

Unveiling Kenya's Coastal Gems: A Destination Guide by Visitsasa



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LAMU • MALINDI • KILIFI • WATAMU



* This guide was written by Viven Wamalwa / Visitsasa, Travel expert specializing in East Africa.

* Design and Graphic layout by Edwin Karanja

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Dive into Kenya's Enchanting Coast: A Journey Through Kilifi, Watamu, Malindi & Lamu

Welcome to the guide to Kenya's Coastal Gems, brought to you by Visitsasa. As your trusted destination marketing agency , we'll be unveiling the hidden gems and unforgettable experiences that await you in Kilifi, Watamu, Malindi, Lamu, and surrounding coastal towns.

You'll find pristine beaches, vibrant coral reefs, and rich cultural tapestries that you won't forget in a hurry.

Kenya's coastline whispers promises of adventure, serenity, and vibrant cultures. Here, the turquoise embrace of the Indian Ocean meets endless stretches of golden sand, swaying palms, and coral reefs teeming with life. Embark on a captivating journey through four distinct gems – Kilifi, Watamu, Malindi, and Lamu – each offering a unique blend of natural wonders, historical intrigue, and unforgettable experiences.

KILIFI

Where Sun-Kissed
Beaches Meet Untamed
Adventures

Kilifi isn't your average beach getaway. Here, the sand shimmers under a staggering 3,000 hours of sunshine annually, making it a sun-worshiper's paradise. But Kilifi's magic goes beyond the beach. It's the only coastal town in Kenya where the turquoise waves meet the thrill of the African safari.

Where emerald mangroves meet the ocean's kiss, Kilifi county beckons with a laid-back charm. Dolphins frolic in the turquoise waters, inviting you on exhilarating encounters. Explore ancient Mijikenda kaya (fortresses) whispering tales of a bygone era. Unwind on pristine beaches, savor the freshest seafood, and immerse yourself in the warmth of Kenyan hospitality.

Beach Bum Meets Safari Soul

Imagine this: spend your morning snorkeling vibrant coral reefs, then embark on an afternoon adventure seeking majestic lions and playful zebras. Kilifi offers this unique blend of relaxation and exploration, catering to the beach bum and the safari soul in all of us. Let visitasasa (visitasasa.com) be your exploration enabler - use their user-friendly platform to research tours, book day trips to nearby Tsavo National Park or Amboseli National Reserve, and craft the perfect itinerary that combines beach bliss with unforgettable wildlife encounters.

A Tapestry of Culture

Kilifi's rich history weaves a vibrant tapestry. Explore ancient Swahili ruins like Gede Ruins that whisper tales of bygone eras. Delve into the colorful culture, where traditional drumming and intricate beadwork come alive. Here, the beach becomes a canvas for a unique blend of heritage, nature, and adventure.

Seven Shades of Paradise

Kilifi isn't just one beach; it's a collection of seven coastal gems, each with its own charm. Malindi beckons with its vibrant nightlife, Watamu boasts pristine coral reefs, and Kilifi itself offers a laid-back atmosphere perfect for unwinding. Explore hidden coves like Vipingo with visitasasa's help, soak up the sun on endless stretches of sand at Kikambala, or try your hand at water sports in Watamu - Kilifi has a beach for every mood. Kilifi isn't just a destination; it's an experience. It's where the call of the wild meets the serenity of the beach, and where history whispers alongside the rhythm of the waves. So, pack your swimsuit, your safari hat, and your sense of adventure - Kilifi awaits!

Essential Swahili Phrases:



- ✿ **Jambo (Jam-bo):** Hello
- ✿ **Habari (Ha-bah-ri):** Hi (informal)
- ✿ **Mambo (Mam-bo):** How are you?
- ✿ **nzuri (zu-ri):** Good (in response to Mambo)
- ✿ **Asante (Ah-san-teh):** Thank you
- ✿ **Tafadhali (Tah-fah-dha-li):** Please
- ✿ **Ndiyo (Ndi-yo):** Yes
- ✿ **La (Laa):** No
- ✿ **Sahau (Sah-hau):** Excuse me
- ✿ **Hakuna matata (Hakuna ma-ta-ta):** No problem

Safety Tips:

- ❖ **Petty Theft:** Be aware of your surroundings, especially in crowded areas. Keep valuable secure and avoid carrying large sums of cash.
- ❖ **Transportation:** Use reputable taxi companies or ride-hailing apps. Negotiate fares beforehand for taxis.
- ❖ **Wildlife:** When on safaris, follow your guide's instructions and maintain a safe distance from wild animals.
- ❖ **Responsible Tourism:** Be mindful of the environment. Respect wildlife, avoid littering, and support responsible tourism practices

Tailored Experiences:



Luxury Unveiled

Indulge in barefoot luxury at eco-resorts boasting infinity pools and private beach access.

Savor gourmet meals with stunning ocean views and unwind with pampering spa treatments.



Adventure Awaits

Get your adrenaline pumping with water sports like kitesurfing and windsurfing. Explore hidden coves on kayak adventures or trek through lush forests teeming with wildlife.



Off the Beaten Path

Escape the crowds and discover hidden gems. Explore ancient ruins steeped in history, witness breathtaking sunrises from remote beaches, or immerse yourself in authentic Swahili culture.



Family Fun by the Beach

Build sandcastles on pristine shores, snorkel alongside vibrant coral reefs, or embark on exciting dolphin-watching tours. Discover a world of fun activities that create lasting memories for families of all ages.



10 Unforgettable Must-Do's in Kilifi

1. Kilifi Creek

Enjoy a boat ride or kayak through the serene waters of Kilifi Creek surrounded by mangrove forests.

2. Mnarani Ruins

Explore the ancient ruins of Mnarani, a historical site with breathtaking views of the Indian Ocean.

3. Bofa Beach

Relax on the pristine sands of Bofa Beach and soak up the sun while enjoying a peaceful beach day.

4. Diving and Snorkeling

Dive into the colorful underwater world of Kilifi for a fascinating snorkeling or diving experience.

5. Kilifi Boatyard

Visit the Kilifi Boatyard for a glimpse at traditional dhow building and maritime craftsmanship.

6. Kilifi Farmers Market

Browse the vibrant stalls of the Kilifi Farmers Market for fresh produce, crafts, and local delicacies.

7. Kilifi Creek Sunset Cruise

Set sail on a relaxing sunset cruise along Kilifi Creek, offering stunning views and tranquil moments. Enjoy a romantic sunset cruise taking in the breathtaking views as the sun sets over the Indian Ocean.

8. Nature Walks at Arabuko-Sokoke Forest

Embark on a guided nature walk at the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, home to a variety of bird species and unique flora.

9. Golfing at Vipingo Ridge

Play a round of golf at the prestigious Vipingo Ridge Golf Resort, known for its stunning views and challenging course.

10. Swahili Cooking Class

Learn to cook traditional Swahili dishes with a hands-on cooking class, immersing yourself in the local culinary culture.



Unveil an Underwater World

Kenya boasts some of the most spectacular coral reefs in Africa. Explore this underwater wonderland through snorkeling or diving adventures. Spot colorful fish darting through coral gardens, graceful sea turtles gliding by, and maybe even encounter a playful dolphin.

* Snorkeling & Diving Hotspots:

- ★ **Vipingo Ridge** - Renowned for its diverse marine life, Vipingo Ridge offers incredible snorkeling and diving opportunities right off the shore.
- ★ **Kilifi Creek** - Don't miss this hidden gem! Kilifi Creek, a protected area with calm waters, is a fantastic spot for exploring underwater life. It's particularly known for its abundance of macro life – think pygmy pipefish, seahorses, and nudibranchs.

* Dive Deeper with Experienced Guides

Several reputable companies cater to all your diving and snorkeling needs.

Here are a few to consider:

- ★ **Buccaneer Diving (Kilifi)** - Based right on Kilifi Creek, Buccaneer Diving is a great choice for exploring this unique underwater environment. They offer diving excursions and snorkeling trips suited for all experience levels.
- ★ **Dive the Crab** - Dive the Crab offers diving and snorkeling experiences all along the Kenyan coast, including Kilifi Creek.

* Cultural Experiences

Immerse yourself in the Giriama culture by visiting traditional villages or attending a drumming ceremony. Learn about local crafts and shop for unique souvenirs.

* Wildlife Encounters

Take a boat trip to spot dolphins, whales, and sea turtles. Explore **Arabuko Sokoke Forest Reserve** for a chance to see elephants, giraffes, and diverse birdlife.

* Getaways & Activities

Visit Gede Ruins, a historical Swahili settlement, or explore the Mida Creek mangrove ecosystem by kayak.

* Golfing at Vipingo Ridge

Venture beyond Kilifi and discover the prestigious Vipingo Ridge, an exclusive enclave boasting a magnificent par 72, 18-hole golf course. Renowned as the sole PGA-rated golfing sanctuary in all of Africa, this haven beckons enthusiasts to tee off amidst breathtaking landscapes and unparalleled luxury.



Kilifi Nightlife: Laid-Back Rhythms by the Beach

Kilifi's charm lies in its laid-back atmosphere, offering a welcome respite from the more pulsating nightlife scenes elsewhere on the coast. Here, evenings are about unwinding under the starlit sky, enjoying refreshing drinks, and swaying to the rhythm of live music or DJ beats.

* Beachside Rhythms:

★ Ocean Beach Resort (Live Music Fridays)

Head to Ocean Beach Resort on Fridays for a delightful evening under the stars. Enjoy live music, sip on refreshing cocktails, and soak up the cool ocean breeze.

★ Salty's Bar and Floating Restaurant

This unique spot offers a truly memorable experience. Salty's features a relaxed beachfront atmosphere with occasional live music, perfect for enjoying a delicious meal and good company with the sound of the waves in the background.

