## Jozani Forest: A Magnificent Nature Walk On Exotic Zanzibar

ITM London

Zanzibar's Jozani Forest is home to one of Africa's rarest primates the red colobus monkeys which may number only about 1500.



Most of Zanzibar's indigenous forests have been lost to agriculture or construction, but the Jozani

Forest in the centre of the island has been declared a protected reserve. It covers 44 sq km,

roughly 3% of the whole island and is only 24 km southeast of the capital Stone Town - an easy stop-off en route to the east coast reserve contains about 100 tree beaches.

Located on a narrow neck of land between the Chwaka Bay in the north and Uzi Bay to the south the species from a total of 43 families.







Jozani Forrest together with the adjacent Chwaka Bay forest have been converted into a reserve known as the Jozani Chwaka Bay Conservation Area (JCBCA). This has added the rich mangrove forests of the Chwaka Bay into the reserve making the ecosystem the largest conservation area in Zanzibar.

The large mangrove swamp and the natural forest is home to a few unique species including the

red colobus monkey which are found only on Zanzibar. There are also Sykes monkies, bush babies, duikers, hyraxes, over 50 species of butterfly and 40 species of birds.

The most unique animal in the reserve is the Zanzibar Leopard (Panthera pardus adersi). In the local legend, this reportedly extinct species, has been given a mythical status and is called 'Chui' a creature which features significantly in the superstitious

beliefs of the people. Sorcerers in USA. There is also a smaller spinning stories that the animal animal. appears like a spirit and disappears into thin air. It was last reported in 1999 and officials, and the locals managed by the local people from

are assertive that the species is not extinct, though not sighted since 2003. photographic The proof of this species is at present only in the form of a stuffed museum display in Zanzibar Museum and a few skins in museums in London

reportedly keep this animal as leopard with spots, which is a their pet and scare people by biological product of the larger

The reserve is completely







eight villages: Chwaka, Pongwe, Uroa. Marumbi. Mapopwe, Charawe, Ukongoroni and Michamvi making the management of the new conservation area a unique participatory model.

villagers The operate nurseries and act as rangers and knowledgeable

accompanies visitors into the beautiful, very peaceful forest.

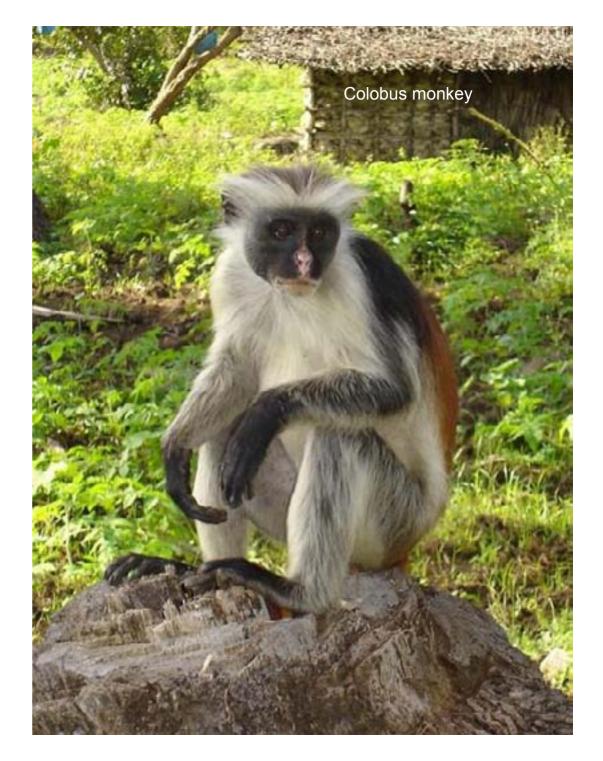
The walk begins under the shade of an old tamarind tree. It is a forest in the sea. The brackish water that flows through the tree mangrove is a nursery ground for hundreds of species of tropical guides. From the visitors' centre fish, which can be seen feeding in on the main road to the south, the shallow waters, whilst crabs there's a 45-minute nature trail - and other molluscs can be the mangrove road walk on which observed feasting in the nutrient quide rich mud.

As visitors explore Jozani, their Adult males and females are senses are awakened to natural scents, and the sounds of the are usually only from one to four forest. The wildlife and vibrant adult males, with many more adult shrubbery are amazing.

The main attraction in the forest are the colobus monkeys. The back of their heads and back are very red, seperated by a black stripe across the shoulders which continues down the arms. The tail has varying shades of red, often graduating to a sandy orange. almost equal in body size. There females and young of different ages in a group.

Althought legally protected the monkeys are highly endangered. Their survival depends on the success of protecting them in their natural habitat as they have never been kept in captivity for a long period of time. Their habitat is





increasingly being destroyed due to the demands of a growing human population for farm land, fuelwood and charcoal. The monkeys' choice of food often brings them into direct conflict with farmers who once killed them as pests when they werre found feeding in fruit trees. Now many monkeys live in small groups which are seperated from one another and their rate of reproduction is low. Ideas are being discussed to share the revenue from tourism with the

local villagers to ensure their survival.

Even though it is on the list for inclusion as a World Heritage Site, the facilities at Jozani Forest are modest with remarkably few souvenirs and a small local cafeteria with soft drinks and home cooked food.

The reserve is a 'must-see' for those holidaying on Zanzibar and those making a day trip to Tanzania's magical island.

