

Your personal activities guide to

Zanzibar

Pristine beaches, vibrant spice markets, and the cobbled streets of the island's capital, Stone Town, are all woven into the tapestry that is the colorful island of Zanzibar.

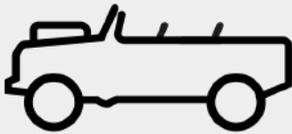


Our latest recommendations on what activities to do in and around Zanzibar



Looking for something specific?

Choose a category below to see our top activities in Zanzibar



Land-based



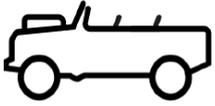
Water-based



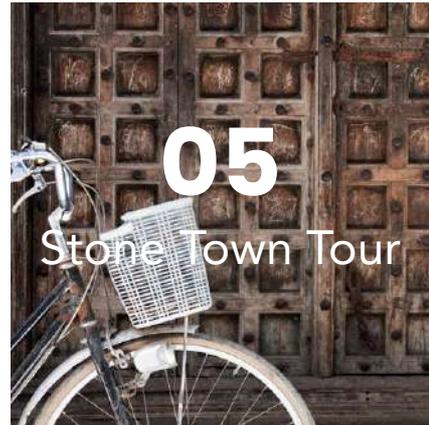
Land- and water-based



Dining



Land-based activities





JEEP TOUR

What to expect

Discover Zanzibar and unleash your adventurous side on a self-driven guided 4x4 Jeep tour. From your hotel, you'll be dropped off at Kebele, where your Jeep will be waiting for you. Next stop is Uzi Island where you will drive through the thick, lush mangrove forests. From there, you'll head to a breathtakingly beautiful secret beach where you will have a stop for a picnic lunch.

You will then take a drive to Kuza Cave, where you can enjoy a refreshing swim. This ancient limestone cave was formed about 250,000 years ago by thousands of years of water erosion that created secret underground rivers and pools. After swimming and exploring the caves, you will continue on an exciting off road drive to your last stop – the quarry! Here you can spend some time sliding around in the dust and enjoying all the thrills of your 4x4.

