FROM ZANZIBAR TO THE WORLD - THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL

December 2020 - February 2021 International Edition 06 ISSN: 2683-6572 / Complimentary edition

# TESTING THE BEST ROOFTOPS

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Lagoon vibes in Zanzibar: The new leisure complex The Soul in Paje, on Zanzibar's exotic east coast, is coming up! First houses are to be handed over already in 2021

# OWN A PIECE OF PARADISE

The Soul: First holiday apartments anybody can buy - ideal for "workation"

#### By staff writer

The sea shimmers turquoise, temperatures rarely drop below 30 degrees Celsius in December. There's a jungle out there, but your apartment is cool, modern and eco-friendly.

ou are sipping fresh *madafu*, coconut water, and open your laptop because it's home office time. The internet at the rooftop co-working space is top-notch and surely your colleague in London, Braunschweig, Seattle or Bahrain will not believe you when you tell him you are working from Zanzibar.

And the dream doesn't stop here: Your girlfriend is paddling around in a man-made lagoon just in front of your terrace. She smiles and says, she rather waits for you to go kiting together than checking out the surf on her own.

If this sounds like a scene from your sweetest dreams, it's time to wake up and make it real. At least, that is what Tobias Dietzold would recommend, one of the masterminds behind The Soul apartments, presently being built on the African island. The new fully serviced residential leisure project lies in the hinterland of Paje on Zanzibar's east coast, only a short walking distance from the now famous kitesurfing beach.

"The worldwide corona pandemic has not slowed down the sale of the holiday property, on the contrary", Dietzold says: "People are looking for safe investments they can use themselves and also rent out." A hundred The Soul units have been sold in the last months to buyers of 20 nationalities - some looking for remote working places. A new global trend has been spurred by the corona crisis: Some call it "long-distance home office", others, "workation" (from work and vacation). "Your home office by the beach - why not?" says developer Tobias Dietzold

The Soul flats - in total 220 units in 11 terrace buildings - are the first holiday property where foreigners are free to

"A home office by the beach why not?"

buy. Construction is well on the way for the extraordinary hideaway project. Project manager Milan Heilmann, 30: "When visitors enter, they can already imagine the silhouettes of the wellbeing oasis we are creating here." Handover of the first serviced one to three bedroom apartments, with either a private garden or terrace, is expected for 2021.

Prices start from \$47,900 for a one-bedroom to \$96.900 for a three-bedroom. "Where in the world can

you get a property near the beach for that money?" Heilmann asks. The Soul project is directed by CPS, the German developers building Zanzibar's first eco-city Fumba Town near the capital.

Tourism has been growing at a record rate of 15 per cent in Zanzibar before the pandemic. With only few reported covid-19 cases, the semi-autonomous island just off the coast of Tanzania, seems to be doing comparatively well. And the surfers are already back in Paje! With its shallow coastline and tropical waters, it has been rated one of the world's top ten kitesurfing destinations.

Eco is a keyword for the Paje complex. The hybrid houses utilising wood technology are prefabricated locally in Zanzibar. "Solar panels, cross ventilation, reuse of rainwater, waste recycling – all these elements make the project work", explains Lucas Garcia de Oteyza, the Spanish architect. "We'll have a barbecue area for all", adds manager Heilmann. Just like in Fumba Town, and unlike in many other building projects in Africa, permaculture gardens are planted parallel to the construction. "Before the first buyers move in, the birds will sing here", Heilmann says with a smile. The holiday flats both provide individual comfort and a clever 2.0 communal concept: rentals are fully managed, co-working spaces, gyms and bistros planned. Enjoying picturesque beaches and local culture while being grounded in modernity at home - who would say no to this?





Enjoying a private afternoon (upper photo) in your own holiday home. The Soul's construction site in walking distance from Paje beach (below)



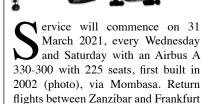
#### **OUR (HI)STORY**

THE FUMBA TIMES, founded in 2019, is Zanzibar's first English-language local lifestyle newspaper with universal appeal. Our main focus is Fumba Town, the growing eco-city next to the capital - hence our name. With hands-on features about green living, culture and tourism, but also with a free exchange of views, we are your link to Zanzibar, Africa and beyond. Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year 2021, enjoy the read!

#### EXCLUSIVE

# READY FOR TAKE-OFF

For the first time ever, prestigious airline Lufthansa will fly to Zanzibar, starting a twice-weekly service from Frankfurt. Why and why now, we asked Lufthansa spokesperson Boris Ogursky.



Given the corona situation, what is prompting Lufthansa to fly to Zanzibar?

are non-stop.

Ogursky: The brand-new route is part of several new long-haul destinations of Lufthansa focusing more on private travellers and tourists, among them Namibia and Mauritius. We are happy to have your beautiful island in our timetable.

Your airline, too, is in dire straits; is there a positive forecast for tourism? At least on a longer term, we see good potential for tourists, but also for expats and local business people to travel on our African routes. We are reacting to requests from travel companies and tour operators.

### Is leisure travel your new strategy to replace lost corporate business?

We are driven by demand. But a comfortable, direct airline connection can also benefit the development of tourism. Lufthansa offers top connections from its hub in Frankfurt to everywhere in Europe, Asia and America. A lot of different markets can comfortably fly to Africa with us. We'll create a bridge between Europe and Zanzibar. *AT* 

# SCHOOL'S ON IN FUMBA!

Silverleaf and Montessori starting beginning of 2021



Happy to learn and evolve, kids deserve the best education possible

s Fumba Town, the new seaside community just 20 minutes away from the capital Zanzibar City, is growing, so is the number of families living and working there. "After extensive planning we are proud to announce the opening of the first nursery and pre-primary in January 2021. Primary and secondary schools are set to follow in 2022", disclosed Katrin Dietzold, an executive of the town developer CPS.

The much-anticipated school start – with the Silverleaf Academy and Phelesia Montessori preschool – is part of an ambitious and inclusive educational concept based on "one learning experience for all". For the Educational Center Fumba (ECF) "we envision a combination

and collaboration of different schools", Dietzold elaborated. Future educational facilities, such as a library or canteen, sports grounds and multi-purpose hall, can be shared by all. "Thus we enable more institutions to gain a foothold and create a more inclusive learning experience for all children", Dietzold says.

The goal is to also involve well-established international schools such as the ISZ-International school of Zanzibar and Eden school. Until they have buildings in Fumba, kids will be bussed to their classes, for instance in Mbweni. The Education Center Fumba, providing Tanzanian and international curricula, both in English from primary on, is built on comparatively low school fees and a new sponsorship program.

onsorship program. Read our full feature on page 7



WHEN THE SKY IS THE LIMIT

Testing Zanzibar's most popular rooftops - from modern lounges to oriental tea houses

By Angelika Dubiel

Literally, the coolest place to

be in Zanzibar is high above

the hustle and bustle of ancient

Stone Town. Even the sultans

knew that. The magic unfolds

especially at sunset time, when a

breeze comes up. THE FUMBA

TIMES went rooftop hopping to

test old and new establishments

and staff writers

WHAT ROLE

PLAYS THE

**COMMUNITY?** 

The layout four-un-

der-one-roof fosters community spirit

community ideas, be it a playground,

green space or a veggie garden, even

for keeping small animals. "Some-

times we forget the community with

our focus on technical details", savs

Moons, who was the lead architect for

a successful cooperative development

tant. "Of course", says Moons, "but if

from traditional buildings, a mix of

open areas and private spaces truly re-

flects the character and culture of Zan-

zibar. For Fumba Town, the architect

created privacy in a budget-friend-

ly setting with a few professional

"tricks": For instance, only every sec-

ond street in the Moyoni area will be

open to cars - meaning courtyards and

gardens become more quiet and safer

for children. When wondering wheth-

er to go for ground floor or upper floor,

he advises: "Upper floor for more pri-

with a private front garden is ideal."

vacy. For young families, ground floor



NEWS

# HOW TO PLAN YOUR DREAMHOUSE

Moyoni Homes: our five-step-guide to designing your own home in Fumba Town

Loft, flat or house? Become your own architect and start planning the latest in Zanzibar home design, a Moyoni Home.

