

GOLDEN VISA
WHY TURKEY AND NOT TANZANIA?
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GREEN, GREENER, FUMBA!

The success story of permaculture is a bestseller in the new seaside town in Zanzibar



A green paradise and its creators: Franko Goehse and Bernadette Kirsch designed the eco-friendly permaculture landscaping of Fumba Town

Africa's first permaculture town exists in Zanzibar. The name: Fumba Town. The magic recipe: Do as nature would! That turned coral rock land into a lush green paradise, attracting homebuyers from 57 nations. What's the secret? And could the whole world learn from it?

Residents living in Fumba Town have a lecture hall right in their front garden. Just before sunset Franko Goehse has assembled about twenty neighbours who eagerly listen as he takes them for a 'walk-around workshop'. Why was this bougainvillea planted there? Clearly: "Who wouldn't like the colour?" And the breadfruit tree? Bernadette Kirsch, Goehse's wife and partner in the green battle, knows the answer: "It will produce food for the next 500 years." And what about the palm trees along the seashore, gently swaying in the wind, just like in Miami and Cuba? "They are wind-breakers", explains Goehse, founder of Permaculture Design Company (PDC in Zanzibar). There are cities, and there are green cities. And there are dreadful developments, where every heavy rain brings flooding, where people build villas but throw their garbage over the next fence. "This happens when nature and infrastructure are not being considered in urban planning", says landscape planner Bernadette Kirsch. "Permaculture takes

care of people and the environment at the same time."

Trees as super-coolers

What exactly makes a permaculture city?

- An incredible 94 per cent of household waste is composted and recycled in Fumba; half of the garbage is turned into soil.
- 157 different plants, trees and veggies bring food security and stability against pests and weeds - polyculture instead of monoculture is the motto.
- Coconuts, mangoes, lemon grass, papayas, bananas - yield tops beauty in permaculture. "Better a fruit tree than a manicured lawn", says Goehse.
- A canopy of trees cools down temperatures by up to seven degrees reducing needs for AC.
- Water ponds not only absorb noise

and dust, they feed insect pollinators such as butterflies; fish in the pond again eat mosquitoes.

- Green drains and cobblestone streets, instead of tarmac roads, absorb precious rain water and prevent floods.

A town built on cardboard boxes

"When we started Fumba Town and our Practical Permaculture Institute of Zanzibar (PPIZ) in 2015, we hired people for a job where the job description was unknown", Franko Goehse, 51, remembers with a smile. Much of it was learning by doing. How do you create a green town? Goehse and his wife Bernadette, a devoted and hands-on ecologist, carved the very foundation of Fumba Town practically out of nothing: "We crushed coral stone, shredded tons of bush, collected

mountains of cardboard boxes from Mlangeje shopkeepers, spread it all out and simply waited one rainy season for the mixture to turn into compost", recall the pioneers, aptly called "Mr. and Mrs. Green" by friends. Born in Germany, Goehse discovered and nurtured his love for nature at the foot of the Kilimanjaro as chef of a safari lodge before coming to Zanzibar. Six years later 700 locals & expats have been trained in gardening, composting, recycling, beekeeping, landscaping. People from all over Zanzibar buy plants at the PDC. Building with natural materials such as adobe earthenbags is another important part of permaculture. A much frequented playground with lit domes was made of adobe in Fumba Town; currently an entire fun park with a skating ring is being built. 25 employees at the green

WHAT IS PERMACULTURE?

Permaculture, or 'Permanent Agriculture', is more than a set of gardening techniques. With and not against nature, it involves landscaping, agriculture, building. Researcher Bill Mollison from Australia made the term famous in the 1970s. Traditional people like the *chaga* at Mt Kilimanjaro have lived a "permaculture life" in their food forests all along.

PDC back-up centre make sure the new city breathes, and grows in the right direction. New green ideas are being explored by the day; a whole range of climate-friendly wooden houses have been designed. The eco-couple Goehse-Kirsch has also transformed a good number of hotel properties in Zanzibar into sustainable havens, among them Kizikula Design Hotel, Jambiani Villas and Aqua Resort. In the long run, Fumba Town on the shore of the Indian Ocean is meant to house 20,000 residents. Several hundred houses and flats are already occupied - a role model of affordable living in Africa and of green investment. "It's all about creating cycles of sustainability", say Sebastian and Tobias Dietzold, the chief developers of Fumba Town. Proudly the brothers noted: "Whenever a potential home buyer looks at our seaside town in Zanzibar, it's often the permaculture idea sealing the deal."

WHY WE NEED GREEN CITIES, CAFÉS & MARKETS

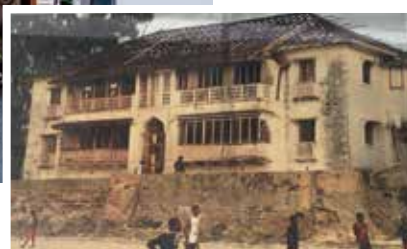
54% of the world population live in cities, by 2050 this will be almost 70%. Of 100 litres of rain two thirds go back into the ground in a forest, in concrete jungles ZERO. In "edible towns" like Fumba, trees produce healthy food. This is made into delicious jams, chutneys and cakes sold at the Kwetu Kwenu café (photo) and outdoor market, empowering the local community. Come and join the fun! Next market days: June 5, July 4, August 8.



Sooo permaculture: a counter full of handmade products in Fumba



A jewel at the town beach: the Beach House, now and then (photo right), with manager Afshan Jivray



BEACH DELIGHTS

Ex-Sultan's mansion under female reign

The "Beach House" at the Shangani sea promenade is popular with many, but few people know the history and who made it all happen. The former Sultan's mansion now houses a restaurant and bar, run by Park Hyatt, under female management. Afshan Jivray, 34, Kenyan by nationality, half Indian and half Iranian by ancestry, came to Zanzibar three years ago to oversee the opening. Her research uncovered that the two-storey house was built under the last sultan of Zanzibar before his forceful removal from power in 1964. "It is said he kept some

concubines here", Afshan says. Later the beachfront property became a British nursing home and a Goan apartment house. "I fell in love with it the moment I saw it", says Afshan. Trained at a Swiss elite school, and having previously worked in China and Dubai, she developed the up-market but casual hangout from scratch - a task not everyone thought her capable of. "There are not many lady general managers in the hospitality sector in Africa", she says: "I had to fight." Afshan oversees 31 staff and says she likes to make them "feel like family". She also co-ordinates local women support programs at the Hyatt. "We did not change the structure of the building", the manager emphasizes. "Our menu is a tribute to its Oman, Indian and British influences." What's the favourite of her guests? "Spice gin tonic" of course - with all the flavours of Zanzibar.

POWER WOMEN OF ZANZIBAR

By Hissham Abdulkadir

Her 100 days in office are just ending, but Tanzania's new head of state, "Mama Samia", has already made the island's woman power more visible.

On 19 March 2021, the world witnessed the swearing in of the first female president of the United Republic of Tanzania, the land of Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar. After the death of her visionary predecessor John Magufuli, Samia Suluhu Hassan became Africa's only current female national leader - Ethiopia also has a female president but the role is largely ceremonial. The 61-year-old is affectionately known as „Mama Samia“ and contrary to outsiders who view Zanzibar as a rather conservative society, Hassan's inauguration can be seen as a continuation of women's strong standing here. For centuries, Zanzibar has been proud of daring females that became influential and powerful women nationally and abroad in various spheres of life.

BREATHTAKING START, PAGE 2



Calm and humorous: Tanzania's first female president Samia Suluhu

ELECTRO BEATS

Up to 5,000 people are expected at the electronic music Sunwaves festival staged in Zanzibar 17-21 June on Dongwe Beach on the fast developing East Coast (also see page 3). "We took a leap of faith", announced the organisers of the well-known green event held in Romania since 2007 "to safely go international." Two wooden stages will showcase electronic music acts. Festival tickets with flights from Europe start at \$800, locally from \$164 for 5 days. Info: sunwaves-fest.ro



DJ Black Coffee: one of 25 acts

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WHERE RESIDENCY COMES WITH PROPERTY

Will buying a house soon get investors a stay permit in Zanzibar?

