

The Fumba Times

FROM ZANZIBAR TO THE WORLD – THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL

September - November 2020

International Edition 05

ISSN: 2683-6572 / Complimentary edition

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DISCOVER FUMBA

Rooftop gazing, barbecues and a first organic market



SAVE THE DATE!

You've heard a lot about Fumba Town in Zanzibar, but have never come to check it out? For all those wondering how the project has moved on, here are some selected events for you to visit the new seafront community, only 20 minutes drive from Stone Town. Enjoy!

- **Sunset BBQ**, 4.30pm to 8pm. Guided tour, rooftop sundowner and BBQ, Wednesdays after work. Sept 2, 16, 30; Oct 14, 28; Nov 11, 25
- **Movie nights**, starting at 7.30pm, with popcorn, BBQ and chocolate donuts, on Fridays. Sept 11, Oct 9, Nov 6
- **Open Mic**, share your poetry, sing your song at the town's tiny, but already famous Kwetu Kwenu kiosk, last Friday of the month, after sunset. Sept 25, Oct 30, Nov 27
- **Kwetu Kwenu's Farmers Market** 10am to 5pm, organic veggie shopping, first Saturday of the month. Sept 5, Oct 3, Nov 7

Bookings & info: +255 623 989 900
Pls note, events subject to change

Admiring the view: Social events in Fumba Town are a perfect opportunity to check out the site. Buffets with homemade delicious food (upper photo right) and entertainment await you. Karibuni!

WOOD MAGIC IN ZANZIBAR

Climate-friendly timber frame houses being built in Fumba Town and Paje

Back to the future: Wood building technology is the latest rave all over the world. A former luxury has turned into an eco-darling. Why? Pre-fabricated timber houses have become less costly.



Tallest wood building in the world

Wood has many talents. The feel-good effect of the natural material is without doubt. But recently the aspect of sustainability has come to the fore. Properly managed, wood is a fully renewable resource. "Wood seems to be the construction material of the future", says Tobias Dietzold, one of the chief developers of Fumba Town, the new eco-city on the outskirts of Zanzibar's capital. Presently, more than fifty of Fumba's popular townhouses - already occupied by their happy buyers - are timber frame buildings. Under planning and now on sale, are the new low-rise Moyoni Homes set within beautiful private gardens. They consist of around hundred apartments, also with a wood structure. Each apartment, downstairs or upstairs, can be configured as a loft or 2-3 bedroom family home. The starting price is around \$68,000. A third major building complex with wooden elements is being raised in Paje on the east coast. The residential leisure facility The Soul has 1-3 bedroom holiday flat on sale, starting at \$47,900. The Soul will consist of more than 200 units in total.

German technology produced in Africa

"Timber houses "used to be 10-15 per cent more costly than stone houses, but prefabrication has reduced the prices", says engineer Thomas Just. Another advantage: "It doesn't take more than one week to



Fast forward: It takes only a week to a month to assemble a prefab timber frame house, like this family home in Fumba. Another advantage is that unlike cement, wood waste can be composted

a month to assemble a wooden house on site, because everything is already built-in." The technology used by the Volks.house company based in Zanzibar - as by international architects - are "prefabricated timber frames for the house structure plus cross laminated timber (CLT) for the ceilings", explains Just. Together with his wife Saskia he co-owns Volks.house and works in co-operation with CPS, the developers of Fumba Town. A wooden prefab building resembles an

onion with several layers. Rock wool for insulation meets with layers of chipboard, complete with tunnels for power cables and water pipes. The prefabricated walls are joined together on the construction site. "German building technology produced in Tanzania for Africa" is the slogan of Volks.house and that says everything about the hybrid firm which blends home-grown and global knowledge with local production. As a building material wood has indeed

come a long way: Much used in medieval living-quarters in Europe, in 1599 for Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London and even earlier for Japanese pagodas, timber had, in recent times, become a luxury product. But that's changing again: The current eco hype is demonstrated in spectacular buildings such as the world's tallest timber frame building in Norway, the 85-metre-high Mjøstårnet with 18 floors; even the elevator shaft is wooden. **MORE JOBS, PAGE 2**

Global thinkers

ONE PERSON, ONE OPINION



Saniniu Laizer, 52, small scale masai miner, became an overnight millionaire recently. After finding 21kg of Tanzanian gem stones worth more than five million dollars he promised: "I will build a shopping mall and a school in my area. Many poor people still can't afford to take their children to school."

KANGA MANTRA

"Shoka husahau, mti hausahau – The axe forgets, the tree does not"

All over East Africa women wear brightly coloured Kangas as a wrap-around cloth. From birth to marriage to grave, Kangas are indispensable. Each Kanga is printed with a proverb in Swahili, the female statement for the day. It may often have several meanings and translations.

ARTSY SOUVENIRS 4 BOOKWORMS

Prestigious new coffee table book about Zanzibar published



Where tradition meets style & humour: the new "Zanzibar" book

If Zanzibar is looking for an image campaign, one of the best promotions recently has come totally unsolicited via a new glossy coffee table book by renowned international photographer Aline Coquelle who says about herself: "My love for Zanzibar runs in my blood." The Parisian artist with a degree in art history and anthropology who travels the world in search of remote lands and cultures is a regular visitor to the archipelago. Her stylish book captures not only the beauty of nature but also of Zanzibar's people and, as she puts it, the island's "positive vibes". Coquelle writes: "Zanzibar is a healing archipelago." The forward is written by Mirella Ricciardi, the well-

known author of "Vanishing Africa". Simply called "Zanzibar" the new photo book has been featured in major magazines such as Vogue and Conde Nast Traveler. - On the home front, Zanzibari photographer Javed Jafferji has captured the island's charm and heritage in "Zanzibar Style" and many more photobooks, available at Memories shop in Stone Town.



Zanzibar
Aline Coquelle,
by Assouline,
Available on:
www.assouline.com and
Amazon

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Education for all would enable more citizens to prosper, says tourism expert Graham Leslie. And tourists want culture: The House of Wonders, still under repair (photo right), is potentially a big draw for holidaymakers

“LOCALS SHOULD BENEFIT MORE”

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW Less tourism but more job chances for all - Focus on education and culture

How is Zanzibar's economic outlook, we asked expert Graham Stewart Leslie. The Oman-based consultant is working with the government on a "Vision 2050". "Go clean, green and cultural", is his advice.

Corona brought tourism to a grinding halt worldwide. Did you manage to go on holiday this year?

Yes, in February I was fortunate to spend a week in Sri Lanka with my extended family just before world travel came to a thumping end.

Your predictions for Zanzibar are now shattered dreams. You forecasted,

2020 was going to be "the best year in tourism ever" and in 2026 "poverty eradicated".

The global collapse caused by the coronavirus has indeed wiped out all our sensible predictions based on about 100,000 jobs, tourism growing at ten per cent per annum and bringing in 80 per cent of foreign exchange. However, I believe, if handled smartly, the global shock could actually lead to a new, more self-reliant Zanzibar with greater socio-economic benefits to the communities.

What is your best-case scenario - for this year and beyond?
Realistically, there will be very little international tourists for the balance of 2020 and greatly reduced leisure travel worldwide in 2021 and in large parts of 2022. The pandemic has already funda-

mentally changed the psychology behind future selection criteria for travellers.

If this is your best, I don't want to ask about the worst...
Don't worry, not all is lost. I strongly believe Zanzibar has the potential to use this special time to prepare the nation for the return of more targeted tourism. More and more volume in tourism - this was a broken model even before the pandemic. A higher yield lower impact model is the long-term solution. Like a painter has a vision of his painting, Zanzibar needs a clear image of the future.

