wonderland of fashion and accessories Francesca Scalfari has created in her concept store in Stone Town that an international fashion blogger on holiday in Zanzibar enthusiastically wrote about it: "I smell a good shop when I see one, and this is it." At Wonders, tourists find amazing African designs by more than 50 East African women groups and suppliers such as Chako (handmade, recycled glass jars), Mama Massa and Schwari designs (showcased by Scalfari at the London fashion week 2014), jewellery maker Lizzy Bizzy from Nairobi and many more.

The difference, however, to your usual craft-inspired shop is, that Italian born Scalfari personalises her collections giving them a unique high-fashion twist. Under her guidance a typically red-coloured and rather heavy Maasai design for instance mutates into a pair of light-weight culottes with a blouse. With her Italian temperament, an inborn style-consciousness and Milan *laissez-faire* she moulds "ethically sourced, 100% African products" into trend fashion. "Zanzibar inspires me in many ways", Scalfari says. "Customers love the passion behind each detail",

she holds. "I cater to the unconventional traveller who desires not only souvenirs but lasting memories."

Her own story is memorable: She first came to Zanzibar as an Italian travel guide in 2002, fell in love with the island and her future husband, English-born Simon C. Wood. "Moving south was my destiny", she reflects with a smile, "I was born a nomad." Together the couple founded "FrasiAfrica", Zanzibar's first screen printing manufacturer which up to now produces their hugely popular line of Tee-Shirts - loved even by the Italian national soccer team. At Jambiani beach, where the couple got married in 2009, they run another enterprise, the barefoot luxury boutique hotel "Sharazad". "We just love our beach-style life", Francesca says, "and our son Luca knows no other home than Zanzibar." For customers it's clear: You never leave "Wonders" without at least one item you absolutely can't live without.

The Wonders Boutique
Gizenga St. (opp. Javed Jafferji's Hotel), Stone Town, Zanzibar,
Ph. +255 777 427502,
www.frasifrica.com, fb frasifrica,
www.sharazadboutiquehotel.com

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

BABU'S SPIRIT LIVING ON

Most tourists may know nothing or little of a man called Emerson Skeens, simply *babu* to his friends, while eyewitnesses of his life are everywhere - in music, art and tourism.

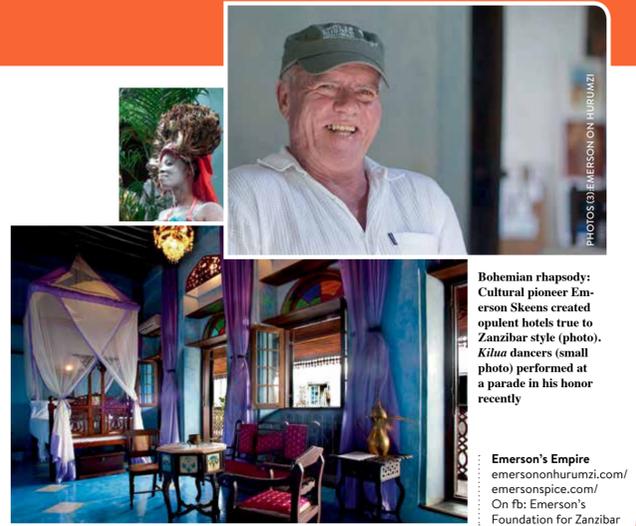
The long time resident of Zanzibar, a cultural pioneer in many ways, died on 31 May, 2014 at the age of 65; this year, Zanzibar commemorated the 5th anniversary of his passing with a burlesque parade in town, very much Emerson-style. Born in Virginia, USA, the declared opponent of the Vietnam war had worked as a counsellor for troubled young people in New York when he was sent

to Zanzibar by the Catholic church. As soon as he got to the island in 1989 "he had found his place on earth, his niche, his calling and finally a place he could call *kwetu*, or home", recalled his obituary. "Zanzibar and me discovered capitalism together", Emerson used to say during interviews. Indeed did he open the very first boutique hotel in town in the early 1990's and placed Zanzibar on the map, when the US Times Magazine enthused about his oriental roof top restaurant, still operating at Emerson on Hurumzi Hotel: "A magic place."

Emerson was a devoted believer in intellectual debate and classical music, especially Italian opera. A vivid art lover, he collected Swahili furniture and authentically turned historic buildings into flamboyant hotels. He knew every politician and artist on the island, but also every carpenter, shoemaker and sheikh in his district Sokomuhogo - creating jobs for many. He spoke pol-

ished Swahili with an American accent, and when he lost his temper once in a while one could hear his deep baritone scolding all over Stone Town. Passionate Emerson truly found his alter ego in sensual Zanzibar.

