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ZANZIBAR HALF DAY TOURS:

STONE TOWN TOUR

This begins with a visit to Zanzibar's colorful market. Alive with the buzz of locals bartering fresh vegetables and baskets of tropical fruit, amongst the heady smell of Jack fruit (amongst many other exotic fruits) we continue on to the site of a cathedral built in 1874. The cathedral signifies a potent time in Zanzibar's history and stands on the site of a past slave market. Abolished in 1873 by decree of the Sultan of Zanzibar, the cathedral's high altar stands on the exact site of the whipping post that was in the market. From here we visit the residence of the late Sultan of Zanzibar, 'Tip Tip House', the Old Fort, 'Peoples Palace' and the House of Wonders', full of intrigue from days of long ago. The tour ends with a stroll down the narrow streets of the old stone town, the heart of Zanzibar's vivacious history.

SPICE TOUR

This is guaranteed to waken your senses, we visit spice plantations where you will have the opportunity to pick, smell & savour fruits & spices that you have probably never seen on the supermarket shelf. Commencing at the ruins of the Maruhubi Palace, via the site of David Livingston's house (one of Africa's greatest explorers) the journey continues north of town towards the Kidichi Persian Baths. From here we continue to the rural areas where local farmers live & produce some of the world's most exotic fruits and spices. Cloves, star fruit, 'bull's heart', tangerine trees, lemon grass, mangosteen and lip-stick trees to name but a few are what you can expect to see – according to the seasons. Perhaps you will fancy buying a basket of freshly picked spices to take home with you.

JOZANI FOREST

Jozani Forest lies about 35 km south-east of Zanzibar township in Zanzibar's South Region. It is a narrow neck of land between the Chakwa Bay in the north and Uzi Bay to the South, is the only remaining natural forest on Unguja Island (which along with Pemba make up the islands of Zanzibar). To have a complete forest tour, you must make a visit in all 3 parts of the forest including a re-planted species of trees from different parts of the world which most of them are medicinal plants, they are over 100m long, the forest sustains a wide variety of wildlife and birds, including the rare Red Colobus Monkey, its 10 kilometers of swamp forests and evergreen thickets provide a unique glimpse into a secretive world, you will then visit the natural bushes where are the home of red Colobus monkeys before you take a very relaxing walk into a well twisted wooden bridge crossing over the shadow of the varieties mangrove species, you must ask your guide about the close association between the witch doctors of Jozani & leopard found in the forest's thickest recesses, and mystical tales that have surrounded the reserve dating back to when Tigers inhabited the forest. *This is a half a day tour.*

PRISON ISLAND

This half a day tour boat ride to the island in a small wooden motorized boat is a must when visiting Zanzibar. Earning its namesake as a former prison for slaves, and a quarantine station for Kenya, Uganda and then Tanganyika, nowadays the island gives you the chance to escape for some peace and quiet! A hundred year old Giant Tortoises act as unlikely vigilant over the island and you cannot not help but wonder what tales they would tell if only they could talk! Approximately one kilometer long and a quarter of a kilometer wide, the location is perfect for swimming & snorkeling after a stroll round the island. Keep the best till last because it really is like diving into champagne the water is so clear.

BAWE ISLAND

In 1879, Bawe Island was given by Seyid Barghash bin Seyid, 3rd Omani Sultan of Zanzibar, to the Eastern Telegraph Company to be used as the operations station for the underwater telegraphic cable linking Cape Town with Zanzibar, Seychelles and Aden. The agreement was extended ten years later, in 1889, by the next Sultan, Seyid Khalifa bin Seyid. To accommodate the Cable & Wireless staff, Bungalows were built on the island, which were used also to host weekend parties when other town-based staff would visit and enjoy the beach with their families. Bawe is renowned for its exceptionally breathtaking marine life, becoming a popular sire for both snorkeling and scuba diving.