Tow do I know what I need? Or what I want? What is the basic what I want? what I can afford? How do I even read a floor plan? Many people feel overwhelmed when given the chance to plan their own home. A high-end real estate broker in Miami millionaires can't make up their mind. tiles, or white? Whatever you show of your income on housing expenses.

roof", four flats make up one two-storey row house – thus the Moyoni Homes feel like a hybrid of apartment and house. Prices start at \$68,900 per unit.

When thinking of buying a home, the challenge is to make fiction and reality, purse and phantasy meet. "Start thinking from what you already have, your furniture, your likes. Even draw your home out on the beach", advises Leander Moons. The 40-yearold, reputable architect from Holland, presently based in New York, designed the family oriented Moyoni Homes and co-designed the overall master plan for Fumba Town, the 160-hectare future town just outside Stone Town. Here he takes us through the options.

The big newcomer

from Frankfurt to

Starting 31 Mar

(see page 1)

Zanzibar: Wed, Sat.

LUFTHANSA

UP, UP & AWAY

Turkish delight

AIRLINES direct

from Istanbul:

Wed, Thu, Sun

TURKISH

Current international flights to and from Zanzibar\*



oni Homes come closest to the genera idea of Fumba Town; they are affordable and aim to empower the local community" For financial experts the rule of thumb is to not spend more than half

**HOW CAN** IPLAN?

how much space do I need around it, is them, they love it." On the other hand, "When you assess your buying power, my couch a two-seater or an L-shaped in different ways were the main driver expert Moons says. 'Live your House' most of us do have a distinct phantasy look at NOW, not the future", the archi-lounge, what about my dining table for the design", says architect Moons. is his slogan: "Compare it with driving of our dream home - often much too tect advises. "The Moyoni Homes are set-up? Starting from what you know Most important: "Adding is easier than a car", he explains. "You can drive it first eight of 64 homes sold off-plan it also will guide you towards what you with the more airy, open solution like a ing a lot more than necessary." So how Starting here with the Moyoni Homes, even before a show house got erectare really looking for", says the town loft, and add bedrooms later. You can can I "live my house" and save money? we explain possibilities of designing and ed. "We are working with a number of planner: "In Zanzibar why not even use space dividers instead of walls, too, financing your dreamhouse in Zanzibar. banks in Tanzania on feasible mortgage draw out your future home design on the securing cross-ventilation in tropical The 64 Moyoni apartments are set options", adds Tobias Dietzold, COO beach and start imagining what it could climates, just think about traditional around a green courtyard complete with of the company CPS, the developer of become? This is for most people much Japanese architecture. And as you grow room open when you are away. Ventilaa communal swimming pool. What sets Fumba Town. Payments in Fumba are more effective than seeing a digital older and the kids will leave, you could them apart: They have flexible floorplans done in five instalments over two con- model. And let your children be part of even convert the master bedroom into (see box). Planned as "four-under-one-struction years, meaning nobody has to the discussion. They know if they want a caretaker's apartment. The Moyoni of AC. Always open windows on both struggle to get it all ready in one go. their own rooms or rather share."

ible! Moyoni allows for a myriad of options (see floor plan below): Each Moyoni Home can grow or shrink with your family, from a loft setbedrooms, all at the same price. Since the onset of the corona crisis, people want more flexibility, demonstrated a survey in Fumba for instance a home office in their house, "Flexibility and the way you can use the Moyoni apartment Homes provide flexibility for families.

**HOW FLEXIBLE** 

You can't get more flex-

AM I?

HOW CAN I **SAVE MONEY?** 

Fumba are designed cost-efficiently; piping for kitchen and bathrooms, saving quite some money. Also, there's no "dead space" for a corridor but you enter - American-style - straight into the optimise their house's functionality" "Start by looking at your daily routine", Moons says. "When are you at home, or on a big private property, you need a the kids? Leave the doors to your bedtion is most important in a hot climate, it works against humidity and saves a lot sides of the house." The Moyoni Homes are equipped with special easy-to-open shutters (see main photo), complete with mosquito netting. A nice bonus is the effect: the wooden shutters also increase and decrease light in the house.



designed the Moyoni Homes n Fumba Town

# ONE PLAN, THREE SOLUTIONS



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**Daily!** ETHIOPIAN AIR-

LINES daily from/

to Addis Ababa, a

hub for many in-

destinations

ternational onward

A dynamic layout designed for living, study and play can be modified while you live there. Each 68-sqm apartment can be a loft (first on the left), a three bedroom (centre) or a two bedroom (right). Each unit has two bathrooms, a living room and a kitchen.

......

**Arabian routes** 

**QATAR AIRWAYS from** 

Doha: Tue, Thu, Sat, Sun.

FLY DUBAI (not EMIRA

OMAN Air from Muscat;

TES) from Dubai: every

day except Mon, Wed.

Mon, Thu, Sat Sun.

Go South

Tue, Sat.

MANGO from/to

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Starting 28 Nov

#### for compiling the information: Ph. +255 22 2602 303/304/305/610/612 Email: sales@rickshawtravels.com www.rickshawtravels.com

Big thanks to Rickshaw Travels

Charter flights have resumed mainly from Russia, Ukraine, Poland

Good neighbours KENYA AIRWAYS from/to Nairobi: Wed, Fri, Sun. FLY540: daily from/to Mombasa.

PRECISION: daily from/to

Nairobi

#### has given the chic grill & wine bar its meal. No problem, whether it's just for name. The rooftop bar and lounge, fur- a sundowner or for a long evening you nished in casul beach club style, offers can remain seated comfortably - or start superb views of the sea and the sunset. dancing - with a romantic view of the of ferrys coming in from the mainlaind, ocean. and traditional dhows sailing by. It has The rooftop has become a fixture of the a proper bar - all in white. Another party scene, especially Fridays and Satearly and closes late. inviting bar is at the very entrance, in urdays with live music from 9pm until case you don't want to climb the 43 late into the night. Advance booking, stairs up to the rooftop. The interior especially for groups, is advisable. feels airy and bright, with lots of glass The popular place, with a touch of Location: Shangani St. poshness and formal outdoor dining **Opening hours:** 10am - late

downstairs, is cherished for its tasty Contact: +255 620 644 611

#### Upendo House STYLISH NEW GEM IN TOWN

Tt takes a massive construction effort boutique hotel or for walk-in visitors to place a pool on the roof of an old the restaurant on the fourth floor and the building. Zanzibar entrepreneur Trish Dhanak did just that. Upendo House, an visit. The food stems from a cooperation off-shoot of her popular Upendo Beach with local farmers. Weekend brunch at building of former Clove Hotel in Stone Town. The avant-garde retro style, differing starkly from the usual ornamental Zanzibari look, will please lovers of con-

set rooftop cocktail for two with nibbles The view of town & sea is most incredible, of course, from the sundeck with infinity pool, an architectural masterpiece (reserved mainly for house guests). A unique offer: If you want to relax from walking about in town, or have a late flight or ferry to catch, you can rent a day room for under \$100, get a massage

> Openig hours: 11am -11pm (restaurant closes at 9.30pm); live music Thursday Contact: +255 777 082 176

> and have a siesta. Sounds like worth

roof terrace "The Fifth" are well worth a

\$15 is offered from 11am - 4pm, a sun-

The newest rooftop in town, the spectacular sun-deck

at Upendo Hous



#### Spice Palace Hotel **CASUAL ELEGANCE**

Being on a roof terrace with small children is often not relaxing. But at Spice Palace Hotel (30 rooms) - the sister hotel of Antonio Garden - children can have fun with bobby cars and other toys in a play corner just a floor below; for grown-ups there's a karaoke bar. The terrace restaurant itself - accessible by lift- is a lovely, airy affair of casual elegance in the midst of crumbling Stone Town, at Jaws Corner. A coffee shop in the ultra-spacious lobby opens

On the roof, we just love the cosy rattan sofas and neatly decorated dining tables. The kitchen convinces with tasty seafood, Chinese, continental and Indian food. There's a happy hour every day at 6pm.

