

ROTARY ZANZIBAR
“NOT EXPATS IN AN IVORY TOWER”
 PAGE 02 | NEWS



ARTISANS
CREATIVES ON THE MOVE
 PAGE 5 | PEOPLE



ADVENTURE
BY BIKE TROUGH TANZANIA
 PAGE 08 | WORLD



PHOTOS (3): KEEGAN CHECKS, CHANTAL (CPS)

Small in space, big in functionality: Every inch and corner of the new Fumba studios – available also unfurnished – can be intelligently equipped with lots of built-in storage space

FUMBA FOR EVERYBODY

Beautiful homes even on a tight budget - studio rentals from \$150

Living light is the new buzzword in Zanzibar. Affordable rentals in a clean and safe environment are attracting more and more people to the growing seaside development Fumba Town.

Sharmin Esmail tightly holds onto her tape measure. The town manager knows: every centimetre counts in a home with about 21 square metres living space. And yet, furnished with a queen size bed, handmade of coconut wood, a matching corner couch with inviting cushions in African colours, a dining table for two, a cabinet for clothes and a home office, the new mini apartments in Fumba Town are renting out fast.

Inspecting practical drawers under the bed and couch, nurse Rachel Mitangi, 28, seems happy with her home-to-be, and so is new tenant Omar Kureini, 27, a sales agent wanting to settle in Zanzibar. “This is exactly what I was looking for”, he said, his mobile constantly ringing – obviously a man on the move. Starting at a rent of \$150 per month, the mini units are perfect for up-and-coming young people. Low-budget one and two bedroom flats are also available (see box). “A studio is ideal for one person”, explains town manager Sharmin Esmail, “Here you can prepare a simple meal in your own kitchen and afterwards relax in your private space.” Recently Fumba Town in Zanzibar has been visibly expanding by the day. The

Mini but super-comfy

green dream town is coming more and more alive. More than 700 residential units have been sold, are occupied or under construction. Eventually, the estate on the shore of the Indian Ocean will house 3,000 residential units for all budgets, from convenient studios to ultra-luxurious penthouses. The first house was handed over in 2018. Everybody can buy in Fumba Town, which has attracted investors from 57 countries.

“But Fumba Town is not only for foreigners and rich people”, emphasises Tobias Dietzold, COO of CPS, the German developer behind the project. “We are constantly widening our portfolio to enable ever larger parts of the Zanzibari community to enjoy the Fumba lifestyle.” The concept of comfy living space at affordable rates is new for Zanzibar, even for East Africa. What distinguishes the project from others: Even the tiniest Fumba studio benefits from a top-notch contemporary infrastructure with high-speed internet connectivity, permaculture gardens, waste recycling, clean drinking water and 24/7 security.

When visitors first approach the green development near the village Nyamanzi, several shiny-white apartment buildings come into view, seemingly from nowhere. At night, most windows in the new apartment buildings are lit. During the day one can watch homeowners driving up in pick-ups, loaded with fridges, mattresses and lampshades. The seaside estate stretches out on 160 acres along the Indian Ocean, only 18 kilometres south-



Comfy studio apartments: enough space to rest as well as work

“LOW RENTS, HIGH COMFORT”

Three questions to town manager Sharmin Esmail about the advantages of Fumba Town.

How much is the rent?
 Studio apartments start at \$150, 1 bedroom apartments at \$250, 2 bedrooms from \$350. Townhouses with 2-5 bedrooms start at \$450.

What is special about Fumba Town?
 We are a new seaside town, only 20 minutes drive away from Zanzibar City. We provide quality living with a complete infrastructure for all budgets. And we have beautiful sunsets here!

Can I also buy a low-budget home? Yes, and everybody can buy in Fumba. Prices start as low as \$25,900 for a studio apartment, \$45,900 for a 1 bedroom, and go up to 300,000 for a villa. More than 700 homes have been sold as



“Come out and have a look at Fumba Town” - Sharmin Esmail

investments, holiday or permanent homes. An advantage for homeowners is that we offer furnishing and rental packages. Monthly service fee is one dollar per square metre living space.

Information:
 fumba.town, Tel. 255 623 989 900

west of Zanzibar City and 15 kilometres away from the airport.

“Some five years ago all this was just a dream, a vision on the drawing board”, says developer Dietzold. Now there’s a school, a fully operating medical clinic, a playground, a lively kiosk restaurant. Each four-storey apartment building houses 16 to 24 apartments. Nine more blocks are under construction, as well as a wide variety of family homes. All

property in Fumba Town is individually owned. “From the beginning it was our concept to provide equitable living space for a whole range of income groups”, says CEO Sebastian Dietzold. “Sure, not every house will be seafront, but all share the same town infrastructure comfort.” Meanwhile, after preparing her first coffee in her new studio tenant Rachel is enjoying the sea view: “My dream has come true”, she says with a bright smile.

EXCLUSIVE THE BIG TEST

Where does Zanzibar stand with corona? An important study is expected to render data and insight.

Which effects does the Covid-19 pandemic have on the wellbeing of Zanzibari and their economic situation? These questions are addressed in a survey of 500 households in 120 *shelias* in Unguja and Pemba currently conducted by scientists from the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA). Scientific evidence is important for decisionmakers to define policies to protect Zanzibaris. The study includes Covid-19 tests and antibody tests to reveal earlier infections - an important marker to assess the spread of the coronavirus here. An earlier antibody study in Nairobi, Kenya, revealed in January 2021 that a stunning 35 per cent of participants had already had the disease at some point. The Zanzibar study is being done by Dr. Salum and Prof. Sheik, supported by Prof. Soerge Kelm, a German professor of biochemistry at the University of Bremen who has run a training programme at SUZA since 2013. Covid policies in Tanzania changed with the new president. About 200,000 Tanzanians had received a jab by mid-August, say sources. Africa registered 7 million corona cases and 177,000 deaths by August 2021 of worldwide 200 million cases.

Eurowings Discover is here MORE FLIGHTS TO ZANZIBAR



Red carpet for Eurowings

Germany and Switzerland have started new regular holiday flights to Zanzibar. The first ever Eurowings Discover flight, a new leisure airline of German carrier Lufthansa, touched down with an Airbus A330-200 at Abeid Amani Karume Airport in July. The red carpet landing included a quasi-opening of the airport’s new terminal 3 in the presence of Tourism Minister Lela Muhamed Mussa and deputy German Ambassador Dr. Kathrin Steinbrenner. “We hope to bring 10,000 guests to Zanzibar per year”, pilot and CEO Wolfgang Raebiger said. Return flights will operate twice weekly on Thursdays and Sundays.

Another airline, Switzerland’s Edelweiss, will fly once a week from Zurich to Kilimanjaro, Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam, starting in October. Meanwhile, well-known European travel agency “alltours” has added Sansibar and the Seychelles to its portfolio for the upcoming winter season. Guests will stay in large 4 and 5-Star hotels but also in the small boutique hotel Sharzad Oasis in Jambiani. Zanzibar, it seems, is back on the travel map!

NEW BENEFITS AWAIT HOMEBUYERS

Major tax savings, residence permits and repatriation of profits

It’s not the „Golden Visa“ yet, but Zanzibar has just launched far-reaching new incentives for housebuyers and investors.

The new benefits are granted with an investment of \$100,000 or more. They include generous residency for the investor, his or her spouse and four children below 20 years of age, and various tax exemptions. The groundbreaking incentives for property buyers came into effect in July 2021. They are part of a new tax and residency program which enables foreigners to live and invest in the

island under special conditions. The \$100,000 threshold can also be overcome by buying multiple properties. When announcing the new regulations in July, Shariff Ali Shariff, executive director of the “Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority” (ZIPA) said the programme had “enormous potential for the growth of real estate in Zanzibar”. CPS, the property developers behind Fumba Town, have long since lobbied for more incentives supporting a stable, investor-friendly climate. “This is a timely and most welcome step in the right direction”, said CEO Sebastian Dietzold. Local and international media have dubbed the new conditions as “game-changing”. ZIPA is the agency within the Min-

istry (of State) of Labour, Economic Affairs and Investment that grants and administers the new benefits for which the housebuyer has to apply.