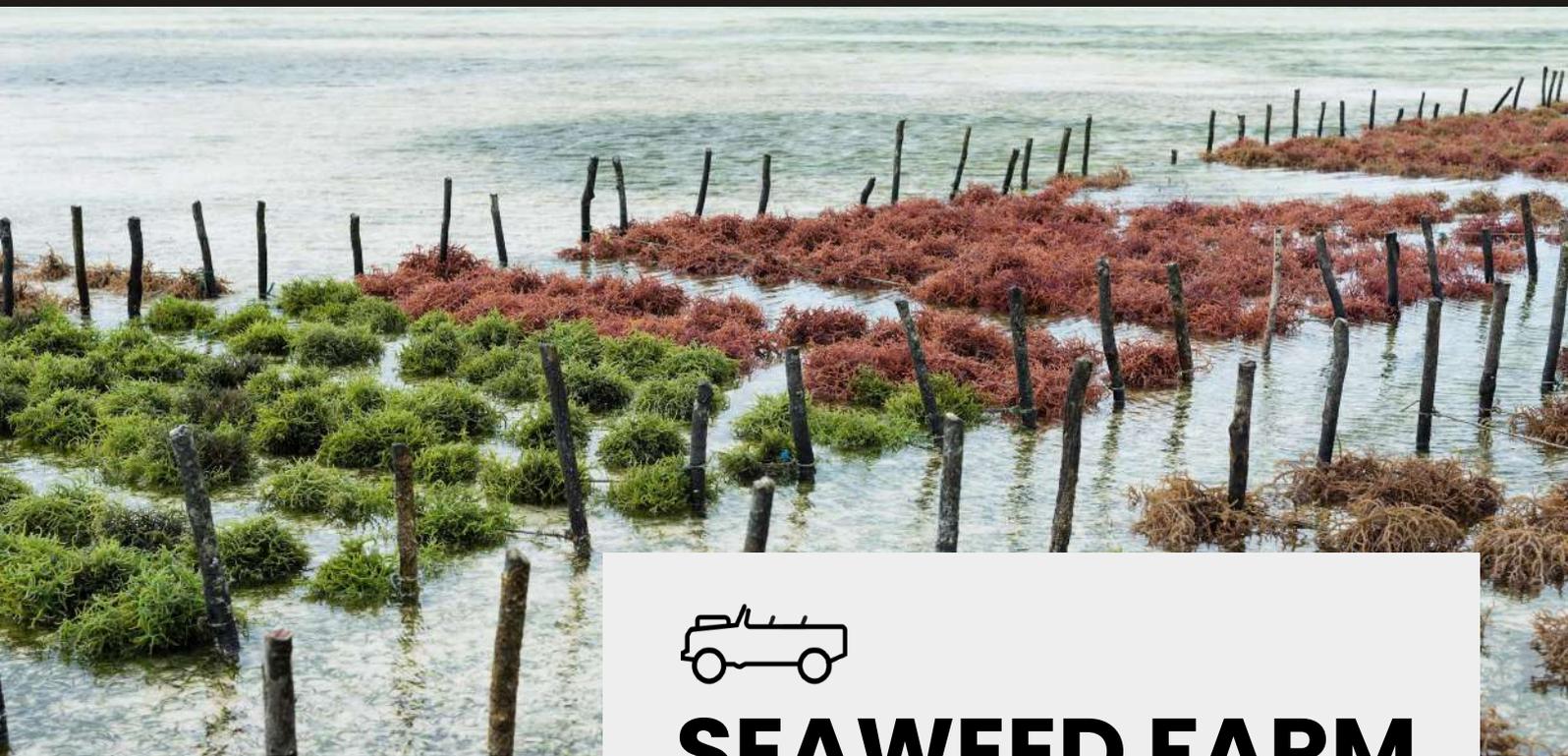
Notes

Picnic lunch included

Operating hours

Full-day

[Book now](#)



SEAWEED FARM

What to expect

Visit the Seaweed Center on the east coast of Zanzibar where you can learn all about seaweed farming – the second biggest industry on the island. This social enterprise creates opportunities for female seaweed farmers to improve their standard of living and engage in economic development activities that benefit the entire community.

Learn how the women harvest seaweed, visit the processing centre and the factory in the village in Paje, and learn how seaweed is transformed into desirable beauty products like organic soaps and essential oils.

Notes

This tour helps support the local community
Located in Paje

Operating hours

The tour can be either a half-day or full-day tour

The full-day tour can be combined with the Jozani Forest and Butterfly Centre

[Book now](#)



SPICE FARM

What to expect

A Spice Farm tour is undoubtedly one of the most popular activities in Zanzibar, reminiscent of bygone days when it was known as the 'spice island', exporting items like cloves, vanilla, nutmeg and cardamom across the world, brought in from Asia and South America. A spice tour takes you to organic farms on the island where you can see, touch, smell, and taste a variety of spice plants and experience the island's rich history.

Following the tour, you can purchase spices, soaps and body lotions handmade by the staff on the farm.

Notes

Tour is also commonly called a Spice Plantation Tour

Operating hours

3 hours

[Book now](#)



JOZANI FOREST & BUTTERFLY CENTRE

What to expect

The Jozani Chwaka Bay National Park is the largest area of indigenous forest on the island. On your guided tour, you will explore the diverse habitats inside the park, and keep a look out for native wildlife, including the endangered Zanzibar red colobus (*Ptilocolobus kirkii*), an endemic monkey species that exists only in Zanzibar.

Uncover the magical world of the forest while walking along wooden trails, surrounded by impressive trees and a diverse array of plant life.

This tour is combined with a visit to the Zanzibar Butterfly Centre – a centre dedicated to protecting numerous butterfly species indigenous to Zanzibar.

Notes

Informative and educational tour
Includes park entrance fees
Bottled water is provided
This is a private tour

Operating hours

5 hours duration which includes driving time from your hotel
08:00 to 15:00

[Book now](#)



STONE TOWN WALKING EXPERIENCE

What to expect

The central point of the island, Stone Town is an eclectic mix of African, Arabic and colonial styles all mixed into one cobblestoned city. On this tour, you will be led through the narrow, winding streets by local guides with first-hand knowledge of this historic town. You will visit the cathedral, the Sultan's Palace, Tippu Tip's House, the Old Fort, Forodhani Park, the fruit and vegetable market, and all the famous Zanzibar doors in the petite streets.

A highlight of the tour will be a visit to the Freddie Mercury Museum – the first museum dedicated to the world legend. The museum, which was once the famous British singer songwriter's childhood home, officially opened in November 2019 and showcases exclusive pictures of Freddie Mercury throughout different stages of his life

If time allows, you can do some shopping at the small local boutiques and markets. Stone Town is well-known for its handmade organic cosmetics, Kikoi fabrics, spices, teas, jewelry and coffee.