Location: Soko Muhogo St. Opening hours: 7am - midnight

#### Emerson on Hurumzi & Emerson Spice THE SOUL OF ZANZIBAR

tal cushions or *baraza*s at "Emerson on "Emerson Spice" is more formal, with menus at \$40 for a multi-course eclectic dinner, and á la carte for lunch. The legendary hotels and rooftop restaurants - the most authentic in town York born Emerson Skeens who died in 2014. And both require serious stair

climbing! The reward is an orches-



#### Africa House SUNSET CLASSIC

We are seated between a busload of vacationers on the terrace of the Africa House set terrace came into being when the British anchored, only the miserable relicts of a sea

Things have changed in and around the Africa House, the present management introdeed a great sunset over the Indian Ocean.

Location: Shangani St. Opening hours: 8am - around midnight

Johnny Depp found it incredible and so chilled Chardonnays, breathtaking will you. Dining and wining on orien-Hurumzi" feels like having landed on

catch a glimpse of precious antique

**Opening hours:** dinner from 6pm; trated dining experience like no other, **Contact:** www.emerson-zanzibar.com



#### Maru Maru Hotel **TOP SIGHTSEEING**

Take a walk on Stone Town's shopping mile Gizenga Street and you will pass which prides itself on "the best sunset in Maru Maru hotel. The restored white town". Opened as a colonial club in 1888, it building within the UNESCO-protectwas reserved for "English residents and of- ed area features a mix of Zanzibari and ficers of the Royal Navy". The grand sun-modern décor, a coffee shop, elevator and a rooftop with bar and restaurant where built garages for their first motor cars and Indian, African and continental cuisine is yachts. Unfortunately, where the latter once feasted upon until late into the night. A photo in the staircase tells us that Chelsea Clinton, the former US president's daughter, was once here.

Eve-catcher on the terrace is a pool – sadduced red linoleum on marble stairs and a ly for houseguests only. But the superior pizza oven. Still, the popular watering hole, 360-degree view will please all visitors the only one with draught beer, offers in- as they gaze towards St. Joseph cathedral, the ocean and Old Fort at their feet.

> **Location:** Gizenga St Opening hours: 7am - 11pm

Coronavirus situation

#### "MIXED **MESSAGES**"

Even with a vaccine in sight, the threat of the coronavirus and its economic effect are far from over. Where does that leave Zanzibar?

Grim global outlook: Corona figures hit 60 million cases and around 1.4 million deaths in November. With winter and indoor living driving infections, Europe and America - main tourism markets for East Africa - saw a grave rise in infections. The US passed 250,000 deaths, five times more than the whole continent of Africa observed since the start of the pandemic. Europe enforced new lockdowns. Germany, for example, recorded daily 200 deaths and more in November.

What does that mean for the African tourism industry? Africa will lose between \$53 billion and \$120 billion in contributions to its GDP in 2020 because of the crash in tourism, the World Travel and Tourism Council estimates. Kenya expects at least a 60% drop in tourism revenue this year, South Africa a 75% drop, official statements say.

Zanzibar is doing better. A unique campain "1001 nights" offering free holidays to front-line medics (THE FUM-BA TIMES reported) got off the ground; 50 hotels are in with 1001 bed nights. Meanwhile, the bureau of statistics predicts the island may reach half of

last year's 500,000 visitors by the end of the year. The reason: In October arrivals went remarkably up with 12,000 tourists coming mainly from France and Russia. 15,000 more were expected for November, up to 20,000 for December. So far, in ten months the visitors' total has reached abou

With wide-open doors - no negquired, only temperature checks upon arrival - Zanpecially betting market, currently draw

ing 3000 to 4000 all-inclusive tourists weekly mostly from Russia and Ukraine. "There are only a few countries in the orld accepting such flights", said an industry source. Russia has the fourth highest corona incidence in the world. Consequently, "mixed messages" shape the situation: AI-Hotels like the new RIU fully booked." Others are more wary: "Mass tourism at low rates has been enouraged just to keep things moving, and no doubt it helps, but the rest of the industry is really struggling", the industry source said. "Cheap Russian travels will be over when normal European flights resume", a tourism insider calmed down

Healthwise, Africa has so far withstood the pandemic better than initially feared. Less than 5% of global infections occur on the continent with 17% of the world's population. A young demographic is seen as one of the reasons. Tanzania and Zanzibar took swift action, closing borders mid-March. Two months later, Tanzania stopped testing and recording.

Medical progress: Worldwide, a vaccine is the big hope. Politicians and scientists have pledged to distribute vaccines globally. "People want to travel", assures Anja Braun, a spokesperson of travel giant TUI, "when a successful vaccination is available, things will get back to normal." Last updated: 20 November

## MIND MY BUSINESS

6 Degrees South Grill & Wine Bar

The entrance is easy to find - a strik- grill cuisine and a wide range of happy

ing water wall installation where we hour drinks and fresh juices. (The own-

instinctively always look for the fish ers run a major spirit supplier on the

behind it. Zanzibar's geographical po- island.) Delicious, tapas style dishes on

sition six degrees south of the equator the terrace may well add-up to a whole

**POSH & POPULAR** 

LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# HORSERIDING BY THE SEA

Suitable activities for children - that's what a reader asked for in one of our past issues. Here we found one: horseback riding in Zanzibar.

Zanzibar's streets and meadows, for good reason. The climatic conditions are simply people to achieve this is Ms Rosa, an with them", she instructs my daughter, involved in the experiment. experienced horse lover and riding After a short safety briefing, she hands us

her horses from South Africa to the island horses have been saddled-up. "Oops". almost ten years ago. Her stables are on exclaims my daughter when approaching the grounds of the Seacliff Resort, north them, "quite high". No sweat: Anyone of Zanzibar town. I met Rosa to redeem a needing it will be lifted onto the horse. birthday present for one of my daughters. "It is necessary to register beforehand", Rosa on her own horse. "We welcome she explains. But then the hotel watchman lets us through, and we end up in a little assures us in her friendly and calm way. paradise. Neat, green lawns. A flock of When we arrive at the beach, Stone Town guinea fowls runs past us clucking loudly. Rosa introduces her horses to us, three horses into the water", Rosa suggests. not optimal, and it takes a lot of gentlemen of character: Mr. Charlie Slowly we ride into the tide. Wet feet, experience to keep horses in a Brown, 13, Mr. Nottingham, 12 and Mr. wet legs, wet belly. At first cautiously, but species-appropriate way. One of those Prophet, who is 15 years old. "Be gentle then with increasing enthusiasm we get

We start out on a leash, accompanied by beginners as well advanced riders", she can be seen in the haze. "Lets take the



# **SENSE OF COMMUNITY**



Tobias Dietzold Publisher and COO CPS THE FUMBA TIMES

motivation to achieve great targets, we all had to realise soon that we were facing completely unforeseen challenges and uncertainties. It had an unexpected effect on all of us, on a personal, social and economic level. Many would argue, that we'd rather forget 2020 and look ahead. I disagree. Tough times always exciting news and stories in and around have lessons to learn from. Zanzibar are proof of the positive signs

The sense of community and standing in for each other - reinforced by an unprecedented global health challenge - has never been stronger. Especially in Zanzibar, businesses and people made great efforts supporting one another when tour- In this spirit, I wish every reader, who ists didn't show up as usual. We focused celebrates it, a Merry Christmas, and a on local supply chains instead of foreign wonderful, inspiring and healthy New procurement, boosted creative innova-

reflects this better than the bright new Kwetu Kwenu farmers' market turning out an instant crowd-puller, as covered on page 6. Great news also on page 7: - starting now! And who wouldn't love to forget all their worries chilling on one of the marvellous roof terraces of unique Stone Town (page 3)? For me, all these

Think global. Act local. This has been the vision of THE FUMBA TIMES from son we will take into 2021 and further.