Fumba Town: hundreds of new units ready, filling-up with life

The new benefits include:

- 50% exemption on capital gain tax when property is resold
- 50% exemption on contract stamp duty
- foreign ownership allowed
- residency for home buyers and their family
- 100% repatriation of profit allowed after tax
- 100% exemption from tax on worldwide earnings for foreigners

CONTINUED on page 2

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applies to investing in property from 100,000 USD with a Strategic Investor Project such as Fumba Town, by CPS

FUMBA TOWN ZANZIBAR CPS

ROTARY ZANZIBAR

“SMALL BUT VERY ACTIVE”

Projects worth \$100,000 in the pipeline

By staff writer

Helping expecting mums to experience a healthy pregnancy. Preventing breast cancer. Bringing karate to kids. The new, all-female Rotary Club of Zanzibar boards explains the club’s new projects, vision and strength.

projects for willing sponsors”, says treasurer Daniela Brenco. To start with, “ties to the community” are “all important” to identify where help is really needed. The Rotary Club of Zanzibar has “a strict assessment procedure in place to screen aspiring projects,” explains president Kirsch. Rotary started as the vision of one man – Paul Harris. The attorney formed the Rotary Club of Chicago in 1905 to help people in need through professional expertise. That commitment endures today with 1.2 million members in 35,000 clubs. The Rotary Club of Zanzibar was founded in 2005. Three new projects will be carried out this year:

Wajamama: Healthy mamas, happy babies

Mbweni, a favourite expat hub and suburb of Zanzibar city, is home to many things but also to a unique women’s wellness centre for the community. Founded and run by Nafisa Jiddawi, a well-known primary care clinician, the Wajamama Wellness Center is assisted by Rotary in a program for pregnant women from vulnerable groups and their babies. The women receive education and personalised care throughout their pregnancies. More than 1000 women are expected to benefit from the holistic prenatal care during the first year and thousands more as local midwives and clinics across Zanzibar are trained to deliver the model, too. According to the World Health Organization, the majority of maternal deaths in Zanzibar occur during and immediately



Three projects for women and children: martial arts helps kids to develop (left), Nafisa Jiddawi of Wajamama in Mbweni (top right) providing quality prenatal care. Breast cancer prevention and awareness is a new program under Dr. Jenny Bouraima (bottom right)

after childbirth. “Group prenatal care with fitness programs and clinical visits are essential for healthy deliveries”, says Jiddawi. Wajamama stands for wataoto (children), jamii (community) and Mama. Nafisa Jiddawi, herself a mother of three, also excelled in co-ordinating a massive and speedy response to the Covid pandemic, with education and handwashing stations across Zanzibar.

Why Karate is good for kids

Martial arts such as Karate, Aikido and Judo are a great way to stay fit and healthy, but also teach children important skills such as self-discipline and patience in a fun and healthy environment. The Zanzibar Martial Arts Club is a newly born association, formed in 2020. The community outreach project “Budo for a reason (BORA Project)” was formed by martial arts teacher Yadin Dormidontov who says: “Martial arts is second worldwide after football. We know Zanzibari are very interested in it.” Rotary supports martial arts programs in three schools here.

Helping to prevent breast cancer

95 per cent of breast cancer is curable when detected early. “In Zanzibar 80% of the disease is discovered in advanced stages, therefore the mortality is high”, says Dr. Jenny Bouraima. Under her lead a first “breast cancer awareness and early treatment programme” is currently being launched with the help of Zanzibar’s Rotary Club. It involves the



teaching of self-examination, setting up recurrent and on-going breast cancer consultations and training of local radiologists and physicians. The awaited Rotary grant of \$90,000 will also cover technical equipment for biopsies. “We want to interrupt the vicious circle of late discovery and death”, explains Dr. Bouraima, head of the Urban Care Clinic in Fumba Town. An initial pilot study will involve 600 women to establish more data on breast cancer in Zanzibar.

Is Rotary old fashioned?

To become “directly and personally involved is very rewarding”, says board member Daniela Brenco. “We are all strongly embedded in our communities”, she adds, “we are not expats in an ivory tower.” Describing Rotary’s involvement in Zanzibar Bernadette Kirsch uses a simple comparison: “We are just like the nice aunt helping a poor family with children, but we are not replacing the parents.” The permaculture expert is set to bring more sustainability to Rotary’s engagement here.

For a child like Biko, 10, who has spinal bifida, Rotary’s help has already started a lasting effect. The club has donated his school fees for many years, and teachers report: “Biko is a bright student full of fun and eager to learn.”

“RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE” GALA DINNER

This year’s annual gala dinner with the theme “Rumble in the Jungle” – a social highlight of events in Zanzibar – will take place on **December 11, 2021 at 6 Degrees South**. Watch out for ticket announcements and secure your ticket early. The proceedings will fund Rotary projects across the island. Dinner guests can win attractive lottery prizes such as hotel stays. **Information:** Facebook/ Rotary Club of Zanzibar-Stonetown

MORE SECURITY AND EASIER RESIDENTIAL STATUS

Welcome move for investors dubbed “game-changing” for Zanzibar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Real estate buyers are now able to acquire a residency permit for their whole family – they are not required to live in Zanzibar permanently. THE FUMBA TIMES advocated for more support for housebuyers and other investors in its previous issue citing the examples of Turkey and Mauritius among others to grant foreign investors free, and sometimes life-long, residents’ status or even passports. While the new regulations for Zanzibar are not yet as far-reaching, they do constitute a remarkable

improvement and more security for investors. The new regulations apply to homebuyers in Fumba Town, the new suburb just outside Zanzibar City, since it is a “strategic investment”. They do not yet apply to THE SOUL project in Paje. Both developments, however, are open to anybody, local or foreign, and promise high returns on investment. “The Soul” manager Milan Heilmann commented: “The new rules will definitely earmark Zanzibar as one of the most preferable investment destinations worldwide”. The growing estate Fumba Town and the leisure complex in Paje are role models in innovative building in East Africa and beyond.

Benefits based on three laws

CPS, the developers of Fumba Town and Paje, organised a webinar on the new benefits in August. Not all about the new rules “is easy to understand for the layperson”, webinar participants observed. Three different legal provisions actually form the base of investor’s fate in Zanzibar: ■The “Condominium Act”, implemented in 2019, allows foreigners to buy property with multiple units all over Zanzibar when the project is an approved condominium, meaning if it has individual units either in a building or in an estate. Important to know: The title deed, a 33-year to 99-year-lease, can be extended and is inheritable by law.

■The “Free Economic Zones” concept holds great incentives for developers such as no corporate and income tax for 10 years; no tax on rents and dividends for 10 years; no duties on imported goods. There are five “free zones” in Zanzibar, including Fumba, the airport and port area (for details see THE FUMBA TIMES edition No.7, www.fumba.town) ■Last but not least, the newly launched “Investment Act Amendments” grant more rights and incentives to strategic as well as small-scale investors in tourism, real estate, fisheries and manufacturing. When Investment Minister Mudrik R. Soraga started in public office last year, he assured foreign investors in THE FUMBA

TIMES of his support - and apparently, with the new move, has kept his word! Important to note is, that investors’ possessions are protected by law. Property is protected against “unfair seizure”. If ever necessary, compensation has to be paid “at market value”, says the “Land Tenure Act”. ■Still in the making Several of the new benefits are still being worked-out in detail such as immigration procedures. The price of a resident permit is presently around \$3000 for two years: “This will still be improved”, said Al-Haji Jecha, deputy director of ZIPA. “We are also planning attractive diaspora schemes”, he said.



With this feature in the last issue (photo) THE FUMBA TIMES pressed for a free “Golden Visa” for housebuyers to enable them to stay in their houses for longer periods. This is practiced in many countries including Turkey. Zanzibar’s new regulation is a first step. Buyers can now apply for their permit “Class A” through the ZIPA desk, immigration official Tahir Mussa explained.

