

“The hearth of Zanzibar”

Photographic Workshop with *Sandro Santioli*



29 October - 6 November
2013

The heartbeat of Africa immersed in the blue waters of the Indian Ocean. The Zanzibar archipelago is made up of the two main islands of Pemba and Unguja and has long symbolised both a significant and fascinating facet of the African continent's makeup. A land of vibrant colours and spicy aromas surrounded by crystal-clear seas, this corner of paradise plays host to a potpourri of religions and cultures living side by side in harmony. Perhaps most of all, Zanzibar stands out for the warmth of its people and the smiles of its children, which manages to linger in the heart of every traveller long after each visit. Our workshop has been organised during a period of low tourist traffic in order to experience life on the island in rhythm with the local population, led by renowned photographer Sandro Santioli (contributor to National Geographic Italia). Sandro's expert eye and accumulated experience gained from numerous worldwide reportage assignments will be on hand throughout to guide us toward the more intimate side of the island's people and culture. The program will include outdoor freestyle shooting sessions allowing participants to explore photographic themes in greater detail, ranging from reportage and landscape photography to architecture and keenly abstract work. Each participant will be encouraged to both develop and research his or her unique 'style' throughout these sessions and will benefit from direct input from Sandro and the rest of the group, made up of no more than ten participants. Also included are editing sessions where work in progress can be reviewed and critiqued.



Deborah Lo Gastro 2012



Samaki
Lodge



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
ITALIA

PROGRAM

Day 1 - Arriving in Zanzibar airport and transfer to Samaki Lodge in the village of Uroa, in the island's eastern region. Double rooms will be available and there will be a special 'welcome' dinner.

Day 2 - Following breakfast, we can look forward to a walk along Uroa's impressive coral reef during low tide. Our initial research will focus on the striking colour patterns of the multi-coloured starfish, but primarily the trip will revolve around recording the lives of the women who collect algae from the seabed. Dressed in traditional sarongs (locally known as kanga), these female figures appear to wade through the fields of algae as they bend over chatting, joking and laughing as if engaged in a slow dance. The algae, which is cultivated all along the eastern coast of the island, is exported to China, where it goes on to be used in the production of health and beauty products, medicines and so on. Next we will move on to the beach in front of the Uroa fishing village to await the arrival of the fishermen and observe as they sell their catch at the local market. After lunch, we will go on to experience one of the most intense and rousing moments of the trip: a visit to a school in the village of Uroa. As soon as we arrive we will be greeted by the eager smiles of crowds of children all of different ages. The warmth here is in no short measure as their teachers then take us on a tour of the school's classrooms and laboratories. A nice suggestion would be to bring along items of stationery to donate to the school, considering that for these children, every single pen or pencil represents a precious commodity. Following this, we return to the lodge to have dinner and overnight.



Day 3 - After breakfast, we will set off towards the southeast of the island, where the landscape changes dramatically, giving way to open spaces and lush green forested area. On then, to pay a visit to one of Zanzibar's many fruit and spice processing factories.

We will have the opportunity to sample several varieties of fruits and spices while taking in the fragrances of some of the indigenous perfumed plants. We will then carry on deeper into the jungle to pay a visit to a few of the villages nestled there. Our next scheduled stop will be in the city of Stone Town where we first have lunch in a typical Zanzibari restaurant. The entire afternoon will be given over to visiting Stone Town, Zanzibar's capital, the heartbeat of a complex maze of cobbled streets where minarets, cathedrals and Hindu temples all pop up as if in a fairy-tale. This criss-cross of streets is practically littered with splendid works of architecture reminiscent of Arabian Nights. Our passage into Stone Town takes us into a frenetic city of a thousand cultures, thronged with men in long, immaculately white garments while women are often seen veiled in black from head to toe, hands decorated in henna in the Arab style. A visit to the renowned Zanzibar market district is an absolute must-see. This buzzing enclave is set apart from the labyrinthine streets and effused with fragrances, colour and the locals' emphatic gestures all contributing to its unique atmosphere. In the late evening, towards sunset, we will head towards the seafront in the Forodhani Gardens district, where it should not be too difficult to spot Zanzibar's students leaping off the pier after school, cavorting among the waves. On most evenings, a gaze towards the horizon would be enough to witness the evocative scene of fishermen in their boats spearing fish throughout the night. We return to the lodge to have dinner and overnight.



Day 4 - We pay a visit to the only untouched forest on the island, where, in a completely natural setting over 2,400 hectares in area, you can still find several families of Red Colobus, Zanzibar's indigenous monkey. Our walk will take us through this forest filled with majestic trees where we can appreciate the beauty of its sycamores, mahoganies and ferns. This will be something of an 'educational nature excursion'. We return to the lodge to have lunch. In the afternoon, it will be time to pay a visit to the Italia Day Hospital. This project was pioneered by the Palumbo family, owners of the Samaki Lodge, and is quite close to their hearts. They have instituted a critical program that strives to raise sanitary awareness in Zanzibar. This project is currently in developmental phase though we will be able to visit courtesy of the Palumbo family. We return to the lodge to have dinner and overnight.



Day 5 - Leaving at dawn, we will make our way to the island's northern zone; the village of Nungwy, where we can expect to witness the scene of fishermen taking turns putting their day's catch up for auction. A lobster luncheon on the beach will follow this. In the afternoon, we head over to a factory in Dhaw, a typical Zanzibari harbour, used for fishing and tourism alike. Back to the lodge to have dinner and overnight.

Day 6 - Following breakfast, our excursion leads us to several local villages to seek out some of the most antique crafts and trades found in Zanzibar. Lunch will take place back at the lodge. The remainder of the afternoon will be left free for optional activities and/or selecting the final round of images for editing. Back to the lodge to have dinner and overnight.

Day 7 - After breakfast, the morning will be left free for participants to continue to select the final selects for editing and presentation. Lunch will take place back at the lodge. The entire afternoon period will be used for image editing, the key moment where the group's final work will be presented - all work will be reviewed and critiqued by the course leader together with all course participants. Special sending-off dinner and overnight at the lodge.

Day 8 - Transfer to Stone Town Airport for a direct return flight to Italy.



COST AND HOW TO SIGN UP

EUR 1800 , consisting of:

- Full-board accommodation in double room at Samaki Lodge, an Italian-run boutique hotel
- Photo-workshop led by Sandro Santioli, aided by assistant.
- Group accompanied by local Italian-speaking guide
- Transport via personal mini-van

Participants will be required to know the fundamentals of their camera and is necessary to bring a pc in order to download images.

APPLY / CONTACT

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