Notes

This is a walking tour
Stone Town is a UNESCO-listed historic center
This is a private tour
Suitable for children

Operating hours

2 to 3 hours duration
09:00

[Book now](#)



Water-based activities





SUNSET DHOW CRUISE

What to expect

A traditional wooden dhow cruise while visiting the island is an essential part of your Zanzibar experience. Gliding effortlessly to the sound of the white canvas sails in the breeze and the lapping of the crystal waters below is an unparalleled experience, and a fantastic way to enjoy the sunset and views of the island's historic centre.

Notes

The cruise begins in Stone Town
This is a scheduled cruise and not private
A private cruise can be facilitated on request
Snacks and drinks are included

Operating hours

2 hours duration

[Book now](#)



MANGROVES SUP

What to expect

Discover one of the most beautiful, untouched and highly endangered environments of Zanzibar's South-East coast, which is only accessible by SUP (Stand Up Paddle Board).

Our guides will help you to quickly master this fun water activity and will tell you all about the different types of mangrove trees and the wide variety of animals and marine life you'll be able to spot there.

Notes

Eco-tour for nature lovers
Suitable for families

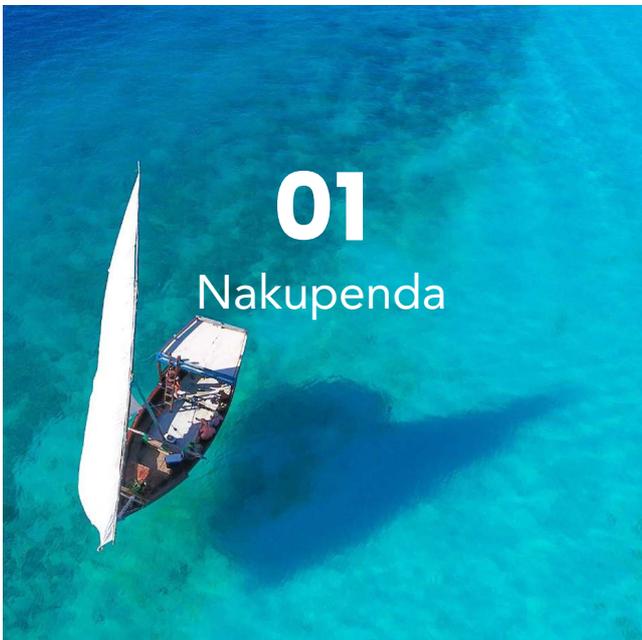
Operating hours

3 to 4 hours, depending on the tides.

[Book now](#)



Water- and land-based





NAKUPENDA

What to expect

Leaving from Stone Town on a traditional wooden dhow, you will sail to Changu Island, also known as Prison Island, about a 30-minute boat ride from Stone Town. A visit to this historic island lets you gain an understanding of a grim period of Zanzibar history. In 1860, the small island was used as a prison for disobedient slaves. Nowadays, the island is home to the famous and endangered Aldabra giant tortoises, who you will visit at the Tortoise Sanctuary.

You will then continue by boat to the sandbank of the Nakupenda Beach Nature Reserve – a wide stretch of white sand gently sloping into turquoise waters and one of the best beaches in Zanzibar. Here, you will disembark and enjoy a traditional beach seafood barbecue. After lunch you will have time to relax, swim or snorkel in the crystal clear water. In the afternoon you will head back to Stone Town and have some time to stroll around the town.

Notes

Seafood barbecue lunch included
Considered one of the most popular day
tours when visiting Zanzibar
Vegetarians can be catered for

Operating hours

Full day guided tour
Time spent at Changu Island and the
Tortoise Sanctuary is 2 hours
Time spent at Nakupenda is 3 hours

[Book now](#)



SAFARI BLUE

What to expect

This tour takes you to one of the island's best snorkelling regions, which is difficult to reach on your own.

The tour starts at Fumba village south-west of Zanzibar Town. You will board a traditional Dhow (sailing boat) and make your way to a spectacular sandbank in the middle of the ocean. You can either use the time there to relax, sunbath and enjoy the beautiful scenery, or you may stay on the boat and enjoy some incredible snorkeling close to the sandbank.