He is survived by major cultural institutions he co-founded such as the Dhow Countries Music Academy, the Stone Town conservation society and Zanzibar's first women co-operative, the Sasik cushion makers. Emerson's Foundation and his two hotels Emerson on Hurumzi and Emerson Spice are kept thriving by dedicated staff and more than 50 shareholders from all the world under the guidance of director Len Helen Horlin and long time companions Helen Peeks, fashion designer Farouk, Said el-Gheity of Salme Museum, Rashid, Ali, Obama, Lisenka, Katia and many more - all of them having vowed to cherish the precious memory of a man beloved in his adopted country.



PHOTOS (3): EMERSON, HURUMZI

Bohemian rhapsody: Cultural pioneer Emerson Skeens created opulent hotels true to Zanzibar style (photo), Kilua dancers (small photo) performed at a parade in his honor recently

Emerson's Empire
emersononhurumzi.com/
emersonspice.com/
On fb: Emerson's Foundation for Zanzibar

HOW TO START A GARDEN

Compost workshops turn even couch potatoes into earth lovers



Working together to create fertile soil for lush green gardens and environmentally friendly farming

The teacher is barefoot. Moritz Bielech, a permaculture specialist, has brought his laptop to the jungle.

Just off the road to Fumba, in a green garden, the teacher looks at his group of students in front of him. We are about twenty or so, Harifa, Inat, Juan from Argentina and Aino from Finland, agriculture students from Zanzibar, housewives, entrepreneurs, a doctor from Kenya and myself, a journalist. Our interests vary but we all have one thing in common: We want to know the basics of gardening. Or farming.

"It all starts with soil", says Moritz, the barefoot teacher, right on queue. "Soil is the very foundation of life. The surface of the earth." One cubic metre of soil contains two billion organisms (and not only that one lousy earthworm, you are afraid to touch). "We are all looking for new ways to connect with nature", Moritz continues. The class nods in agreement. Some (like me) want to get their own garden in shape – mine, about 20 square metres in a shady backyard of Stone Town resembling more a maltreated football ground than a household's blossoming delight. Aino desires "to be more sustainable". The Kenyan confesses she is "into vegetarian food" and wants to plant organic veggies. "Get soil life back into your soil", Moritz outlines the objective of his one-day compost workshop.

The good news: It can be done. Even fast. It takes only 18 to 40 days, just about a month, to create your own, handmade fresh and fertile soil from

ordinary garden and food leftovers. And soil is where your garden starts. "You need a plan", Moritz specifies, "randomly nothing will happen, you'd eventually require a planting or gardening design." Then again, it all starts with soil. Even Fumba Town, the entire new settlement located on rugged coral rocks on the Fumba Peninsula, is rooted literally on a thick layer of hand-made soil.

Where to start? Permaculture is a "whole holistic lifestyle" explains the teacher, "an adaptable solution", different in Birmingham than in Zanzibar. Our classroom under trees, with a leaf cover so dense that hardly any sun penetrates, has some of us sitting on a *nkeka*, others on chairs; for lunch we'll have a three-course vegan country lunch freshly prepared by the institute,

A green classroom under trees

Lesson No. 1: Starting a garden "all you need are two inches of topsoil", says Moritz. Making compost is imitating nature. Just as falling leaves nourish the earth, so will your organic trash.

Lesson No. 2: Test your soil! Is it alkaline, acidic, sandy or clay. Use a jar, put soil in it and shake it, it should be medium-porous.

Lesson No. 3: Once you have made earth from compost, you don't have to dig it in, just add a top layer. But: Prepare your land. Garden swales are a very good preparation.

Lesson No. 4: Cover your soil with mulch. Plant plants with long roots such as papaya to loosen up your ground.

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PERMACULTURE IN ACTION

Since its founding in 2015, the concept of the Practical Permaculture Institute of Zanzibar (PPIZ) has been that fee-paying students sponsor low-income students. More than 350 students have successfully passed workshops and training courses; most Fumba Town gardeners stem from the institute. Laura Maier, 30, who has a Master's in Global Change Management heads the institute. Check the website and social media for dates and information – and become a holistic gardener! www.permaculture-eastafrica.com



Our class at the compost workshop was a perfectly gender-balanced class, 50 per cent women, 50 per cent men

INSIDE FUMBA TOWN TRUE STORIES OF NEW RESIDENTS



Peaceful and quiet: spacious two-bedroom-houses in Fumba

"I WANT TO RETIRE HERE IN PEACE"

Jane Nhamuro was a nurse in London and is looking forward to a joyful retirement in Fumba Town

Originally from Zimbabwe, you worked all your life in London, how did you get to Zanzibar?

