

Ensemble Experience

ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA

Ship/Sailing:	Crystal Serenity	January 11, 2010
Tour Date:	February 18, 2010	
Ship Time in Port:	7:00 am -	5:00 pm
Tour Name:	<i>The Spice Island of Zanzibar, with Lunch</i>	
Full Day Tour:	Depart: 9:00 am	Return: 3:00 pm

Begin your tour of Zanzibar today with a visit to the city's old quarter, Stone Town, and its bustling market. See and smell the vast array of tropical fruits piled high and the ground spices neatly packed for sale. Then it's on to the Anglican Church built in 1874 on the site of the Great Slave Market, once the hub of the slave trade for the whole of East Africa. At its peak, up to 60,000 slaves passed through the market each year. Then drive to the House of Wonders, now the National Museum. Built as a ceremonial palace it contains artifacts of the Sultans, early explorers like Dr. David Livingstone and a room devoted to the life and writings of the remarkable Princess Salme. Next, enjoy a walk from the Old Fort through the narrow streets of Stone Town to get a glimpse of daily life in Zanzibar. Continue past the Roman Catholic Church and some extraordinary Zanzibar doors.

From Stone Town drive north along the coast to Princess Salme's birthplace, Mtoni Palace Ruins. Born in August 1844 to a slave mother, her father was Zanzibar's first Sultan, Seyyid Said, originally of Oman. Enjoy a tour around the Persian baths and the main palace, places the princess describes in her book, having spent her childhood here. Then take a stroll around the botanical gardens and rest in the courtyard where the Sultan once gave concerts for his guests.

Next enjoy a delicious lunch at Mtoni Marine Restaurant which offers a wide selection of island seafood specialties. Enjoy a glass of wine with your meal in this idyllic setting and don't forget a cup of aromatic Swahili coffee to finish off. After lunch your tour continues with a twenty-minute ride to Kidichi Spice Plantations where you will visit the Kidichi Persian Baths, built by Salme's father, Sultan Said. He built the baths for his second wife Sheherazade who was the daughter of the Persian Shah.

After your brief visit the journey continues through the most beautiful part of Kidichi to visit the rest house of Salme's brother, Sultan Majid. Mzee Yussuf's grandfather moved to this plantation around 1880 and it is in his house where you will enjoy a traditional coffee and lemongrass tea ceremony with Zanzibari sweets like kashata, halua, dates and fresh fruits plucked from his farm. Take in the magnificent views of the spice plantations overlooking the Indian Ocean and Stone Town from this highest point in Zanzibar. After your coffee ceremony, Mzee Yussuf will take you around the plantation on an extensive spice tour where literally anything grows! Stop and examine examples of spice plants that you can smell, taste and touch. After this experience, return to the ship.

Ensemble *Experience* shore excursions are capacity controlled, subject to change without notice and require a minimum number of participants. All times are approximate. Your Ensemble Traveler host onboard will advise final details.