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Information Booklet

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# Zanzibar

## When to Come

Zanzibar is part of Tanzania in Eastern Africa. It is an archipelago in the Indian Ocean, just off the east coast of Tanzania and has a tropical climate with four distinct seasons: two dry seasons, one short, one long, and two wet seasons, one short, one long.

From **June till September** is the long dry season with all four months seeing low levels of rainfall and average temperatures around 25°C. During this period blue skies are likely to be uninterrupted.

From **October till December** Zanzibar is a period smattered with short rains called 'mwaka'. Temperatures rise, often getting into the 30s, the few smatterings of rain aren't enough to deter most people but be prepared for a few overcast days.

**January and February** comprise Zanzibar's short dry season. The heat soars with average highs at 29°C and while there is very little chance of rain, humidity remains high. The waters start to warm and wetsuits become optional.

**March till May** receive the prolonged and heavy monsoon rains. Between rainy periods the sun is bound to come out, days still seeing an average of six hours of sunshine, but a large chunk of any holiday during this time will be spent sheltering from the rain. The best time to be underwater since you are wet anyway.

The Muslim festival of Ramadan falls in the latter half of the year with the dates changing each year. During this time, many local restaurants are closed during the day and consumption of food and alcohol is prohibited in public.

## Getting Here

There are 2 ways to get to the Zanzibar Island from the mainland: by ferry or by plane. The ferry takes 1-2.5 hours depending on whether you take the fast or slow ferry. For information on departure times and prices, refer to [azammarine.com](http://azammarine.com). For flights from the Tanzanian mainland, visit Precision Air ([precisionairtz.com](http://precisionairtz.com)) and Coastal Aviation ([coastal.cc](http://coastal.cc)). Precision Air, Egypt Air, South African Airways, 1Time, British Airways, Kenya Airways and Ethiopian Airlines fly to Zanzibar from elsewhere in Africa and the latter 2 also fly to Zanzibar from Europe.

## Getting Around

Taxis are plentiful and there is no shortage of them at the airport to offer you a ride. Average fees are about 50000 Tanzanian Shillings or about 30 US\$ to get to the Kendwa and Nungwi region in the north of Zanzibar. If you want to have the authentic Zanzibar experience and have time to spare, consider getting on a "Dulla Dulla". These half bus half truck hybrids ferry the locals all over the island. Hang on to your stuff though. The average fee for a Dulla Dulla from Stone town to Kendwa is 3000Tsh

## Money

Most hotels and restaurants accept credit cards. Almost all of them with the exception of Zanzibar Watersports will levy a surcharge though. Most establishments also accept foreign currency in US\$, British Pounds and Euros and travelers checks. For local shopping, you will need currency in Tanzanian Shillings. You will get the best exchange rate in Stone Town. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ONLY ATMs ON THE ISLAND ARE IN STONE TOWN.

# Zanzibar Watersports

## About Us

A PADI dive center established in 2007 Zanzibar Watersports has stuck to its commitment to provide all manner of watersports for enthusiastic travelers. Our perfect safety record is a testament to these ideals. With dedicated expat and local staff, we strive to offer the best experiences the ocean has to provide.

## Location

Zanzibar Watersports has its home in Kendwa region of North Zanzibar. This area is widely acclaimed to be home to the best diving and beaches in Zanzibar including the world famous Mnemba Marine sanctuary. We have our base in the stunning Kendwa Rocks ([www.kendwarocks.com](http://www.kendwarocks.com)) as well as a booking office at the Paradise Beach hotel in Nungwi.

## Boats

Zanzibar Watersports uses a combination of traditional dhows and fiberglass speed boats. The former allow for comfort and space when the seas are a bit choppy and the latter allow us to get out to the more distant dive sites like Level Bank and Big wall quickly and efficiently for the more avid divers. This versatile fleet also gives us the ability to cater for a variety of watersports in comfort and safety. All our boats are fully equipped with safety gear and twin engines.

## Staff

We put a lot into our staff and they give us a lot back. Most of our local crew are from the North of Zanzibar and some were fishermen before they came to work for us. These expert sailors know the sea better than anyone and will always offer constructive advice on sea conditions and safety issues. They have almost all been trained in diving (one to instructor level and the other to divemaster) and all are trained in CPR and O2 use for added safety. They're all nice guys too, and have that typical laid back African charm!



zanzibar watersports  
kendwa 2009



## Scuba Diving

Zanzibar Watersports is a PADI Dive resort that employs trained PADI professionals both local and expat to offer a high degree of quality and satisfaction and most importantly safety to all our students and customers. We have a sizable insurance policy that covers all our guests and we are active contributors to the local decompression chamber.

