

WHV – Stone Town of Zanzibar

Stone Town of Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage list (2000)

20 September - 10 December 2025

THE SITE - The Stone Town of Zanzibar is a fine example of the Swahili coastal trading towns of East Africa. It retains its urban fabric and townscape virtually intact and contains many fine buildings that reflect its particular culture, which has brought together and homogenized disparate elements of the cultures of Africa, the Arab region, India, and Europe over more than a millennium.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims at promoting digital documentation and awareness of cultural heritage and showcase the potential of stone town. This will through utilizing the local youth and volunteers on digital tools for heritage documentation and storytelling capturing the uniqueness of stone town and the Swahili culture. The content captured will constitute documentaries, articles and social media campaigns to promote social awareness of the heritage site among local and global audiences.

ACTIVITIES - The volunteers will actively raise awareness about the importance of heritage conservation through site and stone town community visits. There will also be online digital storytelling refresher workshops for volunteers to perfect storytelling skills that capture the unique stone story including traditional crafts, architecture of the town, the history and Swahili cultural heritage. This content will constitute social media posts, website blogs, tourism guidelines for visitors to minimize negative impacts on heritage sites and promote heritage-based community initiatives that support local livelihoods while preserving cultural integrity.

PARTNERS - Zanzibar Stone Town Heritage Society (ZSTHS), Zanzibar Eco Health Organization (ZEHO), Milele Zanzibar Foundation; Chumbe Island Coral Park (CHICOP).

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