

# Zanzibar Education

2025/6



Stonetown, Zanzibar



Education volunteering



Childcare





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# I. What is the program about?

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The Education project on Zanzibar came into place in 2011. After a successful pilot project, this project has been growing strongly and has received volunteers from Sweden, South Africa, Germany, Norway, Canada, and the Netherlands who have had an incredible time supporting the selected schools in Zanzibar.

The Primary schools we work with offer English medium education to large classrooms and work with limited resources and facilities. As English is the language used for national exams and especially useful for the main income of the island, which is tourism, many schools offer education in English. Unfortunately, the level of English for most teachers is very limited, creating huge challenges to educate students in an appropriate way. Some schools operate 2 schools a day (morning and afternoon school) due to the lack of buildings. Children from 6-18 years old receive their education in open classrooms, with barely enough benches and chairs for each child. Conditions are very basic and the extra help from volunteers are needed to offer English classes, support the teachers with sharing their views on education and possible support with sports activities and remedial teaching for those who have disadvantages.

The need for good education and care is a worldwide challenge. Children deserve proper education and the best care and to be educated in a way that they can find work opportunities in Zanzibar but also internationally. English and Maths are two subjects that schools have challenges in, the classrooms are big, English is not always spoken by teachers and facilities are basic. You can make a change here by supporting the schools and its principals, by offering your assistance and making part of the local team to improve education where we can!





## 2. What do volunteers do?

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The children in the area are the main target group. As Zanzibar is a remote island and receives most of its income from tourism, they need to learn English to improve their chances for the future. Children in Zanzibar are eager to learn from volunteers and love to test their English on you. As 95% of all island inhabitants are Muslim, you will see that the school's system is different compared to other countries, and girls wear headscarves to school. Non-Muslims are more than welcome, and the local community is happy to have you, if their religion and ways are respected, and volunteers adapt to local customs.

### **Project Needs**

There is, besides daily teaching and assistance, also a need for financial support. Any possible gifts and donations provided by volunteers and their network of people are extremely appreciated.

If you have any of these small items that can fit into your luggage you are welcome to do so!

- Educational posters
- Colour crayons
- Colour cardboard
- Pens
- Pencils
- Water paint
- Small scissors
- Glue

### **Daily Activities**

In the morning you arrive at the school and assist in your allocated classroom. You will work together with the teachers, to see how and where you can assist. You can for example teach English, Math's, or other subjects for 3-4 hours a day.

After school there are sports activities that need enthusiastic people to supervise and coordinate. Football and Netball are the 2 most popular sports and motivating children to participate in sports will increase their health and social skills. (sports equipment is always welcome)

Other after school activities are marking tests and checking homework and very importantly to prepare lessons for the next day.



Other possible activities could be:

- remedial teaching for individual children,
- offering life skills classes and education regarding issues such as HIV/AIDS
- creating educational material
- preparing lessons on subjects such as country information, how a magnet works, the solar system, well basically anything that children love to learn about!

## 3. Working hours and supervision

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### **Working days & hours**

Depending on the season and whether you will work generally 5 days a week from 8:00am - 15:00pm with weekends off to explore the island. Please take note that this is Africa, and the concept of time is very different from what you know. Schools can close without notification and hours can differ.

### **School Terms:**

Please feel free to ask your booking agent for updated school terms.

### **Your Support Team:**

The work of any volunteer or student is coordinated by our Khaya coordinator on Zanzibar. They will pick you up upon arrival, show you around and be your host for the duration of your stay. Your activities at the schools will be supervised and coordinated by one of the local staff who speaks English.

Your Khaya coordinator will:

- Welcome you upon arrival
- Take you to your accommodation
- Give you an introduction to Zanzibar
- Accompany you to the school your first day
- Support you throughout your volunteering period

Good communication with your coordinator is essential. Please share your questions, needs, or concerns with them regularly so they can help you.





### **Zanzibar Coordinator - Jessica**

“My name is Jessica,, I am in my thirties, born and raised in Zanzibar, Tanzania. Currently a law student at Zanzibar Law School. I'm passionate about making a tangible difference in communities that face unique challenges. I love working with international volunteering because I believe it's important to give back to the community and help those who are less fortunate. I also enjoy volunteering because I get to collaborate with people from all walks of life, and get the chance to step out of my comfort zone and experience

different cultures firsthand, learning new skills and gaining a broader perspective on global issues. And it is an amazing opportunity for me, for I believe that I will gain personal growth and self discovery.”