Promising perspectives: Buyers of a Fumba Town Bustani Villa (centre) and other units are counting on resident's permits. Countries like Brazil (left) and Turkey (top right) already grant such buyers' benefits to bolster investments. Stone Town (bottom right) attracts a lot of foreign visitors

By staff writer

Many countries in the world offer incentives to investors such as a residence visa for long-stayers. Will Tanzania soon make the move?

The issue is obvious: When foreigners buy a house somewhere, be it for holidays, as a home away from home or to let, they need the assurance that their second home is safe and free of any restrictions. "It would be very important to us to be granted a residence visa once we have finalised our property deal in Zanzibar", said Milena Yanus and her boyfriend Graham, surf lovers from Ontario, Canada, who were considering buying a holiday apartment in Paje. "Our jobs in the computer industry enable us to work practically everywhere online. Our friends bought in Spain and go back and forward all the time, since that country grants them very easy stay permits as investors." Indeed, in a globalised world, more and more countries offer "golden visas" in exchange for investments. Once a slightly shady practice, the business of dangling visas and even citizenships in front of investors with spending pow-

er has become more common, and in some cases a hugely successful marketing strategy. In at least 16 countries a home comes with a passport – for instance in Malta. 20 of the 28 European Union members offer residence possibilities, which often lead to passports after a certain time. Panama had the great idea of granting green residencies for \$80,000 investment in reforestation! All these countries believe that opening up will bolster their finances. "The world is becoming more and more connected and especially Zanzibar, as a destination heavily depending on tourism, should make it easier for foreign investors to stay here", said Hamad Hamad, 42, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce in Zanzibar in an exclusive interview with THE FUMBA TIMES (see box on this page). While the practice of making people a national, may not be the right carrot-and-stick in the case of African countries, surprising-ly it works even with Caribbean and South Pacific islands. Dominica and Vanuatu are happy to simply sell passports for \$100,000. **Nomad-friendly residencies** The rules and the necessary investment to be welcomed as a staying guest vary, and obviously reflect the attractiveness of a country. Most countries demand that foreigners actually live a specific

time within their territory or visit frequently:
 ■ In Columbia and Nicaragua permanent residency starts with \$25,000 real estate investment.
 ■ In Montenegro and neighbouring Serbia minimum investment for residency is zero; coastal condos sell from \$30,000, apartments in Belgrade from \$50,000.
 ■ Two years ago Brazil joined Dubai and six European nations – among

them Greece, Portugal and Spain – in extending residence visa to property buyers. Home to the famous sugarloaf mountain, Brazil has interesting conditions: In poorer areas the minimum purchase is \$160,000; elsewhere \$230,000.
 ■ Newcomer Turkey grants Turkish citizenship for the whole family starting with an investment of \$250,000.
 ■ Dubai and UAE demand \$275,000 investment for a family residency, and at least one visit every six months.

■ A very popular golden visa program in Portugal requires a €280,000 property purchase for permanent residency in the EU; buyers can sell again after five years and remain resident.
 ■ Since the coronavirus pandemic, luxury island Mauritius issues attractive one-year-long free "premium visas" to encourage long stays which can be renewed; a residency and free work permit comes with a real estate purchase above \$375,000.

Sometimes the desire for a residency or new identity is fueled by political circumstances. Before Brexit, around 128,000 Brits obtained German citizenship in 2019, as many as in the previous five years. In West African Ghana, a dream target of Black American repatriation for decades, the government waived registration fees for members of the African diaspora. During Trump's presidency, American applications to enter Ghana – home to 29 million, traditional kente cloth and legendary state founder Kwame Nkrumah – shot up from 1000 per week to a "staggering 10,000", said Akwasi Agyeman of the Ghana Tourism Authority in a media report. Tanzania might just see a similar trend, with more and more bloggers from the African diaspora promoting the land of the "Kili" and Zanzibar. In Fumba Town, a number of Americans have already invested. To call the place really home, all they need is a golden visa.

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"ZANZIBAR SHOULD ISSUE GOLDEN VISAS STRAIGHT AWAY"



"Fully supportive". Hamad Hamad, 42, Executive Director of the Zanzibar National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC)

What's your take on residence permits for foreigners who buy real estate here?
 I fully support it. It has already been discussed in the parliaments of Tanzania and Zanzibar; unfortunately it's a union matter.

And that's where the problem starts?
 Not necessarily. While it is indeed a matter of the country as a whole, different criteria should be used for Zanzibar, I believe. We have a totally different economy structure than the mainland which has more agriculture and industrial productivity. Zanzibar's economy is heavily based on tourism as our main foreign exchange earner.

Should a minimum real estate investment be required?
 Yes. The price should not be too low; the investor should stay here for a certain time, invest more and generally create income for the country.
Starting with an investment of?
 Minimum \$50,000 could be fair. The visa should be life-long. Such an act should be passed straight away!

To promote Zanzibar?
 Certainly! We have always been a cosmopolitan country. We encourage more cultural interaction with foreigners, but we will also strongly protect Zanzibar culture - after all that's our unique selling point. (AT)



THE EAST COAST BOOM

Zanzibar's miracle in the midst of the pandemic

The beach party is on: The Soul developed by CPS, a trendsetting residential resort with serviced apartments, is growing fast (photos right). The first phase is sold out, the second coming soon

By Andrea Tapper

New hotels and restaurants, sensational tourism schemes and all that in the midst of the corona pandemic. There is a gold rush mood from Jambiani to Michamvi.

Even my favourite little 18-room makuti-roofed beach refuge changed during the past Corona year. Some guests were (very discreetly) listening to music from their portable speaker on sunbeds; young couples eagerly conversed with ever-polite waiters in all sorts of languages. Suddenly, a younger and more diverse crowd had populated the evergreen Blue Oyster Hotel

in Jambiani, usually a favourite of middle age Kili trackers – and that was only the start. More than a dozen new hotels and hotel take-overs, construction everywhere, a gym and a first shopping mall on the roadside are changing the southeast Coast of Zanzibar. Clearly, the 22-kilometre stretch of white dream beaches dotted with fishing villages, budget and boutique accommodation is on the way up. *Maisha matamu* (Swahili for sweet life) is the name of a new hotel in Paje and says it all: la dolce vita is here. "We came and got stuck during Corona. Then we decided to start a business", is the testimony I heard most often - from small start-ups to aspiring mega-entrepreneurs, mostly Eastern European, from Jambiani to Michamvi. The coast with surf hotspot Paje in its centre suddenly feels like Kenya's Diani Beach in its heydays in the eighties.

Marta Pietkiewicz, 38, and Christian Pompetti, 44, left their chef positions in South-London to start Pompetti restaurant at Jambiani Plaza. The rest of the mall – an eco supermarket, a salon and a lawyer's practice – is still in the making, but Pompetti with its natural-yeast pizza flourished from day one. A few kilometres away, Ivan Belomorski, 33, a Bulgarian software developer, is "more than confident". By the time the island re-opened one year ago in June - earlier than any other holiday destination in the world - "we had our property", he tells me. It's a prime piece of beachfront in Paje. The Nest, scheduled to open this month, consists of an extravagant wooden three-storey vegan restaurant designed like a safari-lodge-gone-pagoda with 17

barefoot luxury bungalows. A jungle gym features weight lifting with coconuts. And if all that is not enough, Ivan plans a 60-metre wooden beach tower with dinner platforms high above the Indian Ocean. Is he sure, tourists will keep on flocking in although the world Covid-19 situation is all but resolved? "Whatever we put on the market, gets immediately booked", he claims - at prices between \$300 and \$800 per night. "We never had a better season, an incredible turnover", confirms hotelier Leonie Kaack. The biggest and most controversial investor seems to be Pili Pili (Swahili for hot pepper), a Polish enterprise owned by financier Wojtek Zabinski, who arrived from Danzig four years ago on a private holiday and bought a first small beach house here. "Since the start of the pandemic he has accumulated 11 hotels and other enterprises in Jambiani: "We built, buy or lease", openly explains Pili Pili spokesperson and Vice-President Przemyslaw Staniszewski, casually meeting me in shorts and t-shirt. Their biggest endeavour is under construction - an oriental holiday estate with 96 villa apartments at a sleepy beach beyond Bwejje, each for around \$200,000. Guests listen to Pili Pili radio, pay with Pili Pili virtual currency and 40,000 follow Pili Pili Zanzibar on facebook. Critics are sceptical about the fast ascent of the newcomer but Staniszewski dispels any doubt: "Our only secret is that we know our guests very well and look after them" - from chartering airplanes to providing baby buggies in the tropical paradise. "Polish in Zanzibar are very family oriented", he says. "We will soon provide 1500 beds here."