### Seasons

For most of the year, Zanzibar is home to some of the calmest, clearest oceans imaginable. This combined with a plethora of marine life make it a perfect spot for a Scuba Diving vacation. Visibility is usually in the range of 10-40m depending on the dive site.

However, like everywhere in the world, weather does play a factor during certain months of the year.

**January and February** are when the 'Kaskasi' winds hit the island. These can render the ocean very rough and force boats to retreat to the safety of sheltered coves. If you are planning your vacation at this time however do not fret because the winds are unpredictable and it is quite common to have perfect weather interspersed by a few days of strong winds.

From the end of **March** through until **May**, the long wet season of Zanzibar means sea conditions and visibility can be quite poor. Having said that, it is possible to have good days interspersed among the others and some interesting dive days out to our more protected local sites.

### Gear

Zanzibar Watersports uses well maintained ScubaPro Mk2 R190/R295 combinations as its shop regulators, ScubaPro T-One BCD's and a mixture of ScubaPro and Mares closed heel fins. For exposure protection we have Reef 5mm wetsuits in both short and full length in a variety of sizes. Guests are also welcome to use their own gear and store it at our center during their stay here.



### Dive Sites

Here is a brief description of the best dive sites Zanzibar has to offer...

1. **Mnemba – Watabommi (6-30m):** Sandy slope with fringing plate coral, white tips, green turtles, large groupers.
2. **Mnemba – Kichwani (6-40m):** A wall of corals home to a vast array of marine life. Schooling fish feed in the shallow waters while larger predatory fish can be seen out in the blue.
3. **Mnemba - Big Wall (14-40m):** Northern edge of Mnemba Atoll is almost a kilometer long, best visibility, lobsters, white tips, turtles.
4. **Leons Wall (12 - 40m):** The edge of the inner reef. Leon's Wall is a vertical drop covered in a plethora of soft corals and encrusting sponges. Lionfish, schools of snappers, and the elusive leaf fish can all be seen along the wall.
5. **Misoli (12 - 40m):** Large coral island which can be circumvented on the dive. very diverse coral and lots of nudibranches.
6. **Kichafi (12-18m):** A very healthy reef with vast expanses of plate corals. The large sandy area adjacent to the site also makes this an excellent training ground for all courses.
7. **Haji (10-18m):** A submerged coral ridge attracts an abundance of marine life and sports a vast array of hard coral formations. There are numerous Crocodile fish and Nudibranchs to be found here.
8. **Mbwangawa (12-18m):** An eclectic mix of life, including lobster sheltering beneath plate corals and frequent encounters with cuttlefish. The chance to see turtles also makes this a very popular dive site.
9. **Ametatu (6-12m):** Sister reef to Chakatuni, small coral bommies hosting a wide variety of marine life of all sizes and colours.
10. **Chakatuni (12-18m):** Hard corals in the open sea, seen best at slack tide. Attracts a wide range of marine life.
11. **Shanes Reef (12-16m):** This weird and wonderful dive offers the best array of macro life around. Flying gurnards frogfish and Mauritius scorpion fish make this site a photographers dream.

12. **Hunga (12-18m):** A wall that drops down to 45m with cascading plate coral flowing into the deep. Lionfish, large rays and a passing point for dolphins and pelagic species.
13. **Nankivell (12-18m):** Can only be dived on specific tides this large area of coral has a great variety of reef fish, lobsters and the occasional small reef shark.
14. **Kendwa Reef (5-10m):** Suitable for both divers and snorkelers, this site is a great nursery full of vibrant juveniles hiding amongst the corals.
15. **Mwana na Mwana (2-12m):** Soft and hard coral bommies with glass fish sheltering in the crevices. Frogfish have been spotted here, and often green turtles stop by to take advantage of the cleaning service.
16. **Tumbatu – Haunted wall (2-15m):** A small eerie looking wall with beautiful soft corals sheltering nudibranchs and leaf fish, with inquisitive bat fish cruising past.
17. **Renco Bommi (7-14m):** A huge coral bommi coming up from the sand, with an explosion of marine life. Leaf fish, Octopus, and the colorful Mantis shrimps are a common site here. An ideal dive site for the less experienced.
18. **Leven Bank (14-40m):** An Exciting must do dive spot for experienced divers only. Spectacular dive, often in strong currents in the Pemba Channel with great visibility, but can only be dived on certain tides. Amazing mid-channel pinnacle, topped with coral and sandy patches, the walls drop down to over 160m. The pinnacle attracts some large pelagic fish from the open ocean, such as sharks, manta rays, whale sharks and big game fish. The pinnacle itself is home to things from huge Honeycomb moray eels to colorful nudibranchs. Dolphins are often seen playing in this area.

