

A stylized, dark blue silhouette of a manta ray is positioned on the left side of the page. The ray is shown from a top-down perspective, with its wings spread. The background behind the ray is a circular gradient of light blue and white, giving it a glowing effect.

# Buccaneer Diving

Zanzibar

## Information Booklet



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## 1. DIVING IN ZANZIBAR'S SOUTH EAST COAST

Buccaneer Diving Zanzibar is located in Paje on the wonderful South East coast of Zanzibar Island. Here we have set up a dedicated activity centre that offers diving, snorkelling, kite surfing and mountain bike tours. Paje is renowned for its stunning beaches, unspoilt village life, small sized guesthouses and lodges. The diving around Paje is pristine with some of the finest corals to be found in East Africa.

The stretch reaching from Kizimkazi (south point of island, famous for dolphin spotting) through Jambiani, Paje, Bwejuu, Dongwe to Michamvi (which is situated on the eastern tip of Chwaka Bay), is often referred to as the secret coast of Zanzibar, where the real identity of the island is still preserved and untouched from mass tourism. Nevertheless Paje and the neighbouring area offers a variety of bars, evening hangouts, restaurants and regular nightlife.

The protected natural lagoon which is only ten minutes boat ride from our base is a great choice for all levels of divers and accompanying snorkelers. It also means that we can offer a number of good safe and protected dives in the rougher monsoon and in general for beginners. The lagoon is an ideal spot for night dives.

In addition we have a number of sites on the outer reef within a 25-minute fast boat ride of our base offering a wide variety of topography ranging from walls, gentle slopes to caverns and exciting marine life, some also suitable for beginners and some of which accessible only to more expert divers ...and we are always looking for more!

### 1.1. THE WEATHER CONDITIONS

East Africa is very much subject to the trade winds that blow along the coast. This does mean that we can predict with some degree of accuracy the diving conditions we can expect throughout the year. Generally the best

times for diving are October through to December and February through to late March/April with visibility up to 30m. The diving in August and September can be good in Paje and if the weather conditions do get rough there are a number of very good lagoon dives on offer.

## 1.2. OUR BASE AND EQUIPMENT

We run two boats that go for daily double dives that we run tide dependant, and additional single and night dives are organised when the conditions allow. Both boats (one fibreglass speedboat and one traditional wooden dhow) are equipped with 2 motors and all security requirements such as oxygen, radio, first aid kit, GPS, are on board.

All our guides are professionals (DM or above) and first aid trained, and all dives are accompanied by a guide with surface marker buoy.

We use Mares & Scubapro equipment which is regularly serviced by our certified technicians. Our 2 Bauer compressors get regularly serviced and filters are replaced strictly adhering to manufacturers standards (Bauer). We use steel 7, 12 & 15l tanks for DIN or Yoke fittings.

Our newly built centre offers a top training facility with training pool, cafeteria, air conditioned classroom. Buccaneer is the PADI distributor and only 5 star IDC centre running regular instructor exams in East Africa, we are always on the edge of present training standards and methodology.

## 1.3. SOME COMMON MARINE LIFE

The coral gardens around Zanzibar offer a huge variety of both soft and hard corals, anemones and sea cucumbers.

Some other marine life you can expect to see at all sites are varieties of wrasses, angelfish, pipefish, lionfish, scorpion fish, nudibranchs, leaf fish, stingrays, snake eels, trumpet fish, ribbon eels, blue spotted ribbon tail and Kuhls rays, groupers, jackfish, crocodile fish and many more.

In our gardens and walls outside the reef we also find bigger fish like king fish, yellow fin tuna, barracudas, turtles, napoleon fish, from time to time dolphins and in season humpback whales.



## 2. DIVING WITH BUCCANEER

### *Your Experience, our pleasure*

*Buccaneer Diving is a PADI 5 Star IDC centre – the industries top rating. This has been awarded for consistently outstanding standards in all areas gained in 20 years of activity. We are also the only dive centre running regular Instructor Development Courses in East Africa. We have put together this information leaflet so that you will know what to expect and some of the many options available to you. Please feel free to discuss your personal preferences and any special requirements with one of our staff to ensure you make the most of your Buccaneer experience. Our staff are also available to discuss any other diving related queries you may have such as courses or equipment.*

### 2.1. WHERE DO YOU FIND US? HOW DO YOU REACH US?

We are located in **Paje** and can easily be reached from anywhere in the village by walking. We do however ask that you to be at the base 30 minutes prior boat departure time.

