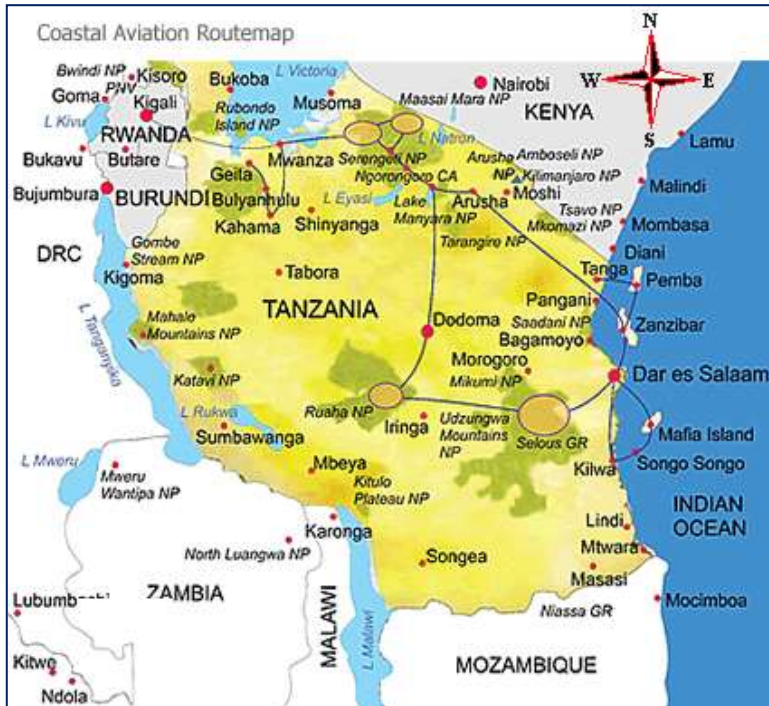


MERIDIAN DIVE ADVENTURES

MAFIA ISLAND, TANZANIA, DIVE TOUR



Where are we going diving?



PACKAGE TOUR:

9 Days/10 Dives

Estimate Diving Package Price:

R13 750 pp sharing

R14 700 single supplement

Estimate Non-diving Package Price:

R11 500 pp sharing

R12 500 single supplement

Estimate package prices subject to change depending on seasons.

PACKAGE INCLUDES	NOT INCLUDED
Return flight Jhb/Dar es Salaam. Return flight Dar es Salaam/Mafia Island. Return transfers between airport/resort. 8 nights, standard room, DBB basis (HB), per person sharing. 10 dive package incl. Cylinders/weights. Superior accomm upgrade for 8 nights - \$80-\$90	Visas (\$50 pp). Marine park fee (\$20 cash per day). Any departure taxes required (+-\$10). Extra meals & drinks. Travel insurance if required. Based on US\$ rate 7.1 which may fluctuate at your time of payment.

MAFIA ISLAND is the largest of a small archipelago of islands and atolls and is truly a paradise in the Indian Ocean. It is the southern most of three islands (Pemba & Zanzibar) located off the coast of Tanzania, 25kms from the mainland and 130kms from Dar es Salaam, it is reachable by light aircraft in 35 minutes. The resort is a 20 minute drive from the main village and the airstrip.



SEA ACTIVITIES

The warm, colourful waters of the **Indian Ocean** surrounding **Mafia Island** provide an ideal location for **many sea activities**. Enjoy some of the best *diving* and *snorkelling* there is off the East African coast exploring the many coral reefs that are teeming with tropical marine life. **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. There are an identified number of fabulous dive sites from Mafia to Kilwa offering shallow reefs of immense beauty and richness, bommies, channels, walls and caves.

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 algaedominated reefs. Mineral water, tea and coffee always on board and complimentary.

The best months for scuba diving are September to March & snorkelling can be done all year round in the sheltered, calm waters of **Chole Bay**. Many islets and natural, unspoilt sandbars surround Mafia Island.

