

Story by Shannon Manders

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Paradise

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Karafuu Hotel Beach Resort

For centuries, the historic spice island of Zanzibar has evoked a mystical and magical dream. Today you can experience this dream on an extraordinary beach holiday while staying at the enchanting Karafuu Hotel Beach Resort.

Located on one of the best beaches on the eastern peninsula of Zanzibar Island, Karafuu Hotel Beach Resort is a four-star establishment guaranteed to make you wish you hadn't booked a return flight home. The hotel exudes timelessness, history and a hint of decadence. It is an intoxicating combination – one that draws international tourists and one that keeps them coming back for more.

This exclusive hotel is characterised by its exquisite taste and attention to detail; elegantly decorated with indigenous artefacts, but offering the comfort and security of modern technologies. Its 89 free-standing chalets are pleasingly decorated with traditional Swahili furniture and

equipped with modern elements, such as air conditioning, fridges and safes, to ensure maximum relaxation.

Karafuu perfectly combines an internationally high standard of hospitality and service with the best exotic touches of local lifestyle, offering its guests a real yet magical experience of Zanzibar. Warm hospitality comes naturally to the Swahili staff, who are impeccably dressed in long, robed uniforms. There must certainly be few places in the world that welcome their guests in such a warm and generous way by offering an authentic experience that goes far beyond your wildest dreams.

Ideally situated on a generous stretch of palm-fringed beach lapped by dazzling azure water, Karafuu – opened in 1995 – was the winner

of the World Travel Awards 2008 as Tanzania's Leading Resort – and it's not hard to see why.

The hotel has a total of three restaurants, and a lavish buffet-style meal is served in the main restaurant three times a day. The dessert table in particular comes highly recommended. Guests may also choose to enjoy dinner in a romantic setting on the beach or even aboard a traditional dhow afloat on the ocean. For those interested in being a little more sociable, the hotel offers a range of entertaining activities every evening, ranging from local bands and dancers to games and singalongs.

During the warm days, both high and low tide present appealing possibilities for keeping cool. When the tide is high, guests can take a break from sunbathing



on the abundant loungers, slip straight into the water and swim out relatively far. And when the tide ebbs, there is a specially constructed concrete walkway on which to saunter out to bathe in the turquoise lagoon. The hotel also has a spectacular swimming pool complete with pool bar that can be enjoyed at all times of the day.

The coral reefs that lie beyond the unspoilt talcum-white sand are rich in marine diversity, making the area surrounding the hotel a great destination for snorkelling and scuba diving. Karafuu offers a variety of organised water sports through their on-site Diving Centre.

Nothing captures the imagination quite like an island retreat, and the feeling of being totally free from all cares and complications of the mainland. Island getaways, such as that offered by Karafuu Hotel Beach Resort, are often the closest to paradise most people will get, and while they are usually quite a way to go, they are well worth the trouble to get there.

1time flies directly to Zanzibar! See the flight schedule for times and dates.

