GIADA & SERDAR · FREE ONE-PAGE CHECKLIST

Zanzibar packing *checklist*

What we would pack again after fifteen days on the island, and three things to leave at home.

Documents and money

- [ ] Passport (6+ months valid, one blank page) and a photo of it
- [ ] E-visa approval, saved offline
- [ ] Inbound insurance QR code, saved offline
- [ ] Your own travel insurance details and emergency number
- [ ] Yellow fever certificate, if your route requires it
- [ ] Two bank cards, kept separately
- [ ] US dollars in clean notes from 2009 or later, mixed denominations

Clothes

- [ ] Light, loose clothing; one layer for breezy evenings
- [ ] Something that covers shoulders and knees for towns and villages
- [ ] Swimwear, cover-up, hat, sunglasses
- [ ] Water shoes for tide walks and sea urchins
- [ ] Closed shoes with grip for caves and forest
- [ ] Light rain jacket (November–May)

Health and sun

- [ ] Reef-safe sunscreen, after-sun
- [ ] Insect repellent
- [ ] Personal medication, plus malaria tablets if prescribed
- [ ] Rehydration salts, stomach remedy, plasters, antiseptic
- [ ] Hand sanitiser

Tech

- [ ] Type G plug adapter (230 V, British-style three-pin sockets)
- [ ] Power bank and cables
- [ ] Torch or headlamp for power cuts
- [ ] Dry bag for boats
- [ ] Earplugs
- [ ] Offline maps and a tide table saved to your phone

Before you leave home

- [ ] Passport validity checked against your arrival date
- [ ] E-visa applied for (2–3 weeks ahead) and approved
- [ ] Inbound insurance bought
- [ ] Travel clinic visited; vaccinations and malaria advice sorted
- [ ] Airport pickup confirmed with your first hotel
- [ ] Tide table checked for your beach days
- [ ] Bank told you are travelling; card limits checked
- [ ] eSIM installed

Leave at home

Plastic carrier bags (banned in Tanzania; zip bags for toiletries are tolerated) · **a drone without a permit** · **camouflage-pattern clothing**.

And on the way back: do not pack shells, coral or wildlife products. Taking them out of the country without an export permit is illegal.

From The Zanzibar Field Guide, first edition, November 2026. Based on our stay in September–October 2026 and sources checked on 12 November 2026.

Entry and health rules change: check your government's travel advice and the official Tanzanian sites before you fly. Not medical advice.

See more. Feel more.