Afterwards you will stop at another snorkeling spot to enjoy the diverse marine life in the translucent waters before heading to Kwale Island to have lunch.

The last destination on your adventure will be a beautiful natural lagoon which is perfect to have a last dip in the crystal clear water before you head back to Fumba.

Notes

The Dhow is usually shared but a private boat can be arranged

A delicious seafood lunch is included

Experienced crew and guides

Use of snorkeling equipment is included

Operating hours

Full-day tour, approximately 9 hours.

[Book now](#)



1000 HANDS OF ZANZIBAR

What to expect

On this half-day tour you will get the chance to immerse yourself in the typical village life of Zanzibar. You will visit local schools, a hospital and witness first-hand how local Zanzibarians live and work. You will see incredible craftsmanship, how they build boats and how they cook the local cuisine. The tour ends off with a stop at the turtle sanctuary in Nungwi.

Notes

We recommend combining this tour with a private dinner on the beach in Kiwangwa.

Operating hours

Half-day

[Book now](#)



PRISON ISLAND

What to expect

Prison Island, also known as Changuu Island, is about a 30-minute boat ride from Stone Town. A tour here lets you gain an understanding of a grim period of Zanzibar history. In 1860, the small island was used as a prison for disobedient slaves. By 1893, construction of an actual prison complex was completed, but instead of housing prisoners, it was used to quarantine yellow fever cases. Nowadays, the island is home to some endangered Aldabra giant tortoises, given to the island in 1919 by the British governor of the Seychelles. Some of those original tortoises are supposedly still alive here to this day!