Does the island want that? "The East Coast was known for individual holidays, not for mass and charter tourism", says Leonie Kaack with concern. Others hold that Zanzibar with around 500 hotels is big enough for all kinds of tourism which, after all, secures 75,000 jobs here.



NEWS

BREATH-TAKING START

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

President Samia Suluhu Hassan's start was breath-taking when she changed the country's approach to coronavirus and media freedom in her first days in office. She allowed pregnant teenage girls to return to school and brought in 6,000 new teachers. Despite having been vice-president since 2015, and having served as a state minister in the previous government, little is known about the private life of the mother of four, who is married to Hafidh Ameir, an agricultural academic. Many people in Zanzibar, however, were touched by a rare video she once posted about herself, saying what she misses most as a politician is "time to cook for my family". Hassan studied public administration in Tanzania and graduated from UK's Manchester University. As deputy chairman of a commission to reform the constitution in 2014, she showed diplomatic prudence – and the calm and authoritative manner that has become her trademark.

Strong role models

Historically, Zanzibari women are strong role models. Even before traders from Arabia, Iran and India visited the archipelago, Zanzibar had its own system of government, and a mythical



Red carpet ladies: President Samia (left) with Kenya's foreign minister Omamo (centre) and bodyguards

woman, Mwana wa Mwana, as a ruler. Strong *dadas* (sisters) emerged also in the entertainment sector. Siti Binti Saad used traditional taarab music to condemn men's abuse of women as early as 1928. When the suffragettes of Europe and the US had just secured equal voting rights, she was recording Swahili protest songs in a studio in Mumbai. A remake by Siti Muharam won a prestigious award in London this year.

Another strong woman: Fatma Abdalhabib Ferej received the "Woman of Courage Award" from the US Embassy in Tanzania in 2013. An astute educator and librarian, Ferej, who turns 60 years in July, was the only woman elected through the ballot box in the 2000 general election. In the current government under President Dr. Hussein Mwinyi, five of 16 ministers are female. Engineer Zena Ahmed Said was appointed Chief Secretary of the government, the first woman to hold that post. An often used Swahili proverb says: "*Mwanamke ni mhubog; popote unapogwa unaoita*" (A woman is like a cassava plant; it takes roots wherever it is placed). Certainly President Samia would appreciate that statement. Just recently she demonstrated her good sense of humour in Kenya by charming the media of the two countries often at odds: "My delegation knows where they can find *nyama choma*, roast meat, here. I am worried some of them may remain behind."

MORE COASTAL PROJECTS AND THE PEOPLE BEHIND THEM



JAMBIANI PLAZA & POMPETTI

The East Coast's first mall in the making. A Hollywood signboard "I love Zanzibar" on the roadside draws commuters not only to stop at Jambiani's first mall but has become a popular holiday motif on Instagram. The plaza with Italian restaurant Pompetti is just what was missing in Jambiani. Owner Christian Pompetti (photo) and his Polish partner Marta Pietkiewicz came on a 14-day-holiday during the pandemic, couldn't leave for six months and decided to invest here. Another great addition is the plaza supermarket with local eco products, the brainchild of the community-minded owners of Jambiani Villas and new Passion Boutique Hotel.



THE NEST

Barefoot luxury holiday. High flying plans have software entrepreneur Ivan Belomorski and partners from Bulgaria (photo). An all-wooden restaurant and jungle gym comes with 17 holiday bungalows in Paje starting at \$300 per night. Belomorski plans science lectures and sport events, too.



PILI PILI

A big-time investor. Four years ago, Polish selfmade man Wojtek Zabinski came to Zanzibar on holiday and bought a small beach house. In the last two years his Pili Pili company has acquired 11 hotels and is constructing the largest family apartment resort at the East Coast. "Will soon have 1500 beds."

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MIND MY BUSINESS

LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

THE NEW "IT"-BAG FROM AFRICA

The women's co-operative Moto (Swahili for fire) has existed for 20 years. Their new bags are indeed as "hot as fire."

Rafia bags with fringes are in fashion all over the world. A co-operative from Pete has created some great models made from palm stripes, now on sale in Zanzibar. Moto's history began 20 years ago, when a German development worker, Antje Förstle, encouraged the local mat weavers to start producing mkekas and bags not only for their own day-to-day use but for sale to tourists. "She taught the villagers basic marketing strategies

and slowly built up the production of the hand-made products with them," says Dida, the sympathetic and self-confident manager of Moto, who is 24 years old and currently studying for his business degree at Zanzibar University. Baskets, bags and carpets are made from palm stripes, which are harvested, dried, dyed (using only natural dyes) and woven on site. Depending on the size, it takes about a week until one high-quality product, made with traditional patterns, is finished. "It's a real artisanal skill", says Dida.

The co-operative also weaves blankets. Cotton is bought from the mainland and made into wonderful soft blankets with amazing colours. Over the years the business has grown and more people in more villages have become involved. At the moment, says Dida, about 200

workers, mainly but not only women, make a living with Moto Zanzibar in ten villages around Peti near Jozani Forest, where the workshop is located. Eco soaps and jams are also made here.

All of it can be bought at the Moto Zanzibar store in Stone Town, on Hurumzi street. 50 per cent of the proceeds are invested, and the other half goes directly to the villagers. Whoever buys here does not only get durable commodities but supports sustainable and ecological production. Moto stands for the fact that the palm trees around Peti, which are used for the production, would probably have fallen victim to slash-and-burn practices if the people here had not found another possibility to live from their handiwork with a real perspective. The production sites in and around Peti can be visited on a

guided tour; and there is a small craft museum there - it's well worth it! *Angelika Dubiel*



Fringed boho bags (left) are the latest in fashion; now also by Zanzibar's Moto co-operative

Moto
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 Contact shop Hurumzi street:
 +255 779 388 254
 Contact workshop Pete:
 +255 773 031 178
 online shop:
motozanzibar.wordpress.com/

PHOTOS: CPS, MOTO/TAPPER

WELCOME NOTE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FUMBA TIMES!



Andrea Tapper
Editor-in-chief
THE FUMBA TIMES

Our media baby is up and running. When THE FUMBA TIMES appeared on the scene exactly two years ago, a lifestyle newspaper from and about Zanzibar was unheard of. By now we reach 50,000 readers in 57 countries - among them you, our dear reader. When we started our gazette we purposely wanted it to be an "old-fashioned newspaper" - but with a modern outlook and punching stories. A paper you'd find on your doorstep in Fumba Town or in your mailbox in Switzerland.

I am so pleased whenever I hear from readers how excited they are to receive local news from Zanzibar at home. Like the sound of an African drum, news travels fast and far.

Times have changed dramatically since we started. Nobody could foresee the monumental pandemic, hopefully in retreat now. Read about its - quite surprising - implications for the island on page 3. Another story dear to me is the "golden

visa" report on page 2. We strongly feel Zanzibar should grant such visas!