One can enjoy a picnic lunch at one of these locations after sailing there on a traditional dhow. There are also the options of **walking** or **biking** on the nature trails, and other beach activities that can be enjoyed.

Chole island is home to a large colony of Comoros Flying Foxes or fruit bats found only in Mafia and the Comoro Islands and there are also some ancient ruins remaining on a few of the islets. The ruins date back to the 15th century from the first Arab settlers and are interesting to visit.



You can also experience the friendly culture of the Swahili people with tours through the local villages. There is a day trip to the Northern part of Mafia where you will get to experience of the full diversity of the fauna and flora on the island, as well as see some of Mafia's most pristine and beautiful beaches.

THE MARINE PARK

Mafia Island is part of an archipelago formed by a number of larger Islands and smaller uninhabited atolls. The Mafia Island Marine Park, covering an area of 821 km² is a real paradise with over 400 species of fish, amazing coral, endangered marine turtles, dolphins and the rare dugong.

The rich landscape combines bush with baobabs, mangrove, palms, fruit trees and stunning sandbanks. The wild life is equally diverse; monkeys, wild pigs, small antelopes, dwarf hippo, bush babies, fruit bats and many, many birds.



Mafia Island Marine Park was established as a Marine Reserve in Tanzania in 1975 (and declared the first Marine Park in 1994) which has saved it from destructive dynamite fishing of the past, the coral gardens are pristine and unspoiled.

Mafia Island Lodge - Tanzania | www.mafialodge.com - reservations@mafialodge.com

ACCOMODATION



The Island Lodge stands amidst tall palms on a sandy beach in Chole Bay, in the heart of the marine park near Utende village on South coast of Mafia.

14 Superior rooms, 18 Standard rooms and 2 Family rooms are set among the coconut palms with their own veranda overlooking the bay. They are all self-contained with air conditioning. Twin and double beds are available. Among the 34 rooms there are 2 family Suites, which are made out of 2 comfortable connecting rooms with one sharing bathroom, each one with its own veranda overlooking garden and sea. They may comfortably accommodate a max of 5 guests. All our rooms have garden and sea view. Hot and cold water is available 24 hours a day.

The main lodge has a relaxing atmosphere with a large open restaurant, bar and lounge area. Board games, table tennis and volleyball are also available.



Other facilities include a gift shop, laundry service, excursions, snorkelling, sailing and scuba diving. The cuisine is continental with an emphasis on seafood.

Snacks, sandwiches and bitings are also available. A selection of alcoholic beverages, wines, beers, juices and sodas are available at the bar.



ABOUT MAFIA ISLAND

Today Mafia is known as a beautiful Indian Ocean tropical resort that is famous for scuba diving. Aquatic life is abundant and the coral gardens are pristine due to the protection of the Mafia Island Marine Park.

The park is located between the Rufiji River delta to the west and the open Indian Ocean to the east. The dual influences of the river and the sea have combined to create a rich and exceptional biodiversity with unique landscapes under the sea and on dry land. The underwater life is diverse and spectacular with over 400 species of fish and 48 genera of hard coral - a scuba divers paradise! The wealth of flora and fauna is not only found undersea, there are over 160 species of bird, amphibian, reptiles and the rare Comoros Flying Fox, or fruit bat found only on Mafia and the Comoro Islands. The rare dugong, the most threatened mammal in Africa is thought to survive in Mafia.

The vegetation ranges from bush and baobabs to palms, fruit trees and mangrove. It is a unique and perfect destination as part of a safari package or simply a place to unwind and get away from the daily, modern and busy world.

The resident population of 40,000 are mainly fishermen or smallholder farmers that grow coconut, paw-paw, rice and cassava. The islanders are friendly and welcoming and the atmosphere relaxed and laid-back. The dominant religion is moderate Islam and both Christians and Muslims live in peace and harmony.