For guests coming from Chwaka bay, Michamvi, Dongwe, Bwejuu or Jambiani you can ask at the reception or us to arrange a short **road transfer** that takes between 10-15 minutes. This service is provided by an independent taxi firm which carries a fully comprehensive insurance. Please make sure you are at the reception 5 minutes prior pick up time.

### 2.2. DEPARTURE TIMES & DAILY SCHEDULE

We run **daily tide-dependant double tank dives**, where the surface interval is spent on the boat, as well as additional single dives and night dives according to the tidal conditions.

Most of our partner hotels have a **dive departure time list** for your reference. **Please always confirm departure time when booking**, as there can be slight variations according to course schedules or special dive excursions.

## 2.3. BOOKING

You can book directly at the **reception of your hotel** without surcharge, or **contact us** at our centre on Paje beach.

If possible, we kindly ask you to give your **full name, certification level, date of last dive** and sizes of rental equipment required (bcd/wetsuit size, shoe size and number of weights required) at the moment of booking.

### **Our contact numbers are as follows:**

Base cell phone: 0777-853403 (09:00 – 18:00)

Base landline: 024-2240445 (09:00 – 18:00) - Only during times of power

Wycliffe (Administration Manager): 0778-676701

Alex (Dive Operations Manager): 0777-276119

## 2.4. PAYMENT

Payment is directly at the dive centre. Like most business we require payment in full prior to commencement of all activities. We accept payment in Euro, Tanzanian Shilling, USD, Pound sterling, SA rand and exchange at the daily bank rate.

We welcome online bank transfers, that can be made directly at our centre from the computer available at the reception. We accept VISA and MasterCard with a 5% bank charge.

## 2.5. CANCELLATIONS

If for any reason you are **unable to attend a booked activity please inform us** as soon as possible in order to reschedule or receive a refund. We can offer an 80% refund made in the 24 hours before the start of a booked activity and a full refund on cancellations before this time. At all times we will be happy to assist you to reschedule the activity where possible.

**We have a strict no refund policy for clients who fail to show up for a dive without notice due to the impact on our schedule and the inconvenience this causes to fellow guests.**

## 2.6. RENTAL EQUIPMENT

We keep records of sizes and requirements and will ensure you are provided with the correct rental equipment prior to each dive/activity. If you have any

problems (such as sizing) please notify our staff. We offer newly purchased Scubapro mk2+ regulators and Mares BCD's for rental as well as all the soft gear. Rented equipment is your responsibility during your use and you will be liable for the replacement or repair of any items lost or damaged. Should this occur you will be issued with a receipt which may enable you to claim from you holiday insurance.

## 2.7. PRIVATE EQUIPMENT

You are welcome to store your equipment at our base free of charge, after filling out a form. We suggest you only store larger pieces of equipment (bcd's, reg's, fins) while you keep smaller equipment such as computers or cameras with you. Buccaneer Diving is unable to accept responsibility for equipment left on our premises.

If you should have a problem with your private gear, at all times we carry spare sets on board.

## 2.8. OCEAN CONDITIONS & THE WEATHER

Our dives are scheduled for optimum site conditions according to tides. However nature can be unpredictable and conditions can alter rapidly especially during our April-September rainy season. We always aim to dive at our scheduled site, but safety is always our primary concern and if conditions necessitate rescheduling at short notice we will do so.

Water temperature is between 24 and 29°C and visibility can be over 30m and even in the worst season/condition rarely drops under 10m.

## 2.9. COURSES

We offer a wide range of courses at all levels. Every course is a chance to expand your experience and knowledge as well as being enjoyable and giving a great sense of achievement. Short on time? What about a speciality? Exciting diving and very little reading - we offer Photography, Exploration diving and Night diving amongst many others.

We also offer regularly qualify PADI professionals and offer internships, in fact many of those involved in professional diving throughout East Africa have trained with us.

The best way to decide is to talk to one of our instructors; they can tell you what is available, what is involved and help you decide what is best for you.

## 2.10. PHOTOGRAPHY

We offer a wide range of photographic services. Single use underwater cameras are available for sale or you can rent a digital camera from which we will download your photographs onto a CD for you. We also offer digital photography speciality course that in a short time can significantly improve your U/W photography skills. On request we can also accompany your dives and take pictures of and for you.