Good communication with your coordinator is essential. Please share your questions, needs, or concerns with them regularly so they can help you. If you wait until the end of your stay before discussing certain challenges, it will be challenging to act on this as needed.

### **Working with Local Staff**

Working alongside local staff can present some challenges: Language differences may create communication barriers and/or Both you and the staff may have different expectations.

For a successful experience, remember to communicate openly, build trust gradually, practice patience, show respect for local practices and circumstances.

Your understanding and flexibility will help create a positive experience for everyone involved.



## 4. How to join the program

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### **Step 1**

Submit your application.

### **Step 2**

Our booking office will send you the necessary forms to complete and request your supporting documents. Once we have received everything back from you, we will submit your application to the hospital in Zanzibar for approval.

### **Step 3**

Our booking office will send you a confirmation email

### **Step 3**

Check out our special discounts and offers & book your flights and/or travel arrangements.

### **Step 5**

Finalise your payments.

### **Step 6**

Wait in anticipation for your departure date!





## 5. About Zanzibar

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In Zanzibar, time seems to have stood still and people still live traditional lives. Zanzibar has been the entrance of Eastern Africa for centuries and it was here that most slaves were sold, and Indian, Chinese, and Arabic merchants would arrive to trade their fares and buy spices, ivory and slaves.

The history of Zanzibar has created a unique mixture of Indian, African, and Arabic influences which can be seen in its people, food, culture and building styles.

Stone Town in Zanzibar, Tanzania is magical, a labyrinth of alleys and walkways barely wide enough for bicycles and pedestrians. Beautifully carved doors lead entrances to a hidden world of carpenters, sewing shops, and Zanzibar family life. Street vendors sell pre-cut mango's, coffee in little porcelain cups, zamzam (sugared nuts and seeds) and souvenir shops try to lure you in their paradise of beadwork, Maasai dukkas (colourful robes the Maasai wear), 'pole pole' (slowly slowly) T-shirts and beautifully made wood carvings.

It can be hot and humid but a feast to the eye, especially in the evenings when Forodhani Gardens at the seafront transforms in an open-air restaurant, where you can buy grilled squid, mikhaki's (kebabs of fish and meat), fresh tuna, lobster and all the seafood you can imagine. All this is washed down with freshly squeezed sugarcane juice mixed with lemon and ginger.

Stone Town and the surrounding villages offer volunteers the unique opportunity to enjoy the white beaches, clear blue water, coconut palm trees and the unique Zanzibar culture and food. The island is a popular backpacker's destination and has a variety of small beach villages, within 30 minutes travel, to enjoy long weekends under the palm trees.

The influences of India, Africa and Arabia can be seen in its inhabitants, the food and building styles of the houses. Zanzibar is a dreamy place and will surprise you constantly when you volunteer there.







## 6. Safety

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Zanzibar is generally considered reasonably safe for travellers and volunteers, but like any destination, it's important to be aware of certain considerations:

Zanzibar experiences relatively low rates of violent crime compared to many other tourist destinations. Most visitors have trouble-free experiences, particularly in areas frequented by tourists and volunteers. The volunteer house is based in a safe area where you can also find the international embassies and other international organizations and companies and despite this creating a need to travel to and from work a little longer, your safety is more important than anything.

### **Be aware of:**

- Petty theft: Pickpocketing and bag-snatching can occur, especially in crowded areas and tourist spots
- Beach safety: Be cautious when swimming as some beaches have strong currents
- Transportation: Road safety standards may differ from what you're used to
- Health concerns: Take standard precautions with food and water, wash your hands frequently and don't eat street food that has not been prepared fresh.

### **Safety Tips**

- Always follow your supervisor's guidance
- Don't travel alone at night, especially in unfamiliar areas
- Keep valuables secure and be discreet with expensive items
- Respect local customs and dress modestly. Women should not show much of their legs and chest. (exception to this rule would be when you are at the beach, but no topless sun bathing)
- If you are diving or snorkelling, you may be tempted to collect some pretty shells from Zanzibar's many coral reefs. Please do not, as this kills entire reefs, the devastating effects of which can be seen in the well-trodden areas of the East African coast. Although there are shell sellers, you are asked not to buy shells from them, as it simply encourages this harmful industry.
- Zanzibar is an amazingly photogenic place but if you want to take photographs of people, please ask for their permission first out of respect for them
- If you are not Muslim do not enter any of Zanzibar's mosques.
- Keep in mind that your safety comes with your own behaviour and looking after your personal items. Lock your room, if possible, give valuables to the coordinators to keep for you and be aware of your surroundings.
- Stay aware of your surroundings
- Zanzibar is alluring to many different tourists and many women from the west will find their African lovers here. Be aware of the smooth-talking beach boys that you will encounter and can organize everything for 'free' for you or very cheap, there usually is a price to pay somewhere down the line.