Could less dependency on tourism be the answer?
Zanzibar does not have too much tourism. But local people must be enabled to participate more. A shift away from

volume to higher yield, meaning less visitors with more spending power, was always the recommended approach but now, born out of the corona pandemic, it has become a reality. Let's use the chance to create a tourism model that is more inclusive for citizens and the environment. I believe a smart, green, inclusive tourism development and management of the nation's natural and human assets are the most significant economic driver for the treasury and potential for job creation. Tourism - sustainable tourism - can be an engine to fight poverty. And you are right, why not look at the creation of other jobs, too. Manufacturing jobs for instance. Furniture factories, spice factories, IT technology - everything is possible if the will and vision are there.

Corona has altered our mindsets?
It has. There is social distancing everywhere, and yet we connect more. We learned to reconnect with family and friends, to communicate more, to adapt new skills, to work from home, to learn about different cultures. The world community has taken a step back in time, and yes, there is an unprecedented global loss of jobs which will bring great hardships to many, but there are also chances for a new orientation. Funding from international donor agencies will be recalibrated, emerging economies will have to become more self-reliant. Nations need to accept this and look to a more sustainable economic model. This is the new normal.



Kenyan born British national Graham Stewart Leslie is on the board of Zanzibar's Dhov Music Academy, a consultant for the Zanzibar government and CEO of "Zamani Development network" directing a "Tourism for All" masterplan for Zanzibar. The 63-year-old has worked for upscale hospitality brands such as Kempinski, Hilton, the Aga Khan Tourism Agencies and as CEO of Serena Hotels. He resides in Oman and has lived all over the world including the Middle East and East Africa.

Education for all?
Yes, free education starting with English language courses, health and safety, hygiene, housekeeping, IT, marketing, media, planning, programme management, conservation and the environment, rural self-reliance in food and nutrition, general family care & wellbeing and so on. Zanzibar has yet to develop a culture of focused learning. This would be a major transformation.
Interview: Andrea Tapper

"Tourism can be an engine to fight poverty"

What could be the model for Zanzibar? Is there a magic recipe to bring tourists back?
Clean-up! Zanzibar truly has unique cultural assets from a global attraction perspective and tourists will eventually come back. The recipe is more pragmatic than magical: Improving environmental conditions should be high on the agenda. Everybody would profit, the people of Zanzibar and the visitors coming to this wonderful island. Surveys and studies have shown: Effective conservation, clean water, good supporting health facilities, good infrastructure, integrated community engagement and fresh produce will become core attributes in the national DNA of any future successful tourism destination.

A long list - can it really be accomplished?
The will is there and the money is there. Zanzibar is receiving one billion dollars in grants and loans for community projects in the next ten years. Let's use the reflective period of the next two years to push forward a clean-up campaign for Zanzibar and education for all.

IS TOURISM ALREADY BACK?



Relaxing at Sharazad Hotel

We asked at a SMALL boutique hotel and a LARGE 5-star hotel about their experience.

"FULLY BOOKED"

Sharazad Boutique Hotel, Jambiani, 12 rooms, owner Francesca Scalfari: "After a strict lockdown and intense staff training we were the first to re-open in Zanzibar in June. We've been fully booked ever since. Our guests come from France, Germany and the Tanzanian mainland. We've been constantly in touch with our agent and clients informing them what we were doing to keep the island and ourselves safe. This intense, positive and honest communication is very important. For the high season in December our booking calendar looks very positive. No client has cancelled. We also offer new events such as barbecues on the beach where fresh air is plentiful. We maintain a family vibe with all clients. That's probably the most important: We are not a product, we are people."
www.sharazadboutiquehotel.com

"OUR HOPE: 2021"

Zuri Zanzibar, Nungwi, 56 bungalows, manager Andrea Knorova: "Zuri means beautiful in Swahili. At the Zuri we don't have rooms, just villas and bungalows at a breathtaking lagoon with vast open space on 12 hectares. We had practically no tourists in June and July. The main reason: Constant changes of flights and international government restrictions. Only private jet travellers were good business. We have altered cancellation conditions from 30 days to one day prior to arrival, which proved very important, even if it made bookings unstable. Currently the forecast looks promising for 2021. Many 2020 reservations moved towards next year, we are hopeful."
www.zurizanzibar.com

MORE JOBS FOR THE ISLAND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ever experienced a slightly mouldy smell when opening the doors to your well-locked house after a long absence or holiday? Don't blame the cleaner - this is what happens easily in tropical conditions with little natural air ventilation inside a stone house. But a timber house is different. "Timber houses are cooler in hot climate and warmer in the cold because they store the temperature better", explains Thomas Just, a wood technician by profession. Other eco-benefits:

- Wood is climate-friendly in that it binds CO2. The carbon absorbed from the atmosphere by the trees is locked into the structure permanently. The production of cement does exactly the opposite, causing new emission of CO2.
- Wood insulates 15 times better than cement both against heat or cold, saving

huge amounts of energy. • Wood houses need only 10 per cent of the sand used to build a cement house.

81 workers found employment

The Just couple, parents of three children, have trained and now employ 81 workers in Zanzibar, several of them women. The workplace: A 15-metres-high production hall built in the middle of the ragged bush land of Fumba peninsula in Zanzibar. A production loop - starting with timber planks and ending with elegant walls - runs almost like an assembly line in a car factory. "We called the company Volks-house, inspired by Volkswagen, the car brand", says Saskia Just. The wood used is imported - for now. "Once there is more sustainable agroforestry in Tanzania we'd be happy to source wood locally", she says. Innovative technology adds solid protection against termites, water and fire hazards.



Timber houses in the making: Over 80 workers have been trained in the factory (left). The design for the timber frame holiday flats in Paje (right) is stunning



PHOTOS BY VOLKS/NOISE.CH

Remarkable new buildings and must-visit-locations have popped up in Zanzibar. Having spotted them, we couldn't wait to explore.

1 A matter of taste
The green Mapinduzi Revolving Tower in Michenzani might not be everybody's favourite design but inside hides a fine dining restaurant with an amazing rooftop view. Located on the 9th floor and indeed rotating, the high-rise location with blue velvet chairs, marble tables and an international menu surely takes first-time customers by surprise. From Caesar salad to Zanzibar seafood, from grilled pepper fillet to lobster, the food is lovely - one of the chefs worked at the Park Hyatt before. As an appetizer you may want to visit the humble Revolution Memorial Museum on the ground floor. The tower was inaugurated in 2015, the museum in 2017, the restaurant in 2019. Then corona shut it all down - re-opening is planned later this year, as is the opening of the new mall opposite.
Bookings: www.mapinduzirestaurant.co.tz

2 Between land and air
Zanzibar's first airport hotel is ready before the airport itself! Set to open in November, the Golden Tulip has an airside and a landside, explains GM Bony Varkey - rooms facing either town or the runway. To ensure sleep, all 60 rooms are equipped with soundproof windows. Guests can check-in for their flight from



the hotel and relax in a spa with local Zuri Ritual cosmetics. Sounds like a splendid alternative

3 Banking on style
Of all public institutions, the Peoples Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ) - the only Tanzanian bank with its headquarters on

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

Inner values: Few would expect such a stylish setting inside the Mapinduzi Revolution Tower (left)

to leaving your beach hotel at 3am to reach your early morning flight!

the island - showed verve for authenticity with its new flagship building at the Malindi junction. Not a high-tower complex but a subdued two-storey structure; the elegant fort-like design incorporates the old gas station next door - and Zanzibar's heritage.