For the first time ever, the country is ruled by a female president. Researching Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan's astonishing personality led our local editor Hissham Abdulkadir to more power women on the island, whom you meet in several stories in this edition, including our joyful Wedding Special. How uplifting to read that even in corona times "love is not cancelled!"

Last but not least, our Fumba Town has never been more lush. Explore the secret of its green abundance in our cover story, a stunning urban permaculture success resonating beyond Africa.

Unparalleled times, unprecedented coverage - this is how our big media sister, The New York Times, advertises itself. A tiny fraction of that claim we'd like to share, thanking you, dear reader, for your continued trust and interest. Happy Birthday, Fumba Times!

GUEST COMMENT

WORKING IN PARADISE? JUST RELAX!



Psychologist and part-time Zanzibar resident Ryan Sullivan, 45, from Canada about "working in paradise" (sometimes too hard)

"Distraction is not going to find you, you need to go and find it"

Zanzibar's appeal is undeniable. Turquoise waters, ideal wind conditions for kitesurfing, a vibrant local culture, restaurants and hotels. Yet one of the most common narratives from those who live in Zanzibar is about "getting away", travelling to a different place to find peace and solace. People working here often feel they have to leave the island to truly relax or practice self-care. An interesting paradox for one of the world's fastest growing holiday destinations, isn't it?

Some return to their home villages on the mainland to be with family, others travel farther to their home countries. Some escape to Dubai or Mauritius for a holiday. But the global pandemic has changed that - even for Zanzibar, a place with relatively few travel restrictions. One local hotel owner who travelled last in December described her holiday to me as "beautiful and terrifying", a poignant tribute to how comfort with travel has been shaken. So, how can you support your wellbeing at home in Zanzibar, even when you are the one working where others spend their holiday? My advice in three steps: Put some time, money, and energy into

making your place a place you want to be. This statement from a local kitesurfing instructor was surprising at first, but indeed more than a place to hang your hat, your home should be a comfort zone where you can forget your worries. Cultivate things in your place that distract you from work. During Corona your home had become a place of comfort; start building joyful distractions into your daily routine. One 47-year-old teacher living in Dar es Salaam deepened her cooking skills, and joined a painting class. Distraction is not going to find you, you need to go and find it.

Focus your interests! Yoga, walking, a book reading club, evening swims or meditation... wherever your path to fitness and mindful hobbies leads you, it is a road worth taking. Sometimes your interests and hobbies just need a sharper focus. I diversified my play therapy to include child yoga, a decision that has benefitted my own wellbeing and the wellbeing of those with whom I work. If the saying is right that "we have made it to the life raft, but dry land is far away", our well-being might very well depend on how well we can paddle.

Ryan Sullivan has a MA in counselling psychology and currently works as a primary school counsellor in Angola. He developed curricula for international schools in China, Tanzania and Angola. He and his family return to Zanzibar every year and are residents-to-be in THE SOUL project. rsullivan1975@gmail.com

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CARTOON



"I LOVE NATURE" by Abdull Kitumbi / Art Lovers

TRAVEL IN COVID TIMES

When the world stood still, Zanzibar was wide open. Now that the world is slowly opening up, Zanzibar has introduced testing. What's next? Prominent island voices share their assessments and outlooks.

What's next?
Julia Bishop, Vice Chair, Zanzibar Association of Tourism Investors (ZATI):

Many will agree, that Zanzibar has just had five months of economic salvation. Tanzania kept its borders open to flights from Russia and Eastern Europe. We were about the only winter destination they could travel to. We welcomed anyone from anywhere, no questions asked. Controversial it may have been, but it paid off. Our arrival statistics were almost as good as in pre-pandemic times - a decrease of mere seven per cent while other holiday destinations the world over lost up to 90 per cent! The mainland also benefited a little from the Zanzibar boom, as the normal tide of bush to beach traffic turned the other way. Then, as expected, Eastern Europe deserted us to return to their previous shorter-haul, routes in North Africa and the East. What's next?

With new leadership came a shift of policy. What we see happening now is definitely heartening: a short-term pain - Covid tests required to enter - is a long-term gain. Tanzania is no longer the un-compliant country. That may eventually even take us off the global travel "red lists". Caught up in their various domestic pandemic dramas, many countries are not yet ready to let their citizens travel widely. The normal charters from Italy, Belgium and Germany are not yet operating. As vaccine rollout progresses we could expect to be optimistic. Are bookings coming? Are we on the brink of a tsunami of travel-starved last-minute tourists? I have the feeling that if there is to be a tourism summer 2021 here, it may be later than usual - beginning in July/August, building in September, culminating in a triumphant Christmas and New Year 2022.

GIVE US A HYPER MARKET!



Hi there, Fumba Town, we love your newspaper, but when are you going to open a commercial centre in Fumba? A top-notch hyper market is utterly needed in Zanzibar with utensils from food to tools, from deco to furniture, just a complete range of quality household, building and lifestyle stuff. This in combination with a lovely restaurant would bring the whole island over to Fumba on shopping trips, and get you lots of new clients. I am 100% certain of that. We would certainly come over even from north coast. We are so tired of driving to Darajani for any single bulb.

David Beqa and family,
Spanish Dancer Divers, Nungwi



Ahhhh - flying high again! Turkish Airlines crossing Mt. Kilimanjaro

What hoteliers say

Andrea Kwonwa, *laxury Zuri Resort, Nungwi*: "Half of our capacity is sold, many re-bookings from previous year. Looks like high-end Russians have moved to Seychelles. Europe is slowly waking up." - Anwar Beiser, *mid-range Blue Oyster Hotel, Jambiani*: "So far only 10% bookings for July and August, we are patient and wait for "Last Minutes". We strongly support the new Covid-19 rules in Zanzibar." - Leonie Kaack, *Budget New Teddy's on the Beach*: "I am sure we'll be full from July. Even May was good."

142,263
tourists in Zanzibar, Jan-March '21

Best flights to Zanzibar

Andrea Tapper, *editor THE FUMBA TIMES*: "Newcomers like Euroings Discover, a subsidiary of Lufthansa, is digging into East Africa. First flight scheduled for 24 July '21, it will continue twice weekly. Trusted and reliable classics such as Turkish Airlines, Ethiopian and Qatar fly to and from Zanzibar and did so during most of the pandemic. While every frequent flyer will have his favourites, Covid-19 was an additional stress test: safety, easy refunds, seating comfort?"

IMPERIALISTIC ATTITUDE?

Dear Editor,
I found your guest comment "From Moscow with love" by Russian journalist Ingrid Kim (FT 07) very insightful. But I have some issues with it. Travelling to a country and avoiding to take precautions (such as tests before entering) when we are living in a pandemic is not only irresponsible but imperialistic, especially when you're travelling to an African country as a white Westerner. Of course you only travel when you're healthy, but we all know that you can carry the virus without any symptoms. A tourist will be able to get the best healthcare in case he gets sick, for a lot of Tanzanians this is not the case.

Anna Schubert, film producer

LOOKS AMAZING

Thank you for your article on Kupuga Villas. It looks amazing as well the rest of the paper. It is not lost on us how much work goes into delivering such a newspaper. Come over for a relaxing Kupuga cocktail any time!

Inés Gallala, Kupuga Villas, Jambiani

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

SUPER EXCITED

Due to the pandemic we missed out on a few issues of THE FUMBA TIMES. The happier we were when we received the latest and all the back issues recently. We are always super excited to get your informative and entertaining paper. We love to know what's going on in Zanzibar.

M. Khamis, Fumba investor, Dubai



Nothing beats a wedding on a tropical beach. A ceremony with an XL-romantic factor, sunshine guaranteed. Read here why destination weddings in Zanzibar are especially magic. Discover the secrets of a traditional Zanzibari wedding, and sensual African beauty secrets for the best day of your life.