* Nightlife Gems:

★ Mnarani Club (DJ Nights & Live Music)

For a touch of liveliness, Mnarani Club is your go-to. They host DJ nights and occasional live music events, creating a fun and vibrant atmosphere.

★ Kilifi Bridge Bar & Restaurant (Live Music)

This relaxed bar and restaurant is a local favorite. Enjoy delicious food and drinks in a casual setting, with the occasional live music performance adding a touch of entertainment to your evening.

Beyond the Bars

While Kilifi may not boast a plethora of nightclubs, it offers other ways to experience the town's vibrant spirit. Casinos provide a touch of excitement, while local bars and restaurants with extended hours allow you to mingle with friendly Kenyans and soak up the authentic Kilifi atmosphere.

Remember: Kilifi's nightlife is all about relaxation and enjoying the moment. So grab a drink, find a comfortable spot, and let the laid-back Kenyan vibes wash over you.





PLACES TO STAY



Unveiling Kilifi's Hospitality Gems: A Budget Backpacker's Paradise to Eco-Warrior's Sanctuary



For the Eco-Warrior Soul

Baobab Sea Lodge:

Bask in the golden glow of Kilifi's sunshine at Baobab Sea Lodge. This isn't just a place to stay; it's a celebration of sustainability. Imagine harnessing the sun's power for your shower, indulging in water-saving practices that nourish the land, and savoring locally sourced delights on your plate. Here, luxury meets responsibility, creating a symphony for the eco-conscious traveler.



Kilifi Bay Beach Resort:

Nestled on Kilifi's golden shores, Kilifi Bay Beach Resort is more than just a resort; it's a gateway to adventure. Dive into the vibrant tapestry of the region. Explore coral reefs teeming with life, delve into the rich cultural heritage, or simply relax and let the ocean lull you into serenity. Here, adventure beckons, waiting to be embraced.



Beyond the Beach: Kiteboarding Bliss

Salty's Kitesurf Village:

Calling all thrill-seekers! With beautiful turquoise waters, calm lagoons, and epic waves, Salty's Kitesurf Village is your haven. Their kitesurfing center caters to all styles and experience levels, offering lessons, holidays, and affordable accommodation – the perfect place to catch some air and soak up the vibrant beach life.



Tranquility Meets Rich Heritage

Kilifi Beach House::

Nestled on a pristine coastline, Kilifi Beach House offers a tranquil escape. Imagine white sand beaches and jewel-toned waters lapping at your doorstep. Steeped in rich history and vibrant local culture, this protected paradise beckons with fresh, local meals and a range of authentic experiences.

A Look at Kilifi's Diverse Offerings

LUXURY:



Baobab Beach Resort:
Indulge in unparalleled luxury at this eco-friendly beachfront resort, boasting stunning views.



The Kilifi Bridge:

Spoil yourself at this luxurious hotel, complete with a sparkling swimming pool, a pampering spa, and a delectable array of on-site restaurants.

MID-RANGE:



Ocean Beach Resort & Spa:

Perfect for families, this resort offers water sports activities, a relaxing spa, and a fun-filled atmosphere



Mnarani Beach Club:

Sway to the rhythm of the ocean waves at Mnarani Beach Club. Picture yourself basking in the gentle breeze, the turquoise waters beckoning

BUDGET-FRIENDLY:



Watamu Marine National Park & Reserve Cottages:

Eco conscious travelers, rejoice! Nestled within the protected park, these cottages offer a unique and affordable way to experience the wonders of Watamu.



Shanzu Paradise Resort:

This budget-friendly option boasts a refreshing swimming pool and a delicious restaurant, ensuring a comfortable and affordable Kilifi escape.

Remember: This list is not exhaustive. Many other accommodations await discovery along the Kenyan coast. Utilize Booking platforms or consult sustainable travel websites for a more comprehensive selection.



PLACES TO EAT & DRINK

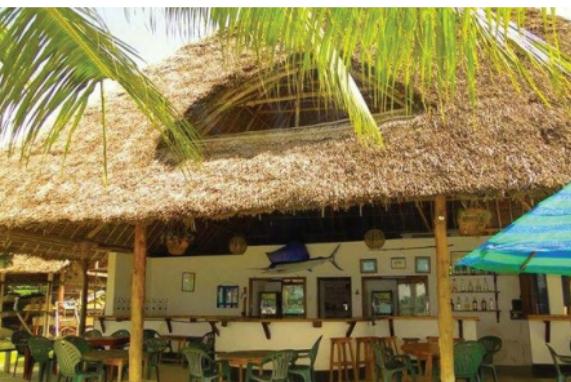
Kilifi's Culinary Compass: From Seafood Sensations to Bohemian Bites

Kilifi's culinary scene is as diverse and vibrant as its landscapes. Whether you're a seafood aficionado or a health-conscious gourmand, this coastal haven has a flavor to tantalize your taste buds.



Oceanic Delights

- * **Nautilus:** Dive into a world of fresh seafood with a Mediterranean and European twist at Nautilus.
- * **Salty's on the Creek:** Embark on a culinary adventure aboard Salty's, a floating seafood haven on the Mnarani Creek, offering breathtaking sunsets and unparalleled fine dining.
- * **Kilifi Boatyard:** Reel in a relaxed vibe and delicious bites at this harborside bar serving up the freshest catches.
- * **Baharia Seafoods And Grill:** Savor the bounty of the ocean with Baharia's mouthwatering grilled seafood specialties.





Beyond the Beach

- ✿ **The Twisted Fig:** This open-air bistro in the heart of Kilifi's festive venue is perfect for an al fresco dining experience. Expect a delightful fusion of seafood, barbecue, and a lively atmosphere.
- ✿ **The Terrace Bar & Bistro:** Indulge in a global culinary journey at The Terrace, offering a delectable fusion of African, international, and seafood delights.
- ✿ **Vegan Basket:** For health-conscious foodies, Vegan Basket offers a vibrant selection of American and African-inspired healthy fare.
- ✿ **Wild Living Cafe:** This cafe caters to all appetites, with a focus on fresh, wholesome dishes.





Casual Eats & Watering Holes:

- ✿ **Twende Pizza:** Satisfy your pizza cravings with a quick and delicious bite from Twende Pizza.
- ✿ **The beach bar kilifi:** Unwind and soak up the seaside vibes at The Beach Bar, Kilifi.
- ✿ **Daisy's Bar & Restaurant:** Enjoy a relaxed meal and drinks at this friendly Kilifi establishment.



WATAMU



A haven for nature lovers, Watamu boasts a kaleidoscope of ecosystems. Dive into the vibrant coral gardens of the Watamu Marine National Park, a wonderland teeming with colorful fish and playful turtles. Trek through lush Arabuko Sokoke Forest, a haven for rare wildlife, or kayak through mangrove creeks teeming with life. Watamu offers endless adventures for the soul that craves connection with nature.

These diverse experiences offer a glimpse into the beauty, culture, and adventure that Watamu has to offer, ensuring a memorable and fulfilling travel experience for visitors. Enjoy your exploration of this coastal gem !

Sipping a refreshing drink at Lichthaus Watamu while watching the sun dip below the horizon adds a magical touch to your Watamu experience. Don't miss out on this enchanting moment during your visit!





10 Unforgettable Must-Do's in Watamu

1. Watamu Marine National Park

Dive into the crystal-clear waters of the Marine Park for an unforgettable snorkeling and diving experience amidst thriving marine life.

2. Watamu Love Island

Relax on the secluded Love Island, a small sandbank off the coast of Watamu, perfect for romantic picnics and snorkeling.

3. Humpback Whale Watching Experience (The Hemingways)

Between July and September these majestic marine giants can be sighted aboard a boat with a dedicated whale researcher and guide.

4. Mida Creek Floating Adventure

Embark on a boat trip to Mida Creek for bird watching and kayaking through picturesque mangrove forests.

5. Sundowner at Lichthaus Watamu

Indulge in a magical sunset experience at Lichthaus Watamu by Temple Point, offering breathtaking views over the Indian Ocean.

6. Bio-Ken Snake Farm

Discover various snake species and learn about snakebite research and treatment at this unique farm.

7. Dhow Cruise Adventure

Set sail on a traditional dhow cruise to explore the coast line and nearby islands while taking in the stunning vistas.

8. Watamu Turtle Watch

Delve into the underwater world and conservation efforts at Watamu Turtle Watch, dedicated to protecting sea turtles.

9. Adventurous Water Sports

Engage in thrilling water sports like kitesurfing, windsurfing, and deep-sea fishing along the vibrant coast of Watamu.

10. Market Exploration

Shop for local crafts and souvenirs at Malindi Market or wander through the vibrant stalls at the Watamu Beach Market for unique finds and treasures.

* Watamu Marine Park: A Paradise for Divers and Nature Lovers

Watamu Marine Park, established in 1968, holds the distinction of being one of the world's first Marine National Parks. This underwater wonderland lies just 300 meters (980ft) offshore, encompassing a vibrant tapestry of coral reefs, swaying seagrass meadows, mysterious caves, and the serene waters of Mida Creek. Teeming with life, the park boasts over 600 species of fish, dazzling coral gardens, and a mesmerizing array of crustaceans and invertebrates. Recognized as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1979, Watamu Marine Park is a haven for divers, snorkelers, and anyone seeking to connect with the magic of the underwater world.

* Beyond the Reef: Adventures in Watamu

While diving and snorkeling are the park's crown jewels, Watamu offers a wealth of activities for every interest:

* Explore Mida Creek

Embark on a guided boat tour through the labyrinthine mangrove forests of Mida Creek. Spot a dazzling array of birdlife, playful monkeys swinging through the trees, and encounter the resident population of hippopotamuses and crocodiles (safely from the boat, of course!).

