

Diving in Mafia



IN BRIEF

Dive sites inside Chole Bay

- KINASI WALL: depth 8 - 21m
800m in width
- CHOLE WALL: depth up to 15m,
joins Kinasi wall
- CORAL GARDENS: shallow water
dive, excellent for snorkelling
- CORAL PATCHES: depth 9 - 17m
- THE PINNACLE: depth up to 24m
- KINASI PASS: depth 6 - 26m

Dive sites outside Chole bay

- DINDINI WALL: depth 8 - 28m
- JINA PASS: depth 8 - 20m
- JINA REEF: depth up to 26m
- KITUTIA REEF: depth up to 21m
- MANGE REEF: depth up to 20m

Mafia Island and its reefs are renowned as an excellent, world class diving destination. Scientists confirmed that Mafia has some of the richest reefs in the World, with unparalleled variety of hard and soft corals and diversity of tropical fish.

We have identified a number of fabulous dive sites from Mafia to Kilwa offering shallow reefs of immense beauty and richness, bommies, channels, walls and caves.

The Dive Center offers great diving for advanced and novice divers in safety under professional instruction (PADI certificate). The snorkeling on the shallow reefs surrounding the many islands in and around Chole Bay is a great attraction for non-divers and divers alike.

Trained diving assistants handle all equipment, help divers and check their equipment, so that you are free to enjoy the dives and all other activities during each day.

Chole Bay has a number of excellent dives within the protected bay, ensuring diving in almost any weather, as well as easy access. Diving and the visibility is tide dependent. Diving outside Chole Bay is subject to weather conditions and tides.

Almost all Mafia's best diving is at depths of less than 30m so it is a sport diver's paradise. The reefs of the archipelago offer a staggeringly beautiful and varied display of marine life. The excellent condition and high diversity of the reefs, stimulated the creation of Mafia Island Marine Park, Tanzania's first marine park. Examples of most kinds of tropical marine habitat occur here, including exposed fringing reefs, rock walls, soft coral and algae-dominated reefs. The diversity of animal and plant life is hard to match, with over 48 genera of coral and 400 species of fish so far identified. There are excellent examples of giant table coral, delicate sea fans, whip coral, and huge stands of blue tipped staghorn coral. Large predatory fish and turtles are common and surprisingly unaffected by approaching divers.

Many reef creatures are nocturnal, avoiding daytime predators. As the light fades and the rich "soup" of plankton rises from deeper water, the daytime, rock-like appearance of coral is transformed into a brilliance of colour as the polyps emerge from their stony cups to feed on the plankton. Night diving focuses the attention on the many small, delicate reef species usually missed during the day. A spectacular occurrence is the spawning behaviour of coral. Chole Wall and the Coral Gardens are an excellent night dive.