## Schedules

By far our most popular dive site is the spectacular Mnemba Island. Our trip there departs at 0900 and returns around 1600. The boat ride out takes approximately one hour and fifteen minutes.

For dive site closer to the island, we do half day trips and schedule these to coincide with the incoming tide or as close to high slack tide as possible. This of course means that departure times vary through the month.

Our special trips for advanced divers to Big wall and Leven bank are done by speed boat and again we need to time these to take advantage of the best tide conditions.

## Courses

We conduct PADI courses of all levels from Discover Scuba Diving to Divemaster.

### Discover Scuba Diving

Discover Scuba diving is for people who just want to have a taste of scuba diving with someone else taking care of the technicalities kind of like a tandem skydive. It is also for people who aren't sure if they will be comfortable in the water and want to test this out before committing to a course. However, if you have at least 3 days, are fairly comfortable in the water and can swim 200m at an average pace, you can jump straight into the Open water course.

You can either opt to do this at Renco bommi which takes only a few hours out of your day or take the more popular option and do it at Mnemba.

### Skill Refresher

If you haven't been diving in a while and need to get back into your comfort zone then this is the course for you. It takes only an hour or two and can also be invaluable for new divers. We require people who haven't used their dive skills in over a year to take this course.

### Open Water Diver

The Open Water course takes 3-4 days and consists of 3 parts: 5 academic sections (watching videos and taking exams), 5 confined water sections (learning and practicing important skills in shallow water) and 4 open water dives (applying your knowledge and skills to dives in the ocean). You must show your instructor that you know how to swim by swimming 200m (no time limit) and floating for 10 minutes. The price of the course includes all of the equipment and material, plus the certification card. On completion of the Open Water course, you will be certified to dive with a buddy of the same or higher experience level up to a depth of 18m.

## Scuba Diver

The Scuba Diver course is essentially half the Open water course and takes 2 days. It includes 3 confined water sessions and 2 Open Water dives. On completion, you will be certified to dive to a depth of 12m and must always be accompanied by a dive professional (divemaster and above). The Scuba diver course can easily be upgraded to open water at a later time by simply completing the remaining sections of the course.

## Advanced Open Water Diver

The Advanced Open Water Course consists of 5 dives over two days. The Deep and Navigation Specialty dives are compulsory. For the other three dives of your course, you can pick from the following:

1. **Peak Performance Buoyancy:** This dive is aimed at making a new diver more aware of how much their breathing affects their position in the water, helps them get it under control and focuses on general streamlining in order to make them better, more comfortable divers.
2. **Fish I.D.:** Did you see a lot of fish and other sea life on your first dives that you had absolutely no clue about? Then this dive is for you.
3. **Search and Recovery:** Follows from the Navigation dive to teach you the more elaborate navigation skills used for systematically searching for objects underwater and then the methods and precautions to take while recovering them. A little bit like an underwater treasure hunt.
4. **Night:** Eerie and exciting, the night dive needs no explanation.
5. **Multilevel and Computer:** Teaches you how to operate a dive computer and plan your dives using one as well as maximize your time underwater by planning multilevel dives.
6. **Drift:** Learn how to use the ocean currents to your advantage and glide along effortlessly.

## Emergency First Response

This is a non-diving course that teaches basic CPR and first aid skills that can be invaluable for divers and non-divers alike and can be completed in an afternoon. This is also a pre-requisite for the Rescue Diver course.