5 MOST HEALTHY TREES

Each houseowner in Fumba gets a tree for his front yard

Tropical superfood

Gluten-free and packed with magnesium and vitamin C, **breadfruit** is eaten raw when ripe, or cooked when unripe. Cook it like a potato. The white flesh has a bread-like texture and taste



Zambrau diet
Native to India, the purple jambul fruit (or jamun, zambrau) is eaten like candy in Zanzibar. Looking like an olive, it’s good for skin, eyes and for losing weight. A cupful has only 75 calories

Straight shooter

Drought-resistant **moringa** trees can grow 3 metres in 6 months; trim it to remain bushy. Boil the leaves for a healthy tea with 7x more vitamin C than oranges and 15x more potassium than bananas



The Piña colada fruit

High in antioxidants to boost your immune system, **soursop** from tropical America tastes like...yes, what? A mix of strawberry and apple or even Pina Colada, some say! Eat it raw.

Papaya delights

The “taste trick” with **papaya** (or pawpaw): Never eat it too ripe. Unripe in salads, or JUST ripe with a sprinkle of lemon, the vitamin-rich fruit is said to have anti-cancer qualities. Ideal for breakfast



PHOTOS: ISTOCK, GOOGLE

TREASURES LOST?

Mtoni and Mbweni ruins at crossroads

By Andrea Tapper

Zanzibar has a rich cultural heritage – an enormous potential for tourism. But so far, the island hasn’t shown sufficient interest in conservation. Two beautiful and significant just-out-of-town ruins are currently awaiting better times.

the imposing Hotel Verde, about five kilometres north of Zanzibar City, fully-booked during our visit.

Mbweni – school for freed slave girls

A different picture presents itself to us on the southern outskirts of Zanzibar city where the Mbweni ruins, delicate remains of a former convent and 19th century school for freed girl slaves, are presently being integrated into a new hotel, “Jungle Paradise”. After several ownership changes and years of neglect, the historic floors are now swept and clean again; bougainvillea entwines on old walls. “With 670 plant and tree species, among them 200 different kinds of palm trees, we plan to open a botanical garden soon”, explains new hotel owner Christian Rockenbauer, who took over the premises recently. The 46-year-old German immediately restored the old 120-metre-pier going into the Indian Ocean, opened a new sunset bar and generally overhauled the tired-looking former Protea premises, one of the few west coast hotels with a proper beach. After-work events on Fridays and a

Saleh Mohammed is sitting behind a shabby wooden table in the shade of a lonesome Mango tree, a few flyers about “candle light dinners” and “living history tours” in front of him. But there have been no diners for years. No tourists either. We ask Saleh, 31, when the last holidaymaker visited Mtoni ruins, the precious remains of the oldest and grandest sultan’s palace in Zanzibar. “No tourists today, last week and last month also none”, the jobless tour guide replied dryly. This sounded rather strange, since the palace ruins stand right next to



No news: The Mtoni ruins, still grand when pictured by drone, stand deserted. The first and largest palace on Zanzibar right by the sea was built in 1828



Good news: A striking site, the ruins of the former “St. Mary’s” school for freed girl slaves in Mbweni are now integrated into the new “Jungle Paradise” beach resort & spa at Mbweni. In recent years they had deteriorated. Exhibitions, events and a botanical garden are planned at the location; the pier has already been renovated

brunch club have already started to attract a young crowd. People living in Mbweni are happy to be able to use the beach again. “The Mbweni ruins are a big attraction.” Chris Rock - as the hotelier is known to friends - explains to me. “We will definitely incorporate them; the old chapel is ideal for weddings and exhibitions”. How many orphaned girls may have dreamt of their own weddings here in the former Victorian St. Mary’s School? Freed from captured slave dhows between 1870 and 1900, they were trained as teachers, in basketry, stitching and cooking. In 1906 the school, incorporating an old Arab house, became a convent.

Why is Mtoni palace forgotten?

The Mtoni Palace, two kilometres north of Maruhubi, on the other hand, seems to have been forgotten entirely. Overgrown with grass, the former private

hamams, an apse and a regal inner courtyard can still be recognised. When THE FUMBA TIMES photographer Keegan Cheick let his drone fly over the structures, the old palace layout became clearly distinguishable. “We used to take care of it, even provided concepts for its future use which were all rejected by the government. Then we returned the monument to the government in 2018”, manager Nasheeb Uddin of Bakhresa-owned Hotel Verde explains.

The weathered grey stone labyrinth right on the shore of the Indian Ocean, was the oldest palace in Zanzibar, home to the first sultan of Zanzibar, Sultan Seyyid Said (1806-1856), his only legitimate wife, 75 concubines and 36 children. In its heyday, around a thousand people, most of them slaves, lived here, among them

the sultan’s youngest daughter Princess Salme who later became famous when she escaped to Germany with a German merchant. Explorer Richard Burton described the royal home as “half castle, half chateau” with “a quaint Gothic look”.

Tourism minister Lela Mussa: “Will make Mtoni a museum”

I am meeting the man who knows many historical details about the site, which was in use from 1833-1856. Tonino, as everybody calls him, is Italian and a long-time Zanzibar entrepreneur. “Concept? Nobody had a concept!” Antonio “Tonino” Garau, 56, indignantly exclaims, when I report my findings at Hotel Verde to him. “All they had planned was to put aluminium windows in the ancient coral palace walls.” That, luckily, didn’t happen - but

“Cultural awareness lacking”

nothing else happened either. Will somebody remember Zanzibar’s oldest palace? When contacted by THE FUMBA TIMES, Zanzibar’s new Minister of Tourism and Cultural Heritage, Lela Muhamed Mussa, announced: “We are going to revive Mtoni and turn it into a museum”. The restoration would be “part of a bigger cooperation with Oman to restore all major monuments”, the minister said.

VISIT THE RUINS!

- Mtoni Palace ruins, next to Hotel Verde, Malawi Road, Mtoni
- Mbweni ruins & Jungle Paradise Beach Resort & Spa, Mbweni; open to the public; look out for special events www.jp-resort.com, Tel +255 778 242424



New Mbweni owner: Chris Rockenbauer



Zanzibar loves festival - here comes a new one: the first Mashariki festival in October will feature jazz and fusion music

MASHARIKI: ALL THAT JAZZ

Fumba coming to town with festival and market

Eight bands, one day - and the Kwetu Kwenu market in town for the first time. That’s the idea of the Mashariki festival on 8 October 2021 at the Old Fort.

The newcomer festival – a prime East African cultural event for Zanzibar – will bring a full day

& night of entertainment to town, lasting from 10 am to midnight. It will be a combination of the now one-year-old, well-established Kwetu Kwenu open-air market and a night of notable East African jazz-fusion performances, staged with the support of Fumba Town. At a later stage the festival will move to Fumba Town.

Does Zanzibar have space for another festival - besides Busara, the Reggae festival and ZIFF? “We will be different”, promises well-known music entrepreneur

John Kagaruki who has brought the late South African jazz trumpeter Hugh Masekela to Dar es Salaam twice. He also organises the Tanzanian Music Awards. “Mashariki will be an artist-centred jazz and folk music event”, he said. “If you are not Bongo Flavour or Diamond, it’s sometimes hard to get into mainstream festivals.” Some proceeds will go to the Dhow Countries Music Academy. All eight acts – among them Lily Kadima with Afro Fusion from Uganda, Fadilice Iulya from Nairobi and Zanzibar’s own Siti & The Band - are well known East African performers who “immediately loved the idea of a casual, self-organised, but professional home-grown festival”, he said. The Kwetu Kwenu market, featuring more than 50 vendors with organic food and eco-accessories, will start in the morning. Around 4pm the music will commence and continue until midnight. Mashariki aims at becoming an annual event and “a platform for East African artists to grow their performance portfolio”, Kagaruki said.



Attractive performers: Lily Kaïma with Afro Fusion from Uganda and Fadilice Iulya are set to entertain at the first Mashariki festival

Infos and tickets: Masharikijazz.co.tz

MIND MY BUSINESS LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

CAPTURING THE SOUL OF ZANZIBAR

With his striking looks Robin Batista, 45, could easily pass for a model himself - but he’s actually been the man behind the camera for almost 20 years.

One of the most established Zanzibari and Stone Town professional photographers, Robin Batista has covered almost all facets of his trade – from romantic wedding to fashion shoots, from unique drone and video filming to postcard and calendar production. Hasn’t his appreciation of Zanzibar been depleted over the years? The 45-year-old photo artist, trained at the Indian CMYK academy, laughs: “Newcomers might see more, but I see things differently”. One of his photos shows a woman in a colourful kanga dress carrying firewood along the beach of Jambiani – almost statuesque in her natural elegance. “I still find it very beautiful here”, says Batista, “this island is a paradise for a photographer.

