THE ROCK
ZANZIBAR

Nature's Ingredients, Our Recipes

MEDIA KIT

THE ROCK
ZANZIBAR

Voted one of the world's most iconic restaurants.

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Nigel Firman

Awaken all your senses with a warm Italian welcome

Come visit one of the world's most iconic restaurants, set on a rocky outcrop in the ocean for an exquisite island dining experience. The Rock offers a taste of Zanzibar in a unique setting with magnificent views.

A meal at The Rock is like no other. Our iconic location offers a unique dining setting with unparalleled panoramic ocean views. Here you will be treated to locally sourced Zanzibari ingredients that meet Italian cuisine. You won't be disappointed by these exotic and flavoursome dishes.

Our dedicated team's genuine hospitality ensures every guest experience is not just memorable but truly extraordinary. Whether you're a seafood enthusiast, a lover of exotic flavors, or simply seeking an extraordinary culinary experience, we invite you to join us.

Enjoy a culinary journey where our menu celebrates the vibrant flavors and rich cultural heritage of Zanzibar while also paying homage to our passion for Italian cuisine. Each dish is meticulously curated by our chefs, blending traditional Zanzibari recipes with the timeless elegance of Italian culinary techniques to tantalize your taste buds and awaken your senses.

From the beginning, we've been committed to making a positive impact on the local community and empowering those around us. One of our most significant initiatives is The Rock for Community, established in 2011. Through The Rock for Community, we aim to uplift and support the communities that welcomed us with open arms.

- Location: Michamvi Pingwe Beach, Zanzibar, Tanzania
- Established: 2011
- Founders: Andrea Brunetti, Claudio Moras, Nigel Firman
- Iconic Feature: Situated on a rocky outcrop in the Indian Ocean with breathtaking panoramic ocean views
- Specialty: Fusion cuisine combining Italian flavors with locally sourced seafood, Zanzibari ingredients, and aromatic spices

Fall in love with our story... and our food

"*It'll never happen. It's just not possible*," they said. And the rest is history.

Nigel Firman and Andrea Brunetti first crossed paths in Milan, Italy, in 1978, where food and hospitality are woven into the very fabric of culture.

Fueled by their shared roots and a deep-seated commitment to great food and genuine hospitality, the duo embarked on a daring adventure in Zanzibar in 2003.

Nigel had stumbled upon a breathtaking sight while strolling along beautiful Michamvi beach - a majestic rock emerging from the ocean. Captivated by its stark beauty, it was love at first sight, and he envisioned a little restaurant whose food and hospitality paid the location the respect it deserved.

Nigel shared his vision with Andrea who shared his passion. The rock was a fisherman's outpost, and after a lengthy process building strong community relationships , local fishermen were convinced to lease the rock to the duo.

Knowing they needed a restaurant industry professional, they called on their Milan based friend, Claudio Moras whose expertise mirrored their passion.

The Rock Restaurant Zanzibar was born in 2011 — from peeling potatoes on the beach with women from the village to what is now a culinary sanctuary lovingly planned with simple decor out in the Indian Ocean.

The magic of the place, accompanied by delicious dishes, not only enchanted guests' taste buds, but also spread across the pages of fashion and travel magazines, turning the venue into a dream that everyone wanted to experience.

The need for a full-time manager was filled by Reddy Del Verme, who, enthusiastic about the success of his friends, entered the scene to contribute to maintaining the high standard of excellence.

If The Rock is now an icon on the island, it is also thanks to the collaboration of trusted individuals: Michele, the chef; Sharif and Hamadi, experienced cooks; Beka, head waiter; Donald, cashier; Mkongwe, dishwasher; Henry, trusted waiter; Ali Mpunga, maintenance manager; Jala, supervisor of local staff; our great friend Marc who together with Alice, Nigel's daughter, manages our marketing and social media; Banchi and Hamis, our boat captains.

A family of talents that has made The Rock a special place.

Amidst the panoramic ocean views, guests can now indulge in a world-class menu prepared with care and sustainable practices, using locally sourced ingredients.

Our story of passion lives on in each meal we craft and each guest we host, as we celebrate the essence of Zanzibari cuisine merged with Italian flair and hospitality.

The Rock's story is not ever complete as our guests so often feel it to be a part of them, and often inspire us.

Exotic flavours for every palate to enjoy

Experience the artistry of our culinary creations at The Rock Restaurant Zanzibar, where every dish tells a story of flavor and heritage. Our menu is a testament to the vibrant tastes of Zanzibar, harmoniously blended with the elegance of Italian cuisine by our skilled chefs.

Savor the essence of the ocean with succulent grilled lobster and tangy octopus, or indulge in Italian-inspired dishes like hearty pastas—all meticulously prepared to tantalize your taste buds.

For those embracing a plant-based lifestyle, our vegetarian and vegan options showcase the freshest produce and grains Zanzibar has to offer, infused with Italian creativity.

Pair your meal with a refreshing cocktail or a selection from our curated wine list, featuring our exclusive The Rock wines from Luisa in Italy and other international labels.