* Turtle Watch

Witness the awe-inspiring phenomenon of nesting sea turtles. Watamu is a crucial nesting ground for Green and Hawksbill turtles, and responsible tour operators offer guided night walks to observe these prehistoric giants laying their eggs.

* Cultural Immersion

Delve into the rich cultural heritage of the region. Visit the ancient Gede Ruins, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and explore the remnants of a once-thriving Swahili trading city.

* Dive into Adventure

Watamu caters to all levels of diving and snorkeling enthusiasts. Here are some reputable companies to get you started:

Barracuda Diving Kenya - Explore the vibrant reefs of Watamu Marine Park with experienced guides on diving and snorkeling excursions.

Dive Watamu - Hone your diving skills with PADI courses offered by Dive Watamu. They also lead snorkeling tours to various captivating underwater sites around Watamu.

Remember: Responsible tourism is key to preserving this irreplaceable ecosystem. Always follow park regulations and choose tour operators who prioritize conservation efforts



Watamu Nightlife: Where the Night Comes Alive

Watamu isn't just about swaying palm trees and turquoise waters; it offers a vibrant nightlife scene that pulsates under the starlit sky. Here, beach bars with infectious rhythms seamlessly blend with live music venues and pulsating nightclubs, catering to every party mood.

* Beachside Beats

✿ **Papa Remo Beach Bar:** This lively hotspot is the heart of Watamu's nightlife. Dance the night away to energetic DJs, or catch occasional live music sets under the starlit sky. With the sand between your toes and the ocean breeze in your hair, Paparemo is the perfect place to soak up the electric beach vibes.

* Sunset Sessions & Sophistication

✿ **Lichthaus Bar & Restaurant:** End your day with a breathtaking sundowner at Lichthaus. Savor delicious food, mesmerizing sunset views, and a chilled atmosphere with live music that sets the mood for a perfect evening.

* Nightclub Nirvana

✿ **Aquarius:** When the party spirit takes hold, head to Aquarius. This nightclub features energetic DJs spinning the latest tunes, guaranteed to get you moving until the early hours.

* Hidden Gems

✿ **Watamu Marine Club:** While not strictly a nightlife spot, the Watamu Marine Club occasionally hosts live music nights. Enjoy a delicious meal, stunning ocean views, and the unexpected delight of live entertainment.

Watamu isn't just a beach destination; it's a symphony of experiences. Imagine crashing waves serenading your stay at Rock and Sea Resort, where rugged cliffs cradle your relaxation. Dive into the vibrant underwater world by day, then return to witness fiery sunsets painting the sky by night.



PLACES TO STAY

* Luxury with a Conscience

Medina Palms Watamu beckons with a unique blend of barefoot luxury and eco-consciousness. Tread on pristine sands, knowing your vacation leaves a positive footprint. This haven fosters responsible tourism and empowers the local community, ensuring a truly enriching experience.

* Guilt-Free Escape Awaits

Nestled within a protected paradise, the Watamu Marine National Park & Reserve Cottages offer an eco-friendly escape. Immerse yourself in the park's wonders, leaving only footprints and unforgettable memories behind. Here, responsible tourism meets unparalleled beauty.

* Whimsy Takes Flight

Ever dreamt of a whimsical escape nestled amongst the emerald canopy? The iconic Watamu Treehouse beckons. This ethereal retreat, crowned by Kenya Airways' Msafiri Magazine as one of the "100 Most Unforgettable Experiences," suspends you between earth and sky. Imagine waking up to the whispers of the forest and gazing at breathtaking views - a truly unforgettable experience.

* Island Hopping Heaven

* **Seven Islands Resort** is your gateway to a constellation of pristine beaches. Explore barefoot, island hopping from your doorstep. Each beach offers a unique slice of paradise, waiting to be discovered.

* **Mida Creek Eco Camp** is your place to escape the ordinary at Mida Creek Eco Camp, Watamu's beachfront haven. Dive into turquoise waters just steps from your room, a mere 12km from the wonders of Watamu National Marine Park. Unwind under the starlit sky next to a crackling fire, or gather with fellow adventurers in the communal garden.

A Look at Watamu's Diverse Offerings

LUXURY:



Medina Palms:

Indulge in barefoot luxury on the powder-white sands at Medina Palms.

Hemingways Watamu:

This beachfront haven boasts infinity pools, water sports facilities, a spa, and unparalleled service.

Temple Point:

Home to the famous Lichthaus sundowner restaurant, Temple Point offers stunning rooms and unforgettable culinary experiences.

MID RANGE:



Turtle Bay Beach Club:

Enjoy beachfront bungalows, refreshing pools, delicious restaurants, and a vibrant nightlife scene at Turtle Bay Beach Club.

Temple Point Beach Resort:

Perfect for families, this resort offers a swimming pool, a kids' club, and various water sports activities.

BUDGET FRIENDLY:



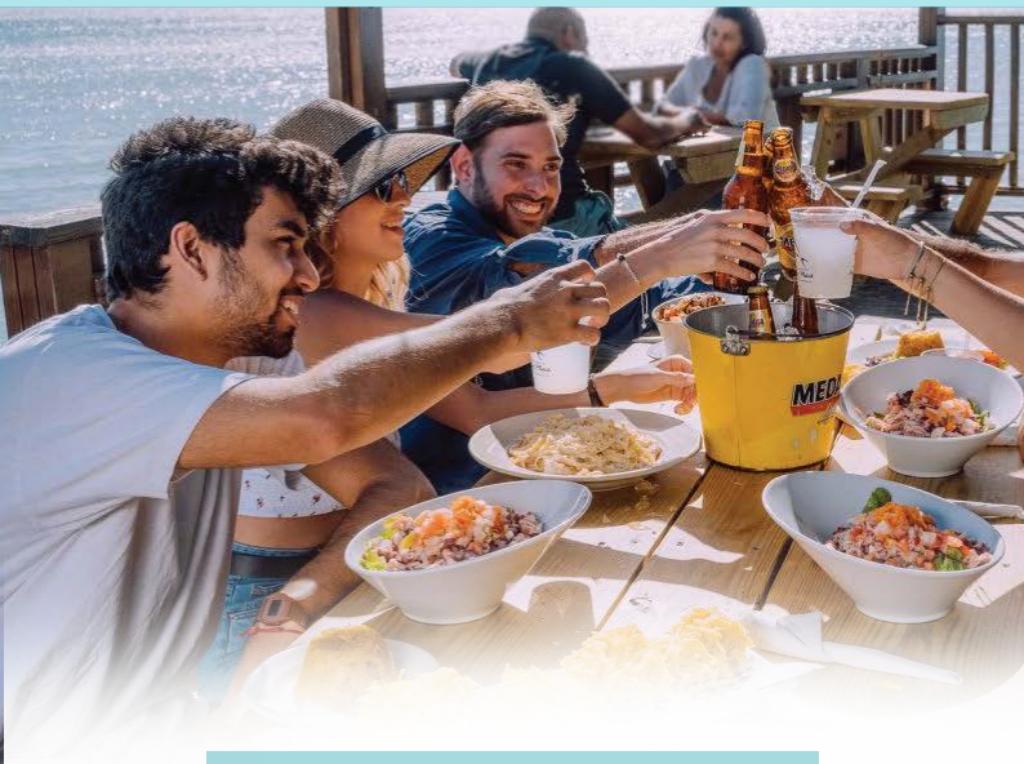
Watamu Ocean Breeze:

This budget-friendly option boasts a swimming pool, restaurant, and convenient proximity to the beach.

Watamu Backpackers:

Simple yet comfortable, this option is perfect for budget travelers seeking a social atmosphere.

Remember: This list is not exhaustive. Many other accommodations await discovery along the Kenyan coast. Utilize Booking platforms or consult sustainable travel websites for a more comprehensive selection.



PLACES TO EAT & DRINK

Watamu: Where Every Meal is an Adventure

Welcome to Watamu, a haven for sun-seekers and a paradise for foodies! This vibrant town offers a culinary adventure unlike any other. Whether you crave romantic beachfront dining or lively pub fare, Watamu has a taste sensation waiting for you.



Unforgettable Flavors

* **Crave-Worthy Crabs:** Crab Shack Dabaso reigns supreme for its fresh-off-the-boat seafood, especially their succulent crabs.

* **Sunset Soiree:** Sip cocktails and savor delicious pizzas at Sunset Beach, where the fiery skies paint the backdrop for a perfect evening.

* **Ocean & Opulence:** For an upscale dining experience, Amandina offers exquisite cuisine with breathtaking ocean views.

* Casual Eats & Chic Treats

* **Pizza Perfection:** From classic pizzas to unique piadinas, Mamiy's Pizza satisfies all your Italian cravings.

* **Beachside Bliss:** Marafiki is a beachfront haven for relaxed dining with a stunning seascape.

* **Lunchtime Escape:** Gede Coffee Gardens offers a delightful escape for lunch or dinner, nestled amidst lush greenery.

* **Sweet Endings:** No meal is complete without a decadent gelato from Non Solo Gelato.

* Watamu After Dark

* **Pub Grub Paradise:** Lichthaus by Temple Point offers lively pub fare and a fun atmosphere perfect for a night out with friends.

* **Lunchtime & Lively Nights:** Papa Remo caters to both cravings, offering delicious lunches and transforming into a party hotspot in the evenings.

* Romantic Rendezvous

Love on the Beach: Tamu sets the scene for an unforgettable romantic evening with its intimate setting and delectable cuisine.

MALINDI

Steeped in history and pulsating with vibrant energy, Malindi is a captivating tapestry of cultures. Explore crumbling Portuguese forts whispering tales of explorers, wander through bustling markets overflowing with colorful spices, and immerse yourself in the rich Swahili heritage. Malindi offers a captivating blend of historical intrigue, cultural encounters, and sun-drenched relaxation.