## Rescue Diver

Rewarding and fun – that best describes the PADI Rescue Diver course. This course will expand your knowledge and experience level: Rescue Divers learn to look beyond themselves and consider the safety and wellbeing of other divers. Although this course is serious, it is an enjoyable way to build your confidence. Rescue Diver training will prepare you to prevent problems and, if necessary, manage dive emergencies. The course takes a minimum of 4 days and during your training sessions, you will learn:

- \* Self-rescue and diver stress
- \* AED and emergency oxygen delivery systems
- \* Diving first aid
- \* Swimming and non-swimming rescue techniques
- \* Emergency management and equipment
- \* Panicked diver response
- \* Underwater problems
- \* Missing diver procedures
- \* Surfacing the unconscious diver
- \* In-water rescue breathing protocols
- \* Egress (exits)
- \* First aid procedures for pressure related accidents
- \* Dive accident scenarios

## Divemaster

If you decide you want to make a full or part time career out of diving or just want to have professional level abilities, the Divemaster course is for you. The Divemaster Course is the first “professional” level course PADI offers. The diver will demonstrate exemplary diving and rescue skills; professional-level knowledge of dive theory; dive management and supervision skills; competence as a certified assistant; ethical role model; be enthusiastic and fun to be with. This course takes a minimum of 2 weeks to complete but we recommend students take out at least a month and work side by side with the dive center to learn all possible aspects of working in the dive industry.

## Snorkeling

If you don't dive, there are also some fantastic snorkeling options for you at Mnemba atoll and Tumbatu Island. The perfect way to spend the day with your partner or family if some dive and some don't or even if you just fancy a day out but do not want to lug around that dive gear.

## Diving and Snorkeling Price List

### Diving (including equipment)

Single Dive – local \$70  
Double-tank Dive – local \$125  
4-Dive package \$230  
6-Dive package \$335  
8-Dive package \$425  
10-Dive package \$495  
Leven Banks supplement \$35  
Night dive supplement \$35  
Mnemba supplement (incl. lunch & fees) \$35  
Check dive supplement \$15

### Snorkeling

Kendwa \$20  
Tumbatu half day \$30  
Mnemba (incl. lunch & fees) \$45

### Other Watersports

Kayaking – per hour \$10  
Water-skiing – per 15 minutes \$50  
Deep Sea Fishing POA  
Dhow Cruise POA

### Diving Courses

Discover Scuba Diving \$99  
Scuba Diver (SD) \$365  
SD upgrade to OWD \$295  
SD upgrade to OWD (excl. manual) \$235  
Open Water Diver (OWD) \$520  
OWD home study option (excl. manual) \$420  
Adventure Diver \$325  
Adv. Open Water Diver (AOW) \$470  
AOW with 1 Specialty (conditions apply) \$520  
Specialty course/Referral, per dive \$90  
Refresher \$30  
Emergency First Response \$150  
Rescue Diver \$515  
Divemaster POA  
DAN O2 Provider (excl. manual) \$100

### Equipment Rental

Snorkeling bag (mask, fins and snorkel) \$12

- Supplements apply for check dives, night dives and visits to dive sites at Leven Banks and Mnemba Atoll. These supplements cannot be pre-booked.
- All customers should complete a Watersports Registration Form and sign a hire contract and liability release & assumption of risk agreements before taking part in any watersports arranged by Zanzibar Watersports Ltd.
- Diving whilst on Lariam (anti-malarial) is not recommended. Please seek an alternative malaria prophylaxis.
- All PADI courses include materials / books (unless specified otherwise), PIC registration, qualifying dives, tuition and equipment hire.
- All dive packages are per person and cannot be shared.
- All divers must be in possession of travel insurance with watersports cover, including diving, and an internationally recognized diving qualification such as those issued by PADI, SSI, NAUI, BSAC and others. Proof of qualification is a prerequisite for diving with our center, and divers are also kindly requested to show our dive staff their log-book/s before undertaking any diving.
- If you have not dived in the last six months we will require you to undergo a check dive. If its been 12 months or more, we require a full refresher.
- Kayaking and windsurfing are charged per hour, or part thereof.
- Water-skiing is charged per 15 minutes or part thereof, minimum charge 30 minutes.
- Mandatory use of life jackets for all unsupervised activities.
- Rates are subject to change although we will make every effort to provide sufficient warning.
- Our standard terms and conditions apply.

## Big Game Fishing

With its location on Zanzibar's northern tip, Zanzibar Watersports is situated in close proximity to some of Africa's best deep sea fishing grounds. The waters between Zanzibar and Pemba are home to some excellent game fishing opportunities.