## 7. How much does it cost?

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### Included in fees:

- Personal collection upon arrival from the airport or harbour of Stone Town
- Accommodation: shared dorm style rooms in our volunteer house
- Donation to the schools to support their financial needs
- All meals (local standards) included including safe drinking water
- Guidance and supervision during your stay from our volunteer coordinator
- First day introduction at your project
- Offer of tours and outings in the weekends

### Excluded from your fees:

- Air tickets
- Insurances
- Own drinks including bottled mineral water and luxury items
- Transport on the island with local taxis, bicycle, or private transport
- Visa of 50 USD (upon arrival) and volunteering permit of 200 USD (after arrival)
- Inbound Insurance Zanzibar (mandatory since October 2024). ONLY from Zanzibar Insurance Corporation by visiting - [www.visitzanzibar.go.tz](http://www.visitzanzibar.go.tz) The cost of the policy is USD44 per visitor.

DURATION:	USD
1 Week	\$ 495
2 Weeks	\$ 765
3 Weeks	\$1 055
4 Weeks	\$1 285
Extra Weeks	\$ 300
Donation to the school (compulsory) once off	\$ 50



## **Accommodation**

Volunteers will be staying at our volunteer house which can accommodate up to 12 volunteers. The volunteer house has 3 large bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and large kitchen, as well as dining room and lounge area. The house has a garden with a secure wall and gate to make sure you are as safe as possible.

Bedding is provided in the form of sheets but bring a towel for personal use. Mosquito nets are not provided so you can bring one if you choose to. There is no malaria on the island so a mosquito net is for your comfort and not needed for health. If you don't have enough space in your suitcase: it is cheap to buy things locally.

The accommodation can be basic, standards are very different on Zanzibar then back home most probably, and showers do not have hot water, but the weather is hot enough to shower cold!

## **Meals**

3 Basic Meals per day are provided at the volunteer house. These will be local food, and should you want to supplement with your own luxury items you are welcome to do so at your own cost.

Meals are based on local ingredients and breakfast will offer bread, coffee and tea, omelette, sausages, jam, peanut butter, margarine and fruit. Lunch and dinners are cooked and will include meat, chicken, seafood, and vegetarian dishes, as well as the favourite 'chips' (fries) and pancakes. You can bring lunch to work by making sandwiches in the morning. Safe boiled drinking water is supplied in the house. If you would like bottled mineral water, you can buy this at Tsh 800 per 1.5 liter = 0.35 USD. (Please note that exchange rates can change on a daily basis.)

Please note that the standards of western food compared to Zanzibari food can be quite different and that it is hard to keep everyone happy with specific personal needs and wants, so like the rest of your experience; be flexible and please do not waste food. We will try to accommodate you as much as possible within the local standards and possibilities.

## **Transport**

Zanzibar is semi-autonomous and as part of Tanzania you can fly straight to Zanzibar or fly to Dar es Salaam. If you fly to Dar es Salaam you need to take a cab to the ferry to Zanzibar, where you can buy a ticket for the relaxing 40-minute boat ride to the island. It is very important that we know of your travel arrangements in time so we can be ready for you to arrive

Upon arrival at either the airport or ferry terminus, you will be welcomed by the Volunteer coordinator who will show you around and take you to your accommodation. After freshening up and getting to know the staff, you will be given an introduction and go



through some rules and regulations.

Your coordinator will also show you how to use the daladalas (local taxis). In your first week you will be shown a bit of Stone Town and explore the narrow alleys of this beautiful and atmospheric town to really get an impression of Zanzibar.

Most volunteers use the daladalas, which have specific routes from your accommodation to Stone Town and onto other destinations. It can be time consuming but also a great start of the day to experience transport the local way; life stock and big mamas all squeezed into a small minibus. The first day of volunteering, the coordinator will take you to your project and show you how to get home, at times with support from volunteers who already know the route,, but after that you will need to do it by yourself.