A modern take on oriental style: the new airport hotel Golden Tulip (upper photo); lovingly authentic is the new PBZ flagship in Malindi

THE SOUND OF ZANZIBAR

Taarab remake shoots to sudden fame in pop music

It's late glory for the ladies: Siti Muharam, great granddaughter of much-loved taarab legend Siti Binti Saad, has re-recorded her granny's evergreens. Critics praised the album as "one of the best of 2020". For us, executive producer PETE BUCKENHAM recalls how it all happened.

What a great international triumph for Zanzibar's cultural world! Siti Binti Saad and her much-loved music is back - newly interpreted by her great granddaughter Siti Muharam, recorded in Zanzibar. Binti Saad, although born 140 years ago, is crucial to understanding contemporary Zanzibar: Not only was the singer an early fighter for women's rights but she also brought music, formerly performed just in the sultan's palace, into the homes of people. Taarab music is an ancient, unique sound of the Indian Ocean region, a lush mix of Arab and Indian orchestral music with special instruments and vocals.

We made it our mission to transport this mystic music into the present. After we re-recorded Binti Saad's songs with Muharam earlier this year in a forgotten studio in Zanzibar, they became an overnight success in Britain and the US, receiving critical acclaim by the American media organisation NPR, the British Guardian, The Financial Times, Musikexpress in Germany and more. "It's a stunning introduction

to a music not quite like any other", enthused one critic about the album. It all started three years ago in liaison with Fumba Town. The idea to re-record original taarab music came up because the developing eco town has a cultural mandate - and is located on the Fumba peninsula, just where Binti Saad was born to freed slaves in 1880. She died in 1950. Our project seemed like a good idea to connect her sound to future generations.

Pushing musical boundaries
My record label "On the Corner Records" has always aspired to push musical boundaries while respecting rhythmic and cultural narratives especially when working across borders. With a modest budget, patch-worked together from my label, Fumba Town and the British Council East Africa (which also enabled us to form a rehearsal and recording project at Nafasi Arts Space in Dar Es Salaam) we got the project rolling. Luckily we had the guidance of outstanding musician Mohamed Issa Matona from Zanzibar, a founding member of the island's music school, the Dhov Cultural Music Academy (DCMA). The tip-off to get Muharam for the recording, the enigmatic great-granddaughter of Siti Binti Saad, came from filmmaker and friend of Zanzibar Andy Jones. In her fifties now, Muharam, a rather shy person, is said to have a "golden voice" - and that's exactly what it turned out to be.

An old studio with a good sound
Right from the start we met with a large group of up-and-coming talent from DCMA music school. Matona worked with them through Siti Binti

Saad's legacy. My producer Sam Jones, myself and DJ Tash LC went to Dar to run some impromptu recordings. Our resourcefulness was tested when the booked studio became unavailable and the only option was a one-great government studio in Michenzani. The floor was eaten by termites, the wallpaper crumbling - but the sound there still absolutely fantastic! "For me Siti Muharam was a lost artist", recalls Matona. "This project gave her an opportunity to embrace her great-grandmother's legacy and to reevaluate her own voice. All the musicians - Fadhil on percussion, Gora on traditional Qanun and Nema with backing vocals - gained from this project and together we've grown." Amazingly most of the tracks were "in the can" after just over one week.

THE ALBUM



The album *Siti Muharam: Romance Revolution in Zanzibar* is an exploration of taarab roots from more than 100 years ago. Fans of jazz and electronic music will love the 21st century update of the almost trance-like sound. Strong lyrics unveil a gruesome era when slavery was still alive.
: To order the album on vinyl, as a CD or to buy & download go to: www.sitimuharam.bandcamp.com

MIND MY BUSINESS

LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

PUTTING THE RIGHT FOOT FORWARD

Flip-flops for gents, golden sandals for ladies: Shoemaker Surti stands for handmade leather shoes going into the fourth generation.

While Arabian and Chinese plastic speakers and high heels flood the market, home-grown African shoe manufacturers are hard to find. Why? Even Zanzibar shoemaker Pravinchandra Surti is not sure. But what he does know: There's hardly a

family in Zanzibar which hasn't, at one stage or another, bought a decent pair of men's or ladies' sandals from him. Three walls of shelves bearing his fine handmade creations line his workshop on Gizenga Street, from standard brown sandals for men to floral and glitter designs for ladies. His grandfather brought the craft to Zanzibar almost hundred years ago. 30-year-old son Alpeshkumar Surti is next in line. In a calm manner, both men welcome every single one of their customers. A lot of the tools they use are inherited, valued and maintained. Their forefathers still crafted

shoes individually for each customer. "That's not possible in our times", says Surti senior who sells his sandals off the shelf, "nobody would pay for that." He uses cow leather from the mainland primarily and a softer version from Bangkok for ladies' shoes. With a pair of sandals selling for around 40,000 TZS or less, shoemaking is no quick cash", both Surtis know, but value their craft as a "steady source of income". And even if tourism is less these days, they can rely on the other half of their customers - loyal local buyers who appreciate quality.
Angelika Dubiel

Surti senior and junior produce rows and rows of handmade leather sandals



Surti & Sons
Local handmade leather sandals
Wholesale & retail
Gizenga Street, Stone Town

WELCOME NOTE
THIS IS YOUR MOMENT



Andrea Tapper
Editor-in-chief,
THE FUMBA TIMES

My daughter has started baking. A colleague booked Helen Mirren's masterclass for 99 dollars on Facebook. My best friend began growing her own tomatoes. No doubt: The worldwide health crisis has got many of us thinking. Reevaluating priorities, strengthening our ties with loved ones. A lot of encouraging debate has evolved from a severe challenge. More trust in small steps, less mindless consumerism and yes, more concern for the environment. This is your moment.

In Fumba Town we have so many new social happenings lined up, that we've put together a whole event calendar for you on page 1. Whether you choose a sunset BBQ, an open mic evening or a treasure hunt with the whole family – we warmly invite you to mix and mingle and to discover our growing town at the same time. This issue of THE FUMBA TIMES is about new beginnings. Our

cover story demonstrates how the ancient raw material wood is having an amazing comeback as one of today's most innovative building technologies – even here in Zanzibar. Personally, I was touched by the feature on Muharam on page 3, a shy singer finding her tarab roots and creating a surprise world hit album. Some of you, dear readers, will still remember her great-grandmother, tarab legend Siti Binti Saad! On page 2 we have asked tourism consultant Graham Leslie, an advisor to the Zanzibar government, to outline how better job chances for locals can be established, in my opinion a long overdue topic. And on the lighter side, not only my tomato-growing friend will surely be thrilled by our smart urban gardening tips on page 8.

These are all our moments. As always, we at THE FUMBA TIMES love to inspire you. Plan your dream house! Nurture your talents! This is your moment.