GRAVE ISLAND

The island was formerly known as 'French Island' and has a cemetery that was reserved in 1879 by the ruling Sultan and was later consecrated by bishop Steer (who built the famous Anglican Cathedral on the site of the old slave market) in 1880. The cemetery contains graves from residence of Zanzibar, officials and men of the Royal Navy Merchant Marine amongst which are British sailors who were killed in action with a German cruiser in 1914.

FULL DAY TOURS:

DOLPHIN TOUR

This half a day tour takes you to Kizimkazi along the south-west coast of Zanzibar, upon arrival at the fishing village Kizimkazi you will have a brief talk about the behavior and different types of dolphins before proceeding to the dolphins locations with 80% chances to see them. There is a fair chance you will get to play and swim with them, returning to the sea shore in the afternoon.

NORTH COAST TOUR

North coast tour – This trip leads you through one spice farm, Mangapwani slave Caves and Chambers and on to the beautiful white sandy beaches of Nungwi. The most wonderful place to relax and unwind after the dust and humidity of stone town. Pack your swim wear and enjoy a cool drink in Paradise *This is a full day tour.*

SAFARI BLUE

Think of the Africa boat Safaris, it is something one might not resist to take , it comes to you & why not to go?? Skyline Travel & Safaris has truly gone extra miles away to organise adventures that will make your holiday to Zanzibar the most memorable.

The original and the best “Safari Blue” is a full day excursion using locally made traditional sailing dhows of between 8 to 10 metres in length. We currently operate 6 passenger-carrying dhows that are finished to the very highest standards and fitted with outboard engines, marine VHF radios, gas inflatable life jackets, sunshade, boarding ladder, waterproof bags and first aid kit with DAN oxygen unit. We also have public liability and marine insurance.

The excursion starts at the fishing village of Fumba, 30 minutes drive from Stone Town. Fumba is situated in the southwest corner of the island and an ideal starting point to explore Menai Bay, designated a Conservation Area. The bay has a number of beautiful uninhabited islands and sandbanks and is frequented by humpback and bottlenose dolphins.

On arrival at Fumba clients are given a briefing on the day and a life jacket demo. We then board the dhows and set off to explore the bay and find the dolphins. We are lucky enough to see dolphins on at least 85% of our trips.

Later in the morning we stop on a sandbank where we set up sunshades and fit the clients with snorkelling equipment. We have a large range of sizes and good quality equipment. Guides, who can safely lead the snorkelling session and show points of interest, accompany the clients. For beginners or those who are not confident swimmers, we have inflatable snorkelling vests and our guides can give tuition.

After snorkelling we offer fresh green coconuts before we move to another sandbank for lunch. During the morning our catering boat has gone on ahead to prepare lunch which is served on teak picnic tables set up beneath smart canvas sunshades.

Lunch is a traditional Zanzibar meal and includes a selection of grilled fish, slipper lobster, squid, rice, tamarind and coriander sauces and barbecued chicken. A gastronomic fruit tasting follows with a selection of between 10 to 15 different tropical fruits. Cold drinks are available throughout the day and include mineral water, sodas and beer. Coffee and Amarula liqueur are also served after lunch.

When the tide allows we visit a beautiful mangrove lagoon where it is possible to swim through the mangrove forest. We return to Fumba by sail and arrive back at 6 p.m. in time to see the colourful African sunset.

We advise clients that there are no formal changing facilities at Fumba so please wear your swimming things under your clothes. We also advise clients to bring waterproof shoes for boarding the dhows and to bring towels, sunscreen and a spare T-shirt for snorkelling.

FISHING TRIP:

Forget fishing in a modern fishing vessel with the latest in reels and rods and fighting chair. We offer visitors the unique opportunity to sail out to sea with a Zanzibari fisherman and see what “ fishing for a living “ is all about . Whilst the crew are busy preparing fishing nets the timelessness of this tradition will carry you far from the modern world’s pace. On returning to Zanzibar Island we will take you to see the colorful and bustling fish market where the fresh catches of the day are auctioned. This is full day tour.

