



Christ Church Cathedral and Former Slave Market Site

Stone Town, Zanzibar, Tanzania

In 1873, the long-lasting and notorious slave trade was finally abolished in Stone Town, and the function of the site was transformed. Abolitionists working with the Anglican Church built a Cathedral on the site, and the complex in its entirety now includes a primary and middle school, a guesthouse, residences, and the Slavery Memorial Sculpture Garden, built in 1998. Today it remains a vibrant house of worship and a site for ecumenical relations. It is also a site of conscience and remembrance for those who suffered under slavery, as well as a monument to the abolitionists who advocated for human rights and the dignity of all persons.

Stone Town has a number of important sites that together have created a vibrant tourist industry, but sectarian conflict, lack of financial resources, and political issues pose ongoing challenges to implementing restoration projects on many of its sites. Nevertheless, plans are under development for formal training and capacity-building programs at Christ Church Cathedral, and there are strong networks in place for local stewardship of the site. Conservation of Christ Church Cathedral and the Former Slave Market Site is thus part of a broader revitalization strategy for Stone Town; one that will be compelling to the international community but will also support Zanzibari citizens and their local economy.