**GUEST COMMENT** 

## **TESTING TANZANIAN GROUNDS**



The first foreign press group (photo) to inspect Tanzania and Zanzibar since the beginning of the coronacris came in late September. Participant Catharina Aanderud describes her impressions

However, he sees important lessons to

be drawn from the health crisis: "Corona

is a wake-up call for us not to rely only

Has corona really vanished, we asked

a foreign doctor, who preferred to stay

anonymous. He confirmed, neither he

nor any of his colleagues had seen in-

rates. "Maybe Europe can afford a lock-

down - we cannot", he added. Still, the

Once our group travelled to Zanzibar,

vast empty beaches provided all the

space for social distancing we could

Stone Town, the old heart of Zanzibar,

felt kind of melancholic with few visi-

others had no customers. Maybe things

have changed by now, but that was the

In Europe, hard-hit by covid-19, travel

restrictions and lockdowns, many peo-

ple believe it is irresponsible to travel

now. But is it really? Couldn't it be, on

ity to spend money where people need it

ever wish for. A perfect getaway, actual-

ly, from the pandemic in Europe.

situation end of September.

lack of data and evidence irritated us.

dications for a substantial rise in death

natural resilience.

on tourism for income."

Te are a handful of travellers Coming from Europe where strong safe-River, observing one of the hamed, our smart Tanzanian driver, how most spectacular events of the Serengeti: that was possible? "In the beginning we the annual migration of thousands of were afraid of an infection", he admitgnus, zebras and Thompson gazelles. ted. "But then we turned to our traditional journalists I am on a press journey drank a lot of ginger tea to strengthen from Arusha through Tarangire and the our immune system. Like fasting and Serengeti up to Zanzibar to assess if praying this gave us confidence in our corona-safe travelling in Tanzania is possible – and to enhance tourism.

"Corona?

heard the

word"

As a first confidence building measure, our temperature was taken after leaving the Qatar Airways plane at Kilimanjaro airport. Continuous hand washing and disinfection at entrances of hotels and lodges supported our impression that people here do care for the safety of tourists. Other than people in the streets, our safari guides were wearing masks all the time. Passing the ridge of Ngorongoro crater we meet five Maasai women who had marched 15 miles to sell necklaces to us. "Corona?" They had never even heard the word.

The road through the Serengeti is bumpy – "African massage", our driver Mohamed calls it. The overall impression after one week in beautiful lodges in mainland Tanzania: Life goes on as tors around. I saw several closed shops, usual – except there are barely any tourists around. Horst Bachmann, owner of the African View Lodge, an ensemble of nicely decorated wooden bungalows near Arusha national park, reports a "dramatic decline" since March 2020 and had to dismiss 28 staff well know-family depending on his income". Nobody seemed afraid of corona.

The trip was sponsored by:

Akwaba Travel (www.akwaba-afrika.de), local hotels and tour operators

# The Fumba 🕻 Times

Publisher: CPS Live Ltd P.O.Box 3564. Fumba Town, Zanzibar, Tanzania International Chief Editor: Andrea Tappe Editor@fumbatimes.com Local Editor: Hissham M. Abdukad Managing Editor: Tobias Dietzold Art Director & Layout: Sidney Tappe

Photography: Keegan Checks

Contributors to this issue: Catharina Aanderud. Blackbird, Dr. Jenny Bouraima, Katrin Dietzold, Angelika Dubiel, Lydia Kasese, Bernadette Kirsch, Proofreading: Jeff Kavanagh Advertising & Marketing:

Lorenz Herrmann, Lydia Kasese Advertising@fumbatimes.com Readers Letters: Readersletters@fumbatimes.com Print: Mwananchi Com. Ltd. Dar es Salaam

## **CARTOON**



"I think I found a location for our vacation."

by Amy Kurzweil / The New Yorker Collection/The Cartoon Bank

Page 4 – Edition 06, December 2020 - February 2021

# TRÈS CHIC, CONGO!

Not only Africa's best dance music, lingala, is said to come from Congo but also the smartest looking men. A new photo book traces the social fashion movement sapeurs in its natural environment.

VIEWS

en, old and young, wearing second-hand or even newly bought Gucci suits in slum dwellings. Grim looking teenagers in Scottish kilts. Award-winning London photographer Tariq Zaidi is the latest in a long line of artists to document a unique African sub-culture.

The world famous dandy frenzy emerged in Congo (in both the Democratic Republic and Brazzaville Congo) decades ago, long before the heard of. The term "La Sape - Société ades Ambianceurs et des Personnes Élégantes" translates to "Society o mood boosters and elegant people" The followers call themselves sapeur (male) or sapeuse (female). "Most work during the day as taxi drivers, tailors, gardeners but transform into casual dandies after hours", observed Zaidi. "They will often be cheered like rock stars, bringing some ease to a tough life." A fashion movement in one of Africa's poorest regions is a "surreal style statement", says Zaidi. With his photos he dissects it, not as an elitist copying of colonial styles but a playful parody of cultural norms, a proud display of street creativity.

The Dandies of Africa

Some *sapeurs* save for years for a new outfit, while others are occasionally sponsored by international fashion designers. The movement is constantly evolving, Zaidi says. Popular Congolese singer Papa Wemba once summed it up simply: "The French invented the clothes, we made an art

Photographer Tariq Zaidi has won many awards, among them several Pictures of the Year. He covers social issues, traditions and vulnerable groups around the world "Sapeurs - Ladies and Gentlemen of the Congo", in English, 121 photos Kehrer Publishing



Street smart: Maxime Mabanza, 43, a teacher and lifelong fashion lover from Brazzaville



#### "GREAT SUPPORTER OF HISTORY" **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.

## protected buildings, often with hardly



THE FUMBA TIMES wishes to pay tribute

Honorary German Consul in Zanzibar, Prof.

Erich F. Meffert. A long-time resident of

Zanzibar, he passed away in September at

He wrote about the historical heart of

Stone Town, meticulously describing

the age of 86.

to a great historian, architect and former

disguised anguish about the lack of conservation efforts. Friends saw in him "a great supporter of history". A professor of archi ecture, Meffert taught at several African universities including Dar es Salaam. He designed the amphitheatre in the Old Fort, and restored buildings such as the Bharmal building and the Old Customs House (now Dhow Countries Music Academy).

His friend and colleague Said el Gheity, director of the Princess Salme Museum in Zanzibar, conferred on him the honorary title of "a citizen of the Stone Town milieu Prof. Meffert is survived by his wife Saada. With the loss of Meffert, Stone Town has lost one of its premier advocates.

# FREDDIE, THE ISLAND BOY

The world's first Freddie Mercury Museum

in Stone Town celebrates Zanzibar's most famous son

Moja hospital, where still most island become over the centu-

rect relatives, a mid-

dle-aged lady, still

uncle to us." Why

does mystery still

surround Freddie Mer-

cury, who shot to fame with

She

kids first see the light of day. Reported to ries. One of his last di-

zibar. His legendary yellow performing the champions" the

jacket straddled over the piano seems to anthems of a

The Bulsara family had immigrated to was never

Zanzibar from India. They were Parsis, the darling

followers of Zoroastrianism, an ancient of

have been a shy and introverted boy, he

spent most of his childhood in Zanzibar,

attending the local Tumekuja Secondary

school and later a boarding school in

Panchgani., India. At the age of 15 he re-

turned to Zanzibar for the last time. In the

early 1960s, his family moved to the UK.

