

TANZANIA'S ISLANDS & COAST

Tanzania's 1,424km coastline centres on the large, bustling city of Dar es Salaam – the country's economic capital and transport hub. Away from the capital, this coast is dotted with quiet fishing villages, ancient trading centres, and a host of impressive natural wonders.

For over 2,000 years, the Indian Ocean monsoon winds have enabled trade between the East African coast and Arabia, Persia and India. This long cultural history and rich mix of peoples have created a distinct Arab-African fusion society, known as Swahili, which holds strong today. From Kilwa's imposing, if decaying, medieval ruins, to Zanzibar's impressive Omani architecture and narrow tangle of merchant houses; from the historic hand-carved sailing dhows still plying the seas to the sheer range of exotic ingredients on offer – this area is a magical, tropical melting-pot.

There are many enticing reasons to visit this fascinating corner of the continent – from the stunning Rufiji River delta, east Africa's largest delta and the region's greatest concentration of mangroves, to the numerous picture-perfect, palm-fringed beaches of Ras Kutani; from the challenging diving off the deep Pemba Channel to Mafia's marvellous marine park, with its migrating whale-sharks. And that's all without the sheer heady romance of the name 'Zanzibar', the country's most evocative island destination. With so much on offer, the seashore and chains of tropical islands have long been a draw.

However, the rise of tourism – often large-scale and sometimes badly managed – has had an undeniable impact on some areas. Genuine cultural interactions and deserted beaches are increasingly hard to find, but there are still authentic experiences to be found – culinary, cultural and environmental; we can help you seek out the very best.



Many of Zanzibar's beaches extend as far as the eye can see



