AIRPORT EXIT

Abeid Amani Karume International Airport (ZNZ)

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THE ANSWER

Walk out to the rank and take a licensed yellow-plate taxi - the posted Stone Town fare is about US$15 (TZS 36,000) per vehicle, 15-20 min, cash in USD or shillings.

Fares are per car, not per person, and the rank board is your price anchor - touts inside the terminal quote double because they know you haven't seen it.

Beach hotel? Nungwi/Kendwa runs US$40-50 by pre-booked car; Paje/Jambiani US$40-50; allow 75-90 min. Tight budget? Dala-dala minibuses from the road cost TZS 1,000-2,000 (flagged range) - hopeless with luggage. Arriving at night? Pre-book your hotel's transfer; night quotes climb toward $25+.

EVERY WAY OUT — REAL PRICES

Official taxi rank (posted rates) *BEST FOR MOST* **US$15 / TZS 36,000 to Stone Town**

Licensed cars with yellow plates and association stickers queue outside arrivals with a printed rate board. Fixed per-vehicle price for up to 3-4 passengers; USD, EUR or TZS cash - no cards.

Pre-booked private transfer **US$15-25 town - US$40-50 north/east coast**

Operators like TaxiTrip publish fixed per-vehicle rate cards: Stone Town $15, Nungwi/Kendwa/Paje/Jambiani $40, Matemwe/Kiwengwa $40, Michamvi $50 - return trips identical. Driver meets you with a name board.

Hotel / resort shuttle **often free-US$30 (flagged range)**

Many guesthouses and lodges run their own pickups - ask before you fly, especially for the east coast. A shared resort van beats negotiating at 23:00.

Dala-dala minibuses **TZS 1,000-2,000 (flagged range)**

Local shared minibuses run from the road toward Darajani/Zanzibar City for under US$1. No luggage space, no timetable posted for visitors, and you'll finish on foot in Stone Town's alleys.

THE TRAPS — WALK PAST THESE

The inside-the-terminal quote: $25-30 for a $15 ride

Drivers who meet you before the exit quote $25-30 to Stone Town, then 'drop' to $20 like a favor. The same trip is US$15 at the rank - the official rate covers any Stone Town drop-off, full stop. **Do this:** decline everyone inside and walk to the yellow-marked taxi stand

'The fixed rate is only for locals'

The most common upsell line at the airport: that the posted rate doesn't apply to tourists, or that your hotel is 'outside Stone Town'. There is no separate tourist tariff - the board is the price per vehicle. **Do this:** show the driver your arrival-day photo of the rate board

No meters anywhere on the island

Zanzibar taxis negotiate, not meter. Bolt coverage is reported in 2026 but sources wildly disagree on its fares (TZS 8,000-50,000 to town), so don't count on an app quote as backup leverage. **Do this:** agree the total for the car, in your currency, before bags go in the trunk

Return-to-airport price inflation

Drivers going the other way (town->airport) often quote above the posted arrival rate because there's no board in town to point at. Travelers' standard defense is to photograph the airport board on arrival day. **Do this:** take the rate-board photo the day you land and show it to any airport-run driver

KNOW BEFORE YOU WALK

- International flights use the 2020 Terminal 3 (jet bridges, duty-free); Terminal 2 was ~90% built in August 2026 - expect works traffic and re-signing.
- Carry small clean USD notes and some TZS: ranks don't take cards, and change for $50 is the usual 'surcharge'.
- Prices are per vehicle - solo or four people, the $15 to Stone Town is the same.
- Night transfers (after 20:00) commonly add ~$5-10; confirm before booking.
- Stone Town's hotels sit in car-free alleys - check exactly where the car can drop you.

Posted rank rates (Stone Town US$15 / TZS 36,000; Nungwi US$65 board cap) and per-vehicle operator cards gathered from Oct-Nov 2026 traveler and operator sources; there is no government-regulated tariff - the Zanzibar Airports Authority has confirmed none exists, so treat all figures as ranges. Terminal status from ZAA statements via African Pilot / Daily News (Aug 2026).

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