



Diving in Mafia with Blue World (.... in honour of the ocean we love)

INTRO: There are two important things for visitors to know:

- ❖ **All of Mafia's diving is tide-dependent, which means that our departure times, types of dives available, visibility and other underwater conditions vary on a day-to-day, along with the phases of the Moon.**
- ❖ **We will brief each of our dive and snorkel guests personally every evening for the following day's activity plan; we will not leave anyone out. The Plan is posted on the notice board in the bar-lounge zone**

Here is a little introductory information on the types of diving Mafia has to offer. We always do our best to make sure that our guests get to see as much as possible on every dive and will ensure we visit the best dive locations for the weather, currents and visibility (after all, we love our diving too !). We have invested in twin-engine fibreglass dive boats to ensure we can reach the best dives outside the Bay in safety, speed and comfort and use our dhow for the Bay dives for its tradition and sailing home after the last dive. All boats have sun-shades for protection.

Dive sites of Mafia Archipelago

Mafia's tropical reefs encompass a wide variety of habitats resulting in a rich ecosystem of over 50 genera of corals and more than 460 species of fish recorded (both of these statistics come from baseline work by FRONTIER Tanzania in the period 1988-1993 and are likely to be incomplete). Sponges and soft corals abound too. In and around Chole Bay there are 30 dive sites and 8 excellent snorkel locations. Many more sites are situated on more distant islands (Bwejuu, Okuza) or in the north of the main island.

Mafia is especially interesting for its captivating micro-fauna such as seahorses, leaf fish, banded and dancing shrimp, sea slugs and nudibranchs, garden eels, porcelain crabs, cleaner shrimps and cleaning station manned by Labroid wrasses. Any dive will bring at least a dozen memorable sightings, apart from the familiar. Chole Bay is a vital nursery for the Archipelago and during breeding seasons clouds of juveniles will greet divers and snorkellers.

- **Diving from the Shore**

Home to the weird and the wonderful. You can see seahorses, frogfish, nudibranchs and sea slugs, shrimps, crabs and all the strange critters people point out in fish books and think "*What is that thing!*". It is all about 'muck diving' which means really keeping your nose to the ground and looking through seemingly uninspiring environments like sandy flats, dead weed and sea grass to find the most incredible critters.

These dive sites are available all year round, take place from the shore at Utende Beach and if the tide is right, a night dive here is not to be missed!

- **Diving in Chole Bay**

Chole Bay is home to the heart of the Mafia Island Marine Park and boasts the best coral and fish diversity in the archipelago. The hard coral formations here are unparalleled by any other area of Mafia's underwater world and the sheer number and variety of fish is breathtaking. Each reef is unique and home to creatures great and small, from the tiniest banded cleaner shrimp to giant groupers and napoleon wrasse patrolling the reef tops. With over 460 species to encounter and at least 52 genera of corals, Chole Bay and the outer bank reefs and walls offer encounters with potato cod, humphead wrasse, turtles, stingrays, barracuda, giant trevally, leaf fish, crocodile fish and much more.

These dive sites are available all year round, take place from a boat and are always for 2 dives unless specified otherwise. Going outside the Bay may be constrained by wind conditions.

- **Diving outside Chole Bay**

Our powerful fibre boats allow us to safely access the sites outside Chole Bay. Our sites along the SE coast are varied and include walls, reefs and channels to drift through. Marine life is less diverse outside the Bay but on any dive one will see a dozen or more species of interest, including huge coral formations. Regular encounters with green turtles, potato groupers, reef rays and lobsters clustered under shelves; if you look out into the blue you could be lucky enough to see some pelagic species including sailfish.

These dives sites are only reliably available during the *kaskazi* (NE monsoon) wind season – usually from October through to March, are weather- and tide- dependent, and are always for 2 dives. Our twin-engine fiberglass boats are specifically selected for these 'outside' dives, for their power, stability, safety and maneuverability.

About Us & The Blue World Water Sports Centre

We offer a personalised diving service for each of our guests by pre-arrival email and WhatsApp or on arrival; this continues throughout your stay with us with the team available every evening in the Cocktail Bar. During diving we provide a 'valet service' for diving by handling all gear and kitting and on return unload, rinse and store your equipment unless specifically asked to do otherwise. Nevertheless, please do check your own gear by item before leaving the shore to ensure you have everything required and it fits comfortably.

We also offer a gratis refresher to any guest who hasn't dived within the last 6 months or is a new diver and would like to get "fins wet" before the first dive. We can arrange it in confined water at the pool. Our mini refresher includes 4 skills and usually takes about 15 minutes.

Snorkellers are usually hosted separately to divers, so that snorkelers can control the experience to their preference (dive trips can be out for 4 hours or more). Snorkeling will visit the islets in Chole Bay, in the Coral Gardens or to Miewe Island and Darusi on the northern side of Chole Bay. A snorkel excursion may also be combined with a lunch on the Marimbani Sandbank at low tide or on Miewe island where high tide is best for access. Msumbiji reef closer to Juani island can also be an excellent snorkel spot; your Blue World team will choose the best based on conditions.

A member of our Blue World team is always present each evening to welcome new guests, share information from the day's experiences and assist with making plans for the next exciting day.

Snorkelling with **WHALE SHARKS** can be arranged on site via the Kinasi team at any time. We have our own specially-kitted boat and a very experienced crew which we operate as a local indigenous partnership. **The whale shark excursion is operated from Kilindoni town at Juani Beach and our LandRover leaves Kinasi at 0800 for this excursion. You will be home again for lunch not later than 1300.**

Our Rates & How to Book

Blue World is one of the departments owned and operated by Kinasi Limited. Other departments include **Hospitality (accommodation, food and beverage)**, and the **Isis Spa**. If you stay with us you have access to all the options and services built and developed over 30 years of experience in Mafia Archipelago.

Our rates are available by email or WhatsApp. When booking we request the following details for each diver:

- ❖ Certification level (required), number of dives and date of last dive
 - ❖ Any injuries, medical conditions or special notes for safety and assistance*
 - ❖ Are you a photographer ?
 - ❖ Do you need equipment (if so, send details please) ?
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- * If you have any 'yes' answers on the PADI standard medical form we encourage you to seek a medical clearance from your physician, in response to our isolated location and limited medical facilities.
 - We recommend acquiring dive&travel insurance as a standard travel procedure

We are happy to hear from our potential and past guests and always like to hear from you before and after your stay with us, so please contact us at any time with all your questions and specific interests. Here we are - Mafia's finest hospitality and activity destination:

**Kinasi
Utende Beach
Mafia Island**

stay@mafiaisland.com (for bookings)

peter@mafiaisland.com (for hotel & Blue World)

www.kinasilodge.com

www.mafiaisland.com

We look forward to being in the water with you in Mafia.