The daladala is very cheap and runs often so fit in and do things like a local.

Private transport with a taxi to and from the volunteer house to the hospital can be offered with a taxi if you prefer. This will cost you roughly 60 USD per person per week, based on a minimum of 2 people. This will be a local payment if you choose this option and you can discuss this after arrival with the local coordinator.





## 8. When can I start?

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Volunteers have the option to start or finish with their project at any given time. Keep in mind that we only work increments of full weeks. Minimum duration of the project is 2 weeks, and you can book for as long as you like.

### **Ramadan**

If you decide to volunteer during this time you need to be aware of the following:

#### **What is Ramadan all about?**

Ramadan is regarded as the holiest month of the year for Muslims as it was the month in which the Quran was revealed to Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) on the night of Laylat Al Qadr, one of the last ten nights of Ramadan. The annual observance of Ramadan is considered one of the 'Five Pillars of Islam'. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Hijri (Islamic) calendar.

#### **How long does it last?**

Ramadan lasts for one complete moon cycle, which is usually 29 or 30 days. The moon sighting determines the duration. Nowadays, astronomical calculations have started taking precedence over the age-old tradition of moon sighting by the naked eye to determine the dates.

#### **How do we know exactly when it starts?**

A moon-sighting committee in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, will make an official announcement.

#### **How do you greet each other?**

|Greet people by saying "Ramadan Kareem". This roughly translates into "Happy Ramadan".

#### **How do Muslims observe Ramadan?**

Adult Muslims are required to fast from dawn to dusk every day throughout Ramadan. Those who are ill, elderly, diabetic, pregnant, menstruating, or breast-feeding are not required to fast. Those who travel or are unwell during the period of Ramadan may fast on different days at a later point. Children are not required to fast unless they have reached puberty, although many still do out of choice.

In addition to abstaining from eating, drinking, and smoking, Muslims also refrain from sexual relations as well as sinful speech and behaviour.

During Ramadan, Muslims pray every night for 30 days, reciting different chapters each day until the Quran is completed by Eid Al Fitr. This is called the Taraweeh prayer, which is recited after Isha prayers mid-evening



**When do Muslims break their fast?**

Fast may be broken at sunset before Maghrib prayers after 'Azaan' (call for prayers). This occurs just after sunset. Dates are traditionally the first food to be eaten each evening. The fast-breaking meal is called Iftar.

**Do non-Muslims have to fast?**

No. While Muslims don't expect non-Muslims to fast as well, it remains important to show respect and follow basic etiquette in daily behaviour.

**Basic Ramadan etiquette:**

- Do not eat, drink, or smoke in public during the fasting hours. This includes chewing gum.
- Do not dance or play music in public. You may listen to music quietly with headphones.
- Do not wear inappropriate clothing in public. Dress respectfully. Men should avoid wearing sleeveless tops, while women should cover their shoulders and knees.
- Do not swear.
- Accept gifts, from a simple date to something more exotic, try to politely accept it. Further, if invited, it would always be an honour to join someone at Iftar.

More info: <https://gulfnews.com/guides/life/ramadan/features/ramadan-2018-all-you-need-to-know-1.1528649>





## 9. What is expected of me?

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It is important that volunteers of this project understand the importance of the following:

- Be flexible and expect the unexpected, this is part of the adventure!
- Be patient to create a good working schedule with the hospital, this can take some time.
- To show respect towards the people and culture of the local community. You might not agree with certain ways of conduct during your term here, but don't forget you are a guest here and as Zanzibar is a Muslim community you will have to commit to follow rules regarding clothing and appearance





## 9. Things to consider

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### Visa

Most nationalities will be able to obtain a 'visitors permit' or 'holiday visa' upon arrival at Zanzibar, Dar es Salaam or Kilimanjaro International Airports. This visa allows you to be in Tanzania as a visitor but will not allow you to do any work, even volunteer work. You will need to obtain a 'Work Permit' to legally be allowed to take part in volunteering activities.

You can apply for the Work Permit and Tourist Permit upon arrival on Zanzibar International Airport. Unfortunately, these permits cost 50 USD and an additional 200 USD, but this will allow you to legally volunteer at our projects.

As we are a volunteering organization all volunteers will need this permit even though you might only be coming as a student or for research; we and the local government see you as a volunteer and we need to stick to the rules.