## 2.11. DIVE SITES & DIVES

We offer a selection of 20+ dive sites for all experiences, levels and tastes. Although all our sites are fascinating we do have some that are better in certain seasons. Some of these are further afield and some require diving experience to an advanced level.

For the most experienced divers we offer regular exploration dives that will introduce you to the logistics of exploring new sites (including use of echo sounders, gps and particular safety procedures).

## 2.12. SEASICKNESS & MALARIA

Even in very calm conditions seasickness can occur and greatly reduce the enjoyment of your activity. If you have, or think you may be likely to, suffer from seasickness please discuss this with your instructor who can make recommendations to help you overcome this. Plan to take any malaria medication in the evenings or no later than 4 hours before scheduled departure. Malaria medication can increase susceptibility to seasickness.

### **...LAST BUT NOT LEAST.... YOUR FEEDBACK!**

*If at any time and for any reason you are not satisfied with our service or that of a particular member of our staff please let us know so we can respond accordingly. Please also let us know if any team-member (shore staff, Divemaster, instructor or boat crews) have contributed significantly to your enjoyment.*



### 3. DIVING COURSES

#### **Basic PADI scuba diving course descriptions**

*(in addition to underneath beginner courses, we also offer a full range of speciality courses such as underwater photography, night diving, fish id as well as rescue, divemaster and instructor courses)*

#### 3.1. DISCOVER SCUBA DIVING

The PADI Discover Scuba Diving program introduces people to scuba diving in a highly supervised and relaxed manner. Under the guidance of a PADI professional, new divers learn basic safety concepts, put on equipment and swim around underwater in a closely supervised environment.

The PADI Discover Scuba Diving program begins in the classroom with a short theory lesson (approx. 20 minutes), followed by a pool session (approx. 60-90 minutes) where divers are introduced to several skills before progressing into the open water for their final dive(s).

Divers participating in the Discover Scuba Diving program can earn credit toward PADI Scuba Diver and Open Water Diver certification.

<b>Number of Dives:</b>	<b>1 or 2</b>
<b>Minimum Age:</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Half day</b>
<b>Cost:</b>	<b>€100/€130 (depending on the number of dives)</b>

#### 3.2. SCUBA DIVER

The PADI Scuba Diver is the first level of certification. It allows the diver to dive provided they do so always under professional supervision.

The SCUBA Diver course is basically half of the Open Water SCUBA Diver course with only 3 theory sessions, 3 pool sessions and 2 open water dives.

It can be completed in 2-3 days. There is no exam, only 3 quizzes for this certification.

Upon completion SCUBA divers may dive to a maximum depth of 12m under direct supervision of a PADI Divemaster or Instructor. This course provides divers with a certification card valid world-wide, life-long. It can be upgraded up to open water diver anytime thereafter.

**Number of Dives:** 2  
**Minimum Age:** 10  
**Duration:** 2-3 days  
**Cost:** €75 (Materials & Card) + €215 (Course) = €290

### 3.3. OPEN WATER DIVER COURSE

The PADI Open Water Diver course is the most popular SCUBA diving course in the world. This course teaches student divers the foundational knowledge and skills they need to dive with a buddy, independent of supervision.

The Open Water Diver course consists of five academic modules, five confined open water (pool) sessions, four open water dives, and an exam. It can be completed in 3-5 days.

Upon completion of the PADI Open Water Diver course the participants are qualified to:

- Dive with a buddy independent of supervision while applying the knowledge and skills they learn in this course, within the limits of their training and experience.
- Obtain air fills, scuba equipment and other services.
- Plan, conduct and log open water no stop (no decompression) dives when properly equipped and when accompanied by a buddy in conditions with which they have training and/or experience.
- Continue their dive training with a specialty dive (Adventure Dive), in the PADI Adventures in Diving program or in PADI Specialty courses.

**Number of Dives:** 4  
**Minimum Age:** 10  
**Duration:** 3-5 days  
**Cost:** €75 (Materials & Card) + €350 (Course) = €425

### 3.4. ADVANCED OPEN WATER COURSE

The PADI Advanced Diver course provides divers with a structured means to explore special diving interests and gain dive experience in particular activities.