"The exhibition moves some visitors

to tears", 28-year-old general manager

Adnan says. "Many still don't know that

the Queen frontman was born in Zanzi-

bar." The small, but well-organised show

includes rare childhood and other pho-

tos, album covers, testimonials and, as a

one young Farrokh practised on in Zan-

suggest the man just left the instrument a

Persian religion. Freddie's father worked

as a cashier at the High Court, his mom

as an accountant. Mercury's older sister

Kashmira, now 76, grew up with him in

Zanzibar and still lives in London. "The

family was very educated and tradition-

An African ayah (nanny) took baby

Farrokh for walks in a big-wheeled

pram, fashionable at the time. Soon, he

#### By Andrea Tapper

On a steamy day, a dimly lit gallery in Stone Town is just the right place to seek shelter. Rather unexpectedly, an entire showbiz world opens up inside.

red velvet curtain evokes Bollywood flair. Behind the curtain, there are black-framed pictures and dozens of record covers. I find myself having to adjust to a world much Town alleys outside. The world's first and only Freddie Mercury museum in

the centre of Zanzibar's old town is still a secret to many. Situated at the corner of Kenthe gallery inhab-

lies opposite the Beach House entrance. "People become um mamanger Anam Adnan as she loved bicycling around, and started singaccompanies me through the inviting ing at the Zoroastrian Temple when the ground floor exhibition.

Parsi community was It was officially opened still about 300 members "We will, we on November 24, 2019, the 28th anniversary of handful remain, and the will rock you!" Mercury's death. Briefly operating, it had to shut

receiving visitors again. The rock legend's early childhood and his artistic life are depicted in touching images and sounds. I pause in front of

ruin, "but we are plandown during the pandemic and is now ning to resurrect it and conduct tours to all of Mercury's childhood spots", says British media often labels Mercury as

born on September 5, 1946 at Mnazi tonomous island in the Indian Ocean had illegal", expresses a CNN feature about

was popular but not trendy", summed up a commentator in the English media. On the way to fame Mercury faced his own identity struggles as he came to terms with his homosexuality. He remained friends with "the love of his life" Mary

"Don't stop me now,

I'm having such a

at the age of 45

good time". Freddie

Mercury died of Aids

This personal side of Mercury, also his brave fight against HIV years later, still remains largely untold in Zanzibar. "Celebrating Freddie Mercury in Zanzibar is "a kid from the colonies" but there is in life, he would have likely struggled to his original birth certificate identifying more to it. In many ways, he is a typical gain acceptance in a predominantly Musthe future star simply as Farrokh Bulsara, off-shoot of the melting pot the semi-au-lim community where homosexuality is

will surely help to demystify Mercury's legacy - including the origin of his stage name. Old documents in the museum disclose that "Project Mercury" was the code name for a Nasa space station in Zanzibar during the sixties, forced to close after the 1964 regime change. Freddie learnt about it, liked it - and his new artistic identity was born.

the singer. The Mercury muse-

zibar's well-known me-

Jafferji and his friend

Andrea Boero. They

formed a partnership

with Queen Produc-

tions in the UK

who loaned ex-

clusive pictures

to the museum

"Our aim is to

create aware-

rock star on

his birth island

to celebrate his

roots, music and

nan. Recently,

Queen guitarist

Brian May and

his wife Anita

gave them

visiting

Freddie Mercury Museum Mercury House Shangani, Zanzibar TEL: +255 777304477 www.freddiemercurymuseum.com open 10 am – 6 pm, from \$10

PEOPLE



#### Episodes from planet Jumba

Narrated by the very people who live and work there

## NOTALONE

oday found us in technologi- myself, a lot of us had come to Fumthrough the day, but also tend to isolate us from our neighbours. So you know what happened? We all slowly started gravitating towards our much-loved kiosk Kwetu alone. I still love my privacy. My Kwenu, all escaping the void that the quiet evenings in my sea-facing lack of network had left in our lives. We were left with no options but to um is the brainchild of Zansocialise. I learned a lot about the community. It feels nice to be recogpeople around me in the few hours nised, embraced, smiled at as I walk dia entrepreneur Javed I sat there. I learned that just like around the town.

cal darkness. We were without ba Town because we were escaping L our usual crutches that get us something, running towards something, a lifestyle, a community, a place to belong, a place to call home I have always enjoyed my solitude I have always been ok with being

But it also feels nice to be part of a



## **SEASON HIGHLIGHTS**



#### Fully booked: Local top musicians Siti and the Band performing at events

What's up for the festive season? Here selected events in town and on the beach (which reached us before going to print).

Christmas Craft Market in Fumba 5 December, 10am — 5pm, Fumba Towi 9 January, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Market

6 February Kwetu Kwenu Market

Admission fee for vendors TZS 40.000 Antonio Garden Hotel, Stone Town

Christmas Bazaar Emerson Spice and Emerson Hurumz 19 December - 3 Jan, 10am - 6 pm Big opening 19 December, 4pm, with 25 tables

Christmas Eve Taarab with Siti & The Band

White Sand Villas, Paje

Christmas Concert & Dinner 3 course dinner, \$35 aladin Hotel, Michamw ooking: +255 624979737

Christmas Sunday Brunch with DJ Hijab & Dj Álone with live instruments \$35 with alcohol / \$24 without alcohol +255 774271435 / beachhous

New Years Eve Dinner with Taraajazz & DJ Hijab & Dance crev \$100 with alcohol / \$50 without alcoho

New Years Concert, Dinner & After Party with Leo Mkanyia, \$40 p.P. Booking: +255 624979737

NYE Gala Dinner feat. Siti & The Band \$100 per person including dinner

Double Tree Nungwi Sherif Afifi +255 779999058 31 December, 7pm till late 24 hours New Year's Party

DJ Enzo Siffredi / \$100 all food, drinks, music multiple entrance Coral Rocks, Jambiar Contact: Neil +255 777045200 31 December, 3pm - 1 Jan, 3pm

Stone Town Blues Club Live Blues & Gourmet, \_a Taverna Restaurant, near Darajani marke TZS 75,000 incl 4-course-dinner Contact: +255 773661811 4 December, 8 January, 5 February, 7 - 12pm

Please note, information subject to change

Small-scale farmers in Kenya

## **LOCAL HEROES**

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

The Zanzibar museum from inside, a yellow stage jacket worn by Freddie Mercury. The museum is the brainchild of Andrea Boero and Javed Jafferji (right)

# THE RAINMAKER

Samir Ibrahim's solar kits irrigate farms and run the family TV. The young entrepreneur with Zanzibari roots has created one of Africa's most promising, and



Te makes his point right at the start ing for a partner to work with." of the interview: "I do not separate between commercial and dogood-business." Everything successful has to be commercially viable, especially in Africa. That is Samir Ibrahim's philosophy and it has brought him far, from University Stern School of Business, from a job at the global consultancy firm PricewaterhouseCoopers to co-founding the company SunCulture in Kenya. The young firm with a staff of 18

Africa's first solar irrigation business. So far it sells neat little, solar-powered kits pia and Uganda. "We would very much like to enter the Tanzanian market, too", says Ibra-

him, "we are just look-

The 32-year-old entreprenuer has a piece of his family history tattooed on his arm; 0609 16.31 S, 3911 34.08 E. - the co-ordinates where his great-great-greatgrandfather landed at the tip of the port in Zanzibar in 1850, brought here by his Zanzibari family roots to New York's trade winds from North-West India. "My parents took me back to the island of our origin", says Samir Ibrahim, an Ismaili by faith, who was born in Canada, "It was amazing still to find people who knew and remember my ancestors", he says.

