

YORK COLLEGE GOES TO KENYA & TANZANIA

19 days

Itinerary downloaded on: July 27, 2024

Day 14: ***Karatu Area - Arusha - Zanzibar***

Our journey takes us to the edge of the Rift Valley with expansive views over Lake Manyara, one of the larger Rift Valley lakes, and the town of Mto Wa Mbu ('Mosquito Creek') , famous for its lively cosmopolitan atmosphere and red bananas, which taste the same as regular bananas but their skins are a startling bright red!

We continue to Arusha in time to connect with our flight to Zanzibar.

Zanzibar is an archipelago made up of Zanzibar and Pemba Islands, and several islets. Zanzibar Island is 96 km (60 miles) long and 32 km (20 miles) wide, occupying a total area of approximately 1040 km sq (650 sq miles). It is characterised by beautiful sandy beaches with fringing coral reefs, and the magic of historic Stone Town -- said to be the only functioning ancient town in East Africa.

Zanzibar's local people are an incredible mixture of ethnic backgrounds, indicative of her colourful history. Islam is the dominant religion, and practiced by most Zanzibaris, although there are also followers of Christianity and Hinduism. Population is estimated at 800,000, with the largest concentration being Zanzibar City, which has approximately 100,000 inhabitants. Zanzibaris speak Swahili (known locally as Kiswahili), a language spoken extensively in East Africa. Many believe that the purest form is spoken in Zanzibar as it is the birthplace of the language.

Overnight on Zanzibar. Mnarani Beach Cottages.

Meal Plan: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 15: ***Zanzibar: Stone Town, Spice Tour & Jozani Forest***

Today we have a walking tour of Stone Town, the old city and cultural heart of Zanzibar, little changed in the last 200 years. It is a place of winding alleys, bustling bazaars, mosques and grand Arab houses whose original owners vied with each other over the extravagance of their dwellings. This one-upmanship is particularly reflected in the brass-studded, carved, wooden doors -- there are more than 500 different examples of this handiwork.

The history of Zanzibar would be incomplete without a 'spice tour.' Cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon, pepper and many other spices were as important to the Sultans of Oman as the infamous slave trade. They can be seen in the plantations just outside Zanzibar town, and our tour includes opportunities to dazzle the senses with fresh spices. A detailed description is given about a variety of spices and their uses in cooking and cosmetics. It is fascinating the sheer number of spices produced and their incredible value for many ailments and culinary applications.

We finish with a stop at the Jozani Natural Forest Reserve located in the central east region of Zanzibar Island, home to the rare red colobus monkey, endemic to Zanzibar. These monkeys are full of character and roam freely. They can also be seen at very close quarters just outside the reserve's perimeter and are incredibly photogenic. Jozani is home to other species including Syke's monkeys, small buck and bushpigs.

Overnight on Zanzibar. Mnarani Beach Cottages.

Meal Plan: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 16: *Zanzibar*

Today is free to enjoy this tropical paradise.

Overnight on Zanzibar.Mnarani Beach Cottages.

Meal Plan: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 17: *Zanzibar*

Today is free to enjoy Zanzibar and our resort.

Overnight on Zanzibar.Mnarani Beach Cottages.

Meal Plan: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 18: *Tanzania - Nairobi,- Depart*

Today we fly home from Zanzibar (via Nairobi).

SAFARI NJEMA!

Meal Plan: Breakfast

Day 19: *Arrival in Washington*

Arrival back in Washington (flight details TBA).