

ZANZIBAR

TANZANIA

An island filled with color and calm



A 7-DAY ISLAND ITINERARY



Jah Collective, 2025
Travel Series

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Jah Collective Travel Itinerary

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*For the ones becoming.
For those traveling through life with open hands and open minds —
learning, releasing, and evolving along the way.*

Dedication

To my readers, my community, my people—

Thank you for joining me down this path.
For showing up, for cheering me on,
and for reminding me that my journey is worth sharing.
Your encouragement and curiosity fuels me often.

To my son, Jahmil—

My favorite passport stamp, my brightest star,
and the most fearless little travel companion I could ever dream of.
Thank you for being my rider, my joy, and my daily reminder of why healing
and legacy matters.

And to my parents—

Thank you for your unwavering love,
and your boundless support.
For always believing in me, for letting me dream big,
and for saying yes to every unforgettable adventure we've taken together.

This guide was born out of love, wanderlust, and deep intention.
May it inspire you to travel more boldly, to move with grace and curiosity,
and to always—always—follow the light.

With gratitude,

Jamielah

Itinerary Overview

Zanzibar invites you to soften.

This itinerary is intentionally unhurried—built around water, warmth, and rhythm rather than schedules and travel chaos. This portion prioritizes rest, presence, and sensory experience, while still offering enough structure to move with ease. Zanzibar isn't about doing more, it's about noticing more.

This guide is for travelers who want space to exhale, to follow the day as it unfolds, and to let stillness be part of the experience.

Whether you're here for a few days or a full week, let Zanzibar meet you where you are, inviting you to move slowly, stay curious, and remain present.

Total Duration: 20 days

Destinations: Dubai → Nairobi → Zanzibar → Dar es Salaam (layover) → Akosombo → Accra

Travel Vibe: Restorative, cultural, kid-friendly, and joy-filled. A mix of slow travel, heritage, adventure, and a little luxury—designed for the modern family traveler.

What's Inside

Inside, you'll find a detailed day-by-day itinerary featuring key travel days and must-see stops, plus helpful notes for families traveling with young children. I've included food, culture, and soft luxe recommendations to help you experience each destination with ease and intention. Also, heads up, dropping Jah Gems throughout!

Who This Itinerary is For

Whether you're a family looking to experience the continent with ease, a solo traveler, a couple craving peace with a healthy dose of exploration, or simply someone planning an epic extended journey with your favorite people (and you want to do it right), this manual was made with you in mind.

How to Use This As a Guide

Feel free to use this manual however it suits you best. Steal the full route and recommendations as-is, or revise the itinerary to fit your travel dates, vibe, and crew. I've also included some extras, like a packing checklist, suggested lodging (and swaps), and a fill-in-your-own-details section in the back, so you can make this journey truly your own.

This guide is designed to be flexible, and easy to personalize.

Made with love from my family to yours.

PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

Vaccinations

- Yellow Fever (mandatory)
 - Add proof of vax to your passport book for easy access when you land at each destination
- Malaria Pills 🟡 (recommended, but optional)

Estimated Vaccination Costs: ~\$540 per person (incl. malaria pills Rx)

Jah Gem: Consider whether to use your HSA (or equivalent) to cover vaccination and/or malaria pills RX-related costs

Travel Documents

- Electronic Travel Visas
 - (visas are required for Kenya, Tanzania, & Ghana)
- Ensure passport is valid for at least 6 months beyond travel dates
 - Estimated Costs: ~\$300 per person (including mailing and expedited service fees for Ghana visa)

Jah Gem: Ghana requires you to mail your physical passport to the U.S. Embassy for your visa, (they put it right in there, which is pretty cool) so give yourself plenty of lead-time. Ours was returned quickly, but next time we will apply well in advance to avoid the unnecessary anxiety.

Download Money Mobile Apps and Consider Other Options

- Apple Pay works in most areas
- Remitly may be helpful if you need to receive money from someone in the United States (works in every destination)
- Carrying cash is generally best practice in Africa
 - Tipping is expected for most services, so keep some cash
 - Also, you may be asked to pay a bribe and should keep a small amount of cash for this reason

*Disclaimer: We did not use Remitly, but may be a viable option based on research

Jah Gem: We were stopped by an officer and encouraged to pay a bribe while in Zanzibar. It was a little intimidating, but ultimately a light experience. Corruption is widespread throughout certain countries, but just be aware.