Ibrahim was among this year's 20 finalists for the "African busines heroes' initiative started by the Jack Ma foundation in Chiin Kenya, Togo, Ethio- na – the owner of Alibaba e-commerce. The aim of the Alibaba initiative is to support young entrepreneurs in Africa (THE FUMBA TIMES reported). Samir's solar panels let farm yields increase two- to food at all." SunCulture is there to support fivefold. Milk production can be doubled that idea.

from Zanzibaı Samir Ibrahim

while household income can increase up to 10-fold, the company has observed SunCulture's bestseller is a kit called "Rainmaker2", a simple pack of two solar panels, a pump and a battery. "It can pump 2500 litres an hour, power lights, a smart phone and TV", explains Ibrahim. Farmers pay in small instalments for the device; SunCulture provides installation, training and feedback. "The increase in income should cover monthly expensesright from the start", points out Ibrahim. He also has on offer bigger solutions for larger farms, community centres and schools. "Most people still think solar energy is too costly but the prices have real-"Africa is projected to spend 100 billion dollars on food imports by 2030", he adds, "while the continent with its enormous resources should actually be the



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A playful approach is a at the heart of Montessori education (upper photo) At Silverleaf, Children learn how to use simple

kids' tablet



# IT'S MARKET TIME!

Start your weekend at the new Farmers' Market in Fumba

#### By Bernadette Kirsch

Our very own Kwetu Kwenu Farmers' Market in Fumba Town has become the island's prime event once a month. Open-air, with lot's of organic produce and artful products.

Tt was an overnight success. Started only last September, the new Kwetu Kwenu market is showcasing an amazing variety of vendors and products, and has already attracted large, joyful crowds. It takes place every first Saturday of the month, and is planned to be held weekly soon. Presenting food and non-food items, dozens of vendors sell everything from green cosmetics to hand-carved spoons, from self-made organic peanut butter to extravagant pasta. Creative producers such as Seasons Lodge, an Kind and Laici brought along goodies hardly expected in Zanzibar, like Sauerkraut and marinated sar-

There are far-reaching advantages to "shopping local." By supporting local businesses, you are strengthening your local economy. Some businesses might even be operated by your neighbours. A number of Fumba Town homeowners have developed products like vegan cashew

---- ADVERTISEMENT

milk (from Nana Sonia) and homemade ice cream (Jamie's World of Ice Cream) and have successfully sold at the farmers' market. Especially in lean corona times, when deciding where to spend your hard-earned shillings, consider the benefits of turning to local, independently owned businesses, always

making special efforts to maintain a good relation with customers. "Ask a vendor a question and they will explain entire elaborate recipes to you", remarked a happy young market customer resting in the pleasant shade of Fumba's fruit trees.

Vendors enjoy getting to know their customers, since they're all an important part of the community they serve. More than anything, word of mouth counts when it comes to small



cal businesses is also good for the

environment because they often have

a smaller carbon footprint than larger

Because it can be more difficult for

small businesses to stay relevant,

they constantly strive to add new

products, adding unique spins to keep

customers returning. Many products

My advice: Next time you run out of

groceries, seek out a local business.

Do your weekly shopping there rather

than going to standard supermarkets.

And join us for a fun day at Kwetu

Kwenu market. We at Fumba love our

The market on December 5 will be

a special "Christmas Craft fair",

town vibrant and buzzing with shop-

pers - and welcome everybody.

are personalised and innovative.

Smiling faces, pure products: Natural "Zalt" from Pemba competing with onsite cooking with an Asian touch by Kim Ahn from Duyen Homecook



MYHOME

**BEAUTY BOTTLES** Malina Sumar, the young entrepreneur

behind Natural Living, sells sundried sea moss and raw sea moss gel. Sea moss-aka Irish sea moss—is a type of red algae to boost



WE LOVE WOOD Handmade wooden trays and other household items such as cooking and serving spoons, bowls and boards were presented by We Pack. Ages and looks better than plastic!

PASTA IN PASTELS Eat Zanzibar is a new business, founded in Fumba Town, making nome cooking easier by providing

f filled pastas such as ravioli and



THE FARM Enthusiastic and passionate organic farmers like Samson Shija bring harvests fresh from their farms straight to the Kwetu Kwenu

## **INSIDE FUMBA TOWN** TRUE STORIES OF NEW RESIDENTS



# "A PAPAYA TREE **SEALED THE DEAL"**

Dr. Winifrida Mmasi, 30, moved to Fumba Town with her four-year-old son Xavi happy about the green gardens and the playground.

Dr. Mmasi, you joined the Urban Clinic in Fumba as a doctor. How I saw you reading a is it to live in the growing seaside book at the kiosk. town?

own fruit trees and lemongrass here sealed the deal.

How did you discover Fumba? I was searching for a more quihospital in Dar for three years. 60 er. By now, he is a recycling expert. patients per day; traffic jams after work. Before that I studied in Rus- Anything missing?

get used to that calmness. The calmness is wonderful... Yes, but when I moved here, I had no car first. And I would say you do need one - to go shopping or to town. The organic food basket pak-

heaven-sent in my first weeks here. It's a green delivery service with veggies, chicken and eggs from a nearby farm, is it? Yes. My son Xavi and me just love

it. It helps greatly as a working mum. And more so when you are a plant and herbs person like me.

After full days of work and school, the evenings are very special. When my son comes home, we have one favourite place to go - the playground with the Kwetu Kwenu kiosk next door. Whoever designed that was a genius! The play huts are even lit at

That's my favourite pastime just be-Please call me Winnie! I moved fore sunset! It is ideal that as a parent here from Dar es Salaam where we you can unwind in the little outdoor had a large garden. So I was very café while your child is playing with happy to see that I would have my other kids from the neighbourhood.

as well. Actually it was a papaya A safe environment for children? tree in front of my house which Very much so. And also a learning environment! The very first thing my four-year-old learned in our comfortable two bedroom house was how to separate waste in containers. He just et life. I worked at the Aga Kahn follows the easy symbols on the cov-

sia and worked in Dubai. In Fumba I am eagerly waiting for a gym to you can listen to the sound of waves open and a running track. For now, I at night. Still, it took me a while to happily do my jogging rounds.





Teachers have to learn, too! Problem solving skills and student-centred learning are among the Fumba principles of teaching

A town needs a school. A good school. Fumba Town is now getting its own educational hub with affordable schools, tablets even for the young ones and well-trained teachers who encourage pupils to do "critical thinking". On 11 January 2021 school bells will ring for the very first time in Fumba.

hen residents of the new town development and surrounding villages assembled recently to learn more about the planned Educatude", says Katrin Dietzold, an executive age-Smith. A Silverleaf primary and sec-

Our schools

- Silverleaf Academy

- Phelesia Montessori

& more

- Eden International School

- International School of Zanzibar (ISZ)

The mother of four has taken it in her own 2022. Silverleaf - under the directorship The number is growhands to create an educational concept as of Krupa Patel - already operates two ing by the week. In "inclusive and diverse as our town is", as innovative primaries on the mainland she puts it. Her vision: affordable school (near Arusha and Babati) and is considfees for low and middle-income parents, ered "Tanzania's first network of affordaa sponsorship program, a combination ble high-quality schools", says Katrin of Tanzanian curricula (NECTA) and Dietzold. The Academy plans to open international education, both in English. ten more schools in the coming years. How will it all work? Several renowned schools will collaborate. Future facilities at around one million Tanzanian shilling such as sports grounds, a theatre hall and per year, less than \$40 a month, including a library will eventually be shared by all lunch and "Mwabu" computers used in including even parents.

Tablets for each kid First to open in January 2021 in Fumba Town are a nursery and preschool by the renowned Silverleaf Academy followed by an English language Montessori pretion Center Fumba (ECF) the excitement school, owned by the experienced, UK was big. "We experienced heartfelt grati- trained couple Jannet and Martin Armit-

THE FUMBA TIMES talked to Katrin Dietzold about the details of her education plans for Fumba. school for you?