Yes, that's a funny story. It was actually my 28-year-old son who chose Zanzibar and Fumba Town for me. He came here on a kite surfing holiday, immediately fell in love with the place and called me: "Mum, I think there is a very interesting project for you. You should buy a house in Fumba Town."

And you just followed your son? Well, he knows me very well. So I fully trusted his advice.

Now, not even two years later, you are here and have moved into your two-bedroom-house. Is everything the way you hoped for?

It's a big change from UK, that's for sure. So far I love it. It is a comfortable, warm and quiet place. I am confident it will be the right resting place for me.

The house is beautifully furnished but you still have builders in the kitchen...

Well, well, you notice the right thing! The connections for the dish washer and the washing machine were missing. I did not actual-

ly ask for them because when you are told Fumba represents 'modern living', as all the ads say, then you assume all modern connections will be there, don't you? In any case it's now being fixed.

Any other complaints? I wouldn't call it complaints but constructive criticism!

What are your plans for the future?

I want to retire here, but still occupy myself with some work or business. Maybe I start a housekeeping agency. My son, my daughter and my granddaughter Ramiah will come to visit. This will be our first Christmas in Fumba. I am looking forward to it.



Jane Nhamuro: "My family coming to visit for X-mas"

DELICIOUS NEW YEAR

Master recipes by Chef Alan for the little hunger in between - bon appetite!

Whether as a starter or dessert for your festive Christmas menu, for a friends brunch on New Year's day or just as your new favourite tropical snack in between: Award winning Chef Alan from Zanzibar has created this special treat for FUMBA TIMES readers.

His name is Mayaven Alankalee but to friends and clients he is simply known as Chef Alan. One of the best executive chefs on the island Chef Alan is cherished for refined but light culinary extravaganzas by a growing fan community and guests of several five-star hotels. Yet, Alan is easy going.

Ever ready to pose for a nice selfie, a freshly caught tuna big as a shark in his arms; always approachable for a relaxed brunch with friends. When we at FUMBA TIMES asked him if he'd grant us a recipe for our festive issue Chef Alan did not hesitate for one minute. "Of course I will", he said and just minutes later started sending precise Whatsapps with information. 35 years old, Chef Alan has been living in Zanzibar for the last eleven years. He has worked for three top hotels, The Zanzibar Collection,

Doubletree by Hilton and is currently working for the Melia Zanzibar. "I am in charge of the entire food production in the hotel with six restaurants, a team of 65 chefs and 18 stewards", he explains. He is one of the co-founders of Zanzibar Gourmet which promotes Zanzibar as a top food destination. "I especially want to advertise local spices and ingredients", he says, "Zanzibar has such a rich food heritage."

Born in Mauritius – Zanzibar's luxurious sister island in the Indian Ocean – Chef Alan looks back on 17 years of cooking and hospitality experience for major resorts and cruise ships alike. Zanzibar's new Tourism Show crowned him in 2018 as "Best Chef of Zanzibar" and the Melia Hotel as best conference hotel. "This is a great honour for me", Alan said when he received the award from no less than Hon. President Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein. In Zanzibar Alan lives with wife Reynita Alankalee from Mauritius who joined him ten years ago. The couple's favourite pastime: "Zanzibar beaches."

There's "not a big difference between Mauritius and Zanzibar cooking", Alan says, "both use similar spices and a wide range of seafood."

Not a shark but a tuna in his hand: Chef Alan prepares for a fresh Zanzibari gourmet meal



Not a shark but a tuna in his hand: Chef Alan prepares for a fresh Zanzibari gourmet meal



Go Japanese on Christmas with fresh tuna from your trusted fishhawk

SEARED TUNA WITH CONFIT

4 portions

For the tuna:
Yellow fin Tuna filets 400gm
Soy Sauce 2tbsp
Honey 1tsp
Garlic 1 clove
Lemon juice 1 tsp
Parsley chopped

For the Thai dressing:
Thai red curry paste 1 tsp
Lemon juice 1 tsp
Fish sauce 1 tsp
Soy sauce 1 tsp
Palm sugar 20g
Olive oil 1tbsp