A jump of joy by maasai as your wedding gift - that is Zanzibar! Say Yes in western fashion (top right) or traditionally (bottom right)

Pamela remembers the wedding of Liz and Marc as if it were yesterday. A real cosmopolitan couple, Liz was from the US, Marc from Lebanon, living in Tokyo. Liz climbed Mt Kilimanjaro with her sister before the big date. Instead of a bridal shower she had a joyous ladies gathering at Upendo Beach Club. Then arrived Khalid and Emily from Dubai, a different couple, a totally different wedding. Just the two of them travelled to Zanzibar to tie the knot. "On the day of the wedding, I met them coming from a swim in the Indian Ocean", Pam Matthews recalls. "They were totally chilled; the wedding was magic."

Pamela Matthews, 47, is one of Zanzibar's best-known wedding planners. "After moving from the UK to Zanzibar ten years

ago, and having my own island wedding here, I'm still in love with this beautiful island", she says. Having organised more than two dozens of international weddings with her company Castaway Weddings, she knows the challenges ("wind after getting a \$200 hairdo") and merits ("your family and friends will simply love it here"). She has arranged ceremonies with buzzing parties for hundreds of guests, and intimate two-some-events for the couple only. "We also find witnesses for the nuptials, if necessary", she assures. Registrar Mohammed Kally, 43, one of three marriage government officials in Zanzibar town, promises: "We travel to wherever the couple wants it." His biggest challenge so far? "Certainly sandbank weddings", he says, "crossing over by boat can be quite shaky. We have learnt to hold on to the wedding documents no matter what." The

registrar fee for foreigners starting at \$450 in Zanzibar seems extremely high but is included in most arrangements.

Surprisingly, far-away weddings are less costly than at home. "Guests usually pay partly for themselves, like the ticket and the hotel", explains planner Pamela. In return couples are offered "experiences": lunch on arrival, a celebratory sailing cruise a day after the event. The honeymoon is practically included when couples continue with a dream vacation right after exchanging vows - the combination is called "weddingmoon". Zanzibar weddings are popular with 25-55 year old; the "older ones often bring their children", Pamela says. Cultural specialties such as henna ornaments for the bride (see reports on the next page) or locations like a former Sultan's palace are highly cherished.

"High expectations can be a challenge", knows Ash, 29, a local photographer who took the wedding photo with maasai above "Every couple wants this moment to be unique, sometimes they even wonder, why there are other people on the beach. But the beach is a public place in Zanzibar" He's got a joke prepared to get heart-warming smiles from nervous sweethearts: "Pretend to love each other." Even corona did not break the wedding mood in Zanzibar. "Love is not cancelled", one couple happily commented. Stone Town photographer Robin Batista, 45, who photographed more than 500 weddings in 16 years, says some of "his" couples return for anniversaries: "We've become friends." Each year half a million destination weddings are held all over the world, according to the US website destinationweddings.com.

Bahamas, Hawaii, Jamaica, Mexico and ... Zanzibar!

In the last couple of years the African island has manoeuvred itself into the ranks of hot wedding destinations. A vibrant culture, friendly people, great beaches and hotels, mystical ancient palaces and an exotic cuisine make the spice island a unique wedding spot. "Feet in the sand and your nearest and dearest casually around you", says Pamela Matthews who is still passionate about her job: "You feel the love all around you, it's overwhelming." Dating back to the 60s, destination weddings are known (and loved) for their sheer simplicity and natural beauty. Over the years, they have gone from a trend to a staple.

Consult the pros! "For a destination wedding, you'll want to consult the pros", advises women magazine Harper's Bazaar - if only to avoid the 250 hours that the average couple spends on wedding planning", says Pamela Matthews. Ideal preparation time is three to six months. On the beach everything goes: A Korean couple exchanged roses for colourful bougainvillea. Short trousers for the groom are "totally acceptable", says Pamela. As casual - or formal - as you want it, a tropical wedding in Zanzibar is a true fairy tale.

Andrea Tapper

More information:
Castawayweddings.com
Theknot.com
Marthastewart.com



Wedding planner Pamela Matthews: "Joyful job"

CIVIL WEDDING - WHAT YOU NEED:

- To be on the island two days prior to wedding date
- Marriage application letter, signed by both parties
- Certificate of no impediment
- Copies of passports & birth certificates
- Proof of photos for visas/government offices
- Passport photos for various government offices

Note: subject to change; enquire beforehand

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Festive table in a tropical garden: a reception organised by Pamela Matthews

PHOTOS BY: ASH GALLERY / CASTAWAY WEDDINGS



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THE BRIDE MAKER

Beautician Muna knows all the secrets of a happy bride and groom

By Andrea Tapper

Muna has led more than 150 young Zanzibari women to a career with her „Muna Beauty Academy“. Bridal looks are her specialty.

In her official company photo she looks like Audrey Hepburn. When you see Munwar Suleiman Mbarouk, known to everybody simply as Muna, teaching young students at her academy, she still looks beautiful but certainly not like Audrey Hepburn. This transformation from good-looking to super star appeal, from ordinary to extraordinary, is Muna's best-kept business secret. The 44-year-old mother of two has not only carved a successful business and a thriving salon in Kikwajuni out of her skills with but gone further. A dedicated modern Muslim woman she felt "obliged to give back", as Muna puts it herself. "Young girls need to be able to stand on their own feet. They need a job, a profession, an existence", she says. And that's exactly what Muna is giving them. Since she opened her "Muna Beauty Academy" in 2013 with her own funds and without any government support, more than 150 young Zanzibari women have received diplomas here. Three-month courses have qualified them as make-up beauticians, hairdressers or in henna applications, an ancient and much-loved oriental tradition in Zanzibar - a must for any wedding. "Henna is ngumo". Swahili for tough,

says Muna. Red or black filigree ornaments are applied on a female's feet, hands or anywhere she wants it. But there's also the challenge of allergies. "We do a test 24 hours before any session", says Muna. What's so special about the natural dye? Why do Zanzibari women love it so much? "It is meant to attract your husband."

A career in beauty is ideal for many Zanzibari women. "Some have dropped out of school, not because they are stupid but because of life situations", says Muna. Others are happy to be able to work from home - for similar reasons. Everybody knows Muna in town. Her women clients come from politics and commerce, from elite and normal families, and as any decent salon all over the world it's a gossip and networking hub par excellence. But, since it's Muna's, it's also a place where women do really help each other when in need. Talking of beauty skills, Muna is unparalleled. "Of course it's possible to change a face or lip contour with make-up", she says when I ask her why all her brides look totally different after her treatment. And why the rigid look, with layers and layers of make-up, false eyelashes, tons of eye-shadow and Cleopatra eyeliner? "Well, we like it dramatic", says Muna and laughs.



Picture perfect: Munwar Mbarouk is a strong role model for her students



Bridal looks: Turquoise and green gowns are high in demand for Muslim weddings (top photo), but white lace dresses are also wearable (photo to left). Students at Muna's academy (bottom photo) take three-month-courses to learn all the tricks



The singo secret
One week before a Zanzibari girl marries, she undergoes a daily scrub of her skin, the singo massage. The scrub is prepared from jasmine, ylang ylang, rose petals and sandalwood combined with rose water, all mixed in a local blender; the bride lies on a traditional mkeka mat when it is applied. This is repeated until her skin is soft as silk. The groom, too, gets a massage, made of coconut oil

and cloves, supposed to render stamina. Both woman and man are shaved from head to toe. Singo and other loving treats, such as preparing your husband's bath water with jasmine and lavender, are common rituals in happy Zanzibari marriages, says Muna. "We even have special ladies called *munge* or *bibi ya harusi* to teach young women (and men) before getting married about the do's and don'ts in a hopefully long lasting relationship. They also have suggestions how to pamper your spouse." These women are like marriage counselors in a traditional way. "Zanzibari women are generous with pleasures," Muna goes on to say with a smile, "they know every trick in the book. But they also do know how to withhold their favours if a man's conduct is questionable or not to their liking."

WHAT'S IN FASHION?



