

NEWS FROM ZANZIBAR

There are many reasons that the exotic Spice Island of Zanzibar, just off the coast of Tanzania, should be on your bucket list, but here are three especially good ones for 2020!



SERENA HOTELS
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NEW FREDDIE MERCURY MUSEUM

The brand-new Freddie Mercury Museum opened its doors on 24 Nov 2019. The lead singer of the famous band Queen - born Farrokh Bulsara but AKA Freddie Mercury was born in Zanzibar and has his ancestral roots deep rooted in ancient Stone Town. The museum has officially partnered with Queen Productions Ltd. in the UK, who have loaned them an exclusive picture gallery of Freddie through the stages of his life and musical career. You can even enjoy a bit of "Bohemian Rhapsody" in the home he grew up in - and then head off to Mercury's Bar for a seafood grill and sundowners...



ZANZIBAR MUSIC FESTIVAL

Sauti za Busara - meaning "Sounds of Wisdom" in Swahili is a music festival that takes place over 4 days and nights at the Old Fort in historical Stone Town in February each year. The next one is due to run from 13 - 16 Feb 2020 and will showcase some of the best Swahili, Taarab and other African music as well as dance and theatre performances. Musicians and industry professionals often mingle with the festival goers from across the globe who come to watch over 400 performers from all over Africa who perform in over 40 shows as well as fringe events put on by the local community. The Carnival parade is colourful and energetic with lots of dancing and celebration. Visitors can also enjoy local Zanzibari street food at Forodhani Gardens on the sea front market square. Tickets are from US\$120 pp for a 4-day pass and are free for children under 12 from Busara.



ZANZIBAR SERENA HOTEL

Zanzibar Serena Hotel which has been beautifully converted from two historical buildings and gives an authentic Swahili "sense of place - right on the seafront. The boutique, 5-star hotel boasts luxury accommodation - decorated in rich Zanzibari style, an amazing seafront restaurant with upstairs terrace, bar and stunning swimming pool - all of which have great views over the ocean and the passing dhows. Serena also has its own private beach facility at nearby Mangapwani Beach.



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