GUEST COMMENT
WANTED:
AFRICAN START-UPS



Jack Ma is the co-founder and former executive chair of Alibaba Group, the Chinese equivalent to Amazon. His Jack Ma foundation, started at the end of 2014, supports young African entrepreneurs

"Helping hungry dreamers to achieve their goals"

The first time I set foot in Africa was in 2017. Whenever I travel, meeting young people and entrepreneurs is my priority. Then I see myself more than twenty years ago when I was just starting Alibaba. In much of Africa entrepreneurship is not the exalted career path it is in the United States and increasingly in Asia. The prudent thing for most Africans to do is to get a stable, salaried job in banking or similar. Entrepreneurship is for the hustlers who have to get creative and scrappy to make a living. And yet I believe, Africa's future will be built by its start-ups, the hungry dreamers who view problems as opportunities. I will do my part to help them achieve their goals.

transform societies. I am not talking about billionaires but about start-ups that solve social problems. That's why my foundation started the Africa Netpreneur Prize Initiative (ANPI) – a more global variation of popular TV shows such as "Dragon's Den" and "Shark tank". We are looking for the most impressive young entrepreneurs in Africa who are creating impact in their communities; we call them Africa's business heroes. We are open to candidates from all 54 African countries; entrepreneurs of all ages and both sexes, from all industries and levels of society. Your business must have been running for three years.

Scenepics may say the continent is not ready for the digital era. In fact, Africa is perfectly positioned. We have learnt: When the current system works too well there is resistance to change and too much legacy to overcome. But when the infrastructure is weak, the new world can kick in.

The first time we ran the search in 2019, 10,000 applied. This year, we had 22,000 applicants from 21 countries. Samir Ibrahim from Tanzania with his solar irrigation scheme for farmers has entered Top 20 finalists. The first ten winners usually take home prize money between \$100,000 and 300,000, access to mentorships and training. Among them last year: Temie from Nigeria who kick in.

My experience has taught me: No start-up can go for it alone. But I believe, if government, educators and industry associations all work together, Africa will become a hub of innovation.

Get information here:
www.jackmafoundation.org.cn,
https://africanbusinessheroes.org/en/

CARTOON



by Abdul Kitumbi/Art Lovers

AND THE WINNER IS...

BACK TO SCHOOL AGAIN

How did schools continue teaching during the long recent school closure and what will be the next move? Director JAMES PILTON of the International School of Zanzibar (ISZ) reflects on lessons learnt.



PHOTO: UNWIK

For us, the last school year had started full of promise. Our enrollment was up, and we were making big plans for a campus expansion. But already at the end of January our administration had to inform the community that we were following a strange health threat emerging from China and were taking measures to curb it. A great resource for our small school with almost 150 students from two to 18 years old and 18 teachers was the Association of International Schools in Africa (AISA). If we were to successfully continue our learning program online, we needed to make sure that all members of our community were sufficiently prepared. So even before the government of Zanzibar closed schools on March 18, we were able to transition to a full online learning program in a matter of days. We opted for a blend of synchronous and asynchronous learning, meaning a mix of "regular lesson" live via zoom and independent learning at home where the students would check in with the teacher later. This is similar to the "flipped classroom", where instead of the teacher standing in front of the class and giving a lecture, the teacher records a video of his lesson, the students look at it and return to class to ask questions and do exercises.

Are there alternatives to old-school schooling? Educational TV, zoom lectures or just photocopied lessons came to the test in Zanzibar during months of corona-related school closure

is that we will continue to emphasise 'blended learning', using technology to enhance students' independence. Schools have to evolve with the changing situation. Support will need to be tailored to prevent children, especially vulnerable children, falling behind. I used to teach mathematics and English, French and history and am very much aware of the challenges. I saw a documentary about Kenya where some mothers would invite kids into their households who have no TV at home. In France teachers prepared a hand-written notebook for every child where she/he would have to fill the pages with given tasks and return it once per week. A simple but effective way! As far as I know we were the only school in Zanzibar doing a comprehensive online learning program but we have repeatedly offered to the ministry of education to let our teachers and administrators train local staff. Whether private or public school, digital learning is on the rise and no child or parent should go unsupported in these times.

WHAT PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENTS SAY:

- "REVISIONS AND BUSY MUMS"
Mohamed Iddi Aslan, child in grade 3: For three months, the teachers would send revision questions through WhatsApp. We go print them out and let our child learn at least two hours a day. Since the reopening of schools I'm not sure if the plan is to overdo the children with work, or just pace it out. To prepare for the next situation such as this, schools should teach kids how to use digital platforms.
- Fundi Musa Suleiman, one child in kindergarten, one in grade 4: The school was not really of help during this time. Luckily my sibling's son, who is in form 1, was learning with my son through his text books. A lot of mothers had to make actively sure their children caught up with studies.
- Omar Top, child in grade 5: We had to pick up assignments each week from the school. They would send us a text message when it was ready. Now school is open on Saturdays too, to catch up. My advice would be for teachers to be much closer to the children; some schools even asked for school fees during the four months closure.
- Interviews: Chantal Ben

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

QUICK PROGRESS

It's good to see the quick progress in Fumba Town. I've been enjoying THE FUMBA TIMES, too, and have been glad to receive it each time. I read it out in the sun. It's a great value addition on your part. Keep well and thanks again,

Catherine Ngeru, by e-mail.

Thanks, Catherine, for your kind words. We pledge to bring more sunshine into your life – the editor

PLEASE MORE "RADIO KIFUA"!

I love your newspaper and your touching contributions about "ordinary" people such as young bakers in Stone Town or "Mama Pakacha". As far as I am concerned I'd like to read even more gossip talk, radio kifua, as we Zanzibaris say. How is day-to-day life in Fumba? What are people talking about? Just curious...

Amina "Stoney" Mohamed, Paje

Good suggestion, Amina! In fact we are working on something like that, just wait and see – the editor

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF DR. JENNY BOURAIMA



PHOTO: KAGEN CHECKS



A doctor on the move: Dr. Jenny Bouraima crossing by boat to Mmemba Island (this photo), consulting a lady patient at her Urban Care clinic (top right) and installing a rural hand washing station

A DOC BETWEEN VILLAGE AND VIP

Where there is no doctor, the physician comes to the patient

By Andrea Tapper

How does a doctor work in Zanzibar? Making sure Fumba Town is in safe medical hands and reaching out to patients all over the island, we followed Fumba Town's resident physician around for one day.

8am, the Urban Care clinic will open soon but Dr. Jenny Bouraima has been up for almost three hours. "Such is the life of a working mum", she says with a smile.

9.30am, I spot oxygen bottles, sterilisation devices, an ultrasound machine. Mohammed rules in the lab which is the backbone of any tropical doctor, as I will find out in the course of the day, helping to diagnose malaria, dengue fever, hepatitis and many other serious diseases. In the clinic there is a homely room, too, with a wind chime - the space of a psychotherapeutic counsellor. I make a mental note to tell a friend about it who is stuck in an unhappy marriage. Maybe she and her husband could fix their bond here? "Let's move to the village", Dr. Bouraima, 34, says, interrupting my thoughts.

10am, in front of a small red building under trees in the village of Dimani two women and several children have come to see the doctor. The ujumui office, donated by the developers of Fumba Town, serves as a meeting place and for community outreach. "To see what would otherwise be swept under the carpet", Dr. Bouraima sums up her vital activities here.

12am, an older man with prostate problems walks in; then a 16-year-old in alarming condition is brought in, which turns out to be poorly managed diabetes. A young mother calling herself Hamsi, 25 years old with three kids (median age at first birth in Tanzania is 19.5 years), suf-

fers from exhaustion, headache and fever – these are just three patients among about a dozen. "Even antibiotics didn't work", the young mum helplessly whispers, while the distant sound of the milkman's bike can be heard. "What is your diet, when did the fever start?" Dr. Bouraima gently inquires in Swahili. "Often our job is a mix of screening and education", says the doctor born and trained in Germany. Knowledge about nutrition and hygiene is often lacking as is rural infrastructure. The health situation in Dimani and Nyamanzini improved immediately, when new wells were built. "And people come to the doctor for the wrong reason or too late", adds Jenny Bouraima, "with every little sniff, but not with breast cancer, diabetes or high blood pressure."