Intricate „up-do“ hairstyles take hours to prepare

Nude is cute! Beige lipsticks have replaced shrill colours



Must-have: handmade Amouage perfume from Oman

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Register to bid via the auction page: www.forster-gallery.com

SERENA HOTEL

IN LOVE WITH TRADITION

How Zanzibaris celebrate *harusi* - lots of guests are a must

By Itika Killembé

Zanzibari Muslim weddings often come with a lot of impressive things, including staggering traditions and rituals. These rituals are spread out, and grouped into three phases: pre-wedding, during the wedding, and post-wedding. Although it sounds quite formal, the ceremony is actually one of the most exciting and colourful weddings in the world. No expense is spared in making it memorable for the bride and groom, as well as their families and guests. One can see the most beautiful wedding dresses with intricate hand embroidery and beautiful designs patterns. Food is rich with flavours and aroma. Every *harusi* (Swahili for wedding) is highly cultural, and differs from family to family but there are some commonalities.

Why do men and women celebrate separately?

Zanzibari wedding receptions will likely have some form of separation, but to different degrees. There might be separate rooms for men and women to celebrate, a partition within the reception venue, or men and women might simply be grouped at different tables. "Mingling between genders is generally frowned upon", says Faridi Hamid Fazach, journalist and cultural expert from Zanzibar. "But since men and women socialise quite casually among themselves, both genders feel a sense of freedom in doing so", Faridi maintains. With a bit of irony he advises Western visitors invited to a traditional *harusi*: "You might need to re-train your reflex to make new friends on the reception dance floor."

What about the costs?

A Muslim husband has to agree a financial deal with his prospective wife before marriage. Often it is a lumpsum of money that the bride decides. Or she may ask for a trip, gold, or anything she wishes. The *mahr* is symbolic of the man's responsibility to take care of his wife. If the bride later seeks a divorce without the husband's approval, she re-



PHOTOS ©: ASH GALLERY/ITIKA KILLEMBE



There is no too much in Zanzibar: henna, crown, veil, jewels - let's go!

able to reject possible suitors without embarrassment. In any case: Times are changing in Zanzibar, too. One only has to take one look at the dating scene of youngsters every night in Forodhani park, to realise that they have already taken the liberty to get to know each other in their own hands.

What is *nikah*?

Nikah - the main ritual in a Muslim wedding the world over - is a ceremony taking place in front of the Imam. Two witnesses are present, just like during civil and Christian weddings. Normally, the ceremony consists of readings from the Qur'an, and the exchange of vows. The reception afterwards in Zanzibar is often lavish, and tradition meets style. But it can also be a more simple yet formal get-together in a family backyard where half the village gets invited and the guests may receive take-away food boxes. The couple often presents itself to friends and family in a stage-like setting. More affluent families throw themed celebrations with seated lunch or dinner in different locations for three days. Pre-*nikah* rituals are celebrated before the big event among women in the bride's family home, and for men at the groom's house - and can be, just as bachelor and bachelorette parties, quite full of mischief.

STAYING FIT IN FUMBA

Join our outdoor classes twice a week

PHOTOS ©: MSOMA FITNESS



Fit for fun: evening training in Fumba on the rooftop of an apartment house; instructor Ahmed Msoma (right)

By Tatjana Wenzl

Rooftop exercising is hip in New York - and in Fumba Town. Come and join the fun!

As the day slowly turns into evening in Fumba Town, you will see residents returning from work, mothers calling their children back home from playing outdoors. And on two evenings per week you will find a group of people emerging on the rooftop of one of the apartment buildings facing the sea. With views of yet another stunning sunset casting golden light over the Indian Ocean and the sound of afro beats, this

group has come together to end their day with a "Fumba Sports Group" session, led by professional fitness instructor Ahmed Msoma.

"People often think I lift a lot of weights, but it is entirely the opposite", he says. "I train myself and clients with body weight only. Get fit anywhere anytime, no equipment or gym needed, that's my philosophy." This proves true especially in Fumba, where shaded pathways lend themselves perfectly to go for a walk or a bike ride. The town is designed to encourage its residents to be outdoors, to enjoy the fresh air and move freely without needing a car. Some join the rooftop classes not only for physical fit-

ness. "Challenging myself with different movements keeps my brain active and makes me feel more creative", said one member.

Msoma, a master in martial arts, proudly carries the honorary title *sensei* and has participated in many international tournaments. But in his classes there is no competition.

"Fitness keeps my brain active"

"I want to bring out the best in each individual, regardless of their level of fitness", the 37-year-old instructor says. Being one of only a few professional personal trainers on the island, he has another concern: "A growing

number of sports classes lack know-how. Be mindful in whose hands you put your physical wellbeing", he advises. "Anything else might not be safe."

In his hands, in Fumba, a diverse group of people feels confident. "You'll see a 50-plus breaking a sweat between a determined mother of two and an endlessly energetic youngster. It gives me a sense of community to get through a class together". If you ask yourself if the organic solutions kill bacteria and germs properly, a German university recently proved that vinegar and citrus blends (above 12%) are as disinfectant as chemical solutions. Here my tested home recipes that I'd like to share with you. Don't forget to label your organic dirt killer!

Window cleaner
One of the following mixtures can be used:
1/2 cup white vinegar, 4 litres water (2 tablespoons vinegar to 1 litres water) or 3 tablespoons denatured alcohol (from pharmacy) to 1 liter water
Place in a spray bottle, label and use. Use old newspaper to wipe and remove streaks.

Laundry Stain Removal
Mix 1/3 cup water, 1/3 cup liquid detergent, 1/3 cup ammonia (available in pharmacy). To use, spray directly on stain and let soak before washing in the washing machine as normal.

All-purpose cleaner/Bug spray
Place two handfuls of orange peel (can be had for free along roadsides or the local market) in a jar and cover with white vinegar. Soak for two weeks. Strain and place in spray bottles. Spray on surfaces to clean and to deter bugs specially ants!

Shower spray
1/3 cup rubbing alcohol, one cup water. Mix in a spray bottle, shake. Spray on. No rinsing required.

#togetherwreagreener, MissB

BEST MOVES FOR ALL AGES



Personal training: "Be aware of amateur teachers", warns Msoma

0-18 years:

Instil a love for movement in your kids from an early age. Sign them up for classes to learn teamwork and discipline. Moving should be second nature to give them a healthy foundation for the rest of their lives.

20-plus:

Find a reason to stand up every hour and do gentle stretches. Walk for 30 minutes per day minimum to keep your body agile, 1 hour cardio and strength training at least 3 times a week to maintain energy and strength levels.

40-plus:

Maintain muscle health with strength-based workouts 3 times a week. Go for walks or bike rides daily to keep your body agile and active.

60-plus:

Moderate exercise such as walking, swimming or yoga on a daily basis will safeguard your joints and contribute to a healthy mind and body. Join special senior group classes to keep social and active.



ASK DR. JENNY BOURAIMA

READERS' QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY OUR OWN MEDICAL EXPERT

MY SKIN LOOKS DULL AND TIRED, WHAT CAN I DO?

Jamima P., 53, Zanzibar City

Dear Dr. Jenny and Dr. Albane, I am 53 years old, come from Palestine and have been working and living in Zanzibar for the last 15 years. I find my skin looks dull and tired, I have droopy eyes. What can your cosmetic department recommend?

Dr. Albane Bienaimé answers:

Dear Jamima, the first and foremost thing to do is to protect your skin from aggression. The main issues are UV radiation and daylight, and also air pollution. Air pollution is very low in Zanzibar, so we need to focus on sun protection.

Be a shady girl!

The basic rule is to always place yourself in the shade and to cover your skin as much as possible. In that sense Zanzibari women know exactly what

to do! Use sun cream with SPF 30 and above. The necessity of skin protection depends a lot on the skin tone. Dark skins are naturally protected against UV and don't need daily sun cream, except if you plan to spend the day outside. For fair skins, the risk is much higher. If you spend too much time in the sun you will eventually experience wrinkles, pigmentation disorders and in the worst-case scenario skin cancer.