The Advanced Diver course consists of five academic review sessions and five open water dives. The five dives can be customized according to the divers wishes. However they must include a Deep dive and a Navigation dive. Other dives offered are: Night, Peak Performance Buoyancy, Drift, Fish ID, Multilevel, Underwater Naturalist & Digital Underwater Photography to name a few.

<b>Number of Dives:</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Minimum Age:</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Minimum 2 days</b>
<b>Cost:</b>	<b>€75 (Materials &amp; Card) + €275 (Course) = €350</b>



#### 4. WHY BUCCANEER?

- ✓ We are the only dive operation in East Africa running regular instructor examinations and to have a resident course director (highest qualification in the PADI system) overseeing operations
- ✓ We have international team (with working permits) that have undergone internal training
- ✓ All dive staff have obligatory fish id, first aid and in water rescue skill examinations monthly
- ✓ All dives are guided by professionals (DM or above), alwaysEFR and secondary care instructors on board, maximum 10 divers on board with at least 2 guides
- ✓ We run a fast fibreglass boat with twin 85hp engines, a traditional wooden dhow equipped with two engines, and for groups or exclusive bookings, two additional fast fibreglass speedboats with twin engines
- ✓ Buccaneer regularly dives outside reef sites that can be inaccessible for dhows.
- ✓ All boats are insured and run with 2 engines & 2 captains
- ✓ Full safety equipment on board (oxygen, radio, drift lines, first aid kit, telephones)
- ✓ We use brand new Scubapro regulators and Faber steel tanks
- ✓ All equipment serviced in house by our staff trained directly at producers facilities
- ✓ Compressor filters are replaced strictly adhering to manufacturers standards (Bauer)
- ✓ We are DAN members and all instructors have an individual teaching insurance
- ✓ We are active members of the DAN decompression chamber in Zanzibar



## 5. DIVE SITES

### 5.1. DIVE SITES INSIDE THE REEF



There are 3 sites within the reef just 10-15 minutes boat ride from our base in Paje. Because the lagoon is within the barrier reef it is protected from the outside elements, creating calmer conditions for both marine life and divers!

#### LAGOON MOUNDING

Depth: 6 - 16 metres



Beautiful inner reef dive site with varied marine life and a stunning coral landscape. Common sightings include: nudibranches, leaf fish, snake eels, pipefish, bat fish, scorpion and lion fish, puffers and trumpet fish.

#### STINGRAY CITY

Depth: 5 - 18 metres



This dive is initially conducted around the main channel of the lagoon where the chances are high to see dozens of Blue Spotted Stingrays, Kuhls rays and Crocodile fish. The dive then continues on into the Eastern reef to dive amongst the large coral formations.

## JAMBIANI LAGOON

Depth 6 – 14M



This site is where we usually run our regular night dives as the likelihood of seeing the stunning Spanish dancers in addition to other nocturnal species is very high. This is the site where we often start training for underwater photography courses among the dispersed coral heads, and is an excellent beginner dive.

## 5.2. DIVE SITES OUTSIDE THE REEF FROM PAJE



Dive boats in the South East region of Zanzibar access the outside reef sites through gaps in the barrier reef called 'Mlango' (Swahili for door). The mlango we usually use to get outside the reef is located by the lagoon, about 10 minutes fast boat drive from our dive base. The sites as listed below are located 5-20 minutes from the mlango and are all generally run as drift dives.

Fish life outside the reef includes: napoleon fish, groupers, morays, turtles, lobsters and jack fish. Sometimes we also have dolphins, turtles and kingfish and in season we can often observe humpback whales. The currents outside will take us north or south so usually you can enjoy a leisurely dive over the gardens and alongside the walls.

### CEMENT WALL

Depth: 12-35 metres



Site named after a ship that in the 1930's lost its cargo of cement, here we still find 3 enormous anchors during the dives, one of which is set in front of

a small cave in addition to spectacular colours and rich marine life among which ribbon eels. Either we dive across the garden or alongside the wall, making it suited for all levels of certification.

#### SAU INN GARDEN

Depth: 6 - 20 metres



A stunningly beautiful garden of assorted corals with amazing colors and a plentitude of micro life and fish. A great second dive of the day as much of it is conducted at a depth of less than 10 metres. Keep your eye out for leaf fish and the occasional ribbon eel.