Born and raised in Zanzibar and the son of a Goan immigrant tailor, he finds his motifs in the treasures of island life: the weathered alleys of historic Stone Town, the once

glorious Arab palaces, the turquoise sea, the white beaches and – over and over again – in the calm passage of traditional wooden dhows sailing along the shore of Stone Town

Batista is best in XXL. His black-and-white and full-colour photos, often enlarged and framed as wall hangings, are popular with tourists and residents alike. His Stone Town roof panoramas, for instance, printed in sepia on canvas, perfectly capture the bygone charm of the historic quarter still home to about 20,000 inhabitants. His art prints range from \$50 to \$350. Still a bachelor, Robin Batista has photographed “hundreds of weddings in the last 15 years”, he says, and witnessed Zanzibar becoming an attractive honeymoon destination. But that’s not where his heart is.

Inspired by early explorers

“A lot of famous photographers have passed through Zanzibar; I want to keep their artistic tradition alive”, he says. Recently Batista curated a successful exhibition at the Old Dispensary featuring Goan and Portuguese photographers such as the Coutinho Bros, A.C. Gomes and Pereira de Lord who arrived in Zanzibar as early as the 1890’s. In the pipeline is a new project about Zanzibar’s famous carved wooden doors. Located on busy Gizenga Street



The island photographer at his gallery on Gizenga Street

opposite Istiqama mosque, his shop with a simple signpost “Robin Batista Zanzibar” has grown into a small but impressive photo gallery over the years. An organic soap shop to the right, a baraca fruit seller to the left, slender Robin Batista is very much part of local life himself, his studio covering the ground floor of a 19th century family home: “It’s very costly and time-consuming to look after an old Stone Town building”, he says. But the photographer would not want to live anywhere else: “When locals move out and only boutique hotels move in – that would be the end of Stone Town”, he says. (AT)

Infos: Robin Batista Zanzibar 155 Gizenga Street, Stone Town Tel. +255 777 575 664 @robinbatistazanzibar www.robinbatista.com



Best in XXL: Almost like a painting: looks this coastal scene of Robin Batista; his photo gallery (left) is situated on Gizenga Street

WELCOME NOTE

WHAT IS AFFORDABLE?



PHOTO: CPS

Tobias Dietzold
Publisher of THE FUMBA TIMES and COO of CPS

What is affordable? To some people \$100,000 for a house or apartment is an amazing bargain; many others struggle raising 10,000 or even 1,000 dollars. Our mission at CPS is to develop homes and communities that are strong, safe, sustainable and accessible to all. With Fumba Town we have been working towards this goal from the beginning and we are grateful for the lively community we already have here. It has arisen from a diverse group of people, making the dream of Fumba become a reality.

But still we aim to reach many more people with equitable housing. We believe that whether you pay 300,000 or 30,000 for your home, you have the right to enjoy the same infrastructure, clean water, beautiful parks and playgrounds,

education, medical care & security. Taking the next step into this direction, our cover story tells you more about new budget rentals in Fumba, now becoming available. And of course we cover the encouraging new benefits for property buyers, after we at THE FUMBA TIMES described the utter need for such in our last edition. Another highlight: What will happen to two of the oldest monuments in Zanzibar - our investigative report on page three will tell you more. And one of my favourite stories: the life report about a spectacular biker's trip through northern Tanzania - surely not for the faint-hearted! In this spirit, keep enjoying THE FUMBA TIMES and we hope to welcome you soon personally to our daily growing community.

GUEST COMMENT

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF CHUMBE ISLAND



Conservationist Sibylle Riedmiller - here pictured with head ranger Omari - started the renowned eco island in 1991 and looks back on three successful decades

"We have demonstrated that eco can be financially successful"

If it hadn't been for snorkeling, the story of Chumbe Island would probably have never been told. When I first reached Tanzania in 1980 as an aid project manager, I soon became a passionate sailor, diver and snorkeler fascinated by the beautiful coral reefs, which were in urgent need of protection. In 1991, I spent two months at sea with local fishermen looking for a healthy coral reef around Zanzibar, which could become the site for my vision to create an educational marine park funded by ecotourism.

This is when we discovered the uninhabited Chumbe Island, six kilometers off the west coast of Zanzibar, a former military zone, where the coral reef had not yet been destroyed by destructive fishing practices common elsewhere. Chumbe was and still is a small island paradise with a healthy, biodiverse coral reef (one of the best in East Africa), a dense coral reef forest, and, last but not least, an iconic lighthouse and historic ruins worth saving. I negotiated for four years with the Zanzibar government for the protection of Chumbe. It took time, dialogue and involvement of many local stakeholders to make Chumbe the first marine park in Tanzania and the world's first privately protected and fully self-sustaining one.

30 years later, Chumbe Island is still considered a worldwide pioneer in holistic ecotourism. It has for several decades now fully financed the conservation of our Coral Reef Sanctuary and Forest Reserve and brought - besides tourists - thousands of local school children, teachers and community members to our shores to share our passion for the environment. We developed a very successful model of positive enforcement through education, whereby our rangers educate local fishermen about the importance of corals and the desired "spill-over effect" - abundant fish

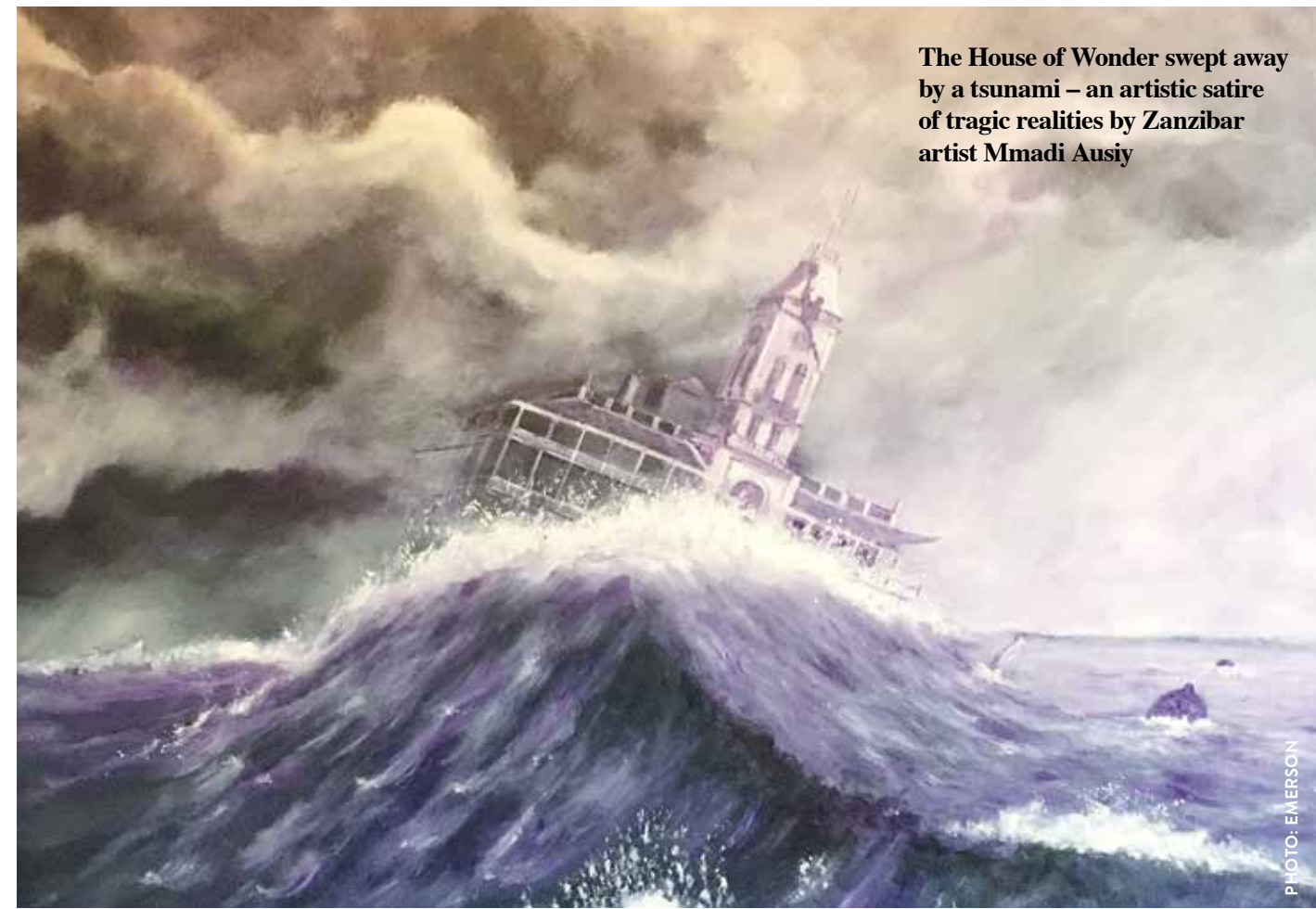
populations. Our 39 Chumbe staff are another success story. 99% are Tanzanians and two thirds come from local communities. Many have been with us since the beginning and were trained in eco-architectures and conservation.