Notes

Includes a 30-minute boat ride from Stone Town to Prison Island

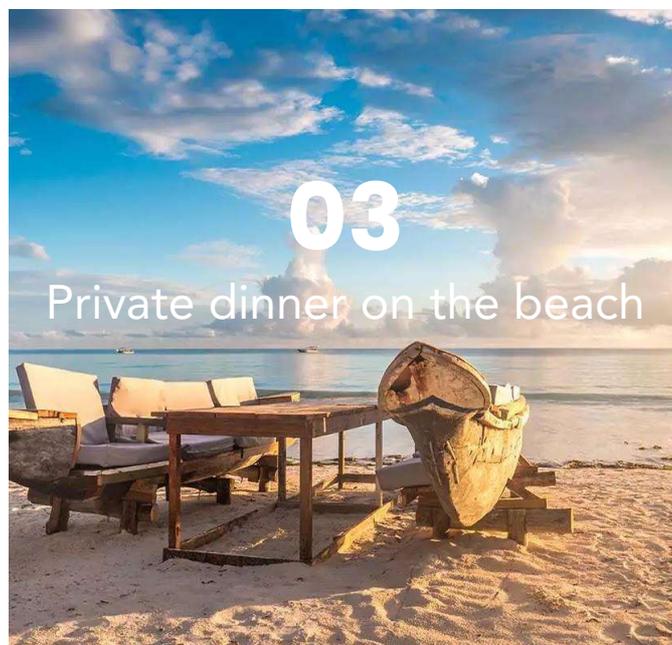
Operating hours

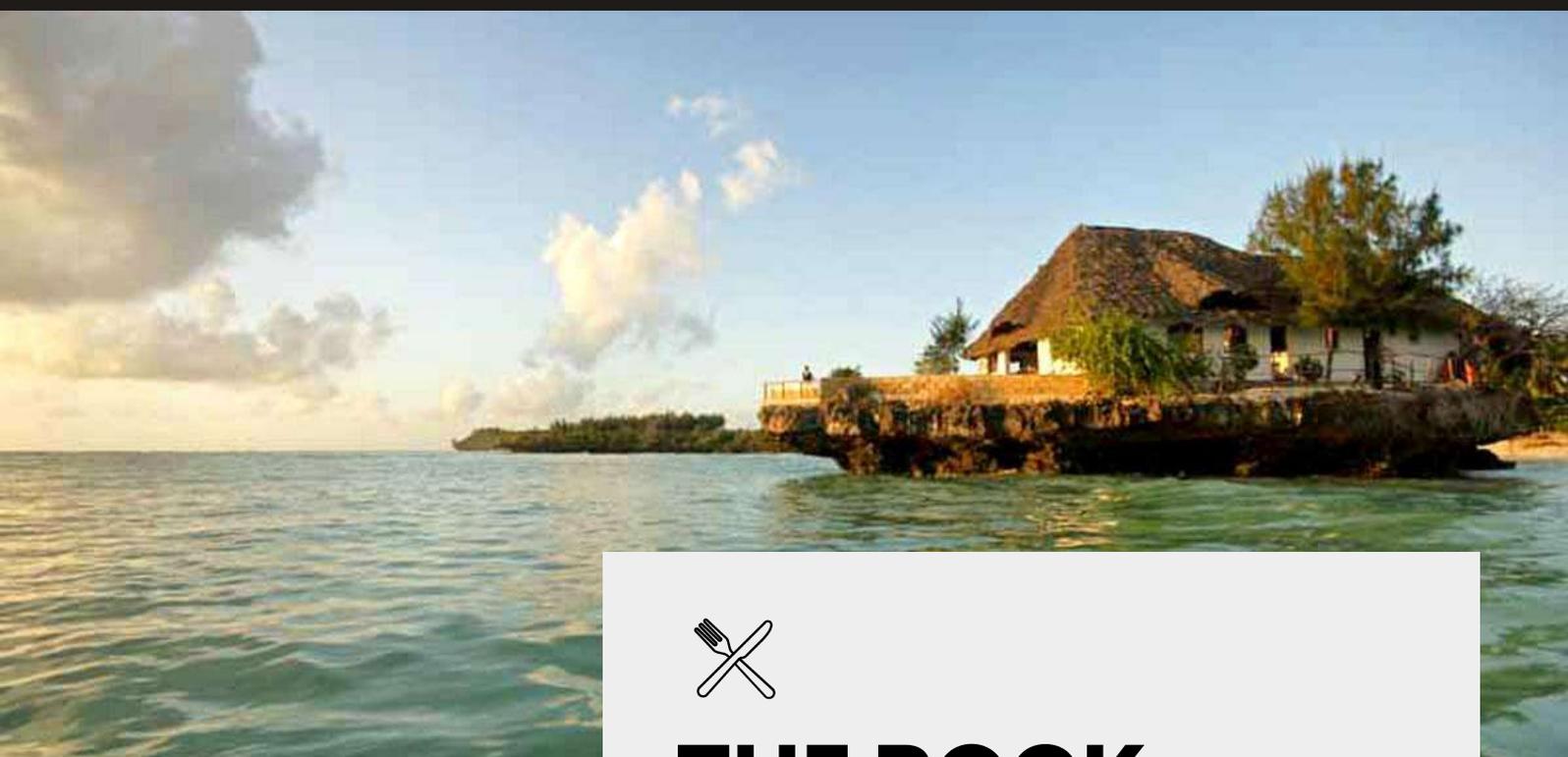
A trip to Prison Island is a half-day excursion. It can be included in other full-day tours however.

[Book now](#)



Dining experience





THE ROCK

What to expect

The Rock restaurant is world-famous and renowned for its iconic location, fabulous food and character. The menu is inspired by natural resources, a strong twist of Zanzibar, and mountains of Italian love. Close to the Michamvi Pingwe Beach on the south-east coast of the island, it is sometimes referred to as the floating restaurant.

Located on a rock in the ocean, you can access the restaurant by boat or even swimming if the tide is high. When the tide is low, you can simply walk.

Specialities include stewed rock lobster, grilled fish fillet, homemade tagliatelle served with lobster and the famous coconut tiramisu.

Notes

Ask your travel specialist to make a booking before you travel to avoid disappointment

Operating hours

12:00 to 20:00

[Book now](#)



EMERSON SPICE TEA HOUSE RESTAURANT

What to expect

Perched on top of the Emerson Spice hotel, the Tea House restaurant offers 360-degree views and some of the finest food in Stone Town.

The five course 'Taste Safari' degustation menu is prepared daily by Zanzibari chefs. This seafood-based feast celebrates the freshest and best the market has to offer each morning. The sunset hour is an integral and pleasurable part of the experience and diners are encouraged to arrive at around 18h00 to enjoy a sundowner before dinner.

All the reviews highlight the great service, beautiful views and delicious food.

