



Marine Turtle conservation in Zanzibar



Program Description

The Sea Turtle Conservation program **in Makunduchi, Zanzibar** focuses on protecting endangered sea turtles. The program is dedicated to rehabilitating injured turtles and releasing them back into the wild. Participants will work closely with local conservation teams to clean turtle habitats, monitor hatchlings, and raise awareness about marine conservation in the community.

Alongside conservation efforts, there will be opportunities to explore Zanzibar's beautiful beaches, vibrant coral reefs, and rich culture. This program offers a meaningful way to contribute to the preservation of sea turtles while experiencing the natural beauty of Zanzibar.

Goals and Objectives

Our conservation efforts focus on three fundamental pillars:

- **Rescue:** Providing immediate medical care for injured, stranded, or vulnerable sea turtles to ensure their survival.
- **Rehabilitation:** Offering safe and monitored environments for turtles to recover before being reintroduced into their natural habitats.
- **Nesting Protection:** Safeguarding nesting beaches to protect eggs from poaching, predation, and environmental risks, ensuring safe hatching and hatchling survival.

These initiatives address both immediate threats and long-term conservation goals.

Your role

- Assist in the rehabilitation of injured sea turtles.
- Help maintain safe, clean beaches for turtles to nest.
- Keep track of hatchlings and help release them into the ocean.
- Raise awareness about marine conservation in the local community.
- Help gather data on turtle populations and behavior.

Schedule

Monday

- Start with breakfast and a fun orientation to the program.
- Dive into a Swahili lesson and get a crash course on the local culture.
- Explore Makunduchi on a guided tour to find shops, ATMs, and more.
- Overnight at Makunduchi Accommodation

Tuesday to Friday

- Get to work cleaning the turtle hospital and lagoon.
- Feed turtles, monitor hatchlings, and keep their nests safe.
- Collect seaweed from the Indian Ocean—it's turtle food!
- Join educational tours to share your knowledge and inspire visitors.
- Wrap up the day with some beach cleanup to protect their natural habitat.
- Overnight at Makunduchi Accommodation

Mandatory orientation day

Upon your arrival at Zanzibar Airport on Sunday, the local team will be waiting to welcome you warmly. **Arrival every Sunday at Abeid Amani Karume International Airport (ZNZ)**

On the Monday of your first week at this location, you will join our orientation day, to familiarize you with the surroundings as well as local culture. Your program will continue as usual from Tuesday onward throughout the rest of the week.

Accommodation

Nestled just 700 meters from the serene shores of Makunduchi Beach, The house is conveniently located 7 kilometers from the stunning Paje beach and a mere 5 kilometers from the picturesque Jambiani beach.

Surrounded by a tranquil forest in the Makunduchi area, the house is in close proximity to a few charming hotels, including Madrugada, Ujamaa Beach Resort, and Clove Hotel. A quick 5-minute bike ride will take you to the lovely village of Makunduchi, where you can immerse yourself in the local culture and beauty.

You will easily find a few small local stores that sell snacks, drinks and any basic supplies you might need during your stay. Nearby, there are ATM's, banks, shops, a local pharmacy, etc.

Meals

Local meals that are typical of Zanzibar culture will be provided at this accommodation such as wali (rice), ugali (maize porridge), nyama choma (grilled meat), mshikaki (marinated beef), samaki (fish), pilau (rice mixed with a variety of spices), biryani, and ndizi-nyama (plantains with meat).. Once per week all participants create together the weekly food plan.

Participant Criteria & Requirements

Participants should be physically fit and able to handle outdoor activities, including walking on uneven terrain and working in warm, humid conditions.

Packing List

- Comfortable clothing
- Sunscreen, Hat & Sunglasses: The tropical sun is no joke! Protect your skin and eyes with sunscreen, a wide-brimmed hat, and cool shades.
- Comfortable Clothing: Lightweight, breathable, and quick-drying clothes are your best bet. Long sleeves and pants can double as sun and insect protection.
- Rain Gear: Tropical showers can surprise you, so a compact rain jacket or poncho will keep you dry without cramping your style.
- Water Shoes: Perfect for navigating rocky shores, exploring lagoons, and beach cleanups. They'll keep your feet comfy and protected.
- Personal Medication/First Aid Kit
- Insect Repellent

- Personal Toiletries
- Day pack and a small travel towel
- Reusable Water Bottle
- A travel journal to jot down your experiences !

Location

Makunduchi, a serene town located in the southeastern part of Zanzibar, Tanzania, is renowned for its rich cultural heritage and stunning natural beauty. This coastal gem offers visitors an authentic glimpse into the traditional Swahili lifestyle, with its charming villages, welcoming communities, and vibrant local markets. The town's idyllic beaches are a haven for relaxation, boasting pristine white sands and crystal-clear waters ideal for swimming, snorkeling, and diving. Makunduchi is also celebrated for its lush coconut plantations and tranquil surroundings, making it a perfect retreat for those seeking an escape from bustling urban life.

A highlight of Makunduchi's cultural calendar is the Mwaka Kogwa Festival, a unique celebration rooted in Persian traditions and infused with local Swahili customs. Held annually to mark the Shirazi New Year, this lively event features symbolic rituals, including mock fights, music, and dance, offering a fascinating insight into the area's history and traditions. Beyond the festival, Makunduchi's proximity to Zanzibar's top attractions, such as Jozani Forest and the historic Stone Town, makes it an excellent base for exploring the region's diverse offerings.