



Excursions from Mafia Lodge

SNORKELING

Snorkeling within the protection of Chole bay, and around the sand banks, which are formed from the surrounding coral reefs is a fantastic and colourful experience with a wide variety of corals, tropical fish and other marine life to be seen.

MARIMBANI SAND BANK

Marimbani sandbank is the perfect place to relax, as on your arrival we will set up an area for you with shade and mats.

This is the ideal spot for a picnic, swimming and even birdwatching.

GUIDED WALKS

Our local staff will guide eco-friendly and sustainable nature and village walks, pinpointing all the big and small features that make Mafia such a special place to visit.

CHOLE ISLAND

The oldest, still inhabited settlement in the archipelago, with the ruins of old Arab buildings used by the Germans during the World War I.

The island is covered by extremely varied lush vegetation.

You can visit a shipyard where traditional construction methods are still used to build dhows, the typical East African sailing boat.

Among the island's curiosities are a number of trees containing colonies of Comoro Flying Foxes, a protected species of fruit eating-bats.

KUA RUINS

On Juani Island, one of the largest and most characteristic islands in the archipelago, are the ruins of the ancient city of Kua, whose decline, as yet unexplained by archaeological and historical, is the object of many legends.

JUANI LAGOON & BLUE CHANNEL

The southern point of Juani Island is divided in two by a long channel linking the big inland bay with the open sea.

At the end of the channel is a natural swimming pool whose water level varies according to the tide.

The area can only be reached by boat during high tide for a few hours a day.





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RAS MKUMBI – THE LIGHTHOUSE

Situated on the northernmost point of the island of Mafia, the lighthouse can be reached by car. It is an exciting journey that takes you right across the island and its changing landscapes.

Wide stretches of savannah studded by baobab trees, small seaside villages, bush populated by monkeys and birds climax in a unique view of the open sea. During the less dry seasons, the trip to the lighthouse or Chuwia beach can also include a short visit to inland pools inhabited by an elusive pod of dwarf hippopotamuses.

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BWEJUU ISLAND

Considered by many to be the most beautiful island in the archipelago, its located halfway between the main island of Mafia and the delta of the Rufiji River. Bwejuu Island is less than 2 km long and no more than 200 meters wide and it's surrounded by outstanding coral reefs.

MANGE REEF

Mange Reef is one of the archipelago's most beautiful coral reefs with a strip of fine white sand, which stay above the water during the low tide. The trip includes snorkeling and diving activities and allows time for walking along the reef, sunbathing or swimming in the natural pools formed around the sandbanks.





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WHALE SHARKS

One of the most exciting encounters sea lovers can dream of. Although nobody can assure that they will be seen, in the period between October and March the chances are extremely high. Thanks to the local community involved in a project for the protection of whale sharks the gentle giant can be spotted feeding peacefully on plankton only hundreds of meters from shore. Swimming with whale sharks, the largest fish on the planet, requires no special skills but even looking at these beautiful creatures from the boat is an unforgettable experience.

SUNSET CRUISE

Drinks are served along with a few light snacks while watching the magnificent African sunset from the heart of Chole Bay. Once the sun has set we continue with the sundowners as we sail back to Mafia Island Lodge. This is a great way to end off your day on Mafia Island, and for couples, a very romantic excursion.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

All trips take place in accordance with the tides, which can allow more than one destination to be reached in a day.

On some excursions it is advisable to wear reef shoes. When visiting villages, ladies should dress modestly, covering their shoulders and knees.

Bear in mind that the principal means of transportation will be traditional dhows and there is the possibility of getting wet during transit and disembarking.

