

Photo: Boutique Hotel Matlai

FACT SHEET

Boutique Hotel Matlai

Beachfront villas on the south-east coast of Zanzibar

Last verified: 6 November 2026 · www.hotelmatlai.com

Overview

Boutique Hotel Matlai has 6 rooms in two beachfront villas, Asili House and Villa Kidosho, set in about 10,000 m² of tropical garden at Michamvi Pingwe on the south-east coast of Zanzibar, with several romantic places to dine. Many guests are couples and honeymooners. The whole hotel can be booked as one exclusive buyout, for a family, a private party, a company group or a retreat. Retreat leaders can book the whole hotel and bring their own teacher and programme. We have no in-house yoga programme or teacher, and there are no conference facilities.

Facilities

- Asili House: 4 rooms with sea views and a pool.
- Villa Kidosho: 2 suites with sea views and an infinity pool.
- Every room has air conditioning, a fan, a hair dryer, a minibar (items are charged), yoga mats, a safe, a tea and coffee station and a private bathroom with shower and bathtub.
- Direct access to the beach, which is public, like the beaches in Zanzibar.
- Butler service.
- Zatiny by Matlai on the beachfront, with a shisha lounge, table soccer, darts, board games and a sports TV.
- Bustani Spa in the tropical garden.
- Recreation: volleyball, boules, ladder golf, a wooden play frame, kayaks, bicycles and an open-air cinema (charged).
- Free WiFi on the property.
- Rooms are for guests aged 14 and over; younger children are welcome when a whole villa is booked.
- Laundry service, charged separately.

Location

Michamvi Pingwe, on the south-east coast of Zanzibar, at the edge of a Swahili fishing village. Zanzibar Airport (ZNZ) is about 65 km away, 1h15–1h30 by road; Stone Town is about 1h15.

Swimming depends on the tide: the full swim is off the beach around high water, and at low water the channel to the Mchanga sandbank keeps its water.

A sandbank, Matlai Mchanga Island, can be reached by swimming the channel at low tide in front of the hotel; it is not private. Corals behind it allow self-guided snorkelling, and reef shoes and snorkelling gear are provided.

The butler team arranges a boat to the Blue Lagoon and the starfish area. The trip can be combined with a sundown cruise to the mangroves of Michamvi Kae, on the west side of the peninsula.

Restaurant and bar

Zatiny by Matlai is on the beach and serves African and international dishes, and Duyên's Vietnamese home cooking. There are signature cocktails, wine and a wide choice of spirits, and the beachfront has a shisha lounge, table soccer, darts, board games and a sports TV.

The kitchen has a live lobster tank and its own smokehouse, so we smoke our own ingredients. Premium dishes such as lobster and jumbo prawns are charged extra.

Breakfast is served from 07:00 to 12:00; dinner is served until 21:30. Seven dining areas are marked on the property map: Beach bar, Pembe Tatu, Upendo, Muarobaini, Bandani roof, Kivuli, Nyota.

Spa and activities

Bustani Spa, in the tropical garden behind the villas, offers massages, body scrubs, manicures and pedicures, with two wooden bathtubs. Partner massages are available. It is open every day from 09:00 to 18:00.

Snorkelling, stand-up paddle boarding and kayaking start directly in front of the hotel. Excursions and fishing trips are arranged on request, at a surcharge, with Zanziphobia.

Rates policy

- Rates vary by season and by house, per room or for an entire house. Current rates are on hotelmatlai.com or on request by email.
- Rates are half board (breakfast and a daily three-course dinner); bed and breakfast is available on request. Full board: +US$30 per person per night.
- Extra bed: +25% of the room rate. Single occupancy: 80% of the room rate.
- Airport transfer: US$60 per car each way for up to 6 people, booked with Semeni Tours and paid to the driver's company.
- Excursions with Zanziphobia can be paid by card at the hotel (the butler carries Zanziphobia's card machine), by payment link or in cash.
- Not included: the infrastructure tax (US$4 per person per night), lunch, drinks other than water, premium dishes and laundry.

Check-in and check-out

- Check-in from 14:00. Check-out by 10:30.
- Late check-out until 18:00 in 2026: US$100 per room in Asili House, US$150 per room in Villa Kidosho (2027: US$120 and US$180).
- Late check-out until midnight: 50% of the room rate, dinner included. After midnight: 100% of the room rate.
- Closed: 15 April to 21 May 2027 (last night 14 April, reopens 22 May)

Booking terms

- Minimum stay 2 nights. Over Christmas and New Year the minimum is 5 nights in 2027/28 (23 December 2027 to 2 January 2028); in 2026/27 (21 December 2026 to 3 January 2027) it is 3 nights.
- A 25% non-refundable deposit secures the booking. The balance is due 30 days before arrival.
- If you cancel with less than two months' notice, 50% of the total is charged; with less than one month's notice, 100%.

Services included

- Half board as standard: breakfast and dinner. Bed and breakfast on request; full board for a supplement.
- Breakfast is served wherever guests like: most wake up to the butler setting it up on their own terrace or balcony; others come to the restaurant, eat at the dining table in the villa lounge, or at one of the tables around the garden.
- A welcome drink on arrival: a fresh coconut, or a Malibu if you prefer.
- Two kayaks for the whole hotel, free to use.
- Two bicycles for the whole hotel, free to use.
- Drinking water, free of charge; other drinks are charged.
- A kettle in every room, with instant coffee and tea.
- A WhatsApp group for your room and a small phone to reach the butler team.
- The butler team, from 07:00 to 22:00.
- 24-hour management in German and English.
- Free WiFi.

Contact

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Asili House and Villa Kidosho



The pool at Asili House, with the ocean beyond
Photo: Artur Cabral / Boutique Hotel Matlai



Hewa room, Asili House
Photo: Artur Cabral / Boutique Hotel Matlai



Terrace, Dunia room, Asili House
Photo: Boutique Hotel Matlai



The infinity pool at Villa Kidosho
Photo: Artur Cabral / Boutique Hotel Matlai



View from the bedroom to the garden and pool, Jua suite, Villa Kidosho
Photo: Artur Cabral / Boutique Hotel Matlai



Terrace view, Mwezi suite, Villa Kidosho
Photo: Boutique Hotel Matlai

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