Jamielah's Packing Must-haves and Suggestions

- ❑ First-aid Kit (travel size)
- ❑ Snacks (individually wrapped and readily accessible)
- ❑ Mosquito Repellent
- ❑ Sunscreen & Hats (poncho for rainy seasons)
- ❑ Power Adapter (Type G – used in UAE, Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana)
- ❑ Lightweight, Breathable Clothing
- ❑ Safari hat + light jackets for early morning weather
- ❑ Comfortable Walking Shoes
- ❑ Binoculars!
- ❑ Photography Equipment
- ❑ Charcoal Pills/ Digestion Aids
- ❑ Lightweight Shoulder Bag/ Purse
- ❑ Travel water bottle with filter
- ❑ Beach toys & Entertainment
- ❑ Travel Wi-Fi Device

Jah Gem: For the “digital nomads” or folks who work remotely, consider a portable travel wi-fi rental company device, in addition to your mobile hotspot. We used a company called TravelWifi, [linked here](#). If one of your wi-fi devices doesn't work, typically the other one does. This company was also very responsive when we had issues.

- ❑ “Party Pack” (When you land)

Jah Gem: If you're following this itinerary, just know—you'll be traveling through a few predominantly Muslim countries where access to alcohol can be limited, expensive, or both.

So, if you're the type who enjoys a good drink and doesn't want to pay hotel prices for a watered-down (but admittedly cute) cocktail—or you simply can't imagine dinner without a glass of wine—do yourself a favor and stop at duty free.

Grab a party pack or a bottle for the room. Your future self—and your leisure committee –will thank you for thinking ahead.

ZANZIBAR

(June 11-17)

Length of Stay: 7 Days, 6 Nights

Note: Zanzibar requires proof of travel insurance for entry.

Lodging 1: June 11–13 — Matemwe (2 nights)

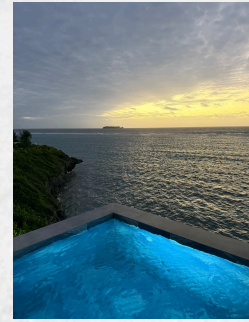
📍 Kanga Villa Matemwe Zanzibar

Hosted by Susan

Kasha Street, Unguja North Region

Approx. \$700 total (private villa, up to 6 guests)

Private chef and private beach, very remote



Lodging 2: June 13–17 — Bwejuu (4 nights)

📍 Villa in Bwejuu

Hosted by Zanzibar Ocean Villas

Bwejuu, Zanzibar Central/South Region

Approx. \$1,000 total

Beachfront, up to 12 guests, includes chef + security + staff



Transportation: Rental Car: June 11–17

Pickup: ZNZ Airport

Drop-off: ZNZ Airport

Approx. \$150 total for 7 days

Note: Drop-off can also be arranged at the ferry terminal—see note below.

Excursions, Restaurants, & Cultural Experiences

- Swim with turtles, snorkeling, or boat tour
- Swahili cooking class
- Spice farm tour
- Relaxation on the beach
- Local market shopping
- The Rock Restaurant – June 14 at 16:00 (13-min drive)
- Stone Town exploration
- Safari Blue (ocean safari)



Note: Excursion costs range from \$10–\$90 per person. Meals and market costs vary. Full pricing is reflected in the Sample Travel Budget.

Safari Bonus: Arusha & Northern Circuit

safari tour: Arusha, Tanzania
(Not Recommended for small children/ toddlers)

Length of Stay: 3 Days, 2 Nights

Safari Coordination: Goldfinch Safaris

Goldfins Adventures +255761401971

Email: brenda@goldfinch-adventures.com

📍 June 11 Nairobi → Arusha

- Morning & Afternoon: Leave Nairobi and travel via ground transportation with Goldfinch Safaris, crossing in Namanga
- (~4–6 hours drive to Arusha)
- Lodging Night One: Tulia Boutique Hotel & Spa for 1 night
- Evening: Rest and prepare for the game drive

📍 June 12 Arusha → Tarangire

- Morning: Travel 2 hours to Tarangire National Park for guided game drive
- Afternoon: Transfer by Road to about 1 hour drive to Mawe Mawe Manyara Lodge [Suricata Boma Lodge]
- Evening: Stay for one night, dinner on the beach