As the island is located close to the equator, the air and sea temperatures remain warm all year round. The hottest months are from October to March, followed by a rainy season from April to June. The coolest months are from July to September. The name Mafia probably derives from the Arabic morfiyeh, meaning "group" or "archipelago", or from the Swahili mahali pa afya, meaning "a healthy dwelling-place".

Mafia has a rich history, going back over 2,000 years. It was the most important trading post of Shirazi influence between the 12th and 15th centuries AD. It has occupied a key position in the East African trading routes between Kilwa and Zanzibar for centuries and ruins from these times can be visited on Chole and Juani islands. In more modern times, Mafia was the base used by British forces in World War I, when in 1915, they assembled their aerial forces to scout for the German battleship, Königsberg, which was wrecking havoc with British shipping, and was hiding out under thick foliage in the nearby Rufiji Delta.

FACT SHEET

DINING, BAR & LOUNGE

An airy dining room, bar and large lounge terrace face the gardens and ocean, create a relaxing and peaceful atmosphere.

The cuisine is continental/mediterranean with an emphasis on the freshly caught seafood. Snacks and sandwiches are also available. A selection of alcoholic beverages, wines, beers, juices and sodas are available at the bar. The ice served with drinks is safe and drinkable.



BEACH

Free Sunbeds and shade umbrellas are set up on the white sandy beach. Also available free beach towels. There is a beach bar with relaxed low level seating, serving cold drinks all days.

MEALS

DINING TIMES

Breakfast 07:30 -10:30

Lunch 13:00 -14:30

Dinner 19:30 -21:00

Full Breakfast (including Fresh Fruits, Fresh Fruit Juice & eggs any style or pancake) and Dinner in HB.

1 Bottle of Mineral Water per Room per Day.

For lunch box and earlier breakfast, please place order with the staff the night before between 19:00 - 20:30.

SELECTION OF:

Sandwiches
Salads
Fries-Chips

Fruits
Ice cream
Available all day long.

VOLTAGE

220 and 3 pin plug sockets.

COMMUNICATION

Cellular phone roaming possible.

OTHER SERVICES

- Laundry service
- Hair dryers can be borrowed from reception
- Gift shop
- A free safety box is available and located at the reception
- Socket adaptor available at the reception



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What health precautions are needed?

Yellow fever vaccine is no longer compulsory for Tanzania. However, please check the latest health precautions from your doctor or health department. It is advisable to take malaria prophylactics though the risk is not very high. Please be advised by your doctor or health department on the appropriate medication.

Is a visa needed?

For most nationalities, a tourist visa for Tanzania is required costing US \$50.00. Meridian Dive has the forms. Visas need to be obtained prior to departure.

PAYMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

What are the cancellation charges?

- Non shows 100%
 - 48 hours 75%
 - 72 hours 50%
- 14 - 0 days 100%
29 - 15 days 75%
45 - 30 days 50% or any paid account.

Are credit cards accepted?

VISA and MasterCard credit cards are accepted.

Are Travellers Cheques accepted?

Traveller's cheques are not recommended. Acceptance depends on local bank regulations at the time of visit and are subject to change without prior notification.

And what else?

Dive Packages are per person and non-used dives cannot be refunded or used towards payment of other services or extras.

Economy class flight prices may change depending on when you pay in full for flights.

Customers can pay credit card. Bills for US\$ 100.00 or more, no extra fees will apply. For less than US\$ 100.00 5% is added.

The full outstanding balance is payable 6 weeks prior to departure.

E&OE

EXCURSIONS AND ACTIVITIES

There are boat excursions and picnics to isolated islets almost every day, according to the tide, as well as road safaris, nature trails, bird watching and trekking. Other activities at the lodge include beach volley and pool table. I have a separate Excursion List.

☺ Look forward to seeing you all on another fun-filled **MERIDIAN DIVE ADVENTURE** ☺

Celia & Barry Coleman

MERIDIAN DIVE

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