#### THE BIG CAVE

Depth: 12 - 25 metres



A cave at 25 m where you in addition to the species mentioned previously, are more likely to find large moray, groupers and large lobsters. The site has very beautiful coral with plenty of fish. We drop by the wall that leads us to the cave and finish the dive in a coral garden.

#### BARRACUDA POINT

Depth: 10 - 20 metres



The dive starts with a drop onto a bed and follows it's slope to about 20 m. It is a vast coral garden with mounds and overhangs that shelter a variety of shellfish and some of our more shy reef fish.

## POWONI NORTH, POWONI HILL, POWONI SOUTH

Depth: 12 – 30 metres



Three dive sites within 20 minutes of our base with particular magnificent table corals, normally crowded –among other species – by sweet lips and unicornfish, keep on throwing an eye in the blue for occasional pelagics.

## POWONI CAVE

Depth: 15 – 30 metres



This sites characteristic is a gentle slope full of corals with a stunning overhang, among other species a lot of moray eels can be found here.

## NAPOLEON WALL

Depth: 12 – 35 metres



Spectacular drop off that has its name from the resident napoleon wrasse in addition to stunning soft and hard corals, you will find a wide number of species among which various moray eels.

## GIANT GROUPEL WALL

Depth: 12 – 28 metres



As the name said this is a wall dive, during which we can see a lot of groupers, in particular, potato groupers and with some luck we will spot some pelagic in the blue.

**Blue Wall:**      *\* fuel supplement*

Depth: 32 –40 metres



Deep drift dive for experts only, highly probable encounters with big fish and turtles, during the 40 minute boat ride from our base we regularly encounter dolphins and sometimes turtles on the surface.

**Mwamba:**      *\* fuel supplement*

Depth: 10 –16 metres



A perfect second dive following the blue wall. Stunning coral platform, regular encounters with turtles.

*Other spots we dive are located further north and south with sites ranging from shallow lagoons to more difficult dives suited only for more advanced divers.*

*We also organize special trips such as*

*- NIGHTDIVES*

*- EXPLORATION DAYS*



# Diving

## Equipment Rental Prices

	Single dive	Double dive
All equipment	€15	€25
Mask and snorkel	€2	€3
Fins	€2	€3
Wetsuit	€3	€5
Regulator	€4	€8
BCD	€4	€8
*Camera (inc.. disc)	€30	€30
*Computer	€10	€10
*Torch	€15	€15

(\* special equipment not included in other equipment prices)

## Special Trips

Night Dive Surcharge (min 2 pax)	€ 15
Exploration Trip	€ 120
Blue Wall Surcharge	€ 15
Snorkelling Trip	€ 18
Underwater Photos by Instructor DM	€ 30

## Diving Excursion Prices

(These Prices include - boat trip, tank, weights)

No. of Days	No. of Dives p/day	No Equipment	All Equipment
1 Day	1	€ 40	€ 15
	2	€ 68	€ 25
3 Days	2	€ 194	€ 75
5 Days	2	€ 306	€ 125
8 Days	2	€ 476	€ 200
10 Days	2	€ 578	€ 250

## Professional level courses

Divemaster	600
Assistant Instructor	500
Instructor	980
EFRI	250

## PADI Course Prices

(includes equipment rental)

**Career path professional level diving courses and internships**

For more information please email [bruce@buccaneerdiving.com](mailto:bruce@buccaneerdiving.com)

	Materials	Cost
<b>PADI Entry Level Courses</b>		
PADI Bubblemaker ( age 8 - 11 yrs )	N/A	€ 45
PADI Discover Scuba Diving ( 1 dives)	N/A	€ 100
PADI Discover Scuba Diving ( 2 dives)	N/A	€ 130
PADI Scuba Diver ( 3 days )	€ 75	€ 215
PADI Openwater Diver	€ 75	€ 350
<b>PADI Continued Education Courses</b>		
PADI Scuba Review Program	€ 20	€ 35
PADI Adventure Diver	€ 75	€ 175
PADI Advanced Open Water Diver	€ 75	€ 275
PADI Emergency First Response	€ 35	€ 110
PADI Rescue Diver	€ 75	€ 335
<b>PADI Speciality Courses</b>		
Fish I.D.	€ 50	€ 200
Night Diver	€ 50	€ 200
Reef Diver	€ 15	€ 55
Digital Photography (inc camera hire)	€ 90	€ 110
Deep	€ 50	€ 200
U/W Naturalist	€ 25	€ 110