



Zanzibar's capital, Stone Town

PETER BENNETT

Zanzibar: Sounds of the Spice Island

Zanzibar 8 days – February 8-15 2010 (ex-Zanzibar)

Zanzibar 13 days – February 7-20 2010 (ex-Zanzibar)

Zanzibar is a paradise island. But it's better than that. It's a paradise island with great beaches, a fantastic mix of cultural influences, a car-free warren of streets that is Stone Town, and some of the best music in east Africa. Zanzibar's luxuriant *taarab* orchestras are like a dhow in full sail – finely-crafted, stately and magnificent.

With the island at the centre of the lucrative spice (and slave) trade, the Arabs, Indians, Chinese, Portuguese and British have all left their imprint. Today, Zanzibar is part of Tanzania and predominantly Muslim, but there are still active Christian churches and Hindu temples. Gorgeous wooden dhows with triangular sails are out on the Indian Ocean and the place still feels like a Swahili trading port, which is what it has been for centuries.

The *Sauti za Busara* (Sounds of Wisdom) Festival is the best introduction to the local sounds. Its focus is the Swahili coastal regions of Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique, although other artists come from elsewhere

in Africa and further afield. There's both traditional music and Bongo Flava hip-hop which is hugely popular with the local youth. There's usually music from one of the celebrated *taarab* orchestras, Culture Musical Club or Ikhwani Safaa, and the, hopefully immortal singer, Bi Kidude who's well into her 90s. You may not know that Queen's Freddie Mercury was born in Stone Town and is commemorated at Mercury's Restaurant on the sea.

For four days events are held in the historic Old Fort in Stone Town. Take our 8 day tour (10 days ex-London) and you will catch all of this. Then there are two more days of events which are fringe events in other parts of Stone Town and out over the rest of the island. Stay on for our longer 13 day tour (14 days ex-London) and you can catch these too.

All Songlines Music Travellers will receive an information sheet about the local music plus recommended recordings and DVDs.



Zanzibar – 8 days

Itinerary

Day 1 Mon Today we meet our Songlines Music Travel Leader at the hotel in Stone Town. After checking in, the rest of the day is left free to spend the first few hours in Zanzibar wandering the bustling streets of Stone Town, watching the dhows in the harbour, and soaking in the atmosphere. Make sure to try the tea and coffee houses. Alcohol is available in the many hotel bars, but not generally around town.

Day 2 Tues After breakfast we meet our guide and spend the morning in Stone Town exploring the maze of narrow lanes and alleyways that radiate back from the waterfront. We'll visit the spice and food markets. The afternoon is left free; you may want to sip a coffee and watch the world go by, or take an afternoon sail on one of the dhows that dot the harbour.

Day 3 Wed Today is left free for you to pursue your own interests. Zanzibar is sometimes referred to as the Spice Island and your Travel Leader can arrange an optional tour around the island to see the spices close up. It's extraordinary to see the island's spice plantations and gardens. If you are in a more indolent mood, an alternative trip might be to the beaches of the north and east coasts for some good seafood and a chance to top up the tan.

Day 4-7 Thurs-Sun For the next four days Stone Town is taken over by music as the Sauti za Busara Festival takes over. But there's still time in the mornings to go swimming, visit the former slave market and museum, or the House of Wonders on the Forodhani Gardens waterfront.

Day 8 Mon After a feast of music our tour comes to an end. Time to continue our travels in East Africa, or head for the airport and the flight home.

Zanzibar – 13 days

Itinerary

For those with more time, extend your stay on Zanzibar with a few days on our beach extension. Getting it off to an exciting start there is usually a beach party, with the musicians who have been playing at the festival, on one of the beaches a day or so after the music has finished in Stone Town; grab a taxi and enjoy the party. The rest of the week is for lazy days on the beach, perhaps a dhow excursion, and certainly some good seafood.

Day 1-7 as above

Day 8 Mon It is just a short drive from Stone Town to the beaches on the other side of the island, and before lunch we should be settled in at our beach accommodation. Today or tomorrow there may be a beach party with the musicians from the festival.

Day 9-12 Tues-Fri The next four days are for exploring more of the island, going out on a dhow, or lazing on the beach, sipping a few drinks at a beach bar or two. The food is delicious.

Day 13 Sat After breakfast today your transport will be waiting to take you across the island and back to the airport for your flight home.

Pricing details

8-day tour (ex-Zanzibar) Mon Feb 8-Mon Feb 15 2010

Tour Price £625 per person

Tour includes:

- 7 nights twin-share accommodation at a 3 star hotel in Stone Town, on Bed and Breakfast basis
- Walking tour of Stone Town
- Four days at the Busara Festival and entry to selected music events
- The services of your Songlines Music Travel leader

Single supplement: £239 per person

13-day tour (ex-Zanzibar) Mon Feb 8-Sat Feb 20 2010

Tour Price £920 per person

Tour includes:

- 7 nights at a 3 star hotel and 5 nights at a 3 star beach resort in twin-share accommodation on bed and breakfast basis
- Walking tour of Stone Town
- Transfers between Stone Town and beach resort and return
- Four days at the Busara Festival and entry to selected music events
- The services of your Songlines Music Travel leader

Single supplement: £374 per person.

Items not included: Single room supplement, visas, travel insurance, all meals with the exception of breakfast, gratuities and any items of a personal nature.

10-day tour (ex-London) Sun Feb 7-Tues Feb 16 2010

Flights from London are available from £670 per person in conjunction with this tour. Flights are overnight from London and overnight back to London, making your tour 10 days from London back to London. Transfers from and to the airport in Zanzibar are included with flights purchased through Songlines Music Travel.

15-day tour (ex-London) Sun Feb 7-Sun Feb 21 2010

Flights from London are available from £670 per person in conjunction with this tour. Flights are overnight from London and overnight back to London, making your tour 16 days from London back to London. Transfers from and to the airport in Zanzibar are included with flights purchased through Songlines Music Travel.

Friend of Busara Packs

For Songlines Music Travellers only the festival is offering a Festival Souvenir Pack including: commemorative coffee-table book and DVD Busara – the First Five Years, Zanzibar Festival Classics CD (+DVD), Festival T Shirt, Invitations to VIP Receptions and Special Events. \$100 US (must be booked in advance and paid for in Zanzibar).

To reserve your place

Please read the booking conditions on the website and contact the reservations office on:

+44 (0)20 8505 2582

or email:

songlines@thegroupscompany.com

The air holiday packages in this brochure are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 9349. Please see our booking conditions for more information. ATOL protection does not apply to all holiday and travel services in this brochure. Please ask us to confirm what protection may apply to your booking.