📍 June 13 Ngorongoro Crater → Zanzibar

- Early morning: Travel (1 hour drive) to Ngorongoro Crater Highlands for final game drive
- Afternoon: Return transfer via road (approx. 3 hours) to Arusha Airport
- Evening: Flight Arusha to Zanzibar Airport (~90-minute flight)



Safari Bonus: Arusha, Tanzania Budget Sheet

Estimated Costs (Per Person)	
Category	Estimated Cost (usd)
Food & Lodging	\$600
Ground Transportation	\$400
Safari & Park Fees	\$1,000
Flight to Zanzibar	\$400
Total	\$2,400

A Note From My Parents:

Traveling through Africa with our daughter and grandson was the experience of a lifetime. The beauty, the wildlife, the people—it was unforgettable.

We've traveled a lot, but this safari in Arusha and the Northern Circuit was something special. Seeing our family explore Africa together felt full circle in so many ways. We're grateful for the opportunity, and we hope this itinerary inspires others to experience The Motherland for themselves.

— Khalid & Leslye Yancey



ZANZIBAR

Languages and Cultural Notes

Primary Languages:

- Swahili (official); English is also widely spoken, especially in tourist areas.

Helpful Phrases:

- Karibu – Welcome or You're Welcome
- Pole pole – Slowly (a way of life!)

Cultural Tips:

- Zanzibar is predominantly Muslim — dress modestly outside of resorts (especially in Stone Town).
- Remove shoes when entering homes or certain shops.
- Friday is a day of prayer; some businesses may close early.

Traveler Notes:

- Tanzanian Shilling (TZS) is the local currency, though USD is accepted in many tourist spots.
- Tap water is not safe to drink — stick to bottled water.
- Be cautious with street food; go for freshly cooked options.

Jah Gem: The mosquitos in Bwejuu were nothing to play with (Matemwe too, but especially Bwejuu). Bring your strongest bug repellent and then pack a back-up. I highly recommend adding aloe vera and tea tree oil to your bag for quick relief—my dad swears by cinnamon oil as repellent too.

Hear me, whatever natural remedy, oil, balm, or potion you think might help? Bring it. You'll be itching for it later—literally. *crying emoji* No but for real, come prepared. Your legs will thank you, your sleep will thank you, your attitude will thank you.



ZANZIBAR

Emergency & Health Info.



Healthcare Facilities Near Matemwe

North Valley Hospital – Nungwi

Location: Nungwi, approximately 25 km northwest of Matemwe

Overview: Provides a range of services including emergency care, pediatrics, surgery, and diagnostics.

Contact: +255 777 797 779

Website: northvalleyhospitaltz.com

MedStar Medical Center – Pwani Mchangani

Location: Pwani Mchangani, approximately 10 km south of Matemwe

Overview: Provides emergency care, routine check-ups, and specialized treatments.

Contact: +255 776 777 788

Website: medstarznz.com

Healthcare Facilities Near Bwejuu

MedExpress Hospital – Paje

Location: Paje, approximately 7 km south of Bwejuu

Overview: A modern facility catering to both residents and tourists, equipped with emergency services, pediatric care, and diagnostic services.

Contact: +255 777 750 040

Website: med-express.net

Urban Care Clinic – Jambiani

Location: Jambiani, approximately 15 km south of Bwejuu

Overview: Offers 24/7 emergency services, primary care, family medicine, and pediatric consultations.

Contact: [Contact Page](#)

Website: urbancare.clinic

Next Stop: Akosombo, Ghana

Rental car Drop off at Zanzibar Airport (ZNZ)

Flight Path: ZNZ to - DAR es Salaam Airport (DAR) - DAR - Addis Ababa Bole International Airport in Ethiopia (ADD) - ADD to Kotoka International Airport - Accra (ACC)

Zoom-In Itinerary: Check out of Bwejuu Airbnb by 7am

Drive to ZNZ (45 min)

Arrive at ZNZ airport by 8am

Flight from ZNZ > DAR 9:40am - 10:10am

Arrive at DAR airport by 10:15am

Flight time: 12:15pm - 7pm

(layover in Ethiopia (ADD) 2:55pm-4:00pm)

Jah Gem: If your next leg isn't time-sensitive, consider skipping the flight from ZNZ to DAR and take the ferry to Dar es Salaam instead. We didn't, but it was a real option—and honestly, could be a great way to slow down and see more of the coast.

Bonus: it's cheaper and more scenic than flying. If you've got the time, take the boat.