10 Unforgettable Must-Do's in Watamu

1. Malindi Marine Park

Explore the vibrant underwater world through snorkeling or diving in the clear waters of the Marine Park.

2. Vasco da Gama Pillar

Visit this historical monument that commemorates the arrival of Vasco da Gama in Malindi in 1498. This famous landmark erected by Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama.

3. Kipepeo butterfly Farm

Visit the Kipepeo Butterfly Farm to experience a colorful and interactive butterfly sanctuary.

4. Arabuko Sokoke Forest

Embark on a nature walk in this lush forest to spot diverse bird species and wildlife.

5. Gedi Ruins

Explore the ancient Swahili ruins of Gedi to learn about the history and culture of the Swahili people.





6. Marafa Hell's Kitchen

Visit this unique geological formation with its striking red cliffs and rugged landscape. Take a dip in the Marafa Depression, also known as Hell's Kitchen, which features unique geological formations and stunning sunsets.



7. Mambrui Sand Dunes

Mambrui Dunes is a hidden gem with spectacular white sand dunes and the only sand dunes in Kenya. Explore the magic inside the dunes.



8. Blue safari

Take a boat tour of the Malindi Marine National Park, which offers the opportunity to see dolphins, sea turtles, and fishes of all colors.

9. Malindi Tourist Market

Shop for souvenirs, local crafts, and fresh produce at Malindi Market, a vibrant and bustling African marketplace.

10. Armando Tanzini's Art Gallery (White Elephant Sea Lodge)

This is a wonderful place to explore and admire unique artworks in a beautiful setting. The gallery showcases a diverse collection of paintings, sculptures, and other artistic creations that reflect the talent and creativity with African touch.

* Malindi's Underwater Paradise: Snorkeling & Diving.

Welcome to Malindi, where the underwater realm beckons with its splendor. Snorkelers can indulge in the beauty of clear, shallow waters adorned with colorful reef fish. Venture deeper on a diving adventure to encounter schools of snappers and mesmerizing reef structures. Keep your eyes peeled for graceful turtles gliding through the sea and the occasional reef shark cruising by. Malindi's dive sites offer a mix of excitement and tranquility, inviting you to explore the hidden treasures beneath the waves.

Malindi isn't just about sun-drenched beaches! Beneath the turquoise waters lies a vibrant world teeming with coral reefs and diverse marine life. Whether you're a seasoned diver or a curious snorkeler, Malindi offers unforgettable underwater adventures.



* Snorkelers' Paradise

Malindi Marine National Park

Explore a kaleidoscope of coral gardens teeming with colorful fish. This protected area boasts some of the best snorkeling in Malindi, with easy access from shore.

* Dive Deeper

KWS Coral Gardens

Located near the Vasco da Gama Pillar, this underwater wonderland is a haven for divers. Expect to encounter vibrant coral formations, playful dolphins, and an array of reef fish.

* Dive Buddies

Several reputable companies cater to your diving and snorkeling needs in Malindi. Here are a few to consider:

Aquaventures Kenya - Explore the rich underwater world along the Malindi coastline with Aquaventures Kenya. They offer diving and snorkeling excursions tailored to your interests.

* Beyond the Reef

While diving and snorkeling are the main draws, Malindi offers a plethora of other activities. Here are a few ideas to keep you busy:

* Deep-Sea Fishing

Test your skills against the mighty marlin, sailfish, and kingfish that patrol the Kenyan coast.

* Glass-Bottom Boat Tours

Get a glimpse of the underwater world without getting wet. Ideal for families or those who prefer to stay dry.

* Cultural Exploration

Immerse yourself in the rich history and vibrant culture of Malindi. Visit historical sites like the Vasco da Gama Pillar or explore the bustling local markets.

* Dolphins & Whales Watching

Embark on a boat trip in search of playful dolphins and majestic whales that frequent these waters (seasonal).

* Kitesurfing

Catch some wind and ride the waves with Malindi's consistent winds. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned kitesurfer, there are lessons and rentals available.

With its stunning underwater world, diverse activities, and rich culture, Malindi promises an unforgettable Kenyan adventure.



Malindi Nightlife: The Undisputed King of Nightlife

For the ultimate party experience on the Kenyan coast, head south to Malindi. This vibrant town boasts a diverse selection of bars, pulsating nightclubs, and even casinos to keep you entertained well into the night.

* Club Classics & Beachside Bliss

*** Mabeshte:** This iconic local sports bar is a Malindi institution. Dance the night away to live DJs spinning a mix of classic and contemporary beats mingle with the real locals.

*** Malaika Lounge:** For a lively modern rustic feel, this is your go-to spot. This restaurant and lounge bar features DJs pumping out energetic tunes and occasional live music sets, creating an atmosphere that's perfect for dancing under the stars with a refreshing drink in hand and top quality dining experience.

* Disco Nights & Casino Thrills

*** Ocean Beach Resort:** Looking for a weekend getaway with a twist? Head to Ocean Beach Resort for their famous disco nights, where you can unleash your inner dancing queen.

*** Silversands Casino:** Feeling lucky? Test your fate at Silversands Casino. This casino offers a variety of games, a bar to quench your thirst, and even occasional live music sets for a well-rounded entertainment experience.

* Beyond the Classics

*** Rosada Beach Parties (Fridays & Mondays):** Head to Rosada Beach Restaurant on Fridays and Mondays for their famous beach parties. Dance the night away under the stars, soak up the festive atmosphere, and enjoy the cool ocean breeze.

*** Vintage Nightclub:** For a stylish and sophisticated Friday and Saturday night out, head to Vintage Nightclub. This trendy spot features dance floors, VIP sections, and DJs spinning the latest vibes, ensuring an unforgettable

* Family-Friendly Fun & Laid-Back Delights

* **Cheers Juice Bar:** While not strictly a nightlife spot, Cheers Juice Bar offers a delightful alternative for families or those seeking a relaxed evening. This charming roadside bar boasts a lovely garden setting and serves the best fresh fruit juices and creative mocktails in Malindi. It's the perfect place to unwind and enjoy some quality time with loved ones.

* **Olympia Beach club:** While weekends are filled with options Olympia makes your midweek a great option for family dinner and DJ music by the poolside.

* Late-Night Eats & Local Gems

* **Stars and Garters Lounge Bar (Open 24/7):** This lively bar caters to the late-night crowd. They offer friendly service, delicious African cuisine (including the popular nyama choma grilled meat), and live music throughout the night. Make a reservation to secure your spot and prepare for a night of good food, good company, and good vibes.

* **Fermento Nightclub:** This vibrant spot offers a fun and interactive experience. Belt out your favorite tunes during karaoke nights or listen to talented pianists playing live music. Just be sure to check the schedule, as they're closed on Mondays.

Remember: Always prioritize safety when exploring the nightlife scene. Let someone know your whereabouts, drink responsibly, and have a fabulous time!

PLACES TO STAY

* Unveiling Hidden Gems and Luxurious Escapes

Malindi whispers promises of unexplored dreams. Here, amidst swaying palms and sun-drenched shores, a tapestry of unique escapes await

Embrace the Artistic Muse

White Elephant Sea & Art Lodge beckons with artistic beachfront luxury. Imagine stylish suites adorned with captivating art, an on-site gallery igniting your inspiration, and the calming rhythm of the ocean lulling you into serenity.

Tropical Escape for the Soul

Sandies Malindi Dream Garden invites you to a lush paradise. Picture vibrant gardens bursting with life, sparkling swimming pools offering cool respite, and comfortable rooms cradling your relaxation. Perfect for families and those seeking a tranquil haven.

Indulge in Unrivaled Opulence

Billionaire Resort & Retreat Malindi promises the ultimate luxury experience. This beachfront haven boasts opulent villas, private pools whispering promises of serenity, and world-class amenities designed to create an unforgettable escape.

Comfort and Convenience Await

The Lawford, powered by ASTON, offers a haven of comfort and convenience. Imagine spacious apartments, personalized service exceeding your expectations, and a prime location near the beach for effortless access to Malindi's magic.

Unwind in Coastal Grandeur

Ocean Beach Resort & Spa beckons with the promise of stylish relaxation. This luxurious beachfront resort boasts a variety of room options to suit your desires, a pampering spa for ultimate indulgence, and multiple pools glistening under the Kenyan sun.

A Swahili Siesta

Immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of Swahili culture at Mwembe Resort. Envision charming bungalows and traditional bandas (cottages) nestled amidst lush tropical gardens, offering a unique experience that blends relaxation with cultural immersion.

Luxurious Legacy Awaits:



The Kasa Malindi, formerly Leopard Point Beach Resort, promises a luxurious escape steeped in history. Imagine private balconies or terraces framing breathtaking views, a beachfront location for effortless access to the ocean's embrace, and an array of amenities ensuring a memorable vacation.

A Look at Malindi's Diverse Offerings:

LUXURY:



Billionaires Beach Resort & Spa:

Luxurious resort championing responsible tourism practices, allowing you to indulge guilt-free.

The Lawford's Hotel:

A historic beachfront haven offering a luxurious stay intertwined with the whispers of the past.

MID-RANGE:



AfroChic Malindi:

Boutique hotel renowned for its stylish décor and personalized service, ensuring a unique and memorable experience

Saffron Garden:

Spacious and modern apartments with a refreshing swimming pool and beautiful garden, offering comfort and privacy.

BUDGET-FRIENDLY:



Malindi Dream Garden:

This budget-friendly haven boasts a refreshing swimming pool and a delicious restaurant. Check Booking.com or the resort website for details and plan your dream escape without breaking the bank.