### Seasons

December through to March is peak Billfish season. This includes all species of billfish, which are blue, black and striped marlin, sailfish and broadbill or commonly known as Swordfish. End of December through to March the northern monsoon winds blow (Kaskasi Winds). These winds are strong, and the sea can be quite choppy.

March through to October is the Dorado and Yellow fin Tuna season. Average size of the Dorado is 9kg and the Tuna is roughly 14kg. The seas are more calmer this time of the year, although large rolling oceanic swells can be experienced.

Other pelagic species such as GT's (Giant Trevally), Wahoo, King Mackerel, Barracuda, and Skip Jack Tuna are normally around throughout the year.

### Boats

Three professional deep sea fishing boats are on offer: Haraka (below left), Timimi (below center) and Suli Suli (below right). All are equipped to the highest international safety standards. They also have the latest technology, with GPS navigational aids, echo sounders and fish finders.



### Gear

A full set of tackle is provided with Shimano, Fenwick, Harnell or KC rods and Shimano or Penn international reels, spooled with 80 1b, 50 1b and 30 1b mono line. Clients who wish to use their own lighter tackle are welcome, and we are conversant with the IGFA fly-fishing regulations.

### Prices

**Half day:** 5 hours: Suli Suli \$425

Timimi \$600

Haraka \$695

**Full day:** 8 hours: Suli Suli \$595

Timimi \$820

Haraka \$995

- Half day trips are either a morning (6.30am to 11.30am) or afternoon (1.30pm to 6.30pm) slot.
- Full day trips are eight hours.
- Rates include full charter of boat, skipper, bait, tackle, equipment hire, lunch (full day) or snacks (half day) and soft drinks.
- Rates exclude tips.
- Our standard terms and conditions apply.

## Other Activities

### Zanzibar Seafari

The Zanzibar Seafari excursion is a great day out, not to be missed. It includes world class snorkeling at the famous Mnemba Atoll, a marine conservation area, followed by a scrumptious seafood barbeque on the idyllic Muyuni beach.

The Seafari departs from Nungwi, followed by an hour's trip along the stunning north-east coast of Zanzibar. Dolphin sightings are common. Two amazing snorkel sites await you at Mnemba, each very different from the other, from coral gardens to a steep reef that disappears into the abyss.

After several hours of snorkeling, your dhow heads to Muyuni beach, where you will be met by our friendly staff and a feast not to be forgotten. Our comfortable but rustic beach banda offers shade from the heat. Hammocks are dotted around the banda, in amongst the screw palms. Eat and drink as much as you can, and soak up the sun enjoying the stunning views of Mnemba.

The excursion ends with a traditional sail back to Nungwi.



Included in this full day excursion:

- Traditional dhow sailing
- Snorkeling at Mnemba Atoll including Marine Park fees
- Beautiful marine life and corals
- Snorkel guide, towels and equipment
- Delicious seafood and mixed grill beach BBQ
- Hot and cold beverages
- Amazing beach with stunning views

**Price \$65 per person.**

## Sunset Cruise

The best way to experience the glorious Zanzibar sunset, on a traditional wooden dhow with the wind in your sail and a glass of wine in your hand as you cruise along watching the setting sun cast gold and amber hues on the North Zanzibar coast.



Whether you would like a romantic moment with your partner or just a fun evening with family or friends, we have different boats that can accommodate you.

The Sunset Cruise runs for about 3 hours and departs from Nungwi and Kendwa. We first head for Kendwa reef where if you like, you will be treated to a glimpse of Zanzibar's underwater bounty on a guided snorkeling tour just before the sun sets. When you have had your fill of snorkeling, get back on the boat, crack open the ice box and dig in to the wonderful liquid and edible treats that it holds as the sun dips below the horizon and the boat leisurely sails back.

### Included in this excursion:

- Beer or Wine
- Sodas and Water
- Crisps and snacks
- Traditional dhow sailing
- Snorkeling at Kendwa reef

**Price \$50 per person.**

### Other Watersports

Para Sailing:	\$80 for a single rider \$120 for a tandem (total weight not exceeding 130kg)
Jet Skis:	\$50 per 15minute session. \$200 or \$220(single or double) for the Jet Ski Safari lasting 90 minutes. A guided tour between Nungwi, Tumbatu Island and Kendwa.
Ringos: & Wake boards	\$50 per 15 minute session
Other:	POA

We hope you enjoy your stay in Zanzibar. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any additional information.

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