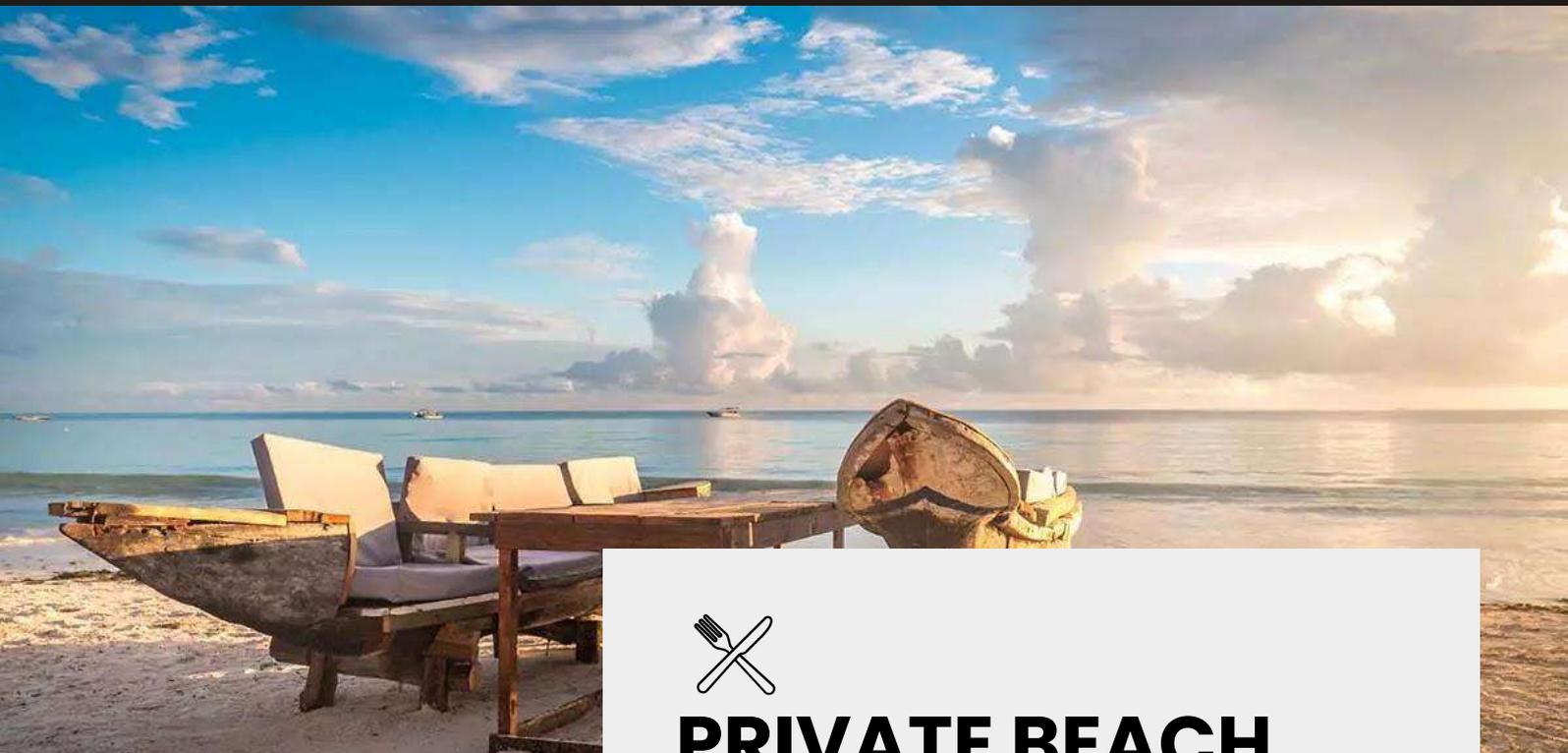
Notes

Vegetarians and vegans can be catered for
Located in Tharia Street, Stone Town.

Operating hours

Diners are encouraged to arrive around 18h00 to enjoy the sunset hour before dinner, which is served promptly at 19h00.

[Book now](#)



PRIVATE BEACH DINNER, KIWENGWA

What to expect

Sit back and enjoy the sunset while the chefs prepare fresh, local food on the grill. This can include lobster, squid, octopus, fish of the day or shrimp. All will be combined with a side of jasmine rice, fries, Zanzibarian salad and sauces prepared with the best of spices from the island.

Notes

Best enjoyed with a refreshing Kilimanjaro, Serengeti or Safari beer

Operating hours

To be arranged

[Book now](#)

Any questions?

Get in touch with our LuxVenture® Designers

Send an email

KER  DOWNEY
AFRICA
PIONEERING AFRICAN TRAVEL

www.ker-downeyafrica.com

[Sign up to our Newsletter](#)