1pm, our lunch are a few cashew nuts on the way to house visits all over the island, the doctor being her own driver. One of the sterilisation machines has to be dropped off for repair, but the road leading to "Zanlab Equip" is blocked off for a new canalisation. Traffic police allow us to drive on but says we must hurry. The shopkeeper says we may leave the sterilizer but they can't say when it will be ready. There are many "buts" to a doctor's routine in Zanzibar.

In Mombasa, we hand over swabs from a child with skin rash to a driver to bring them back to the clinic, when suddenly a distressed mother calls in. Her 17-year-old son's temperature has risen so high over a matter of hours that he is very weak; in this time of coronavirus she is very scared. It is 2pm, when the doctor turns the car around to rush to the sick boy. Could it be malaria? Another taxi takes the boy's blood samples, while we continue to Matemwe, a good hour's drive towards the east coast. The private luxury island of Mmemba has reported a patient, weakened by diarrhoea. It's rainy season. Several roads have turned into lakes. Google maps becomes the doctor's best friend.

4pm, a dinghy already awaits us on the private island. "Every patient is a very important patient." The phone rings, it's

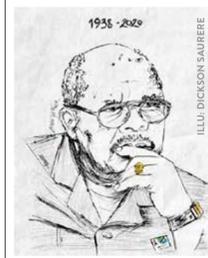


Also a doctor's job: dropping off medical equipment for repair to a local supplier

ELECTIONS 2020
A FAREWELL & A NEW CHOICE

The nation laid its third president Benjamin Mkapa to rest earlier this year in July. Mkapa died at 81 and was the leader of Tanzania during a crucial period of democratic transition; he served from 1995 to 2005. He will also be remembered for the big role he played in a mediation process that ended the 2007/2008 post election violence and political impasse in Kenya.

In October, eyes are turning to Dodo-ma and Zanzibar for the 2020 elections. Elections are held every five years. During the polls set for 28th of October 2020, Tanzanians elect Members of Parliament, Members of the House of Representatives and local councillors. Zanzibaris vote for their own as well as the union's president.



RIP: Tanzania's third President Benjamin Mkapa died in July

NEW IN ZANZIBAR
WELCOME TO THE VESPA CLUB



Vespa fan Christoph Heer in Bwejuu plants to rent out scooters and calls a 1972 blue original his own

Can the bureau of statistics tell us, how many Vespas, Italian-made or Asian imports, drive around in Zanzibar? Enough to set up a local Vespa Club, felt Christoph Heer, owner of "Simba" restaurant and bungalows in Bwejuu. The durable motor scooter with its typical metal body has many fans in Africa, some have crossed the continent on it. The first ever Italian Piaggio was built in 1946. South Africa launched e-scooters this year. If you are in the area, stop at "Simba" to discuss this and other Vespa matters with Christoph over some fine seafood and a drink, too.

Simba restaurant, bungalows and Vespa Club Bwejuu, Zanzibar
Ph/Whatsapp +255 623 521 279
www.simba-zanzibar.com

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

THE ETERNAL DOORMAN

Where Big Joe got his name from is evident. He is 2.04 metres (or 6.7 feet) tall and the longest serving doorman in Zanzibar.



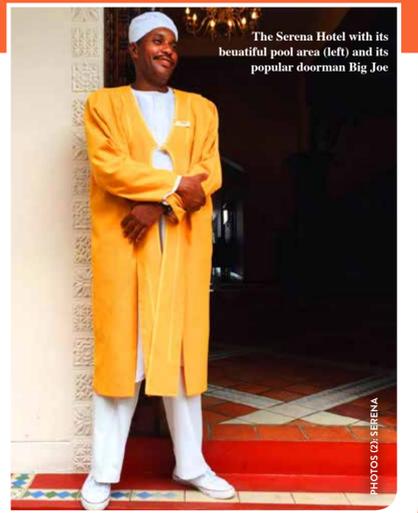
5-star hotel ever established in Zanzibar town. Serving customers there six days a week for 23 years he is the embodiment of service and discretion, an eternal doorman, even though he has meanwhile added a small side business for himself, a tourist dhow called "Kisanimu".

The Kenyan hotel group Serena was founded by the Aga Khan in 1970 and now holds 32 city and safari properties. The hotel's timeless elegance provides a beautiful frame for Big Joe. And vice versa: Usually dressed in a regal yellow uniform and matching kofya, he lends an aura of formality with a twinkle to the house. Park Hyatt or Serena? The question, often asked by tourists, has only one answer for him: "I'd always go for old school", he says proudly pointing at the lavish Serena lobby with its polished mahogany staircase and terracotta floors. The hotel is situated in two historic buildings on Zanzibar's seafloor, a former cable company and an 18th century Chinese doctor's residence. It was Mugo Maringo, Serena's Eastern African operations director, who employed Big Joe at the age of 24: "During the interview he said, you can start tomorrow", recalls Yussuf Big,

"when you stand in the door everybody will say wow!" Addressing guests with a few carefully accented welcome words in French, Chinese, Arabic, Spanish and German, Yussuf strives to convey a feeling of "being truly welcome to everyone."

Directing, assisting, even pushing others to do something for a guest is his métier: "I am almost like a concierge", he says. "If a customer needs something he must get it and he must get it at once." Although there are limits, of course: "Some whisper they'd want marijuana, others a lady for the night, but surely we cannot fulfill such requests." A few even ask the stately doorman for investment tips. In corona times "I advise them not to buy a hotel but a hospital", he dryly says.

In an era where casual is the new normal, the 47-year-old has never revolted against his old-fashioned role: "Why would I", he says, "I like my job." His best tip ever? "A 500-dollar note, simply for good service", says the father of three kids - standing his ground, extending friendliness to everybody. (AT)



PHOTOS: DR. SERENA

VEGGIES FOR BEGINNERS

Fun and fruits flourish in new community gardens in Fumba



PHOTOS BY BERNADETTE KIRSCH, S. TAPPER



TRY YOUR OWN BUCKET GARDEN!

Five tips for the garden-less:

- You can use any container, from egg trays to yoghurt pots to discarded buckets
- Don't forget to cut drainage holes in your containers especially when recycling milk cartons or egg trays
- Plant what you'd love to eat
- Don't overwater – when the soil still feels damp, pause a day
- Accept the challenges, there will be failures but you get better every time

INSIDE FUMBA TOWN TRUE STORIES OF NEW RESIDENTS



Markku and girlfriend Stacey: proud residents of Fumba

“QUALITY IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME”

He loves motorbikes - and Fumba. Finnish resident Markku Siren, 56, about his life in Fumba Town.

We are still waiting for our furniture container. It takes quite a while to clear it here. Meanwhile I have built my own desk from local wood. I like quality. For me it is very important that things are done properly.

Do you apply that also to construction?

Very much so. I am pleased that I can contribute with my ideas and suggestions during the building process since I live here, right on the grounds. Every homeowner wants quality; it's the best advertisement for any project.

Your next plan?

We are just tackling the front garden with the help of the wonderful permaculture garden designers here. We need to leave parking space for my motorbikes though.

Biking is your hobby?

As a youngster I raced motorcross and rediscovered it. The only mistake: I bought a street-bike, not realising that even on-road is off-road in Africa. One has to be very careful.

When did you start to invest?

In 2017 a friend told me about Fumba and I bought my first apartment. The reasonable prices convinced me. For me, real estate seems a much better option than investing in crazy stocks.

