



EXCURSIONS IN MAFIA

MAWENI - SNORKELING

Coral rocks emerging from the bay surrounded by an extremely interesting reef which can be reached even by less expert swimmers.

MARIMBANI SAND BANK

A strip of dazzling white sand which appears during low tide, surrounded by crystal-clear water.

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 bats, a protected species of fruit eating "flying foxes".

All trips take place in accordance with the tides which allow one or more destinations to be reached in a day.

JUANI ISLAND - 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. The island's fauna is quite unusual and includes wild pigs, monkeys and small antelopes (blue duiker). Depending on the visitors' interests, the trip can either be limited to a visit to Kua or may also include a trek through the bush to the "Blue Lagoon" described below.

JUANI ISLAND - BLUE LAGOON

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 an enormous natural swimming pool whose water level varies according to the tide. After a short walk you can enjoy its clear waters.

The area can only be reached by boat during high tide for a few hours a day, but those who decide to trek from Kua, will witness a natural phenomenon known only to few people: during low tide the whole channel is drained of water creating an extraordinary sight with a view of the ocean waves breaking on the reef in the background. The entire area belongs to a special archipelago project for the protection of its wildlife and vegetation. A number of basic structures are being built and will allow one or two night fly camps to be set up upon request.

JIBONDO ISLAND

The island of Jibondo is about an hour boat trip from Utende village and is characterised by the unique conformation of the western tip and the surrounding emerald green waters.

The village is mainly inhabited by fishermen whose fish and octopus drying and net mending activities are of great interest to tourists together with the traditional shipyard, one of the most famous in Tanzania. The trip includes a break for snorkeling and lunch on the beach (the order of these breaks is decided at the time on the basis of the tides).

KITUTIA REEF

Kitutia Reef is one of the archipelago's most beautiful coral reefs with two strips 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. Depending on the tides, lunch is served on Kitutia Reef or on another beach en route to the reef.





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BWEJUU ISLAND

Considered by many to be the most beautiful island in the archipelago thanks to its position and its sandy banks, Bwejuu Island is less than 2 km long and no more than 200 meters wide at its widest point. Its position, halfway between the main island of Mafia and the delta of the Rufiji river, makes it a handy base for diving and snorkelling on the nearby Mange Reef (very similar to the Kitutia Reef) as well as for trips along the Rufiji River which can sometimes go as far as Selous Game Reserve, a huge nature reserve covering over 50,000 sq.km. A small traditional fishing community lives on the island.

CHUWIA BEACH

An hour by 4x4 car along a track passing through one of the most characteristic landscapes of the island and an easy trek through a stretch of virgin forest take you to one of Chole Bay's most inaccessible beaches. You will be able to admire wildlife and vegetation untouched by human settlement and cultivation. Those taking part in the trip may decide to eat lunch on the beach or in one of the cool clearings along the route.

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.

You can go right to the top of the lighthouse, which is still operational, for an all round view of the island.

Depending on the wishes of those taking part and on the season, more time can be dedicated to the lighthouse and the nearby beaches or a visit to one of the sites en route.

During the less dry seasons, the trip to the lighthouse or Chuwia beach can also include a short visit to places inhabited by an elusive colony of hippopotamuses which are so small that they are known as "dwarf hippo". Their unexplained and unusual presence on the island is said by some to date back to ancient times when the conformation of the Rufiji river delta and the tides made it possible for them to cross the strip of sea separating Mafia from the mainland. Others claim that their arrival is due to a light-hearted or utilitarian gesture (fresh meat supply) on the part of the Portuguese who were frequent visitors to these coasts several centuries ago. When the small pools where they live dry up, the hippopotamuses move to a zone where you need a good stroke of luck to find them. But the search for the hippo can provide the occasion for a visit to an area of incredible natural beauty reaching as far as the Tumbuyu beach.

WHALE SHARKS

One of the most exciting encounters sea lovers can dream of.

A short trip by car will take you to Kilindoni harbour, buzzing with daily activities in a kaleidoscope of colours. In support of local fishermen, involved in a project for protection of whale sharks, guests will use their local boats and skills to spot the gentle giants quietly feeding on plankton a few hundred meters from the shore.

In spite nobody can assure that they will be seen, in the period between October and March the chances are extremely high and the hotel gets in touch early in the morning with local guides that spot them and signal their position.

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.



Pole Pole

EXCURSIONS IN MAFIA RATES

SEA EXCURSIONS WITHIN CHOLE BAY

- Snorkelling* / Maweni: \$15
- Kua Ruins & Kua Channel: \$25
- Marimbani sand bank
Marimbani, snorkelling & picnic*: \$35
Marimbani & snorkelling*: \$25
Marimbani sundowner: \$30
- Chole Island
Chole island bat and village trail: \$10
- Jibondo Island
Village trail & sailing dhow: \$25
- Fisherman Island
+ picnic & snorkeling*: \$35
- Ngalawa Sailing
Hourly rental 2-seater: \$10 per hour
- Sunset Cruise: \$30

SEA EXCURSIONS OUTSIDE CHOLE BAY

- Kitutia/Mange sand banks**: \$45
- Ras Kisimani**: \$40
- Bwejuu Island**: \$60
- Whale sharks: \$60

LAND EXCURSIONS

- North: Ras Mkumbi Lighthouse**: \$50
- Ras Mbisi/Tumbuju**: \$40

CAR TRIPS

- Kilindoni Market & Sunset: \$25
- Transfer: \$20
pp return trip/min 2 pax

SPORT FISHING

- Half Day: \$250
- Full Day***: \$450

includes boat rental, fuel, full equipment and fishing guide (max. 2 fishermen and 2 non fishermen per boat)

Rapalas (in case of loss): \$20 each

Marine Park fishing license: \$20

Validity: 7 days

Prices are per person with a minimum of 4 pax unless otherwise indicated.

All activities are organised on daily basis according to weather conditions and tides.

* Equipment not included. Can be hired on site, see diving prices

** includes picnic lunch

*** includes sandwiches & fruits on the boat