Daily skin care routine...

...depends on your skin type. If you have a dry skin, you will use richer products than if you have an oily skin. The basis is to wash your face twice daily with a gentle soap bar or cleanser adapted to your skin type. In the morning you could apply cosmetics with Vitamin C for its antioxidant effect, and a moisturizer. In the evening, apply a richer cream depending on specific needs of your skin. Your dermatologist may prescribe retinoic acid twice weekly. It is a key anti-aging agent. Against open pores, try a cream with glycolic acid 5% and over.

Botox and fillers - any good?

I offer correcting treatments such as Botox and fillers. Botox is mainly used to treat lines on the forehead. It numbs the muscles and usually lasts four to six months. Fillers are used to fill up

the folds and creases of the face (so-called "valley of tears" and "sadness folds") and also to reshape the face, restore the volume (for example the cheek bones) and treat the jaw line. This treatment will be renewed every year if you need. Both methods are now well established. To correct the complexion, I propose a course of chemical peels. Plasma rich platelets are to date the best preventive treatment, recommended at any age. It can be done together with multivitamin mesotherapy.

Against droopy eyes

A minor procedure called blepharoplasty will change your life. It removes excess skin which has developed over your upper eyelid. On the lower eyelid, the blepharoplasty will remove the fat bags. It can be done at any age.

Face-lift in the tropics?

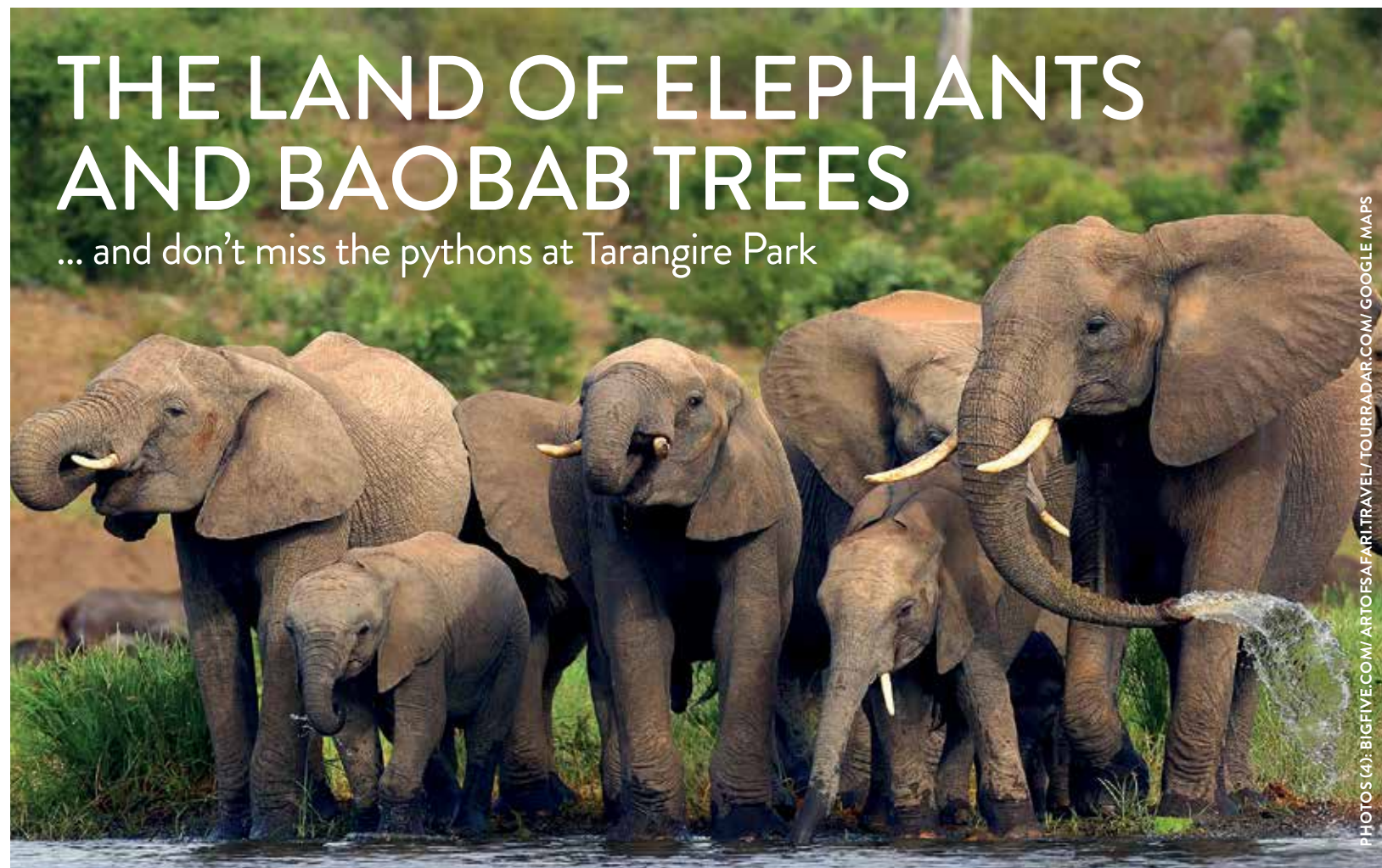
For loose skin on the jaw line, threads have a lift-up effect. This is a safe and easy technique which lasts usually two years. If a more permanent effect is desired, I propose a mini face-lift, now done as a minor procedure in one hour. It is not different than in other places in the world as the products used come from Europe. I was trained and have qualified in France where cosmetic surgery is at its best.



PHOTOS ©: URBAN CARE/ISTOCK

SEE THE BEAUTY DOCTOR!

Contact us on +255 622 820 011 or contact@urbancares.com for an appointment with dermatologist and cosmetic surgeon Dr. Albane Bienaimé at Urban Care in Fumba Town. The French specialist is available in Dr. Jenny Bouraima's clinic every fortnight while continuing her activities in Paris as well as in Dar es Salaam. Dr. Albane Bienaimé 400 Tour Drive, Masaki, Dar Es Salaam, Tel: +255 759 968 186 <https://www.instagram.com/dr.albane/> <https://www.facebook.com/dr.albane/>



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THE LAND OF ELEPHANTS AND BAOBAB TREES

... and don't miss the pythons at Tarangire Park

Tarangire national park near Arusha: Best visiting time is the dry season between June and October

By Athanas Lupatu

Tarangire is neither the Serengeti, nor the Masai Mara. But the seasonal national park in northern Tanzania showcases a spectacular mini migration during the current dry season – and lots and lots of elephants.

We had just arrived when the spectacle started: large numbers of elephant herds of about 300 individuals per herd digging the dry riverbed of Tarangire River in



Zebras galore: "At 50 we stopped counting"

search for underground streams of water to quench their thirst. Our guide John told us that Tarangire National Park is internationally recognised for its large elephant population and high density of baobab trees. As a matter of fact it holds the record of having the highest population of elephants in the whole of Tanzania, and the oldest known elephant to give birth to twins is found here. Upon entering the park in the Manyara region we were immediately captivated by the beauty and variety of wildlife the area has to offer. We visited the park with my wife and our four-year-old twin daughters and it was well worth our time. The park, covering an area of approximately 2,850 square kilometres in the northern part of Tanzania, originates from the Tarangire River that crosses through the park.

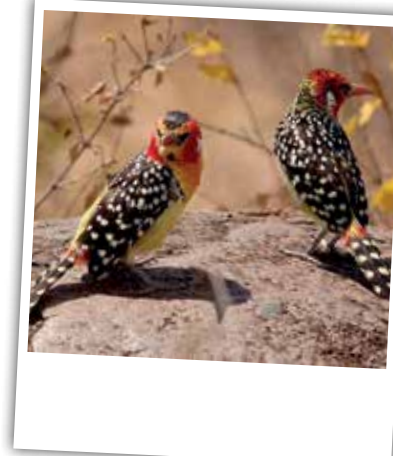
Tarangire is home to a large number of wildlife and a remarkable mini migration of wildebeests and zebras that takes

place during the dry season which sees about 250,000 animals enter the area from the surrounding wet season dispersal. The landscape consists of granitic ridges, river valleys and swamps. It is also famous for the termite mounds that dot the land. Vegetation is a mix of acacia woodland, seasonally flooded grassland, and indeed many, many baobabs. In 2015 a giraffe that is white due to leucism was spotted in the park.