Our low impact model is still an exception in the world, particularly our eco-architecture based on rainwater catchment, 100% solar energy, composting toilets and vegetable greywater filtration.

We harm no one, whereas mass tourism around Zanzibar harms the environment gravely - with unsustainable water and energy usage, waste and pollution and the disturbing of marine life! Chumbe Island has seven eco bungalows built in traditional African Makuti design, which have been pictured in fancy tourism magazines all over the world. Even though I have withdrawn from onsite Chumbe operations since 1998, run now by Benjamin Taylor, I continue working as a conservationist locally and internationally.

My pride is that we have demonstrated that a 100% eco island can be highly effective in financial terms and in actual management and enforcement. Many state managed protected areas are 'paper parks', so they exist on paper, but in reality there is no enforcement. Chumbe works in close cooperation with local fishing communities. It has won nearly all renowned international awards for nature conservation including the most demanding certification of the Global Ecosphere Retreats. When I am in my home country Germany, I certainly do miss the hours-long snorkels around the Chumbe reef as well as the Chumbe family.

Information and bookings:
www.chumbeisland.com
book@chumbeisland.com
Phone: +255 777 413 232



The House of Wonder swept away by a tsunami - an artistic satire of tragic realities by Zanzibar artist Mmadi Ausiy

Painting by Zanzibar artist Mmadi Ausiy

ART IN ZANZIBAR

Making it easier to spot quality local artwork

Finding and buying art in Zanzibar can be tedious. Some new (and established) art outlets are set to improve quality and accessibility.

Hotel and online - a rare opportunity to view, and bid on some fine African art pieces in a local context.

Tinga Tinga in Stone Town Tinga-Tinga originals - very much sought after - can still be found at the recently renamed Wasanii Art behind



African Art, famous and less famous: comic-like Lilanga statues (above); two works by the Bulugu brothers from Zanzibar (top left and right), all spotted on Giengena Street

African Art Auction in December 2021
Another entirely new platform for the collectors market as well as first-time art buyers will be the keenly anticipated first Zanzibar Art Auction planned for 11 December by the Forster Gallery in Mbweni. Around 20 paintings by artists mainly from East and South Africa will be on sale. The event will be held simultaneously at the Zanzibar Serena

the Old Fort. - Managing Director Anita Sitta exhibits statues and paintings of the graffiti-like Tanzanian art genre started by Edward Said Tinga Tinga, as well as work of George and Hendrick Lilanga. Proof of originality is important with Tinga Tinga. - Also well worth a visit: established Zanzibar artist Bayuu runs his own "Bayuu Art Gallery" on Hurumzi St. Bayuu is known for his Stone Town scenes in psychedelic colours and has recently created watercolour labels for

the ZALT company. - Less known, and hidden in a clothes shop up on Hurumzi St. are the Bulugu brothers of Dr. Bulugu Gallery - here's some raw talent to be discovered.

Information:
facebook/Emerson Zanzibar
www.forster-gallery.com
anitasita@gmail.com
Bayuu Art Gallery, 0777 424 714
www.drbulugugallery.com

READERS' LETTERS

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EXPLORING ZANZIBAR AS AN ARTIST

The very first art residence for Russian artists was organised in Stone Town this year to exchange experiences between Tanzanian and Russian painters. As for Zanzibar and Russia, our relations have a long history from the Soviet times and the recent touristic flow has brought new opportunities to strengthen our relations. One of the residence participants was Lilia Slavinskaya, a famous Russian artist. Two exhibitions took place at Golden Tulip hotel, Malindi and at Maru Maru, Stone Town. Guest were happy to explore the Russian art. The art residence turned

out a very special event because painters shared artistic visions and worked with local artists. We hope there will be more residences to explore the local culture.



Ingrida Kim, journalist and art promoter @ingridaworld

FOLK GOING HIP

Local start-ups give craft a new meaning



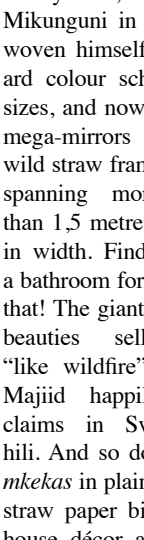
From shopping baskets and exotic mirrors to ohhh-so-sweet scented candles - artisan producers are popping up all over Tanzania. We met some exceptional ones at Fumba Town's own market.

bar's first eco cosmetic firm with a real factory set-up. Her smoothly burning candles come in nine scents and Josephine (Photo) generously shares her production knowledge in workshops: "I give away my recipes", she says with a smile - but doing it to her perfect standards is another matter. Instagram @Manuacato_skincare Phone: +255 719859145



The mega weaver Majid Kumba Suleimani (photo) is no doubt a big guy and a big guy it seems, thinks big. And out-of-the-box. The 38-year old family man, a traditional weaver from Mikinguni in Zanzibar, has somehow woven himself beyond standard colour schemes and sizes, and now makes mega-mirrors with wild straw frames spanning more than 1.5 metres in width. Find a bathroom for that! The giant beauties sell "like wildfire". Majid happily claims in Swahili. And so do his *mkekas* in plain beige, straw paper bins, lamps, house décor and odd stands, all under his label "Bin Majid Cultural Products". Instagram @vitu_vya_asili

Baskets galore! We spotted not one, but two up-and-coming basket makers at the Fumba markets, Patricia from "Kukaye Crafts" and "The Mafia Mamas". Immaculately woven handbags, laundry bags, market bags, beach bags (large photo to right) have given Kukaye arts & craft a solid following of more than 5000 fans on Instagram. The designs - from Dar es Salaam - sells at major stores and fashion outlets. - The "Mafia Mamas" stem, of course, from Mafia island where Samira Mafia (photo below) owns the New Bweni Beach Lodge. It takes her a whole long day travelling by ferry and bus to Fumba market, her bags and bathroom mats in tow, which come in unusual shapes and colours. "No problem", the well-known entrepreneur says, "I like travelling and exploring." And we like her bags!



Instagram - @Kukaye_crafts Tel +255 747 068 341 Instagram - @Mafiamamas Tel +255713380115

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

ALREADY A GREEN WARRIOR AT 20

"Not everybody has to study", insists Maliha Sumar choosing a different green career instead.



A jack of many green trades: Maliha Sumar

Only 20 years old, Tanzanian born Maliha Sumar has already done her fair share in saving the world. She has fought against climate change, collected plastic garbage, joined the boat activists of "Flipflopi" in Mwanza, who sailed from Lamu in Kenya to Tanzania in 2019, after building the world's very first 100% recycled plastic di-ow constructed with 30,000 multi-coloured flip. "We were so honoured to be working with the youngest member of our team, Maliha Su-

mar", the activists proudly relate on their website. Young Sumar hails from Mtwara, her mum works at the British Council and her dad runs a garage. After going to school in London, Maliha says, she was "shocked by the extent of plastic pollution on Tanzania's beaches" and joined the "Flipflopi" boat team in protest. With all these activities already achieved, it's no surprise that she was leading the race in winning the Tanzania 2021 Youth environmental Award. Since the tender age of 14 Maliha Sumar has been committed to social justice and environmentalism and has spent the last few years dedicating herself to learning new sustainable skills such as permaculture, composting, recycling seaweed and seamount farming. In 2019 - at only 17 - Maliha coordinated "My Mark-My City" in Tanzania, an UN initiative engaging young people to make their own mark on tackling the climate crisis. She founded her school's "Zero Waste Club". She has also helped the Kilimanjaro Tree Project and Nipe Fagio plant more than 5,000 trees.