Harbour Key Cottages:

Don't miss the stunning makuti-style cottages at Harbour Key Cottages. Imagine beachfront bliss amidst neatly manicured gardens, with two sparkling swimming pools offering cool escapes. Here, comfortable accommodation awaits at a price that won't leave you dreaming of your next paycheck.



PLACES TO EAT & DRINK

Malindi Munchies: A Foodie's Guide to Paradise

Malindi's magic isn't just about the postcard-perfect beaches. This vibrant town tantalizes taste buds with a diverse culinary scene. Whether you crave toes-in-the-sand seafood shacks or elegant fine dining, Malindi has a flavor for every fancy.

* Ditch the Dishes for Delights

- ※ **Laid-Back Luxury:** Pizza O offers stunning ocean views and, of course, wood-fired pizzas that are sure to satisfy.
- ※ **Street Eats Savvy:** Grab a bite on the go at Taheri restaurant, a local favorite known for its mouth watering swahili-indian style food.

※ **Fresh Catch Fiesta:** For the ultimate seafood experience, head to Masai beach. Pair their daily haul with a refreshing beachfront drink.

※ **Swahili Soul Food:** Immerse yourself in local culture at Simba dishes, savoring the aromatic spices and fresh flavors of Swahili cuisine.

* Fine Fare and Family Fun

- ※ **Family-Friendly Feasts:** Olimpia Club caters to the whole crew with delicious dishes and a relaxed atmosphere.

* **Elegant Escape:** Malaika Restaurant offers an upscale dining experience perfect for a special occasion.

* **Brunch Bunch Up:** Billionaire Grill & Bar is your one-stop shop for a decadent weekend brunch.

* **Hidden Gems and Local Legends**

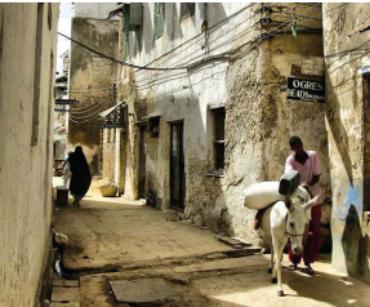
* **Quietude with a View:** Kilili Baharini offers a serene escape with delicious food and stunning ocean vistas.

* **Lobster Nirvana:** Che Shale is a must-visit for crustacean connoisseurs, known for their succulent lobster and crab dishes.



LAMU

Dive deeper into the timeless charm of Lamu, a captivating island where ancient Swahili traditions intertwine with turquoise waters and sun-drenched beaches. Explore the labyrinthine alleys of Lamu Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where carved wooden dhows bob on the harbor and coral houses whisper tales of a bygone era. Venture to Shela Village, a haven of pristine beaches and laid-back vibes. Island-hop to Manda, known for its vibrant birdlife and unspoiled landscapes. For ultimate seclusion, set sail to Kiwayu, a private island paradise promising untouched beauty and unparalleled tranquility. Lamu offers a kaleidoscope of experiences, waiting to be discovered.



10 Unforgettable Must-Do's in Lamu

These activities offer a mix of cultural experiences, outdoor adventures, relaxation, and culinary delights that showcase the unique charm and beauty of Lamu

1. Explore Lamu Old Town

Wander through the narrow streets of this UNESCO World Heritage Site, lined with traditional Swahili architecture, old stone buildings, and intricately carved wooden doors.

2. Visit Lamu Museum

Learn about the history and heritage of Lamu Island, including displays on Swahili culture, archaeology, and





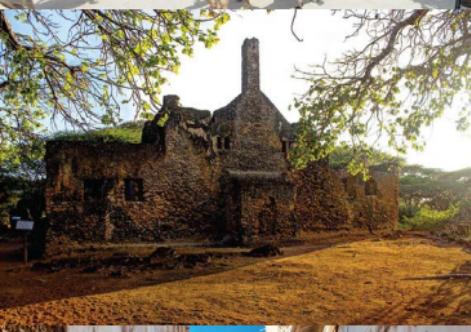
3. Take a Dhow Cruise

Sail on a traditional wooden dhow to explore the surrounding islands, enjoy stunning coastal views, and experience a magical sunset on the Indian Ocean.



4. Relax on Shela Beach

Spend a leisurely day on the sandy shores of Shela Beach, with crystal-clear waters, swaying palm trees, and a tranquil atmosphere perfect for unwinding.



5. Attend the Lamu Cultural Festival

Experience the vibrant culture of Lamu during this annual event featuring traditional dances, music, food, and art exhibitions.



6. Visit Takwa Ruins

Explore the ancient ruins of Takwa, an abandoned 15th-century Swahili settlement, located on Manda Island and surrounded by lush vegetation.



7. Try Swahili Cuisine

Indulge in local delicacies such as seafood dishes, Swahili curries, samosas, and sweet treats like Mahamri and halwa at restaurants and street food stalls.

8. Participate in a Swahili Cooking Class

Learn how to prepare authentic Swahili dishes with a hands-on cooking class, where you can discover the flavors and techniques of local cuisine.

9. Take a Donkey Ride

Explore the narrow alleyways and sandy paths of Lamu Old Town on a traditional donkey ride, a popular and eco-friendly mode of transportation on the island.

10. Relax at a Swahili-style Boutique Hotel

Stay in a charming boutique hotel or guesthouse with Swahili-inspired architecture, courtyards, rooftop terraces, and personalized service for a unique and memorable accommodation experience in Lamu.

Unveiling Lamu Island: A Comprehensive Guide for Adventure Travelers

Lamu Island, a captivating gem off the Kenyan coast, beckons with its rich history, vibrant culture, and pristine beauty. This guide delves into the heart of Lamu, empowering adventurous travellers to plan an unforgettable escape.



Unveiling Lamu's History:

* Swahili Legacy

Explore Lamu's fascinating history as a prominent Swahili trading port for centuries. Delve into the influence of Arab, Persian, and Indian cultures that shaped the island's unique architecture, traditions, and cuisine.

* Lamu Old Town

Step back in time with a walking tour of Lamu Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore the labyrinthine alleyways lined with ancient Swahili houses adorned with intricately carved wooden doors.

* The Lamu Fort

Uncover the island's defensive past by visiting the imposing Lamu Fort, built in the 14th century. Learn about its role in protecting the island from invaders and explore the exhibits showcasing Lamu's rich heritage.

Embracing Lamu's Culture:

*** Donkey Rides:** Experience a unique Lamu tradition by participating in a donkey race. Witness the excitement and cheer on your chosen donkey during these thrilling races held at Mkungu Square.

*** Swahili Cuisine:** Indulge your taste buds with a culinary adventure through Lamu's vibrant food scene. Savor fresh seafood dishes like "samaki wa nazi" (coconut fish curry) and explore the local markets overflowing with spices and exotic fruits.

*** Dhow Encounters:** Embark on a traditional dhow cruise, the iconic sailing vessels of the Swahili Coast. Navigate the turquoise waters, soak in breathtaking sunsets, and enjoy a delicious Swahili dinner onboard.



Hidden Gems

- ◆ **Takwa Ruins:** Explore the ruins of the ancient Takwa town, once a thriving trading center. Imagine the bustling marketplace and immerse yourself in the island's forgotten past.
- ◆ **Mangrove Exploration:** Kayak through the labyrinthine mangrove forests surrounding Lamu. Discover a unique ecosystem teeming with diverse birdlife and witness the delicate balance of nature.
- ◆ **Island Hopping Adventure:** Venture beyond Lamu Island and discover hidden gems like Manda Island, renowned for its pristine beaches and historical ruins, or Kiwayu Island, a haven for wildlife enthusiasts.

Off-the-Beaten-Path Experiences



- ◆ **Kitesurfing Paradise**

For the adventurous soul, Lamu offers ideal conditions for kitesurfing. With strong winds and flat waters, learn this exhilarating sport or showcase your skills on the waves.

- ◆ **Art & Crafts Scene**

Delve into Lamu's vibrant artistic heritage. Explore local workshops, witness the creation of intricate carvings and colorful fabrics, and support local artisans by purchasing unique souvenirs.



- ◆ **Cultural Homestay**

Immerse yourself in Lamu's culture by staying in a local homestay. Experience authentic Swahili hospitality, learn traditional skills, and gain a deeper understanding of the island's way of life.



Lamu Nightlife: Tranquility Under the Stars

Lamu's charm lies in its serene and slow-paced atmosphere. While not a party destination, it offers unique ways to unwind and soak up the island's laid-back vibes after dark.

* Stargazing on the Beach

Lamu boasts some of the most spectacular night skies in Kenya. Spread a blanket on the beach, gaze at the Milky Way, and reconnect with nature's beauty.

* Rooftop Restaurants with a View

Several rooftop restaurants in Lamu offer stunning views and a relaxed ambiance. Enjoy a delicious meal under the starlit sky, perhaps with some live traditional music playing softly in the background.

* Dhow Cruises Under the Moon

Embark on a romantic dhow cruise after sunset. Sail across the calm waters, revel in the cool night breeze, and soak up the magic of the moonlit Lamu seascape.

* Cultural Evenings

Occasionally, Lamu hosts cultural evenings with traditional music and dance performances. Immerse yourself in the island's rich heritage and witness the vibrant local culture come alive under the stars.