For the Vegetables Confit:
Red capsicum 30gm
Yellow capsicum 30gm
Green capsicum 30gm
Onion 30 gm
Garlic 1 clove
Basil 5gm
Olive oil 2 tsp
Salt
Pepper

1 Cut tuna filet into cuts of 3inch by 9inch, pat aside. Make marinade by mixing soy, honey, garlic chopped and lemon juice. Place the tuna in the marinade for 30 mins. Remove from marinade, roll on chopped parsley and sear all 4 sides on a hot non-sticky-pan for 2 seconds each side

2 For the Thai dressing mix all ingredients in a jar or in a mixing bowl with a whisk wire and reserve in the fridge, it can stay one week in the fridge

3 For the vegetable confit cut the vegetables in brunoise (=finely diced) put in a bowl, add chopped garlic, julienne of basil, olive oil and seasoning

4 Plating: Cut 1 seared Tuna into half, place on the plate, drizzle 1 tablespoon of Thai dressing, spread vegetables confits around and some micro green, serve with some fresh fry bread or baguette



Mango mousse and her best friends

MANGO MOUSSE SURPRISE WITH CRYSTALLIZED MANGO

6 portions

Ingredients:
1 cup mango puree
1 tsp lime juice
1/2 cup sugar
2 tsp gelatin
2 eggs white
1 cup of whipped cream
Vanilla sponge or Crushed cookies
Fresh mint

1 For the mango mousse create purée by cutting and squashing ripe mango pieces by fork or in a mixer. Take mango purée in a bowl. Add in lime juice, dissolve gelatin in hot water. Add in gelatin and mix. Beat egg white in a separate bowl until fluffy and keep aside. Beat fresh cream in another bowl and keep aside. Add in sugar to the bowl of mango white and beat. Add the beaten egg white and whipped cream, blend everything together. On a tray place a vanilla sponge (or crushed cookies), pour on the mango mousse cream, spread evenly and refrigerate for 1-2 hours

2 To crystallize mango cut very thin mango slices. Place a baking paper on a tray, arrange the mango slices, dust with icing sugar and let dry in the oven at 100 degrees for about 1 hr

3 Plating: Cut a piece of the mango mousse and garnish with crystallized mango and a fresh mint (for the more ambitious: add 1 pc mango macaron, some mango compote, crushed macaroon shells, mango ice cream)

ADDING SPARKLE TO THE FESTIVE SEASON

What to drink on a special day? The No 1 wine seller of Zanzibar shares his best recommendations with us.

Ten years old and already a wine expert - "Zanzibar Maritime and Mercantile International" (better known as simply ZMMI) has been the Number 1 beverage supplier in Zanzibar for a decade. There are a few other outlets where you buy wine on the island but it is the shop on Airport Road in Migombani where most wine and spirit lovers find the widest quality selection, expert professional service and advice. ZMMI is partnering with MMI Dubai, the biggest beverage supplier in the UAE. "making it possible for us to supply world-class brands to Zanzibar" explains managing director Stephi Said. "We strive to bring the knowledge and the passion

of the industry to our clients." Her diverse portfolio includes many South African brands such as the prestigious winemakers Ken Forrester and Nadia Barnard of Waterkloof Wines, South Africa's first fully biodynamic winery.

The Zanzibar wine and spirit supplier offers free delivery and pre-order services, wine and cocktail courses and more. Customers joining a typical wine tasting at the popular restaurant "6 Degrees South" recently enjoyed the evening while at the same time gaining some knowledge about wine making. And if alcohol-free is what somebody is looking for, there's a non-alcoholic bubbly, too!



The great sparkling: Ken Forrester Sparkloose

The perfect bubbly to add a sparkle to your festive season. This Method Cap Classique made by "Mr. Forrester", puts a spin on the traditional champagne-style sparkling by using Chenin Blanc grapes. South Africa's unofficial national grape. Flavour of crisp green apple meet a smooth quince-like acidity, rendering a creamy texture. Perfect with seafood, lobster and turkey.



Non-alcoholic bubbly: Papiillon

Looking to celebrate without alcohol? This South African bubbly is made from Muscadell grapes, making it a fruity, sweet sparkling perfect for celebrations or paired with dessert, fruit or as an aperitif. Favor something more dry? Well, it is almost impossible to find a non-alcoholic dry sparkling. Make the best of it: For a true Zanzibari experience, stay alcohol-free and stay sweet!

