



Each on a generously proportioned plot, the private beach-front villas look out on the Indian Ocean

Hotel Of The Month

Zanzibar White Sand

For talcum-powder beaches, high-flying watersports and dinners à deux in your own private garden, head to Tanzania's island hideout

Edited by Bill Prince Story by Charlie Burton



At first glance, the coastline of Zanzibar looks like any number of tropical destinations. Clear, blue-green waters; vast, empty beaches; rich, verdant beaches. But step out on the sand and you'll notice something unusual: it's so soft it feels like talcum powder. This idyllic quality is why the island, a semi-autonomous region of nearby Tanzania, has ended up a bucket-list destination - and a new hotel is catering for guests who want to stay somewhere that's equally impressive.

The family-owned Zanzibar White Sand is designed to offer its guests luxury, privacy and a serious amount of space. While you can book an individual room, we stayed in a private villa and recommend you do the same. There are eleven of these, equipped with their own pools on plots of 1,600 square metres, delineated by the lush foliage that runs throughout the resort. Even the one-beds comprise two buildings: a day room with a lounge and dining area and also a bedroom

with adjoining dressing rooms and bathroom, plus a roof terrace. Everything is geared for relaxation, from the sun deck and hammock to the outdoor shower and bath. They are minimalist but elegant and designed to be as open as possible, with sliding glass doors. Book a villa right at the front and from your king-size bed you can look out across your garden to the hotel's private beach. At low tide, the sands stretch out at peeling depth for hundreds of metres.

You'll spy colourful kites dancing above the water. That's the eastern region where the hotel is situated, is a premier kitesurfing destination and the hotel's instructors can help even the most inept beginners find their feet. If being active, however, is quite the opposite reason you made the journey here, there's a spa and

a small beachfront barbecue restaurant with tables on the sand.

The main Doors To Zanzibar restaurant is more upscale (well, the hotel is a Relais & Châteaux member), with tasting menus and great à la carte options. For those who wish for a more intimate experience, villa occupants can arrange to dine by candlelight in their gardens.

You may decide to head out, perhaps to eat at the much-Instagrammed restaurant The Rock, perched absurdly atop a tiny coral island, or visit Stone Town en route to the capital of Zanzibar, a World Heritage Site, it's famed for being the birthplace of Freddie Mercury and is brimming with history. Or you could just spend another lazy day enjoying the beach. And that sand.

● Zanzibar White Sand Luxury Villas & Spa, Paje Beachfront. Villas from £278 per person per night. whsandvillas.com



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