PLACES TO STAY

- * **Manda Bay Resort:** Unwind in barefoot luxury at Manda Bay Resort. Swaying palms and handcrafted cottages, powered by the sun, cradle your stay. Savor organic meals bursting with fresh, local flavors, and know that your indulgence goes hand-in-hand with preserving this island paradise.
- * **Peponi Hotel:** Step back in time at the historic Peponi Hotel. Steeped in Lamu's rich heritage, this haven seamlessly blends sustainable practices with a captivating cultural experience. Immerse yourself in the island's soul, leaving only footprints and cherished memories.
- * **Forodhani House:** Unveiling the heart of Lamu, Forodhani House beckons. Wander narrow streets teeming with life, savor aromatic spices at the vibrant market, and lose yourself in the island's captivating charm.
- * **The Majlis Resort:** Luxurious Escape: Indulge in barefoot luxury at The Majlis Resort. This privately owned haven boasts a beachfront location on Manda Island, offering stunning views of Lamu Island and the Ras Kitau Bay.

A Look at Lamu's Diverse Offerings

LUXURY:



Billionaires Beach Resort & Spa:
Luxurious resort championing
responsible tourism practices, allowing
you to indulge guilt-free.



The Lawford's Hotel:
A historic beachfront haven offering a
luxurious stay intertwined with the
whispers of the past.

A Look at Lamu's Diverse Offerings

LUXURY:



Peponi Hotel:
Historic hotel with a focus on sustainable practices and cultural experiences.



Manda Bay Resort:
Luxurious eco-lodge on Manda Island with solar-powered accommodations and organic meals.

MID RANGE:



The Lamu House:
Charming boutique hotel with a rooftop terrace and beautiful ocean views.



Lamu Palms:
Swahili-style hotel with a swimming pool, restaurant, and traditional Lamu décor.

BUDGET FRIENDLY:



Lamu Backpackers:
Simple and social hostel option for budget travelers



Kipungani Sea Breeze Hotel:
Budget-friendly guesthouse situated near the beach.

Remember: This list is not exhaustive. Many other accommodations await discovery along the Kenyan coast. Utilize Booking platforms or consult sustainable travel websites for a more comprehensive selection.



WHERE TO EAT & DRINK

Lamu's charm extends far beyond its ancient architecture and pristine beaches. This island paradise boasts a vibrant culinary scene, offering a delectable adventure for every palate.

Lamu's culinary scene is as diverse and captivating as its rich history. From beachfront feasts to hidden gem restaurants, this island paradise offers a taste bud adventure unlike any other.

Swahili Sensations

- ◆ **Mangrove Restaurant:** Savor the essence of Lamu at this beachfront gem. Indulge in classic Swahili dishes and the freshest local seafood, all with a breathtaking sea view.
- ◆ **Stop Over Café:** A local favorite, Stop Over Café serves up mouthwatering Swahili specialties, including their legendary seafood curries.
- ◆ **Swahili Home:** Embark on a unique culinary experience at a traditional Swahili home. Savor a feast of authentic dishes prepared with love and local flair.

International Influences

- ◆ **The Majlis Bar & Restaurant:** This beachfront haven offers a fusion of flavors. From classic Italian fare like wood-fired pizzas and homemade gelato to delectable Swahili dishes and international cuisine, The Majlis caters to every craving.
- ◆ **Manda Bay Restaurant:** Nestled within a luxurious resort, Manda Bay Restaurant offers a global culinary journey. Indulge in a diverse menu featuring international flavors, all amidst stunning oceanfront views.

* Fresh From the Sea

◆ **Moonrise Restaurant:** This elegant restaurant, affiliated with Lamu House Hotel, offers a delectable à la carte menu. Expect fresh seafood dishes that are sure to tantalize your taste buds.

◆ **Shela Beach Restaurant:** Dine under the stars and enjoy the island's laid-back vibe at Shela Beach Restaurant. Savor a menu featuring fresh seafood alongside international favorites, all with a breathtaking oceanfront view.

* Sweet Treats & Seaside Snacks

◆ **Sea Suq Café:** This beachfront gem is a haven for sweet tooths and savory snackers alike. Indulge in their famous samosas with chili dip, or explore other Swahili delights like bhajia, date cookies, and homemade brownies.

◆ **Whispers Coffee Shop:** Located in the heart of Lamu town, Whispers Coffee Shop is a haven for coffee connoisseurs. They brew some of the best coffee on the island, perfect for a pick-me-up or a relaxing afternoon break.

* Beachside Bliss & Island Vibes

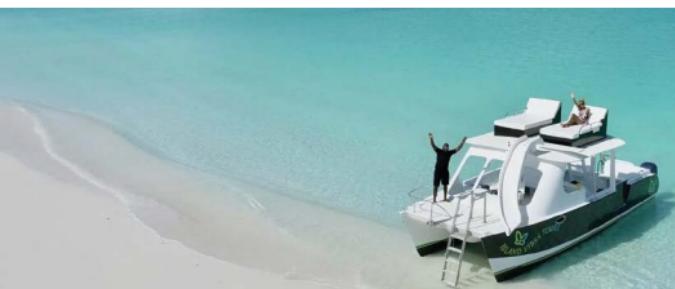
◆ **The Floating Bar & Restaurant:** Live the island life at The Floating Bar & Restaurant. This unique spot, situated offshore from Lamu and Manda Islands, offers the perfect ambiance for a party with friends and stunning ocean views.

◆ **Diamond Beach Village:** Embrace the eco-friendly vibe at Diamond Beach Village. Indulge in their delicious pizzas baked in a wood-fired oven, including vegan and gluten-free options, all while enjoying the beachfront atmosphere.

* Fine Dining & Hidden Gems

◆ **Peponi Restaurant:** Take a culinary trip through time at Peponi Restaurant. Their menu features fresh seafood dishes infused with Swahili spices, offering a unique and flavorful experience.

◆ **Kijani Bar & Restaurant:** Escape to the ambient atmosphere of Kijani's open-air bar and restaurant. Enjoy spectacular sea views while savoring their delectable menu





GETTING THERE & AROUND

Hitting the Kenyan Coast: Your Guide to Epic Beach Hopping

The Kenyan coast beckons with its endless stretches of golden sand, turquoise waters, and swaying palm trees. But how do you navigate this tropical paradise? Buckle up, because we're diving into the best ways to get around and unlock the magic of Kilifi, Watamu, Malindi, and Lamu:

* For the Adventurous Soul:

Ditch the Crowds, Take to the Skies

Experience the Kenyan coast from a whole new perspective with a small plane or helicopter tour. Soar over turquoise waters, spot playful dolphins, and get a bird's-eye view of hidden coves and vibrant coral reefs.

* For the Budget Backpacker:

Matatus: The Heartbeat of Kenya

Embrace the local experience with matatus, Kenya's colorful mini buses. They're a budget-friendly way to get between towns, offering a chance to interact with friendly Kenyans and soak up the vibrant atmosphere (just be prepared for a bumpy ride!).

* For the Laid-Back Luxury Seeker:

Private Transfers

Sit back, relax, and let a private driver handle the navigation. Pre-booked transfers ensure a smooth and comfortable journey between destinations, allowing you to arrive at your beach paradise feeling refreshed and ready to unwind.

Island Hopping Delights

Dhows: Sailing Through Time

Embark on a timeless adventure aboard a traditional dhow sailboat. Cruise between idyllic islands like Lamu and explore hidden coves, feeling the gentle rhythm of the waves and the warm Kenyan sun on your skin.

Ferries: Island Connections

Catch a ferry to Lamu or explore the Mombasa Marine National Park with its vibrant coral reefs. Ferries offer a convenient and affordable way to island hop, allowing you to experience the diverse beauty of the Kenyan coast.



DID YOU KNOW?

*Lamu is a car-free island paradise that offers a unique and charming way of getting around.

Here's your guide to navigating Lamu's laid-back charm:

Embrace the Local Vibe



Donkeys

Lamu's iconic mode of transport, donkeys are a fun and affordable way to explore the labyrinthine streets. Just remember to negotiate your fare beforehand and hop on for a delightfully slow-paced adventure.



Dhows

Experience Lamu like a true explorer with a traditional dhow boat ride. These wooden sailboats are perfect for island hopping, sunset cruises, or simply soaking up the stunning seascapes.

Efficient Explorations

* **Boda Bodas (Motorbike Taxis)**

For a quicker and more modern option, hop on a boda boda. These motorbikes are a convenient way to get around the island, especially during low tide when donkey travel might be limited. Just be sure to agree on a price beforehand and wear a helmet for safety.

* **Walking**

Lamu's compact size makes it a walker's paradise. Get lost in the charming narrow alleys, discover hidden gems, and truly immerse yourself in the island's unique atmosphere.

* **Flying into Lamu**

While the island itself is car-free, you can reach Lamu by plane. The nearest airport is Manda Airport on Manda Island, a short dhow ride away from Lamu town.

Unforgettable Land Adventures

* **Self-Drive Safaris**

For the adventurous spirit, rent a 4WD vehicle and embark on a self-drive safari adventure. Explore Tsavo East National Park or head inland to spot lions, elephants, zebras, and giraffes in their natural habitat. Just be sure to plan your route carefully and prioritize safety.

Taxis are readily available in major towns like Mombasa and Malindi, offering a convenient way to get around for shorter distances.