A place where children can learn within an environment that respects their needs of CPS, the developers of Fumba Town. ondary school are planning to open in as children and that respects the demands of education today. Clean building structures, child-inspiring surroundings, qualified and motivated teaching staff, sufficient resources all come into play.

Vhat sort of educational centre are you planning for Fumba Town?

Our goal is to give all residents of the dren safely and town, villages around and our employees access to this centre, collaborating with several schools (see box) where they can get quality education, no matter what budget is available for them. We don't want demarcated as a kid? schools for each culture and income Oh, that's a nice quesbracket. We want to raise the standard for all students by sharing resources.

Let me give you an example. Students and love about any from the International School will subject. watch a play of the Tanzanian curriculum school. Kids of Silverleaf primary school and secondary international stu- children like most dents use the same soccer pitch and get in school - if anyswimming lessons in the same pool.

How many kids will you cater for?

two years old) love being inspired and challenged. They want to be recognised and seen as individuals who can be a valued part of the community. Every child has this need and deserves a school environment tha meets it.

looking at 2,350 stu-

dents for NECTA and

300 international stu-

stop there. We intend

tional trainings for

professions in hos-

pitality, landscaping,

education.

building and adult

Do you have a school

building already?

In the beginning, the

tessori schools will

operate in existing fa-

cilities in Fumba Town.

Until further schools

and classes are settled

in Fumba physically,

we will ensure access

to additional schools

by setting up a "bus-

tem to bring chil-

reliably to nearby

What did you per-

sonally hate in school

tion. I hated most when

teachers were not moti-

vated. A good teacher

What do your own

I believe our kids

(18, 15, 12 and

existing schools.

Silverleaf and Mon-

Fumba? That varies from school to school and by age of

the environment become a school subject?

important place in all our Fumba

Your support

Sponsor a child's school fee starting from \$28 monthly. Many more packages available

What will be the main language in the **Educational Center** 

> the students. Silverleaf Academy teaches 100% in English from the start, using the national Tanzanian curriculum (NECTA). Montessori school and others run curriculum in Engguages are taught in several schools, like French or Spanish. What all schools have in common:

Children from all religious backgrounds are learning Fumba is a green city, will

Certainly! Together with art, music, drama and sports, gardening will be taught from early on. Green studies - from recycling to permaculture to nutrition - will definitely have an



NFORMATION ABOUT THE

**NEW EDUCATIONAL CENTER FUMBA (ECF):** General info:

katrin@cps-live.com Silverleaf & sponsorships: Zanzibar@silverleaf.co.tz Montessori: phelesiamontessori@gmail.com

On the web: www.silverleaf.co.tz www.phelesiamontessori.com

# DISCOVER ZANZIBAR'S BEAUTY, **CULTURE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES.**

Get your travel expenses covered with an investment in Fumba Town or The Soul \*

\*up to 1,000 USD of your travel expenses reimbursed with your purchase of a unit in Fumba Town or The Soul

Visit our website www.fumba.town for more information | www.thesoul.africa

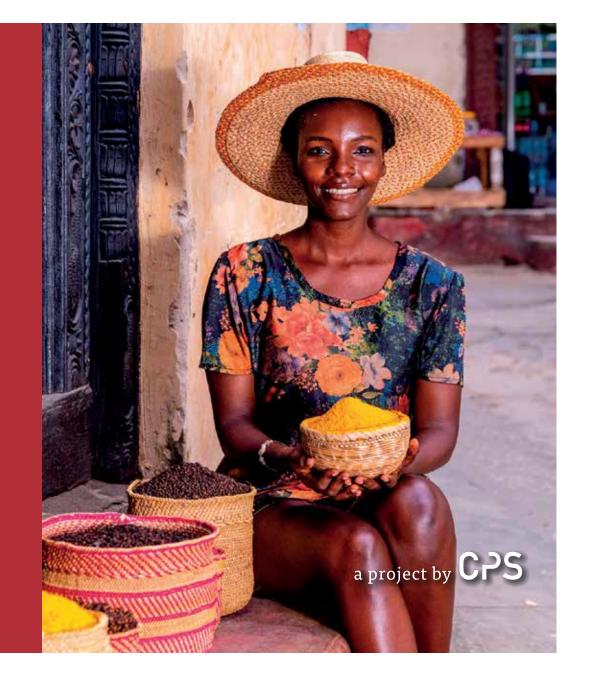
#### **TERMS & CONDITIONS:**

Plan your individual trip with Rickshaw Travels using the Promocode: **#ZNZinvest** 



\*valid until 28 February 2021





**KEEP MOVING** when suffering from a stiff neck

Gideon Makweni, 38, computer technician

Dear Dr. Jenny, since months I experience terrible pains from a stiff neck. I fear the situation is getting worse. I had it before and then suddenly the stiffness vanished. What to do?

**ASK DR. JENNY BOURAIMA** 

READERS' QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY OUR OWN MEDICAL EXPERT

#### Dr. Jenny Bouraima answers:

ear Gideon, sorry to hear about your stiff neck, it can indeed be an unpleasant and painful condition caused by different events, such as a sudden jerking movement, exposure to cold or high humidity, poor posture or a heavy and/or unusual physical effort. Since you mentioning working on a computer, your problem may be caused by long, uninterrupted sitting in a wrong Relax your shoulders and open up your position. Make sure to sit upright, chin slightly tucked in, the upper end of the the right; repeat them 3-4 times a week, screen at eye-level. Place the computer directly in front of you and not sideways. Get up and move, at least every 90 min-killers can give immediate relief - don't utes; the exercises and tips below will

help you. Applying heat with a hot water bottle or hot compresses can also bring short- in your fingers and/or arm, numbness or term immediate relief. Soak a clean towel loss of muscle strength, consult a doctor.

in very hot water and then press it on the affected area for 20 minutes two or three

But most important are gentle exercis-

es. They are helpful in the acute situation and to prevent repeated suffering. Start by gently moving your chin up and down and then left to right and vice versa. Your back muscles also play a key role in supporting your neck, strengther them through exercises such as the plank chest with the three exercises shown on each exercise 10 times to each side. In addition to physical therapies, paintake more than the recommended dosage. If, in addition to the stiff neck, you experience paraesthesia (tingling sensations)

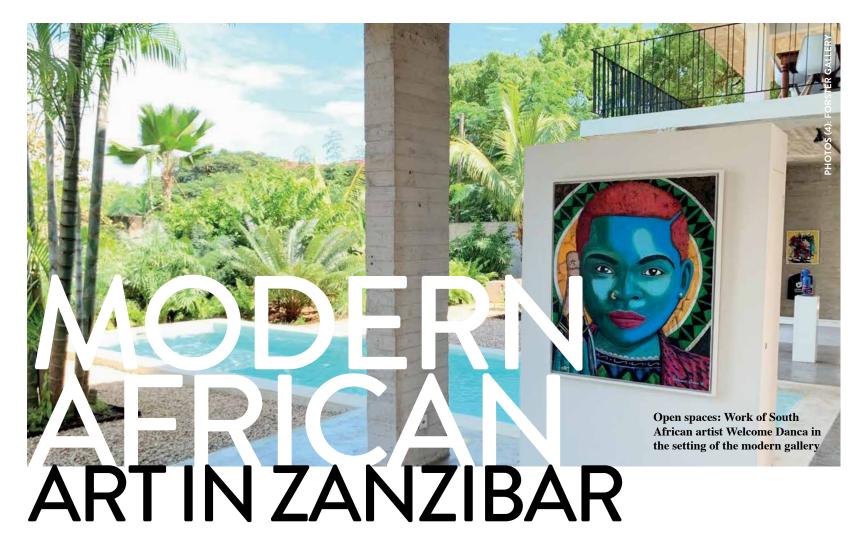


Happy&Healthy



## WRITE TO US!

Do you have any health or lifestyle questions? Dr. Jenny Bouraima of the Urban Care clinic is happy to answer them. Please e-mail: DrJenny@fumbatimes.com Urban Care, Fumba Town, +255 622 820 011 Opening hours: Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm | www.urbancare.clinic