A green jack of many trades and a super dynamic and warm person to meet, Maliha started her own eco company soon after leaving school. "Not everybody has to study", she says, "I always wanted to live a self-sustainable life, and nothing better than doing my own green business." With her company "Natural Living Tanzania" she sells sea moss and other biological products such as moringa and nettle leaf powder, useful against allergies, as healthy nutritional additives and skin products. Her new favourite is sea moss which grows on a rope during farming. "Seamoss removes mucus from your body, the root of many diseases", she says. "I had no idea about it, now I even know how to farm it myself", says Maliha - always eager to learn. (AT)

instagram.com/natural.living.tanzania

NO FEAR OF THE DEEP



Just do it! Evening swimming training at Stone Town beach in front of Park Hyatt hotel

By Itika Killimbe

It was a gloomy evening as I walked down the streets of Stone Town rushing to witness swimming lessons happening right in front of the Park Hyatt. As I arrived at the scene, the life emanating from the students was brightening enough.

Zanzibar, as we all know, consists of many islands, but although surrounded by water many of its inhabitants can't swim. Sometimes this has cultural reasons, sometimes financial causes. Poor schools are not equipped with pools, and public pools are rare. Therefore, a somewhat unusual exercise was about to take place with FlipIt, a Finnish exercise company, on the shores of Stone Town. Forty young Zanzibari women and men were ready to take the plunge with eight lessons, the final course taking them right up to Chumbe Island for their first ever opportunity to snorkel above coral reefs and to learn more about saving the ocean habitat.

The plan did work out - even if some of the aspiring mermaids still chose to be supported by swimming rings after eight lessons. Many were surprised that one can indeed learn to stay above water in such a short time. "The instructor mainly has to instil trust in beginners", explained Finnish trainer Ina Sohn. Overwhelmed by the marine treasures seen through their snorkel masks, one of the students remarked: "I never knew there is so much life down there."



Overcoming shyness - young Zanzibari of both sexes learning how to swim

Green team: Maliha and her business partner Musa Sabori; flip flops (photo left) made up an recycled plastic boat Maliha helped bringing to Tanzania





BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Dressing your windows in style made in Tanzania

"Biophilic" statement windows, such as these with floral green prints, are in fashion

By Itika Killimbe

Who can resist the draw of curtains? Read here what's en vogue, keeps heat, light and curious neighbours at bay – and is available in Zanzibar and Tanzania.

Draperies are fun. But some residents in Fumba Town don't want curtains at all, for two reasons: "I just love to look straight out of my window onto the sea", says Doreen Myers, happily living in one of the town's third-floor apartments. "At night I simply let the outdoor slatters down to block people from looking in", remarks a tenant of a popular town house. However, opting for blank windows has some disadvantages: It leaves your house feeling "naked" – and lets the sun in. Whether simple or sophisticated, drapery is not only about covering the window. "Curtains make a room cosy. They instil character and value in an apartment or

house", explains Katy Harthy, interior design expert at Dolson Interiors. For more than 15 years the furnishing business in Dar es Salaam has been regarded as one of Tanzania's most professional interior design companies. "Living room curtains make a home look finished; they are a decoration in and of themselves", says Harthy. "Also choose the right curtain hardware and accessories to add sophistication to your windows. For instance, complement your curtain with a simple yet modern, or with a more traditional and intricate design rod, and it will make all the difference."

What are the latest curtain trends? In 2021, designers prefer natural materials, such as silk and linen or pure cotton, as well as natural prints. Ruffles and frills are no longer trendy – unless you want shabby or granny chic (and why not, it's up to you!). "Biophilic design" is another buzzword. It means creating a home that's more connected with nature (in that respect look out for a first Fumba Town "Home Story" in the coming edition, which will feature a most amazing jungle house right here in Zanzibar!) Nature-in-

spired prints such as floral, animal or bamboo designs are popular and belong in that "biophilic" category. **What colour?** Off-whites, creams and stony greys as well as rusty tones are comforting. Earth-inspired tones are versatile and subtle. Tanzanian go for green at the moment, says Dorson's Katy Harthy. "A dark velvet green or a light spring green are colours which come with positivity", she explains. "they pop out."

The ideal length for a curtain? While it is fashionable to have curtains brushing on the floor or even generously beyond, experts recommend half an inch above the floor for free hanging curtains since this allows for mopping and cleaning while creating the illusion that the curtain touches the floor. Steer clear of short curtains. They feel dated and can make the window feel smaller.

How to measure curtains? Measure the width of the rod or window from left to right. A common rule says curtains should be at least twice the width

SHOPPING FOR DECORATION

Dolson Interiors
3 Chole Road, Masaki, Dar es Salaam
hello@dolsoninteriors.co.tz
+255 684 91111
www.dolsoninteriors.com

Curtains, blinds, wallpaper, upholstery – customer support includes site visits, measurements and instalment starting at \$100.

Suma General Store
Darajani, Zanzibar
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Good morning, sunshine! Quality curtains make a place look better, keep out too much sun, heat and curious onlookers

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AT THE ZANZIBAR SERENA HOTEL AND ONLINE BIDDING



INSIDE FUMBA TOWN TRUE STORIES OF NEW RESIDENTS



"The right place for a single girl" – Sarah in her tiny apartment in Fumba.

"I FEEL TOTALLY AT HOME IN FUMBA"

Single and a Swahili student, Sarah Bennet, 27, from Pennsylvania moved to Fumba Town because it's affordable and safe.

You seem to have one of the best views in town... Yes, from my little apartment on the second floor I can see right over the town property up to the ocean. I enjoy that view every day!

5-star view, 5-star price? No, not at all and that was one of the reasons I chose Fumba. Friends who are working in Zambia brought me here and I liked the place straight away. They said: "It's a nice community for a single person." I pay 400 US dollars for my furnished 2-bed-room. For me that's a fair price.

How is the neighbourhood? With the opening of more flats, there are more and more younger people moving here which is nice. Once a stranger in the neighbourhood, also a single lady, invited me home for dinner, we have meanwhile become friends. In America you would not follow a stranger to her home!

What is Zanzibar for you? A very community-minded society. People really do take care of each other; in the US we are more individualistic.

You study and work here? I do some volunteer work for a Christian NGO called "Overland",



The American Swahili student loves cooking for friends

we work with churches of different denominations. I am also very interested in Muslim faith and traditions; during Ramadan I attended some if-tars. I do not like divisions because of faith!

What do you do in your spare time? After two months I bought a small Toyota Rav4, so I drive to the beach in Paje. Or I cook shepherd's pie for friends; my kitchen is just big enough to do that. I buy fresh stuff at the lovely Farmer's Market in Fumba.

Blinds or curtains? Deciding on curtains or blinds depends on what is under the window. A desk or a bed? Then blinds are ideal. Narrow, high windows or small kitchen windows also call for blinds.

What keeps the sun out best? Blackout and room-darkening curtains are a good option. Curtains that have a higher thread count tend to block out the sun better.

What are the costs? First choose between custom-made or off-the-shelf curtains, the latter of course are cheaper. Even kangas generously measured and stitched together can be a casual, airy option. Leave them in pairs for that. Our mothers still believed that a quality curtain must come with a lining but today you may do without, for example with semi-transparent cotton curtains. Costs range literally from one to 200 dollars per metre depending on fabric, design and openness. Some designs are more sleek; others more folded and elegant. The more and thicker the material, the higher the cost. Also consider the rods. Some are designed for heavy drapes, some can hang multiple drapes from the same rod.