Reaching the Kenyan Coast

* **Flights**

The most convenient way to reach Kilifi, Watamu, Malindi, and Lamu is by flying into Nairobi Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) or Mombasa's Moi International Airport (MIA). Numerous domestic and international airlines operate flights to Mombasa. From Nairobi and Mombasa, you can connect to your coastal destination via smaller aircraft, car, or bus. Here's a list of airlines that commonly offer flights to the International Airports in Nairobi and Mombasa, Kenya, allowing you to access the beautiful Kenyan Coast:



FLIGHTS

◆ Major International Airlines:

- * Emirates (<https://www.emirates.com/us/english/book/>)
- * Etihad Airways (<https://www.etihad.com/en/>)
- * Qatar Airways (<https://www.qatarairways.com/>)
- * Turkish Airlines (<https://www.turkishairlines.com/>)
- * KLM Royal Dutch Airlines (<https://www.klm.com/>)
- * Lufthansa (<https://www.lufthansa.com/>)
- * British Airways (<https://www.britishairways.com/>)

◆ African Airlines:

- * Kenya Airways (KQ) (<https://www.kenya-airways.com/>) - The national carrier of Kenya, offering frequent connections to Mombasa.
- * Ethiopian Airlines (<https://www.ethiopianairlines.com/>)
- * South African Airways (<https://www.flysaa.com/>)
- * RwandAir (<https://flights.rwandair.com/en-ke/>)

◆ Regional Airlines:

- * Jambojet (Airports - JKIA, MIA, Malindi) (<https://www.jambojet.com/en-US>)
- * Skyward Express (Nairobi Wilson to Malindi) (<https://www.skywardexpress.co.ke/en>)
- * SafariLink (Nairobi Wilson to Malindi) (<https://www.flysafarilink.com/>)
- * Flyals (Nairobi Wilson to Lamu, Malindi, Vipingo) (<https://www.flyals.com/>)

Finding the best fares:

- * Utilize flight comparison websites like Skyscanner, Kayak, or Google Flights to compare prices and find the best deals on flights to Mombasa.
- * Consider booking your flights in advance, especially during peak season, to secure better fares.
- * Be flexible with your travel dates if possible, as prices can fluctuate depending on the day and time of your flight.



ROAD TRANSPORT

Ride-hailing Apps on the Kenyan Coast

While ride-hailing apps like Uber and Bolt haven't yet penetrated the Kenyan coast to a significant degree mainly available in Mombasa, there are local alternatives that provide similar services. Here's a breakdown of the options available in Kilifi, Watamu, Malindi, and Lamu.

Available Ride-hailing Apps:

- ◆ Little Cab: This Kenyan ride-hailing app offers services in major cities like Mombasa and Nairobi. While not as widespread on the coast, it's possible that Little Cab might operate in Kilifi or Malindi, especially for connecting to Mombasa.

Download the Little Cab app, Uber, Bolt to check for availability in your specific location.

Alternatives to Ride-hailing Apps:

◆ Taxis

Taxis are a prevalent mode of transportation throughout the Kenyan coast. You can easily hail taxis on the street or find them at taxi ranks at the airport or find the list of taxis on VisitSasa.com. Negotiate the fare clearly before getting in to avoid misunderstandings.

◆ Tuk-tuks

These colorful motorized rickshaws are a fun and affordable way to get around, particularly for short distances within Kilifi, Watamu and Malindi towns. Similar to taxis, agree on the fare beforehand to ensure a fair price.

◆ Matatus

Shared minibuses, known as matatus, provide the most budget-friendly way to travel. They operate along set routes and can be flagged down along the roadside. While convenient for longer trips between Kilifi, Watamu and Malindi towns, matatus can be crowded, so be prepared for a less spacious journey.

◆ Buses

Public buses offer a budget-friendly option for reaching these coastal towns. Several bus companies operate regular routes from Nairobi and other major cities to the coast, with varying levels of comfort and amenities.

- * Mash Bus - (<https://masheastafrica.com/>)
- * Modern Coast (<https://www.modern.co.ke/>)
- * Dreamline - (<https://www.dreamline.co.ke/>)

Car Hire

Renting a car provides flexibility and independence for exploring the coast at your own pace. However, road conditions can vary, and driving standards might differ from what you're accustomed to. Here are some car hire companies operating in Kilifi, Watamu, Malindi and Lamu:

- * **Glory Car Rental Agency Tour Agency Malindi** (<https://glorykenya.com/>)
Award winning car rental company based in Nairobi and the Kenyan coast offers a variety of vehicles for rent, including sedans, SUVs, and vans.
- * **Watamu Taxi and Car Hire** (<https://www.watamutaxiandcarhire.com/>): Located in Watamu, this company offers car rentals alongside taxi services. Their fleet includes budget-friendly options perfect for exploring the Kenyan coast.

Finding the right car rental company

* Research and Compare

Look for car rental companies with good online reviews and a reputation for providing reliable vehicles and excellent customer service. Consider factors like price, car selection, insurance options, and cancellation policies.

* Book in Advance

Especially during peak season, booking your car rental in advance is recommended to secure the desired vehicle and avoid disappointment.

* Read the Fine Print

Carefully review the rental agreement before signing, paying close attention to details like insurance coverage, mileage limitations, and any additional fees.

◆ Trains

SGR (Standard Gauge Railway) runs from Nairobi terminal to Mombasa terminal, followed by a 2 hour shuttle transfer to Kilifi, Watamu and Malindi. Find train tickets here: <https://metickets.krc.co.ke/>

Considerations:

- * Limited Ride-hailing Options: As of now, ride-hailing apps aren't as prominent on the Kenyan coast compared to major cities. Relying on taxis, tuk-tuks, and matatus might be more practical for getting around.

- * **Negotiating Fares:** When using taxis or tuk-tuks, always negotiate the fare before your ride to ensure transparency and avoid inflated prices.
- * **Cash is King:** Most transportation options on the Kenyan coast primarily operate on a cash basis. Carry sufficient Kenyan shillings (KES) for your rides.

Exploring the Coast:

While ride-hailing apps might have limited presence, the Kenyan coast offers a vibrant atmosphere where walking, taxis, tuk-tuks, and matatus provide a fun and cultural way to get around. Embrace the experience, negotiate fares confidently, and enjoy the journey!



Additional Tips:

- * **International Driving Permit**

While not always mandatory, it's advisable to obtain an International Driving Permit (IDP) alongside your home country's driver's license. This can help facilitate communication with local authorities in case of a traffic stop.

- * **Road Conditions**

Be aware that road conditions in Kenya can vary, with some being paved and others unpaved. Choose a vehicle suitable for the terrain you plan to explore.

- * **Driving in Kenya**

Driving in Kenya may present different challenges compared to what you're accustomed to. Practice defensive driving and be cautious of pedestrians, livestock, and other vehicles sharing the road.

Advantages of Car Hire

- * **Flexibility and Freedom:** Having a rental car provides the ultimate flexibility and freedom to explore the Kenyan coast at your own pace. You can create your itinerary, stop at scenic viewpoints, and discover hidden gems along the way.

- * **Self-guided Adventures:** A rental car allows you to embark on self-guided adventures, visiting nearby national parks, historical sites, or hidden beaches that might not be easily accessible by public transportation.

- * **Group Travel:** If you're traveling with a group of friends or family, renting a car can be a cost-effective and convenient way to get around, especially when compared to multiple taxi rides.

Reaching Specific Destinations

* Kilifi and Watamu

These neighboring towns are easily accessible from Mombasa by road. Taxis, motorcycles, matatus (local mini buses), and tuk-tuks (motorized rickshaws) are readily available for hire.

* Malindi

Similar to Kilifi and Watamu, Malindi is accessible by road from Mombasa. Taxis, matatus, motorcycles and tuk-tuks are common modes of transportation within the town.

* Lamu

This island paradise requires a separate mode of transportation to reach. There are direct flights from Nairobi, Mombasa and Malindi to Lamu's Manda airstrip, then a boat transfer to Lamu town, Shela Village or Kiwayu.

Moving Around the Towns:

* Walking

Kilifi, Watamu, Malindi, and Lamu are all relatively compact towns, making walking a viable option for exploring their central areas.

* Tuk-Tuks

These colorful motorized rickshaws are a fun and affordable way to get around, particularly for short distances. Negotiate fares beforehand to ensure a fair price.

* Boda Bodas (Motorcycles)

Boda bodas are readily available, offering a speedy and affordable way to navigate, especially for short trips. However, exercise caution and always wear a helmet.

* Taxis

Taxis are a convenient option, especially for longer distances or with luggage. Agree on the fare in advance to avoid misunderstandings.

* Matatus

These shared mini buses provide the most budget-friendly way to travel within towns and between nearby locations. They can be crowded, so be prepared for a less spacious journey.

Insider Tips:

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1. When taking taxis, motorcycles or tuk-tuks, negotiate fares beforehand to avoid inflated prices.
 2. Consider carpooling with other travelers to share transportation costs.
 3. Download offline maps or utilize GPS navigation apps to help you navigate unfamiliar areas.
 4. Be aware of your surroundings and take precautions, especially when traveling at night.



Coastline Festivities: Annual Events and Festivals

The Kenyan coast pulsates with vibrant culture and festivities throughout the year. Here's a glimpse into some of the annual events and festivals that bring these towns alive:

Kilifi:

While Kilifi doesn't have a plethora of widely known annual events, it occasionally hosts cultural celebrations and traditional performances. It's recommended to check with your accommodation, [Visitsasa.com](#) or local tourism boards for any ongoing events during your visit. Here are some of the current and upcoming events:



Beneath The Baobabs Festival (30th December -1st Jan)

Beneath the Baobabs is a magical East African destination event space located at the end of the creek on the Kilifi coast of Kenya. We are also home to the acclaimed 3 day Beneath the Baobabs Festival (formerly Kilifi New Year). Within a spectacular natural setting we have infrastructure to host up to 10,000 people and a mission to provide a safe platform fostering creativity, environmental sustainability, consciousness , community and freedom of expression, while showcasing East African music, art and culture.The three-day Beneath the Baobabs Festival is the first 'Carbon Neutral. Festival in Africa' and bans all single-use plastics.

Journey To The Baobabs (August 26th and 27th 2024)

Beneath the Baobabs presents "Journey to the Baobabs, Kilifi" a new 2 day event on the weekend of August 26th and 27th. We invite you for a true Kilifi weekend to experience Afro-House sensation Prince Kaybee alongside local legends from Nairobi and the Coast of Kenya.

