

## **ZANZIBAR ISLAND**

Zanzibar, situated 35km off the mainland, forms part of Tanzania and consists of two main islands, Unguja, also called Zanzibar and Pemba. The two islands have a total population of about 981 754 with an area of 2,332 km<sup>2</sup> (Unguja 1660 km<sup>2</sup> and Pemba 868 km<sup>2</sup>).

Zanzibar Town, which is located in the western part of the island of Unguja, is a capital of the Zanzibar. Its cover total area is 16km<sup>2</sup> (from official data of 1982 Master plan) with a total population of 205 870 inhabitants. The town is composed of two areas: Stone Town, the old part, and Ng'ambo, the large and expanding part of the Zanzibar Town.

Stone Town occupies the most western edge of the town of Zanzibar. It covers a total area of 96 hectares and a buffer zone area of 84.79 hectares which make about 5.4 % of the total area of Zanzibar Town (according to 1982 boundary). With around 18 000 inhabitants Stone Town makes about 5 % of the population of Zanzibar Town.

Apart from agriculture and small industry, Stone Town is the place and centre of all other activities: commercial, administration, social and cultural. Since the liberation of Zanzibar economy, the old town has been also the centre of tourism economy.

Among 96 hotels in Zanzibar Town (236 hotels in Zanzibar) Stone Town has 56 hotels with a total number of 890 rooms and 1653 beds (4596 rooms and 9285 beds for Zanzibar). This figure is important when one thing that at least 95% of an average of 90 000 tourists who have been visiting Zanzibar every year since 1997 have passed in Stone Town. Here lies the source of dynamism and the pressure of development activities of Stone town.

It is a site that has been nominated for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s International World Heritage List. The list based on World Heritage Convention of 1972 aims to catalogue and preserve sites of outstanding importance, either cultural or natural, to the common heritage of humankind.

Stone Town is the main city on Zanzibar. It is a city of prominent historical and artistic importance in East Africa. Its architecture, mostly dating back to the 19th century, reflects the diverse influences underlying the Swahili culture, with a unique mixture of Moorish, Arab, Persian, Indian and European elements. For this reason, the town has been included in UNESCO's World Heritage Sites in 2000.