DOORS, TEAPOTS AND LACE BLOUSES

Vintage shopping in Zanzibar

By Andrea Tapper

Where neither Gucci nor Zara Home are to be found, second-hand goods for home and beauty are a welcome alternative. Discover hidden vintage gems outside Stone Town with guide Said.

which stem from the people who have settled here. A new apartment block is nicknamed "Mchina"; other areas Mombasa, Somalia, even "Kosovo". At Tamin's warehouse at least a dozen exquisitely carved old doors and rusty window shutters are scattered all over the place. "The signature Zanzibari carved doors, mostly around a hundred to 120 years old, but some dating back 300 years, are protected by heritage laws", explains Said when he sees us admiring the treasures. "It is forbidden to export them, but



What flea markets are for Europe, second-hand stores are for Zanzibar: fun to visit and a good source for vintage finds from antique Zanzibar doors – as shown by guide Said and Bernadette Kirsch – to umbrellas, teapots and clothes

one can acquire them for local use". 200-500 of these traditional doors – the number varying by different estimates – are still in use in Stone Town. The carvings often symbolised the owner's profession, ship ropes, for instance, stand for a dhow captain, grapes or animal prints hint at pre-Islamic influence because wine as well as animal symbols are frowned upon in Islam. An intact antique door now easily fetches \$1,000 on the market.

FIRST STOP: Our first stop is Tamin's open-air warehouse-cum-workshop in Fuumi where the antique dealer from Stone Town keeps and restores his finds. On our way to Tamin, all along Mombasa Road, guide Said has been pointing out the names of different neighbourhoods

and small furniture – all along Fumba road, with children's bikes, furniture, wholesale clothing – on the road to the airport, with chairs and tables, children's toys, second-hand clothing.

SECOND STOP: Meanwhile in the Mpendae area, we browse through the goods of an off-the-pavement seller. In front of a wooden shack he offers a random collection of glasses, delicate porcelain ashtrays, dining plates with a Dutch country motif, weathered leather bags and a tiny china bowl stamped "Royal Stafford, made in England 1845". I can't, of course, resist the draw of Royal Stafford and the coarser is changing hands for a mere TZS 3000. Well shopped!

THIRD STOP: Sultan Huney who works for a whole-seller of Indian origin on Fumba road, reveals more about the complex system of second-hand dealings to us. Almost buried under mountains of packed and unpacked used goods, from children's bikes to handbags to porcelain, he explains: "We receive a box of 800 unknown pieces at TZS 400,000, we sell it at TZS 900,000. The retailer resells



Two of almost 200 futuristic pavilions expected in Dubai

them piece by piece". The trader also has his own retail outlet. Formerly on Fumba Road, it has now shifted to the Mazizani area near the police station.

FOURTH STOP: A warm-coloured lace blouse and fine cotton bed sheets are displayed by Amina in a little second-hand boutique on Airport Road, all neatly washed, ironed and put on hangers: "I've got customers from rich to poor", she says with a smile, "from manager to secretary". Loads of second-hand clothes can also be found in the Mwanakeregewe market but it's a dusty and extremely busy place, so prefer small vintage shops like Amina's and larger outlets such as Bi Aziza (see address below). Five minutes later I call Amina's lace blouse mine – for TZS 10,000.

SECOND-HAND DISCOVERIES

- Said Suleiman Mohammed can be booked as a guide. Contact: Tel. /whatsapp: +255 777 415 558
- Bi Aziza located on Mombasa Rd. for second-hand electrical appliances from sandwich makers to fridges. Contact: +255 777 417 457

5-STAR SECURITY

Hongera for Fumba Town's security team! 5-star hotel Serena Zanzibar has placed its safety in their capable hands since August. "It's a big chance for us", said Dalmas Gregory, the director of "Fortitude Total Security" (FTS): "We won against fifty other security outfits in Zanzibar." The Fortitude company has over hundred security guards, to be hired by private and commercial clients. From crime prevention to surveillance and ethical conduct – guards learn the latest techniques and integrity matters. In Fumba Town over 70 top askaris, equipped with



High-tech safety systems, protect the seaside community 24/7. Their secret to success? "We train better and pay more than others", says Gregory. More info: fts.co.tz



Tea time: Bahati (r) and Khaytham

JUST MY CUP OF TEA

Zanzibar's women, never shy to invent social gathering options, have a new baby: the "Tea Party Zanzibar", initiated by Bahati Chinyuse, a well-known Zanzibari who rather speaks in her own right than as a minister's wife. Attended by about fifty ladies, the first event at Hilton Doubletree was filled with moving life lessons, captivating stories, sweet & savory finger foods – and many lovely cups of tea. "We will have a series of networking events that allow women from different backgrounds to share their experience", Chinyuse announced. Instagram: teapartyinzanzibar

EXPO FUN IN DUBAI Futuristic getaway from Zanzibar

Expo 2020 is set to start 1 October in Dubai. If you want a slice of the action, why not book that long-talked-about break in Dubai.

Dubai airline Emirates is giving away free tickets to the show when you fly with them between 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2022 – the duration of the Expo. Millions of people from all corners of the globe are expected to visit the six-month-exhibition; corona precautions are in place. It's located close

to Al Maktoum International Airport and ticket prices will start from \$25 per day. More than 192 countries have confirmed their entry. Each will have its own pavilion. Dubai won the rights to Expo 2020 back in 2013 and has been preparing ever since for the super-sized world show, with over 200 food and beverage extravaganzas, along with live entertainment and events. Due to the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic, the Expo 2020 moved from 2020 to 2021.

For special packages from Zanzibar/Dar es Salaam to Dubai starting at \$955 (5 nights hotel, flights, visa) contact travel agent rickshawtravel.com.



Two of almost 200 futuristic pavilions expected in Dubai

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RECURRING EAR PAIN – WHAT CAN I DO?

Fatma Mbaawa, Stone Town
Dear Dr. Jenny, my 14-year-old son complains about ear pain often. Sometimes after swimming, but sometimes also apparently for no reason. Can this lead to a chronic problem and what should I do? Please give me some advice.

As a result, the wax builds up in the hearing channel and ultimately completely block it. The constant irritation of the delicate skin in the ear canal leads to pain, the blockage to a reduced hearing ability.

Impacted ear wax is easily diagnosed through otoscopic examination and your doctor can safely remove it using different instruments. Patients with increased earwax production are recommended to visit their doctor regularly for safe removal, before symptoms like ear pain can occur.

Use ear drops before swimming
Another common reason for recurring ear pain especially in children are outer and middle ear infections. In Zanzibar, we often come across the so-called "swimmer's ear", which is an outer ear infection occurring after swimming, snorkeling or diving. In those cases as well, your doctor will be able to diagnose through otoscopic examination, after taking your anamnesis. Many patients (or their parents)

know if they are susceptible to recurring ear pain and can identify such triggers as mentioned above. There are certain measures that can help avoid symptoms altogether or at least reduce the severity. It often helps to avoid sitting in a draft after swimming and to make sure that the ears are completely dried. Additionally, ear drops containing boric acid or white vinegar can be used before and after a swim or dive. The slightly acidic environment that is thereby created in the ear, discourages the growth of bacteria and fungi and therefore avoids the development of an outer ear infection. These were only two examples of conditions leading to recurring ear pain. In order to receive the adequate treatment and tailored advice regarding prevention, anamnesis and examination by your doctor are necessary. In case a more complex issue is suspected that exceeds the treatment options available at your family physician, she or he will most likely refer you to an ENT (Ear, Nose and Throat) specialist.



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.urbandcare.clinic

ON THE TRAIL OF MAD MAX

Epic bike adventure in northern Tanzania



PHOTOS (S): MICHAEL CLARKE, GOOGLE MAPS

In the wilderness with 18 bikers: "It was a nine-day, eight-nights trip and, geez, did we have an adventure to remember!"

By Mike El Pike

An adventure not for the faint-hearted: 18 bikers including two teens master a 950 kilometre off-road trip from Mount Kilimanjaro to the lakes of Northern Tanzania. A new Zanzibar-based biker's company made it all possible.

Waking up to an amazing sunrise complemented by a herd of zebras in front of my tent, we took a ride to a waterfall later, trekked to the bottom and swam in the pools beneath. The next day we went off to Lake Manyara which is wildlife overload - hippos in front of you while having a beer kind of thing.