Kisima Festival (November 21st - November 23rd 2024)



Hosted at Beneath the Baobabs in Kilifi, KISIMA festival is a celebration for mind, body and soul. KISIMA festival showcases Kenya's brightest wellbeing practitioners to share their gifts with you in workshops and therapies, and spark inspiration with talks and panel discussions. Kisima's wide ranging offerings celebrate the rich complexity of life in a conscious space of connection. We invite you to ignite your mind, move your body, and nourish your soul while you explore the joys of your unique humanity.

Watamu:

✿ Watamu Turtle Festival (Varies)

This annual event celebrates the region's sea turtle population and raises awareness about conservation efforts. Enjoy educational talks, cultural performances, and activities focused on protecting these magnificent creatures. Dates for the festival can vary, so check online resources like the Watamu Turtle Watch (<https://localocean.co/watamu-turtle-watch/>)

✿ Kaleidoscope Festival Watamu (March)

Kaleidoscope Festival is a three-day sensory experience of electronic music set within the mythical Temple Point, on the crystal clear banks of the MIDA Creek National Park. Kaleidoscope is a unique art concept bringing together a collection of Kenyan and international event producers, artists, DJs, performers, culinary and tattoo artists, and those passionate about nature as our stage.

Malindi:

✿ Malindi Cultural Festival

This vibrant festival showcases hosted by Visitsasa and Saffron Garden (formerly La Malindina) in 2022 explored the diverse cultural tapestry of Malindi. Witness traditional dances, music, food stalls, and exhibitions representing various communities. The festival dates can vary, so keep an eye on the Visitsasai's social media pages for updates.

Lamu:

*Lamu Donkey Race (February)

A unique and exciting event, the Lamu Donkey Race is a highlight of the island's cultural calendar. Local jockeys compete in a thrilling race along the Lamu beachfront, attracting a festive crowd.

Lamu Island Cultural Festival (August)

This vibrant festival celebrates Lamu's rich cultural heritage. Immerse yourself in traditional Swahili dances, music, poetry recitals, dhow races, and culinary delights. The exact dates can vary, so check Visit Lamu's social media pages or the Lamu tourism website (<https://www.lamutourismassociation.com/>) for confirmation.

Lamu Yoga Festival (Varies)

Immerse yourself in a rejuvenating experience at the Lamu Yoga Festival. This annual retreat held in Lamu offers a variety of yoga workshops, classes, and mindfulness activities for yogis of all levels. Practice yoga amidst the tranquil coastal setting, unwind amidst the beauty of Lamu, and nurture your physical and mental well-being.

Finding Updated Information:

These events and festivals reflect the vibrant culture, traditions, and community spirit of Kilifi, Watamu, Malindi, and Lamu. For updated information on these events and more, you can visit the official VisitSasa website (<https://www.visitsasa.com/>) and follow their social media channels for announcements, event schedules, and local insights. Additionally, you can explore Beneath the Baobabs (<https://beneaththebaobabs.com/>) and Kaleidoscope (<https://www.kaleidoscope.wtf>) for further details on cultural experiences, events, and activities in the coastal regions of Kenya.

Stay tuned to these platforms to discover upcoming festivals, engage with the local community, and plan memorable experiences during your visit to Kilifi, Watamu, Malindi, and Lamu. Enjoy the diverse cultural tapestry and festive atmosphere that these coastal destinations have to offer!



While the events mentioned above are some of the prominent ones, it's advisable to consult reliable sources for the latest information and schedules:

* **Social Media:** Follow the official social media pages of the respective tourism boards for Kilifi(<https://kilifi.go.ke/22-27/service/tourism-culture/>), Lamu(<https://www.lamutourismassociation.com/>). These pages often announce upcoming events and festivals.

* **Tourism Websites:** The official tourism websites of each region often have dedicated sections listing upcoming events and festivals.

Beyond the Festivals:

The Kenyan coast offers a wealth of experiences beyond scheduled events. Witness captivating cultural performances, explore vibrant local markets, or participate in traditional activities like dhow making or learning Swahili cuisine. Embrace the spirit of the Kenyan coast and create lasting memories!



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Planning Tips (Difficult to Find Information):

Currency Exchange:

- * Kenyan Shilling (KES): The official currency of Kenya is the Kenyan Shilling (KES). It's recommended to have a mix of Kenyan Shillings and US Dollars for your trip.
- * Exchanging Money: You can exchange currency at the airport upon arrival, banks, and authorized forex bureaus. ATMs are widely available in major towns like Nairobi and Mombasa, but access might be limited in smaller towns and islands like Lamu.
- * Tipping: Tipping is not mandatory in Kenya, but it's appreciated for good service in restaurants, hotels, and by tour guides. A small tip of 10-15% is customary.

Local Customs & Dress Code:

- * Dress Code: Kenyans generally dress modestly. Opt for clothing that covers shoulders and knees, especially in more conservative areas. Avoid overly revealing clothing in religious sites and villages. Respect local coastal customs by dressing modestly, especially when visiting religious sites. Avoid overly revealing clothing in Lamu Old Town.
- * Greetings: A handshake is the most common form of greeting. When greeting someone older or of higher status, a handshake with a slight bow is a sign of respect.
- * Photography: It's always polite to ask permission before photographing people, especially in rural areas.
- * Ramadan: If visiting during Ramadan, be mindful of those fasting and be aware most of the businesses may be closed.
- * Bargaining Etiquette: Bargaining is expected in most markets. Be polite, start with a lower offer, and negotiate with a smile for a fair price.
- * Local Currency & ATMs: While Kenyan shillings (KES) are preferred, some tourist areas accept US dollars. ATMs are available in major towns, but carrying some cash is recommended, especially for smaller purchases and local transportation.
- * Mobile Phone Connectivity: Mobile phone connectivity can be unreliable in some remote areas, especially on Lamu Island. Consider purchasing a local SIM card such as Safaricom or Airtel for better coverage.



Sources of Information

Local guides in the listed destinations

[Kenya Tourism Board](Magical Kenya <https://magicalkenya.com/>)

[Lonely Planet Kenya](URL [lonely planet kenya](#) ON [lonelyplanet.com](#))

[World Wildlife Fund - Kenya](WWF <https://www.wwfkenya.org/>)

[The Culture Trip - Kenya](Culture Trip <https://theculturetrip.com/africa/kenya>)

[CNN Travel - 20 Places to Visit in Kenya Before You Die]

(CNN <https://www.cnn.com/travel/destinations/kenya>)

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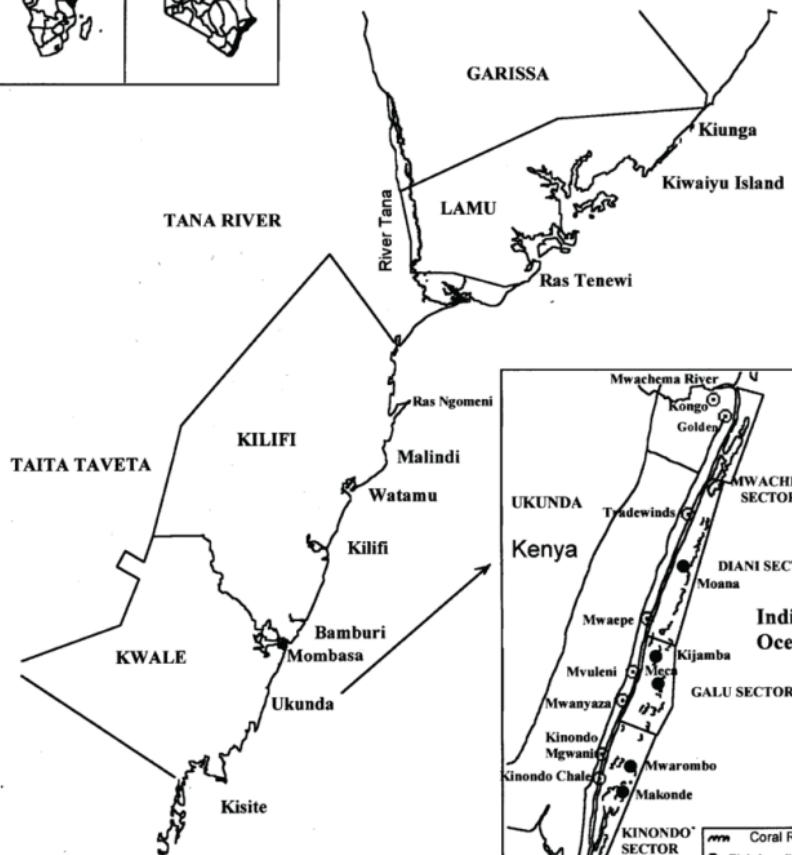
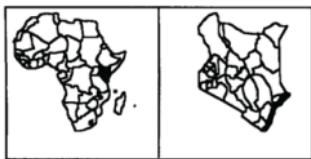
Disclaimer

The information in this guide is based on the best sources available at the time of publication. However, information such as prices, opening hours, and regulations can change. Please consult official websites and local resources for the latest updates before your trip.

Photo Disclaimer

The photographs used in this guide are for illustrative purposes only. While we strive to use high-quality images that accurately represent the destination, some photos may not depict the exact appearance of locations due to seasonal changes or ongoing development. We do own the right and make every effort to credit photographers when applicable.

Map of the Kenyan Coastline including districts, towns and notable sites



- mm Coral Reef
 - Fish Landing
 - Ecological study sites
- 2 km



Visitsasa Contact:

For questions, suggestions, or feedback about this destination guide, please contact us at:

Phone: +254 758 88 67 07

Email: info@visitsasacom

Website: www.visitsasa.com

Social media: [@visitsasaofficial](https://www.instagram.com/visitsasaofficial)

Kenya Tourism Board: Website: <https://magicalkenya.com/>