What do you like most about the place?

The climate is great; there's mostly a sea breeze. It's quiet and clean, you don't find that in many places. And I buy fresh fish from the fishermen around, just yesterday a 10-kilo tuna.

Your house looks so tidy but with very little furniture...

Markku in his homebuilt gym at the back of his house



TOGETHER GREENER



Bernadette Kirsch shares smart ideas for an eco-friendly lifestyle

our parks, providing valuable habitats for them.

Gardening makes children curious. And adults, too. It teaches them about seasonality and arduous. How much work it is to grow your own vegetables. Also, how quickly they grow. Everybody's favourite, the rucola salad, for instance, takes hardly a week from placing the seeds into the soil to harvesting it's first tiny, tasty leaves. And it's better to pick them early, once they grow bigger they tend to get bitter.

No seasons in the tropics

In the tropics there are hardly any seasons, except for the rainy season. You can plant and harvest all year round, often several times per year. All this and much more can be learnt in our Fumba Town community gardens. The Halima Garden and a second plot near the playground have been set aside for urban gardening activities. A whole system will eventually be set up so you can lease your own unit of arable land, mostly a 3 x 7 metre plot, and put your green



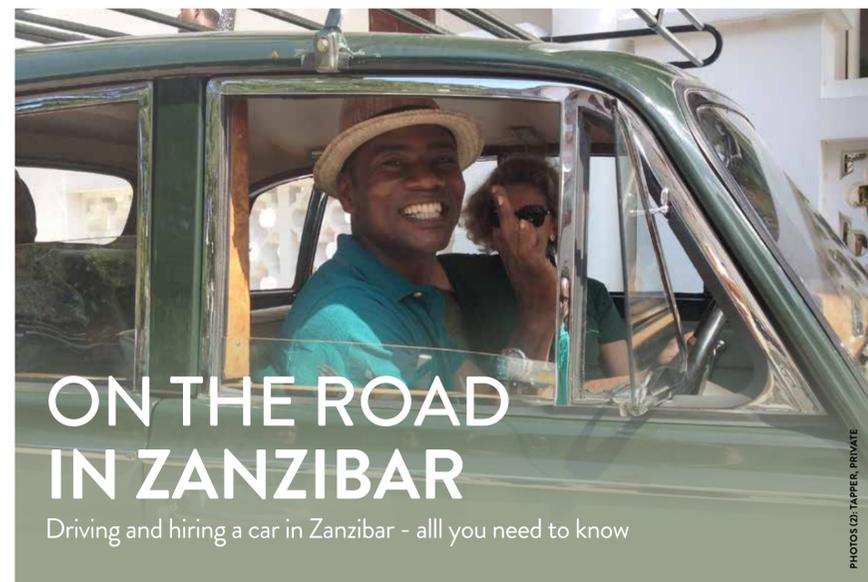
Welcome to the Halima Garden: Two plots have been set aside for urban gardening activities in Fumba Town, designated areas to grow food while transforming the space into a community asset – including a lovely baraza to rest (left)



Twenty square metres of togetherness: With home-grown tomatoes, lettuce and eggplants the art of gardening in Fumba Town. The harvest fills the fridge - and you get to know your neighbours.

Sometimes the kids come running with questions: "What is this little flower, Miss B? Can I eat it?" I have to calm them down then: "No", you can't eat that flower, but the vine you picked the flower from will grow tomatoes soon. Just watch it.

It is a joy for me to observe our kids at Fumba Town asking me about all the fruits and vegetables they see when they play in town. They notice that plants invite bees and other pollinators like butterflies and beetles to



ON THE ROAD IN ZANZIBAR

Driving and hiring a car in Zanzibar - all you need to know

An oddtime rally organised by the Park Hyatt Hotel (photo) brought lots of fun to Zanzibar in recent years

Discover Zanzibar by car. Unguja's 1,500 square kilometres are a perfect stretch to roam about. And the best: From coast to coast and town to beach it's never more than one-and-a-half hours' drive.

You can take a taxi but you can also do it on your own, with your own vehicle providing more privacy in times of corona. Read here what you need to know when driving in Zanzibar. Our expert is Abdillahi Khamis Lali, shortly known as Kibabu, owner of a car hire firm of the same name, Kibabu Cars Zanzibar.

What sort of license do I need to hire a car? Is an international driving license enough?

You need a valid national or international driving license. On top of that, a special Zanzibar permit is required which comes at ten dollars for a maximum of three months. The car rental company will assist you to get that permit which you certainly need – although it remains a mystery why – because countless roadblocks may ask you for it. Several years ago drivers were even required to obtain a special permit to explore the island – a relic of communist restriction of movements. Luckily these times are over. Anybody can freely drive a car now in Zanzibar who is 18 years to 75 years old.

Is it difficult to drive on the left? Any tips to get used to it?

"It's not difficult to drive on the left", says Kibabu categorically. Then again, he is used to it. Although it strikes Europeans and Americans as rare, there are indeed quite a number of countries driving on the left (therefore having the steering wheel on the right): UK, Australia, New Zealand, India, Japan, Thailand, Namibia and South Africa are among the 59 (out of 212 countries) which drive on the left, many of them former British colonies. A trick which helps during the first week: place a note on your sideboard DRIVE LEFT. And take special care when entering roundabouts!

The general speed limit on Zanzibar?

The speed limit is 50 km/h in town and 80 km/h outside urban areas, if not indicated otherwise by signs on the roads. Tourists and newcomers should be especially mindful about bumps and general poor road conditions. Be mindful in coastal and urban areas where people and animals tend to unexpectedly cross the road. "Its better to keep the speed as low as possible at all times", advises Kibabu.

Can I park my car anywhere?

In principle yes, unless forbidden by traffic signs. There are special places to park your car in Stone Town, for instance at Fordhani Garden near Old Fort and at Darajani Market. In coastal areas you park your car at your hotel.

What car licenses are required?

The stickers which you notice on the windshield of cars in Tanzania are a road

licence and an insurance sticker plus the registration sticker of the number plate. Your car rental will provide them.

How do I handle police controls, why are they there anyway?

BIG topic! If you observe Zanzibar you'll see a million strategies to deal with the police. Just keep quiet is a popular one. Politeness won't harm either. Police controls are there to inspect whether documents may have expired. To control speed limits. And for the police to check your driving permits. Once the police has stopped you and you are not able to solve the matter by yourself car hire firms such as Kibabu provide a 24-hour helpline. Sometimes police may accuse you of a wrongdoing with the consequence to appear in court the next day. Then again the above applies: call Kibabu.

What should someone do in case of a flat tyre or another problem?

Official car hires should largely come to your rescue. Cars should always have a spare tyre with full pressure and tools in the car trunk.

And in case of an accident?

When hiring, check that your car is covered by a full comprehensive insurance. Many firms apply an excess of up to \$220 payable by the driver in case of an accident. "This is used to cover any costs while the accident has happened and to do paper work", Kibabu explains.

General advice for hiring a car?

"Driving in Zanzibar is very easy and fun so I would advise holiday makers not to

hesitate to rent a car while they visit our beautiful island", says Kibabu. Although newcomers may find the traffic at times a bit rough and chaotic, a helpful rule is: Keep eye-contact with other drivers and pedestrians. Although major cross-island roads have been improved recently, some are still a disaster. The only solution is to slow down and deal with them like everyone else does. There are different coastlines and activities to explore, the Jozani forest with its red monkeys, a dolphin tour in the south, a spice tour, a Safari Blue dhow adventure and last but not least the UNESCO-protected Stone Town of Zanzibar. "Driving here is *poa kichi zi kama ndizi*, cool like banana, as we say in Swahili", assures Kibabu.