ZMMI Airport Road, Migombani open Mon-Sat 09:00 - 20:00, Sun 10:00 - 17:00 www.zmmi.net; Ph. +255 (0)77 699 ZMMI, +255 (0)24 2231741



Dry, crisp white: Sauvignon Blanc

New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc is all the rage right now, with its well-balanced acidity, full, fruity flavours and a dry, crisp finish. This Sauvignon Blanc epitomizes all that is New Zealand, from broad arenas to newberry and green bell pepper flavours. It's perfect for days on the beach, paired with light meals, or enjoying the sunset. This wine will be your new favourite!



Rich and red: Cabernet Franc

This Cabernet Franc is a rich, dry red wine, with aromas of red fruits, green spices and some subtle earthy notes. It is produced by female



Idyllic scenery: Magoroto lake was man-made in the 50s, and just recently opened for public use

HIGH UP IN USAMBARA

Two special trips for hiking or simply relaxing in a cool environment

Hidden gem is an over-used phrase, but it really fits well when talking about Usambara mountains. Our contributor AINO TAHUA found it just the right, cool getaway during the hot season.

Situated just between the northern parks and the coastal beaches of mainland Tanzania, Usambara still does not receive many visitors. One reason is the infrastructure - it still takes quite some driving to reach the villages high up. Another reason might be that the region is still unknown to many. I would say that there are three main attractions in Usambara: views, nature and climate. The cool weather - a good ten degrees less all year around than in Zanzibar - also brought



The Usambara Veilchen, discovered by Germans on the mountains

the Germans here in the late 19th century, and the heritage is still very visible, especially in the architecture. The Germans fell so much in love with the place that they even named a little flower after the area, the Usambaraveilchen or African violet (*Saintpaulia ionantha*).

Lushoto is maybe more of a stop-over place than a destination itself. Take a tour to the coffee farms in the area to see how Tanzanian coffee is produced from beginning to end. We only have coffee from Usambara at home now, it's delicious! And keep your eyes open, as the area is full of chameleons.

Go West: Adventurers' choice

To explore the West Usambara takes quite a lot of time. It's not an ideal place to drive around, so if you have the time and are feeling up for it, I would recommend hiking or biking. This can vary from short walks to nearly a week-long trip. If you cannot do that, find a driver to take you around. Our destination was the village of Mambo, on the northern end of the mountain range. It's 2,000 metres above sea level, so on a cloudy day you can actually see the clouds beneath you. But then on a clear day, you will see all the way to Kilimanjaro.

Moving through Usambara, the terraced farms and decorated houses will surely catch your attention. This place has a unique, serene feeling that I have not experienced anywhere else in Tanzania. Not many cars are around, and many of those I saw were trucks, taking vegetables to be sold in Dar es Salaam.

We stayed at Mambo View Point, built right on top of a mountain peak. The cottages have the most amazing view, and just that is worth the trouble of getting there. The lodge is a great



Mountain sites are full of narrow paths, used by locals to reach their farms down in the valleys

starting (or ending) point for hikes. In the evening, they will have a fire for you to sit around and make new friends.

Go East: A weekend getaway.

Not everything in Usambara is hard to reach. The eastern mountains are just a few hours from Zanzibar. A flight to Tanga takes half an hour at its shortest, and then you'll drive another hour by car. Perfect for a weekend holiday.

There are a few places to stay in Eastern Usambara, all in the middle of amazing nature. The main activities would be hiking and swimming. The

Hiking to waterfalls, swimming and sitting by the fire

views are beautiful here as well, and you can also hike to waterfalls. These are not very demanding hikes, so almost anyone can do it.

If you have been on Instagram lately, browsing through travel pics from Tanzania, you have probably seen a calm green lake with row boats and floaties - almost resembling an Asian landscape. That's Magoroto Estate, a magical and ecological campsite 1,000 metres up the mountains.

USAMBARA FACTS

How to get there:

From Zanzibar fly to Tanga and continue with a taxi. Auric Air and Coastal Air fly the route. Lushoto can also be reached by bus from Tanga, Dar es Salaam and Arusha.

Where to stay:

Mambo View Point combines breath-taking views with comfortable accommodation. Prices vary from dorms at 13 USD to luxury villas for a few hundred USD. www.mamboviewpoint.org
Lawns Hotel in Lushoto is a great starting point for adventures. www.lawnshotel.com
Magoroto Estate offers camping and rooms in a beautiful setting. Prices from 150,000 TZS full board, with activities. www.magoroto.com

How to get around:

Walking and biking, book with a licensed tour company or through your hotel. There is not much public transportation, but you can find a private hire.

