



## Stone Town Heritage Walks

For centuries, Zanzibar has been the gateway that connected the African interior with the countries along the Indian Ocean, from the Arabic peninsula to India and as far as China and Indonesia. From this privileged geographical position resulted a brisk trade, as well as a lively cross-cultural exchange that formed the distinctive, multi-layered and alluring Swahili culture.

With our themed “Heritage Walks”, we invite you to explore Zanzibar’s sparkling culture from different angles, depending on your interests.

## 1. Dhow Culture

The lovely wooden sailing boats with their distinctive triangular lateen sails have plied the Indian Ocean for hundreds of years. Driven by the monsoon, they have transported ivory, timber, cotton, spices and slaves – and also cultures, languages and religious beliefs. They are still very much in use today, for fishing and for the transport of people and goods. During this tour, you will learn about the history of the Indian Ocean trade, and how the centuries of relations with the Arab world, India and the West have influenced Zanzibar until today. Visit the dhow harbor in Stone Town and places that have a historical significance for the dhow trade, and see how the boats are being built and repaired. Naturally, your tour is rounded off with a dhow sailing cruise along Stone Town’s famous sea front.

## 2. Stone Town Architecture

As can be expected in such a cosmopolitan place as Zanzibar, there is a range of distinctive architectural features, reflecting the different ethnical, social and religious backgrounds of her inhabitants. There are modest Swahili family dwellings, imposing Arab style town houses with thick walls and inner courtyards, Indian merchants’ houses and elegant palaces with verandahs and intricate decorations, and colonial buildings in a variety of styles – all laid out in winding, shady, sloping alleyways, to make best use of the limited space and to meet the needs of Stone Town’s inhabitants.

Discover all these architectural intricacies with your guide,

	Dhow Culture		Cosmopolitan Architecture		Modern Architecture		Imani na Amani	Doors and Handy Crafts	Sights Sounds Scents
	on foot	By Boat			on foot	By Bicycle			
Stonetown Heritage Walks	Walk 1	Walk 2	Walk 3	Walk 4	Walk 5	Walk 6			
1 person	30	65	25	35	40	25	25	40	
2 persons	20	40	15	25	35	20	20	30	
3 persons	20	30	15	20	30	20	20	25	
4 persons	20	25	15	15	30	15	15	25	
5 persons	15	25	15	15	30	15	15	25	
6+ persons	15	25	15	15	30	15	15	25	

The price is per person in USD \$

learn about their socio-cultural significance, traditional building methods and conservation efforts in this unique World Heritage Site.

### **3. Modern Architecture**

This tour takes you beyond the picturesque Stone Town and offers deeper insights into urban development from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards until today.

Learn how modern day Zanzibar Town evolved, from East Africa's first street lighting and water piping to public recreational areas and post-revolution housing projects. Admire the extravagant, Moorish/Saracen inspired buildings of British architect Sir John Sinclair and Indian architect Ajit Singh, who also provided the blueprint for many schools and other public buildings, and hear the background story of Creek Road and the Michenzani flats.

It's a perfect complement and continuation of our Architectural Stone Town Tour.

### **4. Imani na Amini - Faith and Peace**

For centuries, Zanzibar was part of the multi-religious Indian Ocean trade community, and has prospered because of it. In such a society based on peaceful trade, socio-cultural interaction and intermarriage, diversity was the norm, and it bred an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance. When Zanzibar gained independence in 1963, the highest denomination of stamps issued was on religious tolerance. It showed a Protestant and a Catholic Cathedral, a Sunni and a Shia mosque, and a Hindu temple. At sunset, the calls to

prayer from the mosques mingle with the bells from the churches and temples – a message of peaceful coexistence. During this tour, you will visit significant religious sites and learn about the different religions that are being followed in Zanzibar, and how they came to co-exist peacefully until today.

Your guide will explain to you how religion influences and enriches daily life in many subtle ways; you will recognize it more easily in your interactions with local people, and gain a deeper understanding of the inner workings of this society.

### **5. Zanzibar Arts & Crafts Tour**

All around town, there are many artisans who create items that have a firm place in Zanzibari culture and daily life: brass adorned Zanzibar chests, finely woven raffia baskets, mats, bags, soft furnishings, and of course the intricately carved doors - the most famous feature of Zanzibari houses. While, especially in the Arab building tradition, the exterior is quite plain, the door provided a medium with which to announce the owner's wealth, taste and standing in the community. During this tour, your guide will show you the finest (and most photogenic) examples of different door styles, and you will learn how to “read” their messages. You will visit different artisan workshops and learn about the cultural background and uses for the items that are produced there.

If you wish, your guide will show you the best places to buy good quality Zanzibar souvenirs. You can even create your own souvenirs in a workshop at the Cultural Arts Centre! (Pre-booking required).

## **6. Zanzibar Sights, Sounds & Scents**

A place as vibrant and diverse as Zanzibar is an adventure for all senses.

Absorb the colours in the streets – the men in their white kanzus, women in black buibuis and colourful khanga wraps, the abundance of fruit and vegetables in the market, the play of shadow and light in the narrow streets, and of course the many friendly faces in all shades of complexion. Climb up to one of Stone Town's rooftop terraces to enjoy the 360° view and the breeze.

Listen to the sounds of Stone Town - people chatting, children playing, street vendors praising their wares, Reggae, Indian and Western music, and the melodious recitation of the Quran. Five times a day, you will hear the Muslim call to prayer in Arabic from numerous small mosques all over the town; at other times, it's bells from Hindu temples or Christian churches.

Zanzibar town is also a place of smells and scents. There is food, wood fire and incense, jasmine and herbs in a traditional spa, freshly brewed Arab style coffee and the fresh, salty breeze from the Indian Ocean. At Forodhani Park in the evening, the air is saturated with a great variety of seafood and other Zanzibari delicacies simmering on barbecue stoves. You can round off this sensual experience with a live performance at the Dhow Countries Music Academy.