"Most of the trip was off-road from one beautiful lodge to another"

Wondering where we are? Well, honestly, so did we sometimes. I went on this epic motorbike trip in Tanzania with my ten-year-old daughter. It took us and a whole group of bikers around west Kilimanjaro and what is known as the northern lakes circuit. The trip was organised by a new company based in Zanzibar and Arusha by my good friend Eric Allard (see box). The bikes we were riding were the legendary Royal Enfield Himalayan, a lovely, all-terrain 411cc motorcycle. The trip was tailor-made and organised to perfection and took us to places off the beaten track to terrain and countryside that were luxurious and beautiful.

There were nine Himalayan bikes in all, but actually 18 of us on the trip. Some of us were riding as passengers on the back of the bikes including my daughter Tullie, but there were also some motocross bikes leading the group and bringing up the rear, plus a support vehicle. We had flown into Arusha from Zanzibar and met at a beautiful new restaurant and art centre, Blue Heron, where we met our bikes, had dinner and a briefing. The first day was a ride over to Simba farm, a working farm on the slopes of west Kili, with a farm to plate menu. Most of the trip we did was off-road and we really did go from one beautiful lodge to another, refreshing beers and pools awaiting us.

The riding itself is not for beginners as it can get quite technical in places, but we were in no rush, stopping to let giraffes and zebras cross the road! Setting off for Lake Natron, the terrain changed hour by hour from lush green pastures to savannah to rocky volcano floors. Driving through the volcano dust sand of Oldonyo

Lengai, the mountain of god, isn't for the faint hearted! Another beautiful day's riding led us to African Safari Lodge Lake Natron, an outstanding tented camp. Lake Manyara with its wildlife overload was a stop-off to Lake Eyasi where it became baobab country. We went to visit the Hadzabe tribe, who are some of the last hunter-gatherers around and got a few lessons in hunting with bow and arrows. The ride went off-road then, river crossings and disappearing tracks as we

made our way up to the most epic road I've ever been on, the B141 in Magara, nicknamed the road of eighty corners. Some of these roads were a bit difficult to have a passenger on as everyone dropped their bike (except Cranko) but luckily my daughter Tullie as well as her friend Francesca were able to ride in the support vehicle when the going got tough. First I was going to do the trip by myself but I wanted to give Tullie an experience of a lifetime, and I wasn't wrong. Now she wants a motorbike for

Christmas! Pros of the trip? Riding an amazing motorbike around a beautiful country with abundant spectacular scenery and wildlife and great friends and family. Cons? The trip is over.

The author Michael Clarke, 42, aka Mike El Pike, is a motorbike enthusiast, who has been living in Zanzibar since 2008 and built Seasons Lodge Zanzibar in Pongwe. He is originally from Ireland. www.seasonsanzibar.com



"Comfortable": Mike El Pike on his legendary Royal Enfield Himalayan

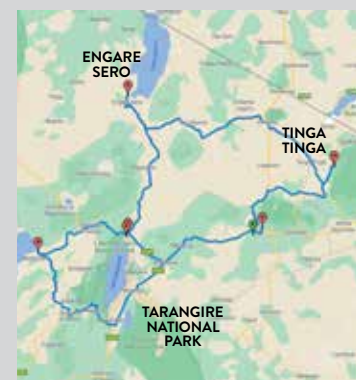
BIKING AROUND TANZANIA

Getting there: We used Precision air, costs us \$150 return from Zanzibar to Arusha and took about an hour and a half. My brother Sean flew in from Uganda to Kilimanjaro, so it's a pretty convenient trip if you want to do it with friends from abroad.

What to take: Take all your own bike gear, helmet, gloves, jacket, arm pads, knee pads, boots. Also warm cloths as it can get quite cold in parts, but a swimming costume as well!

The bikes: We were riding the legendary Royal Enfield Himalayan, an all-terrain motorcycle 411cc. The bike is a trooper, and is incredibly comfortable, comes with side luggage boxes and goes for about 400k on 40kms of petrol.

Overnight: www.africa-safari.com had most of the places we stayed at; we set off at the Blue Heron place in Arusha



950 kilometres off-road from Kilimanjaro to the northern lakes
(www.schwari.com).

Best package: Tailor made from www.eastafricanmotorcycles.com. The company offers tours from Arusha. The main office and show room is just outside the airport in Zanzibar, where you can rent bikes of all sizes.



Off-road through wet and dry territory. Teen Tullie is surrounded by curious Maasai girls about her age during a stop (right)



WHERE THE SUN RISES IN FUMBA

Calamari Beach Villas – new attraction on the peninsula



Party chef and happy guest Diana at Calamari Villas

Modern villas, a great pool, a cool palm garden, shisha parties and even a stretch of sand – all these make up the new Calamari Villas.

Sometimes things happen faster in life than you think. When the Zanzibari owner of the new Calamari Villas, after half a lifetime of garage work in London, packed his bags, took his teenage son Jamil and started to build comfortable private villas with six apartments on the eastern side of the Fumba peninsula, he thought he would have all the time in the world to open his business. Then corona happened. Hassan Ali Hassan

placed the villas on booking.com, "and from then on guests just kept coming, most initially from Eastern Europe", he says.

The leisurely place, only a 10-minute-drive across the peninsula from Fumba Town, is by now throwing tropical parties with barbecues and shishas. Calamari has found its niche. Still scantily but stylishly furnished, the modern villas, a rustic cliff bar and an impromptu restaurant are a welcome new attractions in Fum-

ba – and proof that the south-western peninsula is clearly on the move. Go and check out Calamari!

Calamari Beach Villas,
On booking.com and airbnb,
Tel. 0773 143 445

Holiday fun: a large pool, sea views and a stretch of man-made sand beach



JUST DISCOVERED NEW TEDDY'S ON THE BEACH



One of the best hostels in Tanzania: The large pool of New Teddy's on the Beach

THE PLACE TO CHILL IS @TEDDY'S

- ✓ **SERVICE:** Always smiling
- ✓ **LOCATION:** Jambiani
- ✓ **SPECIAL:** Someone here has a big heart for backpackers
- ✓ **THE BOTTOM LINE:** Do what you like!

Hammocks gently swing in the wind, the sea lies still at low tide and a giant moon rises over the pool when we complete our yoga class at sunset. Little wooden signboards here and there show me the way to the "Cool Pool", a "Life is now"-sign above the beach entrance is one of the most popular Instagram posts of Zanzibar. The massage by Millie is wonderful – after the treatment I feel totally relaxed.

New Teddy's on the Beach is a busy and lively hostel in Jambiani right at the ocean on the popular East Coast of Zanzibar. As the name suggests there has been an "old" Teddy's, located in Paje, the first dorm hostel in Zanzibar. Teddy Number Two opened five years ago hosting Zanzibar-untypical guests: travellers, backpackers, explorers, youngsters, singles and couples, "open-minded people who mostly come on a small budget. For them and for us - freedom it is", tells me owner Leonie Kaack, a German from Elmshorn who lived in Munich before finding her way to Africa. With her team of 26 people the tall and dynamic owner keeps the airy beach oasis with 56 beds, built on fine white sand, smoothly operating. Even the floor of two dormitories - with 7 and 12 beds respectively and one small dorm with 4 beds - consists of sand; so it's a total barefoot holiday. Each bed has its own shelf and mosquito net and light.

In the back, a handful of en-suite-bungalows are situated in an area with flame and pine trees providing welcome shade during

the hot season. Lunch and dinner walk-in guests come from all over to relish homemade mango and passion juices, burgers, fresh salads and local curry dishes in an open-air restaurant and bar.

A bird's nest on the side of a large pool is a favourite hang-out at night. Young expat moms bring their kids for a swim here during the day. Maybe that's another reason why New Teddy's exudes such a homey



"We love backpackers": Leonie (centre) and her team

and warm feeling: Teddy's is not only a hostel but a popular meeting point for many people living along the eastern coast. And Leonie, happily married and expecting her third child in Zanzibar, holds it all together, solid as a rock in a sea of diverse travellers. (AT)

New Teddy's on the Beach,
Starting from \$23 per night
with breakfast; double bungalow with bathroom \$80
www.teddys-place.com,
info@teddys-place.com



Special: beds on sand in the dorms

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