And don't forget to treat yourself to one of our irresistible desserts, each crafted with love and care. With every bite, you're not just indulging; you're contributing to The Rock for Community projects, supporting our commitment to sustainability and community engagement.

Explore our full menu on our website and prepare to embark on a culinary journey like no other. Whether you're a seafood aficionado, an explorer of exotic flavors, or simply seeking an extraordinary dining experience, The Rock Restaurant Zanzibar promises to delight your senses and leave you yearning for more.

Generosity is at the heart of what we do

At The Rock Restaurant Zanzibar, community engagement is not just a buzzword—it's at the heart of everything we do. Since our inception, we've been committed to making a positive impact on the local community and empowering those around us.

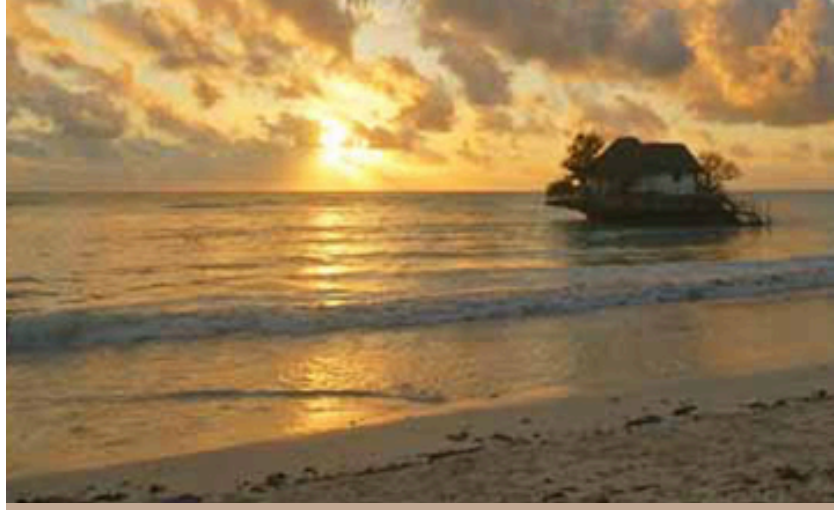
One of our most significant initiatives is The Rock for Community, established in 2011. Through The Rock for Community, we aim to uplift and support the communities that have welcomed us with open arms.

Our efforts span various projects focused on education, healthcare, and environmental conservation. We've worked tirelessly to uplift local schooling facilities, increasing the number of pupils and providing them with a conducive learning environment. As a result, the schools of Michamvi Kae and Michamvi Pingwe now serve over 600 children, offering them a path to a brighter future.

We've also championed initiatives to improve living conditions in local communities. Whether it's providing access to clean water, sanitation facilities, or supporting income-generating activities, we strive to enhance the quality of life for everyone we touch.

An example of our commitment to community is the establishment of a swimming school for all local children and women. Despite living on an island, many lack the ability to swim—a skill crucial for their safety and livelihoods. Through the Watoto Swimming School, we provide comprehensive swimming and life saving lessons. These skills empower women and girls by opening doors to opportunities they would not have had before.

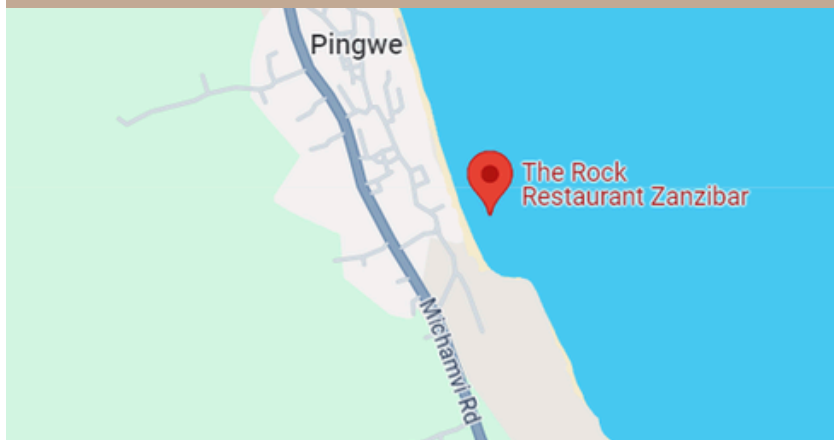
Through these initiatives and more, we strive to be a force for positive change in Zanzibar. Our commitment to community engagement is unwavering, and we'll continue to work hand in hand with local stakeholders to create a brighter, more sustainable future for all. At The Rock, community isn't just a part of our story—it's our spirit.



Michamvi Pingwe Peninsula

Easily accessible from all over the island, The Rock is in the south east, on the Michamvi Pingwe peninsula.

A 20-minute car drive from Paje, 90 mins from Stone Town and 90 minutes from the extreme north tip of the island, Nungwi.

Zanzibar has many transport options. Whichever you choose, do make sure it is a licensed, insured operator. Reputable operators display prominently their credentials and accreditation.

Always feel free to ask for operating permits and insurance proof. After all, you wouldn't do any different in any other city, but here the regulation is not as strong or perhaps well controlled.