A seasonal park running dry

We were lucky to catch the wildlife migration during our visit. Due to it being a seasonal park a lot of wildlife movement can be seen in its ecosystem in the dry season between June and October, when the park has just a few surviving water sources. This attracts large herds of different animals that move into the river. With our most knowledgeable guide and driver John Silayo we witnessed a spectacular movement of wildebeest, gazelles, zebras and other predators like lions and leopards. It was now approaching evening and we decided to end our first day tour and head back to the hotel.

On the second day, John suggested we do a bird watching activity. He explained that Tarangire has over 550 different bird species that are housed within the swamps and spread over Tarangire. Some of the popular species that we got to see included the crested francolins, hoopoes, yellow necked spurfowl, hornbills, brown parrots and the gigantic lappet-faced vulture. We saw birds I had never even heard of. We especially enjoyed watching the yellow-collared lovebirds kiss and spend time besides each other on top of a tree. A real birdwatchers delight!



Birdwatchers' delight: red and yellow barbet

Ever seen a python?

The swamps are a real highlight of the park. It is an extensive wet network mainly found in the southern and eastern parts of Tarangire. In awe we encountered tree-climbing pythons, si-

Maasai villagers gave us food for thought

lale-swamp lions and African wild dogs. We were all frightened but John told us there was nothing to worry about as the pythons were already full and couldn't harm us. Pythons can go up to 30 days without eating. At a *maasai* village nearby, young warriors welcomed us with open arms. They prepared a beef barbecue and milk, which I must say was surprisingly delicious. Telling us ancient stories of their forefathers and how they managed to keep their tradition alive we gently dozed off around the fireplace.

No jealousy among maasai

One Maasai tradition my family found especially interesting is that if a husband leaves his wife at home to go herding and another Maasai man comes to visit his house and places his stick outside the house, once the husband returns from herding he can't enter the house until the male guest is gone. That of course left us with many questions in our heads. What if the guest is cheating with the man's wife? Our fireplace storytellers insisted "that must remain a secret between the two and the husband is not allowed to react because of tradition". I personally wouldn't quite agree but it was certainly some food for thought.



Freelancer Athanas Lupatu from Dar es Salaam writes about economy, lifestyle and travel

SAFARI AND SWIM!



Acomodation with a pool: Lovely Ngorongoro Farm House

Getting to Tarangire:

Tarangire can be accessed by either air or road. Charter flights from Zanzibar to Arusha, then to Serengeti and finally to Tarangire. A road trip from Arusha to the Tarangire entrance gate takes about two hours of which only seven km are on a non-tarred road.



Tarangire: 2 hours from Arusha

What to take:

Keep in mind that charter flights have weight restrictions, so pack lightly; gumboots and solid shoes turned out helpful. Swimming costume for the lodge.

Best package:

Tarangire & Manyara, 2 nights, 3 days, private 4x4, fullboard/overnight Ngorongoro Farm House (photo), pick-up/drop-off at Arusha, \$470 p.p. rickshawtravels.com

HISTORY SHOPPING

Handmade jewellery, art and sweets at "East African Merchants"



Tanzanian born jeweller Alexander makes fashionable elastic Tanzanite bracelets

The location is symbolic. In the freshly renovated building of the popular "Livingstone" beach restaurant, a new sophisticated gallery-like boutique promises more than shopping. "We want to give customers a cultural experience", says owner Alexander Mantheakis, 28, son of a well-known jewellery family in Tanzania. His Greek-French parents own the Lythos jewellery shop at the Hyatt.

Enter the artfully restored ground floor at "Merchants" and you will be greeted by an original African map, signed by no less than David Livingstone. The legendary explorer came to the landmarked building, the former British Consulate, several times – on his last journey in 1873 his dead body lay in state here before be-

ing transferred to England, while his heart was buried in Zambia. Tanzanian-born Alexander sells an unusual combination of products at his shop: exquisite organic food such as nuts, chocolate and tea plus shiny jewellery, gem stones and art. It's all a bit less formal than at the Hyatt. Elastic or Makramee Tanzanite bracelets (from \$50) are a fashionable take on a local gem. Stone sculptures of ruby and rose quartz stem from the family-owned artisan mine in Dodoma. "From mining to designing, everything is done by us", the 28-year-old says. One can learn a lot about gem stones in his cosy, artfully decorated place. Alexander is planning art exhibitions and vernissages. Watch out for them!

East African Merchants, Kenyatta Road, Stone Town

JUST DISCOVERED MASA RESTAURANT



Sushi professionally done and presented

SUSHI FOR ALL

How to make a decent sushi in Zanzibar? Jiro Maekawa of Masa Japanese restaurant shares his tricks with THE FUMBA TIMES.

A favourite of mine from the start four years ago, Zanzibar's best mid-price Japanese restaurant is located on the terrace of the colonial (still operating) post office. I rediscovered it during corona and found that Masa has even improved its simple but immaculate interiors. It convinces with its trusted recipes and well trained staff. Certainly, although competition is growing, one still finds the best sushi, beef dumplings and seafood noodles in town here. All this is thanks to Jiro Maekawa, of course, a young urban Japanese chef from Kobe, who came out to Zanzibar with his wife after a stint in Ethiopia. Three kids and several years later, Maekawa has established a loyal clientele lunching and dining at Masa, whether expat or local. Tourists, too, love the place with the big outdoor terrace after sightseeing in Stone Town or at night.

Love your customers!

The biggest challenge? "To maintain food quality without quality supermarkets or suppliers", says Maekawa, who buys his fish directly from fishermen. He imports salmon from Norway, finds his soja sauce and fresh ginger at Darajani market. "Customer care is very important", the 34 year old maintains. Sitting down at a table I am being attended to immediately, and the waitress, dressed in a pretty Kitenge uniform, remembers which wine I prefer. "We have been with most of our staff since the beginning", Jiro Maekawa says. My rock lobster sushi roll is tender, the beef dumplings to die for. I order my favourites which I almost always take: mixed tempura (crisp, not oily), miso soup and a glass of ice-cold chardonnay. This time Jiro makes me try his Masa dragon roll with smoked salmon in an avocado shell

(rich and tasty), and a crazy salmon cheese with cheddar melted on the grill (interesting, but I'm not a cheese fan...). A group of young men with a big appetites enjoys large portions of beef fried rice and Teriyaki chicken. Jiro sits down with me and is ready to share his tips, but not before giving a big thumbs up "to the people of Zanzibar for supporting us during the entire corona year with their home orders." A.Tapper

Six sushi secrets for Zanzibar

- 1 Recognise quality fish by a rather hard body, fresh colour and pinkish gills
- 2 Best sushi fish? Tuna, salmon
- 3 Making sour ginger: slice and boil fresh ginger. Marinate in vinegar, sugar & salt for ½ day
- 4 Cut the fish by slicing it AGAINST the grain in one movement, then cut it into thin pieces
- 5 Fresh is best but you can use frozen fish for two-three days. When freezing your own fish: Cut a whole fresh tuna with the skin first in half, then in four pieces. Wrap these in a serviette and plastic to freeze. Remove skin and cut in small pieces just before preparing
- 6 Japanese eat sushi for lunch or dinner, or as a starter



Beautiful location: Masa restaurant at the old Post Office

Masa Restaurant, 1st floor Shangani post office, Kenyatta Rd, Stone Town, restaurant, take-away and delivery till 10 pm, Ph. +255 624 598 151



Master chef Jiro Maekawa amidst his faithful staff

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