Aino Tahua is a writer from Finland who first came to Tanzania in 2009

TESTING HOLIDAY HOT SPOTS JAMBIANI VILLAS



PRIVATE BUT WELL LOOKED AFTER

- ✓ **ADD-ONS:** Breakfast included! Restaurant, shopping & cooking service
- ✓ **LOCATION:** Right on the beach, hearing the waves at night
- ✓ **FACILITIES:** Spacious, modern private villas
- ✓ **THE BOTTOM LINE:** Private but in good hands!

Imagine a loft-like master bedroom with a morning and an evening terrace overlooking the Indian Ocean. Imagine enough en-suite bedrooms for kids and friends to keep any quarrelling and boisterousness at bay. A sand-free in-door environment, although you are right by the sea, thanks to a most friendly and efficient daily cleaning service. Imagine your own private pool (to be shared with your neighbour villa) usable day and night. A chef-to-hire who sets up a romantic barbecue in your garden! This is how a holiday unfolds at the partly solar-powered Jambiani Villas at Zanzibar's south-east coast, one hour drive from the airport, surrounded by 23 kilometres of white sandy beach, turquoise sea, local fishing villages and surf stations.

Jambiani Villas first opened in 2015 and consists of three individual properties with two-bedroom and three-bedroom-villas plus some cosy apartments, all in walking distance. The Polish owners run the place immaculately and have more houses and apartments already in planning. The resort's website clearly explains the three different properties. Although you are in a private villa, there's a reception, a bar and a restaurant „La Shira“.

I stayed at the "Kusini" property with my entire family, my husband, my son, his wife and their two children, aged eight and one, my daughter in her twenties and her boyfriend. That made us six adults and two kids, aka eight different ideas of what to do and when to do it. And everybody was perfectly happy! The villas are nestled in a lovely landscaped garden (designed and created by Fumba Town Service Centre). Stylishly furnished with coconut beds and Zanzibar nilu cement floors, our villa was big enough

for each of us to find his or her own space - and East Coast music clubs close enough for our teenagers to escape at night. At 6 pm the sun still shone on the pool and the upper-bedroom's balcony. **In the morning** we walked 300 metres along the beach to have a delicious breakfast with eggs, avocado mousse, cereals, fruit salads and café latte in the mid-property, getting a first sun-tan on the way. The baby was sitting in his own baby pool from morning to evening. The eight-year-old tested stand-up paddling, my husband cooked and when the holiday was over nobody wanted to leave.

Andrea Tapper



Well-equipped: SUP boards & deck chairs at the pool. Spacious bedrooms with mosquito netting

JAMBIANI VILLAS
Ph. +255 776 944 970
bookings@jambianivillas.com
jambiani-villas.com



Three private dream properties belong to Jambiani Villas

WHEN LIFE IS A BEACH

Zanzibar festival a true cultural melting pot



Young maasai at the beach festival seem to be natural high jumpers - with all their dancing expertise, and others join the fun

Maasai trying high jump. A red catwalk on the beach. A well-stocked beach bar. Volleyball, ngalawa boats turning into racing canoes, gourmet cooking and top bands. All this and more is the Zanzibar Beach and Watersports Festival, celebrated for the ninth time this year.

Of all the Zanzibar festivals and activities (see our timeline on p. 2) beach entertainment is probably the most fitting. Blessed with endless white beaches and turquoise waters, Zanzibar has the perfect natural backdrop for a beach festival. The non-profit event, a brainchild of Mark Dieler and friends of Red Monkey Lodge, is a true cultural melting pot of all communities living by and of the sea - supported by hotels, individuals and

village groups. Equally popular all year around are the 'Crazy Mondays' at the Red Monkey Lodge with a typical crowd of tourists, expats and local residents. Top talents from the region and special guests jam together: Joss Stone, Oliver 'Tuku' Mtukudzi and Eric Wainaina just to name a few joined DJs such as Philippe Cohen Solal (Gotan Project) & Richard Dorfmeister (K&D/Tosca).

Watersports Festival, 6-9 December, 2019, Jambiani Mfumbwi. Daily from 10 am to late. Entry free. www.zanzibarfestival.weebly.com/

Crazy Monday Jam Session, every Monday at Red Monkey Lodge, from 9pm till midnight. www.redmonkeylodge.com

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