As visa requirements can change, we suggest that you contact your nearest Tanzanian Embassy to enquire about your visa.

We however have continuous contact with our coordinators in Tanzania who are in close contact with the Home Affairs offices in Zanzibar.

### Passport

Your passport must have enough pages for any visa. Your passport should have 2 pages free for every country to be visited.

Please note that Tanzania insists on people having 2-free pages available when you enter. Keep this in mind if you are going to fly home from Tanzania after completing a tour to multiple African countries.

Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months after your date of departure from Africa. You are personally responsible for ensuring that passports, visas, vaccination certificates and other travel documents are in order and for all costs relating thereto.

### Vaccinations

Zanzibar has a cool breeze all year round, but people can forget that one is in the tropics. Be careful with the sun and use strong protection in the first days of your stay. Zanzibar is a malaria area, as are most tropical destinations in the world, and you should take advice from your doctor at home regarding what malaria tablets to take. It is also a good idea to bring a mosquito repellent for use in the evenings. If you follow the above precautions, you reduce the possibility of catching malaria to a minimum. The symptoms of flu are very similar to those of malaria and, in the weeks after your return home, should you have flu symptoms, inform your doctor that you have been in the tropics. It may also be advisable to get some immunization before your visit and your doctor at home will be able to help you





with this.

There are no legally required vaccinations for Zanzibar or Tanzania but visitors heading off to Tanzania will need to show mandatory certification for yellow fever before entry into the country. If you have a previous stay in a country where yellow fever is required, you may be required to show your certificate.

## **HIV / AIDS**

Education and awareness are vital in preventing HIV spread and obviously avoidance of activities and behaviours that can transmit HIV.

HIV can be transmitted by unprotected sexual intercourse; Mother-to-child transmission during pregnancy, at the time of birth and through breastfeeding; intravenous injection of infected blood. HIV cannot be transmitted by saliva, sweat, urine or faeces. It cannot be transmitted by touching, hugging, kissing, shaking hands, sharing food utensils, towels, bedding, baths, swimming pools, telephones, or toilet seats.

## **Insurance**

Accidents can happen to anyone. Make sure to get comprehensive travel and medical insurance.

Inbound Insurance Zanzibar (mandatory since October 2024). ONLY from Zanzibar Insurance Corporation by visiting - [www.visitzanzibar.go.tz](http://www.visitzanzibar.go.tz) The cost of the policy is USD44 per visitor.

## **Weather**

As Zanzibar is tropical and the weather and seasons dictate everyday life you should bring clothing that is non-synthetic (cotton or linen is more comfortable), plenty of shorts and flip-flops.

Summer	(Dec, Jan and Feb)	27 - 28 ° Celsius
Autumn	(Mar, April and May)	24 -26 ° Celsius
Winter	(June, July and Aug)	24 - 25 ° Celsius
Spring	(Sep, Oct and Nov)	25- 26 ° Celsius

## **Clothing**

For working hours however it is strongly advisable to bring smart casual clothing with long sleeves and trousers/skirts that cover the knees. Wearing a scarf to cover your hair and arms is also very much appreciated for women as that is what the locals wear. The more you adjust; the easier people will accept you, but Zanzibari's are very welcoming and understand that we as westerners have different ways of dressing. Keep in mind however that tank tops and very short pants, bikinis and other revealing wear is frowned upon and not accepted during work at any of the projects.



### **Alcohol**

Volunteers under the age of 21 are not allowed to drink alcohol as per the Law.

We do not allow any parties or gatherings at the house where alcohol is consumed and advise you to go out to enjoy yourself and drink responsibly.

### **Drugs**

Using or possessing drugs such as marijuana is illegal as are the obvious hard drugs such as ecstasy etc.

We have a zero-tolerance policy for such usage and if we become aware of this you will unfortunately be no longer welcome at our premises.

### **DISCLAIMER**

Go with Khaya commits itself to always offer accurate and correct information, but please keep in mind that information can change, and all projects can be subject to change regarding their programs and/or accommodation arrangements. Go with Khaya is a facilitating organization and does not run its own projects. Therefore, Go with Khaya cannot take responsibility whatsoever, for any changes concerning any program we offer. You will participate solely at your own risk.

## 10. Let's stay connected

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We'd love to stay connected! Please follow & subscribe to our social media platforms below.



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