



Zanzibar, Tanzania : the Island of spices



Just off the coast of Tanzania, the archipelago of Zanzibar is bathed in the turquoise blue waters of the Indian Ocean.

Clear blue lagoons, lines of palm and coconut trees, lush vegetation, plantations of spices and tropical trees as far as the eye can see, its easy to understand the attraction of this collection of paradise islands.

At the crossroad of many cultures, Zanzibar is coloured by the histories of the immigrants, explorers and colonisers who have made it their home.

Zanzibar is a rainbow of cultures, located on African soil, with traces of its British colonial past, touches of the Orient brought in by the Persian and Arab sailors passing through, and a taste of India coming from the spice gardens.

The walls and stones of Zanzibar City and its historic centre Stone Town carry within them the history of the Island.

The town was at the centre of the black slave trade and continues to be a major trading post for spices.

Built in coral stone, this area is listed as a world heritage site.

Built without any form of planning, the Medina is a labyrinth of winding alleys hemmed in amongst a myriad of more than 2500 multi-storey houses, most of which date back to the 19th century.

Today the majority of the population is Islam, 99% are practising Muslims, and the lifestyle on the island is relatively conservative, especially in terms of dress code.

Directed by Jacques VICHET

A documentary of 52'

French version
English Version

High Definition
HD Cam & Digital Betacam 16/9

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