## Pioneering Forster Gallery in Mbweni open to the public

#### By Andrea Tapper

A pool of newcomers as well as already established artists awaits the art lover in a modern, residential gallery on Zanzibar. A Swiss art collector has put the impressive permanent exhibition together – most of it for sale.

he journey is the destination. I am thinking of Confucius while trying to locate the Forster Gallery in Zanzibar's popular residential suburb Mbweni. And I am still thinking of it once I have arrived at the generous modern building. The gallery covers the spacious ground floor of a modern villa designed by Spanish architect Garcia de Oteyza. Paintings by the likes of E.S. Tinga Tinga, George

Lilanga, David Mzuguno and Welcome Danca decorate rough concrete around the house – for the visitor a translucent and unexpected experience in a lovely tropical garden. The journey is the destination! "I started collecting art in Switzerland", says owner Markus Forster as he invites me in. He has assembled over and died in 2005

hundred paintings by more than a dozen contemporary artists from East and Southern Africa in Zanzibar. And while he is opening his treasure chamber – a simple store room in the gallery – an explosion of colour floods out.

#### Explosion of colours

Graffiti-like drawings of the world famous school of Tinga Tinga paintings; realistic oil-on-canvas explorations of Vita Malulu, 44, from Mwanza; shrill pop-art portraits of South Africa's newcomer Welcome Danca and much more. Born and raised in Switzerland's museum capital Basel, Forster says, he developed a taste for art at an early age.

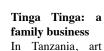
A former social education worker and carpenter, the 67-year-old has made it his crusade to trade art by Tanzanian icons as well as to support up-and-coming talents. "An artist wants to paint", he declares. "To do so we have to create a market for him." An open space within the gallery is devoted to artists in residence. The last to stay and work in the "Open Studio" before the onset of the corona pandemic was Juanita Frier, an abstract painter from South Africa.

#### First Art Hotel in Zanzibar

Before the opening of the gallery, Markus Forster created the island's first *makuti*-roofed Art Hotel in 2008. Situated on the edge of fishing village Mfumbwi in Jambiani, it is still run by his ex-wife Jamilah Kabelele. Each room of the leisure property is designed by a local artist.

Buying art for him is not only "an investment with a middle-risk factor",

Forster says, but "I simply enjoy it". The art lover, who worked as a project manager in Tanzania for years running NGOs various and development organisations, operates the town gallery his partner and manager Marina Majiba.



often runs in the family. George Lilanga was one of the father's of Makonde and Tinga Tinga art, sculptures as well as paintings. His grandson Hendrick Lilanga, born in 1974 in Dar es Salaam, continues in his footsteps. Kipara Mzuguno, a young artist born in 1991 in Dar es Salaam is the son of David Mzuguno and adopted his father's painting style as a child. Work of these artists is available at the Forster Gallery.

In Tinga Tinga art, now a large industry in Tansania, the signature of the artist, is of most importance. The founder was Edward Said Tinga Tinga whose career lasted only four years from 1968 to 1972 when he was shot





"Selling art which we like": Markus Forster and Marina Majiba (upper photo) run the gallery. Below a painting by Kasima Msoma who lives in Zanzibar

dead at the age of 40. His art became so popular while he was still alive that he himself hired friends and family to produce more of his cartoon-like naïve motifs – thus the Tinga Tinga school of art came into being.

To buy art at the Forster Gallery online go to the online gallery, choose an artist or artwork and go from there. Viewing and gallery visits by appointment only.

## FORSTER GALLERY ZANZIBAR:

Forster-gallery.com info@forster-gallery.com Visitors can be picked up at the hotel in Stone Town, ferry or airport

Art Hotel: arthotelzanzibar.com

# JUST DISCOVERED KIZIKULA DESIGNER HOTEL Out of this world: Pool and palm trees are in harmony at Kizikula

# THE HOLIDAY OF THE FUTURE

SPECIAL
Best pool
on the island

LOCATION: South-west coast near Kizimkazi

Tourism is best when you hardly notice it. This is certainly the case at Kizukula, one of Zanzibar's newest and affordable boutique hotels. When I arrived, I was overwhelmed by the rough beauty right by the ocean: coral stone bungalows with massive concrete ceilings, a huge, dark-blue shimmering pool, a wild, yet groomed garden, a wooden deck above the sea - each and everything evoking sophisticated simplicity.

The ultra-modern, yet holistic and archaic looking collection of just nine individually designed rooms and some shared facilities, among them the a layered 20-metre or so pool and a yoga platform, have a totally private feel.

This, of course, is pure intention. The two Dubai-based owners, one of them with Zanzibari roots, wanted their hotel "to feel like a communal home with ample spaces to meet your neighbours." An urban village. And so it became just that.

Style: When a property is mentioned in the British designer bible Wallpaper, you can bet on its style-worthiness. "Simple, beautiful and functional", Wallpaper says about Kizikula. Friends and family acted as muses for the interior design of the spacious guest rooms, all equipped with outdoor showers or bath, adding a Bedouin carpet here, some African baskets there but luckily the raw architecture still dominates the look. Stripped of unnecessary decorative elements, it sets travellers free to indulge their senses in nature

**Location:** Kizikula is situated at the often over-looked, rugged south-west coast near Kizimka-

zi, about one hour's drive from Zanzibar city. The rocky coastline doesn't have a real beach, but dramatic tides. The Kizikula property, which sits on a cliff, is experimenting with two ocean accesses – a wooden staircase which had been damaged by a storm during our visit, and an exciting but also demanding cave access which leads directly into the blue sea.

**Food & beverage:** Ask for it, and you get it. Sophisticated farm-to-table Swahili food is provided in abundance from the on-premise garden.

The garden: Nothing short of a mini Jurassic Park on 20,000 square metres, the landscaping - with an outdoor gym near the sea - was designed by New Zealand-based Andy Hamilton Studio in co-operation with permaculture specialists Bernadette and Franko Goehse. Kizikula offers a glimpse into the holiday of the future thriving on nothing more than fast internet, style & nature. From \$60 per night, via website or Airbnb. AT



Fresh food to be enjoyed from morning to evening

Kizikula Boutique Hotel Kizimkazi, Zanzibar Tanzania+255 687063393 info@kizikula.com kizikula.com



# WELCOME TO BUSARA LIGHT

Annual music festival scheduled for February 12 - 13, 2021



The world of George Lilanga: The

Tanzanian is one of Africa's big con-

temporary artists He was born 1934

Festival boss Yusuf Mahmoud (right) announcing 14 African shows for the 2021 Busara, among them Dawda Jobarteh from The Gambia (left)

The world-famous "Sauti za Busara" music festival taking place with a shorter than usual program of two nights.

uch to the despair of artists and fans, shows and festivals all over the world have been cancelled amidst the corona pandemic. The pan-African music festival "Sauti za Busara", however, is set to go on at Zanzibar's open-air venue, the historical Old Fort, disclosed festival director Yusuf Mahmoud. The top event, held for the 18th time, usually attracts more than 20,000 music lovers. "Thankfully, the number of Covid-19 fatalities has been low

in Zanzibar and Tanzania. However, bearing in mind travel restrictions and challenges in fundraising, the next festival will be over two days instead of four", Mahmoud announced. "We will not enforce wearing of masks or social distancing, but safety measures will be in place such as temperature checks at entrances and hand-washing stations." Busara Xtra will also be staged, from 7 – 14 February 2021. Mahmoud did not elaborate on how may visitors he expects this time but clarified that ticket revenues even in normal times cover only a third of festival expenses. He appealed to sponsors to support the event. International tickets are \$60 for two days.

Info: www.busaramusic.org

#### ADVERTISEMENT