Helpful: Abdillahi Khamis Lali

Car rental Kibabu Car hire in Zanzibar
Rates starting at \$35 per day, depending on car models and season. Insurance included. www.kibabucars.com
24/7 Hotline +255 77 275 5788

LIFESTYLE NEWS SUPER, THIS SUP!

By A. Dubiel

A family of six tried stand-up paddling in Zanzibar for us for the very first time.

The sea was calm but the boards – around three metres long - looked huge. As a family we had been looking for an activity that would be an adventure for all of us, in our case six people between 11 and 45 years old. The local company "2 Winds" in Chukwani offered the solution. Founder Josh Jay started stand-up paddling (SUP) and kayaking in Zanzibar three years ago. And what a level-headed instructor he turned out to be, steering us absolute beginners just as patiently as some more advanced "suppers" in the right direction. No wonder that Tripadvisor, the internet's grand jury of travellers, is unanimous: 23 out of 23 ratings for Josh are "excellent". The 35-year-old started us off with some on-land instructions as a warm-up. His wife Arshen and helper Khalfan, at 21 the youngest in the team, showed us how to stand up on our board and how to climb back on it, in case we fell into the sea. This was very helpful since none of our family had ever really tried stand-up paddling before.

boards. After some minutes of paddling around everyone got visibly more comfortable. We reached a lagoon-like place protected against wind and waves which made it a lot easier to practice standing up on the boards.

There isn't a real trick to it, personally I just tried it over and over again until I found a way that worked best for me. Of course all of us fell into the sea more than once. No problem at all! Did we know that mangroves stand as silent sentinels on the coastline to guard the shores and the inland against storms and sea erosion? That the gnarled water trees are salt-tolerant and thrive in the harshest conditions? That in Swahili building technology the length of a mangrove or *boriti* determines the width of a room? Jay knows all these things and more:

All calm in the lagoon

For Josh, SUP is not just a business but a passion. "We love the people, culture, and beautiful wonders of the entire Zanzibar archipelago", he explained while we were getting ready. "Exploring the mangrove forests, watching the sunset on the water, learning new techniques, or relaxing on a board with friends and ice cold drinks - we do it all", he said. At that stage I would not have minded to start with the relaxing part but no – we were to practice sitting or kneeling on our

"We want to raise awareness in the preservation of our habitat", he said and organises fun walks for Zanzibar children, ocean clean-ups and Zanzibar's first SUP Club. The next morning my legs were clearly telling me that I finally did some sport again. But I had an amazing time and wouldn't hesitate to do it again.

2 Winds Paddle Sports

Chukwani, Zanzibar
Opening Hours: Monday - Sunday; 8am-7pm (pre-booking required)
Phone: 0777- 644004
www.paddlesportszanzibar.com



SUP has been around a while but became very trendy recently thanks to inflatable boards; learn it in Zanzibar where the water is warm!

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

HOW HELPFUL ARE HERBS?

The benefits of alternative medicine

Mary Kitumbi, 35, Mkunazini

Dear Dr. Jenny, we have been hearing a lot about herbs and natural medicine lately. While I am a fan of herbal remedies myself, especially when my children catch a simple flu or complain about stomachaches after just too much ice cream being generously handed out by their dad - I still wonder if herbal cures are really to be trusted and are scientifically proven? What is the latest on this issue?

Dr. Jenny Bouraima answers:

Dear Mary, the answer to your question, again, is not a simple "yes" or "no". Using conventional medicine while completely negating the benefits of herbal medicine and vice versa is both wrong in my opinion. In herbal medicine, the whole plant and/or unpurified plant extracts are used. A practitioner of herbal medicine usually has a different approach to illnesses, their origin and how to treat them than a conventional medical doctor. An example for a popular herbal medical orientation is the Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). Here in Zanzibar as well, local herbal medicine is popular and frequently used. Shops with essential oils

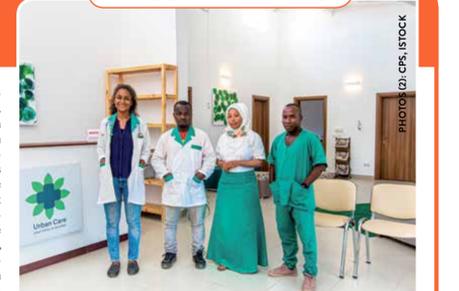
and traditional herbal tinctures can be found everywhere, especially around Darajani market. Also, our health officials are very much engaged in combining the benefits of both schools. To support an integrative approach and to enhance collaboration between herbalists and medical doctors, the qualification as traditional healer is being formalised through registration with the Ministry of Health.

Aspirin stems from a plant. In conventional medicine, many medications are derivatives of plants: aspirin, digoxine (used for certain heart disorders), quinine and artemisinin (antimalarial medication) are just a few examples. Furthermore, many medical practitioners - including our doctors at Urban Care - recommend certain herbal medication BEFORE moving to a more elaborate treatment pathway. An example is the use of vale-

rian (or baldrian) for mild sleeping disorders instead of drugs like diazepam. Drinking ginger tea with honey when suffering flu symptoms has also shown good effects. And yes, there are scientific studies about some of the treatments and their effects. In the previous issue of THE FUMBA TIMES you might have read about Dr. Mwajuma Juma from Msonge farm selling *nyungu*, her 15-herbs-mixtures for steam inhalations - they are quite popular now! Looking at the human body as a whole, considering entire organ systems rather than just single symptoms are valid approaches for both, herbal and conventional medicine. Conventional medicine should not immediately mean "popping pills". As a patient you should notify your medical doctor and/or herbalist of ALL medication you are using - even if they are "just" supplements.



Happy & Healthy



WRITE TO US!

Do you have any health or lifestyle questions? Dr. Jenny Bouraima, seen here with her team of the Urban Care Clinic in Fumba Town, is ready to answer them. Besides running the Urban Care clinic in Fumba Town, she also reaches out to villages with mobile consultations. Her clinic offers laboratory and ultrasound services, vaccination and baby checks, psychotherapeutic and nutritional counselling, First Aid and emergency services. House visits all over Zanzibar and telemedicine consultations are additional options.

Please e-mail: DrJenny@fumbatimes.com
Urban Care, Fumba Town, +255 622 820 011
Opening hours: Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm | www.urbancare.clinic

A DAY TRIP TO UZI

Visiting an almost unexplored part of Zanzibar

By Alison Walker

Uzi cannot decide if it wants to be an island or a peninsula. It is linked to the Zanzibar mainland only by a crazy intertidal coral causeway.

If you love nature, would like to experience rural life in Zanzibar, and don't mind getting wet feet, a day trip to Uzi is perfect. I had heard of the island through my friend Adam Khamis. Uzi is only accessible by boat, or by vehicle at low tide when the only road surfaces. When the water comes up, the road disappears again and you might as well travel by traditional dhow or in a wooden canoe. I had visions of being crushed in a *dala-dala* bouncing around at full speed, zooming over the bumpy surface to beat the tide. To my surprise it was far from what I had imagined.

Adam had come here in search of his father's side of the family seven years earlier when our paths first crossed. I was delighted to accompany him on his second visit, to meet his family and discover a real hidden gem amongst the mangroves.

Our day started at a sleepy beach on the mainland nearby, where nets and boats were resting, the tide was high and the water like glass. Instead of waiting for the tide to recede Adam had arranged for us to be picked by boat. In the distance we saw it, steered by his friend and guide Iss-haka who knows the island inside out and has a passion for eco-tourism and community work. Soon after we were on our way to Uzi with him.

