



COMPLIMENTARY SITE MINI GUIDE • 2026

ZANZIBAR TRANSPORTATION GUIDE

Airport transfers, island routes & how to move without wasting half the trip

Practical, traveller-ready information designed to make the journey easier to navigate.

zephyrustraveldesign.com

A quick guide for real travel

Zanzibar is not a destination where you should plan every day as if the island were small enough to cross casually. Choosing the right base and grouping activities by area can save hours of driving.

AIRPORT Plan the first and last transfer in advance	BETWEEN BASES Private vehicles simplify island changes
LOCAL DAYS Walk where possible; transfer when needed	ROUTE DESIGN Stone Town → East Coast → North Coast

Zephyrus note: practical details can change. Always re-check opening hours, transport rules, fares and local conditions before travel.

1. The simplest rule: organise the island by bases

A practical first-trip structure is to divide the stay between Stone Town, the east coast and the north coast. This reduces unnecessary return journeys and lets each part of the island feel distinct.

Base	Best for	Typical movement
Stone Town	History, food, markets, waterfront	Mostly walking + airport/private transfer
Jambiani / East Coast	Village life, beach, Safari Blue access	Walking + pre-arranged transfers
Kendwa / North Coast	Swimming, beach days, marine trips	Walking + transfers/boats

2. Airport to Stone Town

For a first arrival, a pre-booked private transfer is the lowest-friction option. The driver meets you at arrivals and takes you toward the historic centre.

- Some Stone Town lanes are not accessible by vehicle.
- Depending on your accommodation, the final section may require a short walk with luggage.
- Confirm the exact meeting point and hotel access before arrival.

3. Stone Town: mostly on foot

The historic centre is compact and best explored walking. Choosing accommodation inside or very close to the centre reduces the need for daily vehicle transfers to restaurants, rooftops, markets and the waterfront.

- Use a vehicle mainly for airport transfers and day trips leaving the city.
- Allow for heat and humidity; build in breaks rather than scheduling continuous walking.

- Save your accommodation location offline - the maze-like streets can be confusing at first.

4. Changing base: turn the transfer into part of the day

The Zephyrus route uses transfer days strategically. Instead of driving directly from one hotel to the next and losing the day, combine the change of base with experiences that already lie along the route.

Stone Town → Jambiani

Combine the transfer with a spice-farm visit and Jozani. Luggage can remain secured in the vehicle while you stop.

Jambiani → Kendwa

Use a private vehicle and, if it suits the day, include a lunch stop around Pingwe or leave earlier and continue directly north.

Kendwa → ZNZ Airport

Pre-book the final transfer and leave a generous buffer for road conditions, check-out and airport procedures.

5. East coast movement

Jambiani works well on foot for village and beach time, but some outings need a pre-arranged vehicle. A short transfer to nearby Paje can be useful when you want a change of scene without a major travel day.

- Tides strongly affect the beach experience on the east coast.
- Boat excursions usually include or arrange transfers to the departure point.
- Confirm pick-up time the day before, especially for weather-dependent marine activities.

6. North coast movement

Kendwa is easy for a beach-based stay. Nearby Nungwi can be visited as a short optional outing, but there is no need to add transfers every day.

- Marine trips may combine vehicle and boat transport.
- Keep the final beach day intentionally light if you have an early airport transfer the next morning.
- Choose dinner near the hotel on the last night to avoid unnecessary late driving.

7. Private transfers vs local transport

For a short holiday with luggage and multiple coastal bases, pre-arranged private transfers are usually the clearest option because they protect time and simplify door-to-door movement. Local shared transport can be cheaper, but it is less practical when carrying luggage or following a fixed itinerary.

- Confirm the total price before departure.

- Carry small cash notes for transport and tips.
- Keep the driver or provider contact number offline.
- Do not build a tight boat or airport connection immediately after a long cross-island drive.

8. The Zephyrus route logic

The point of transportation planning is not to move as much as possible. It is to move less, at the right moments. Grouping Stone Town, east-coast and north-coast experiences creates a smoother trip with fewer repeated transfers.

Keep this guide handy

Save this complimentary mini guide to your phone before departure. It is a quick-reference resource, not the full Zephyrus destination guide.

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Source & edition note

Adapted from the Zephyrus Zanzibar Destination Guide, Edition 1.0 (2026), including the 9-day route, area-selection guidance and transfer planning. Local transport options, prices and provider arrangements can change; confirm details directly before travel.

More destination Food & Transportation Guides are coming soon.

Zephyrus guides are expanding to new destinations with practical, cultural and locally focused content designed to make every journey easier to navigate and richer to experience.

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