Fish like lizards

We snaked through the many different types of mangroves that heavily surround the island until we reached that coral causeway. We crossed it and felt surreal, looking left and right in amazement at the wide waterway that only transforms into a road at low tide.



Go local: Discover unique water ways (left) unspoiled by groups and crowds; make friends like Adam (photo right)

Uzi is around six kilometres long and the second largest of the many little islands surrounding Zanzibar after Tumbatu. It's located in the Menai Bay Conservation Area which forms an important ecosystem of mangrove forests, sea grass beds, islands with fresh water forests, coral reefs and a large diversity of plants, land and birds. Canoe trips through the thick forest and lush mangroves, seaweed farming and bird watching make the island very unique.

I saw delicate bird nests laced throughout the mangroves. Giant crabs, both in the mangroves and on the beach, were abundant and I was really taken by some fish with tails that looked like small lizards along the shoreline.

Remote beaches

Once on the beach you can swim and snorkel with definitely no other tourist in sight. From there we took a short walk past banana plantations into a village on Uzi where we stopped for lemongrass tea and fresh fruits arranged by our guide. Iss-haka showed us his seedlings collection, a turtle he was rearing for release and the many bee boxes that were strung up in the larger flowering trees. We looked at giant baobab trees, one shaped exactly like a champagne bottle. When we met Adam's uncle and lots of family members, it was a sweet moment as they traded chocolates from England for local coconuts and Uzi honey.

There are only a couple of thousand people living on Uzi. Instead of cars some of them use ox carriages, most houses are traditional mud houses and there is no restaurant or hotel - and yet lots of hospitality. Obviously, one has to arrange for a guide and food beforehand (see box on this page).

We ended the day with a stroll through lush vegetation until we reached the causeway once more, this time at low tide. Watching the water filling up again was something else. For me and my daughter it was a magical day in a special place, well worth the visit.



PHOTOS © ALISON WALKER, GOOGLE



A safe adventure for young and old, Uzi offers an amazing tidal causeway and lovely remote beaches

EXPLORING UZI

HOW TO GET THERE:

From Stone Town a scenic drive takes you to the south, past the famous Bi Kholle's mango alley and on to Unguja Ukuu, as this south-western part of Zanzibar is called. A brand new roundabout indicates where to turn right to Uzi. (Straight on you would reach Jozani). The trip from town to Uzi takes about 45 min - 1 hour.

BOOK A TOUR:

"Zanzibar different" is an established local tour company with a big variety of authentic experiences and offers fully organised trips to Uzi. The company takes care of transport, food, a guide - and the right timing considering the tides. Guests start off from Stone Town in a minibus with AC, shift into a *dala-dala* (local bus) later to reach Uzi and return by outrigger (local dhow). Your guide will show you around the village of N'gambwa, his wife will prepare a delicious Swahili lunch. You will have time to relax and enjoy a refreshing swim on one of Uzi's remote beaches. www.zanzibardifferent.com



Uzi is located south of Fumba in Zanzibar. From town it takes about 1 hour to get there

ORGANISE YOUR OWN TRIP:

If you want to follow the author's footsteps, here are her contacts: Iss-haka +255 777 424 867; taxi driver Hatibu +255 777 427 892 (Uzi taxi driver who knows the tides)

JUST DISCOVERED TAPERIA 2.0



STRICTLY TAPAS

✓ **FOOD:** Tapas and once a month set menus

✓ **LOCATION:** In the heart of Stone Town

✓ **ADD-ONS:** Historical location

✓ **DRINKS:** First wine cocktail bar in town

You may hear loud music and the excited voices of guests, you can even see them, sitting on a grand first floor terrace above the post office in Stone Town. But how to find the entrance? No worries, once you turned right and found your way onto Gizenga street, you will discover a staircase that leads straight up to Taperia 2.0.



The history: For many years the upper floor of the historical, still functioning post office in Zanzibar stood abandoned. In 2014 a miracle happened and the deserted location was seemingly overnight converted into a tapas bar. The white, Saracenic architecture building is one of several Stone Town highlights designed by British colonial architect J.H. Sinclair between 1896 and 1924, he also built the State House and High Court. In subtle reminiscence to a) the post office below and b) a watering hole, the original taperia owners initially called their place "The Post" until postal authorities insisted on a name change. Thus, the Taperia was born.

The current Taperia 2.0 is an upgrade of the first establishment. New owner Stephen Pinto, a professional mixologist, is determined to bring the cosy vintage feeling back - and more.

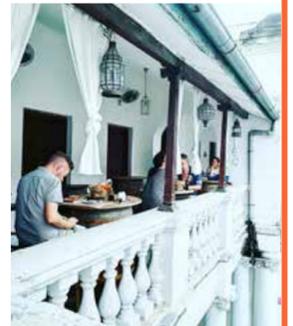
The ambience: You are welcomed by very nice and friendly staff. They'll find the right place for you - although the big barrels, used as tables outside, tend to get occupied early. But sitting inside one can also enjoy the 'morbid charm' of Stone Town and the view onto Kenyatta Road, the picturesque main shopping mile.

Drinks and food: Taperia 2.0 spe-

cialises in wine and wine based cocktails, served with a variety of classic Spanish tapas, from manchego cheese to chorizo cold cuts. These traditional bites in between are not meant to replace dinner or lunch but often do. There are a myriad of cocktails to choose from and whatever your favourite taste is, the very engaged staff will create it. Since Taperia 2.0 opens at 12.30 pm, you can try tapas as you walk around the city from midday until late evening - and end the day with a 'finishing coffee cocktail'.

Best drink: Inspired by the famous "Agua de Valencia" mixologist Stephen Pinto created "Agua de Zanzibar" which sounds and looks like water but surely isn't. The clarified concoction blends flavours of mango and passion with homemade island spice bitters, vodka, gin and cava - yummie!

Dubiell/AT



Saracenic is the architecture, Spanish are the tapas

TAPERIA 2.0.
Kenyatta Road, Shangani
12.30 pm - midnight
Closed on Mondays
Ph. + 255 774 582 927
fb taperia zanzibar



The Taperia 2.0 team with mixologist Stephen Pinto in front

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FREE MOVIES ON THE BEACH

Zanzistar Beach Bar in Jambiani rocks it on Sundays



Open-air movie lounge in Jambiani also offers head & shoulder massages

There might be fewer tourists than usual but Zanzibar's cultural life has not come to a halt.

Movies on the beach are a new weekly attraction every Sunday in Jambiani, organised by Zanzistar Beach Bar. The choice of movies for the large screen is decided weekly; what's showing can be found on Facebook and Wanawatu.

Movies with an African theme or connection are favoured. Recently shown were "Queen of Katwe" with Oscar-winning Kenyan actress Lupita Nyong'o, "The First Grader" with Oliver Litondo and "Adú", a Northern Af-

rica Netflix production from the Spanish enclave of Melilla.

But the best is yet to come: Entrance is free and while the movie is on, viewers can enjoy a relaxing head and shoulder massage provided by a spa therapist (20,000 TZS for 15 min).

Viewers sit on lounge chairs with low tables. Food and drinks are served during the screening; popular are fusion snacks like tuna sashimi or Zanzibar seafood tartar.

Zanzistar is located in Jambiani near Coral Rock Hotel. The venue is reachable by car, Movies start at 8pm; guests are welcome from 6 pm.

Zanzistar Beach Bar
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