

NOMAD
GUIDES

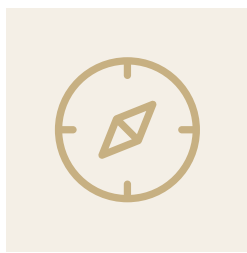
DIANI



Safarilink



DESTINATION
INTRO



GETTING TO
MOMBASA



THINGS
TO DO



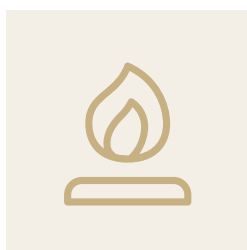
CONSERVATION
WORK



WHERE TO
STAY



GOOD TO
KNOW



EVENTS

A NOTE FROM THE CEO



This message shares exciting news about a partnership between Safarilink and Nomad Africa – a collaboration that promises to be a remarkable opportunity to showcase our unique destinations and provide an enriching experience for our valued customers.

The content Nomad Africa features will be focused on Safarilink's destinations, presenting captivating stories, insider tips, and breath-taking visuals that truly capture the essence of each location. This will undoubtedly serve as a valuable resource for our customers, inspiring them to explore new horizons and make unforgettable memories.

This partnership signifies a significant step forward for Safarilink, aligning our brand with a prestigious publication like Nomad Africa. It offers us a platform to strengthen our presence in the industry, reach a wider audience, and elevate the perception of our brand as a trusted provider of exceptional travel experiences.

I am confident that this partnership with Nomad Africa will open new avenues for growth, increase brand awareness, and inspire countless travelers to embark on incredible journeys with Safarilink.

Thank you once again for your unyielding support.

ALEX AVEDI

Chief Executive Officer, Safarilink

WHY DIANI

If you're on the lookout for a destination that effortlessly combines natural beauty, adventure, relaxation, and culture, then look no further than Diani. Nestled along the pristine coastline of Kenya, Diani is a gem that has been captivating the hearts of travellers for years. Located on the South Coast and about 2 hours from Mombasa, this town on Kenya's South Coast in Kwale County is a haven for water lovers.

Come to Diani for endless stretches of palm-fringed beaches, vibrant coral reefs, lush forests, and a warm, welcoming local culture that's sure to make your visit an unforgettable experience.



GETTING TO DIANI



By Plane

Safarilink flights run daily from Nairobi Wilson to Ukunda Airport, and from there, it's a short drive to wherever you're heading. Easy and efficient!

By Train

Should you choose to take the train from Nairobi, the SGR Madaraka Express is a 5-hour ride to Mombasa in the North Coast, from where you can choose to fly to Diani or take the Likoni ferry to cross over to the South Coast. You can book a Train ticket online.

By Road

If you're keen on a road trip instead, Diani is approximately 520 km out from Nairobi making it a 9h 30m drive, along the Nairobi-Mombasa highway, A109. Traffic in Mombasa town can be avoided by branching off Mombasa Highway and then driving through the scenic Shimba Hills. It is advised to leave Nairobi as early as possible to avoid the morning rush hour.

THINGS TO DO IN DIANI

SUNSET DHOW ON KONGO RIVER AND A VISIT KONGO MOSQUE



Sunsets are magical all on their own but the experience is certainly elevated aboard a traditional Swahili dhow. Boat rides can be organised through the dense mangroves of the estuary as you sip on a glass of wine and bond with friends and family. The Kongo Estuary flows into the Indian Ocean where Diani borders Tiwi. The flat still waters of the estuary are stunningly beautiful, with little sandbars and shallow pools. Additionally, the 16th-century Kongo Mosque nearby is the last remaining ancient Swahili structure in Diani and is one of the less well-known things to do in Diani, but worth the trip.

SNORKELLING & SCUBA DIVING

Snorkelling truly is one of the best ways to see Diani's diverse marine life. One of the most popular spots is Kisite-Mpunguti Marine National Park, where craggy coral formations hide eye-catching marine life. Enjoy the temperate waters as an incredible scene plays out below; surreal lionfish on the hunt, sea turtles smoothly navigating the reefs and pods of dolphins moving in playful formation.



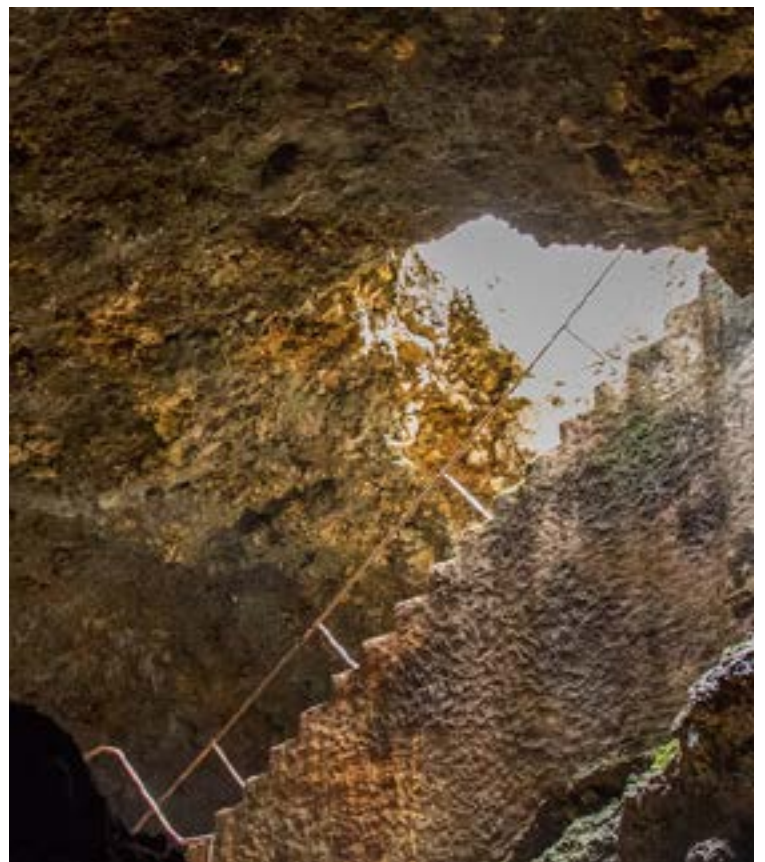


SWIMMING WITH DOLPHINS

Swim alongside the dolphins at Wasini Island which is about 18 km from Diani and opposite the harbour of the village of Shimoni. What's more, most people who visit rave about the food on the island and if you're lucky, you can also spot humpback whales.

VISIT SHIMONI CAVES

Take a stop at the Shimoni Caves which are made from limestone and are located close to the ocean. Shimoni caves are part of a community-operated museum where you can get to learn about the history of the slave trade where slave merchants once used the caves as a holding port for captured slaves. The caves are also used as a prayer site by the Kaya elders.



CAMP OR PICNIC BY SHELDRIK WATERFALLS AT SHIMBA HILLS NATIONAL RESERVE

Shimba Hills is the second largest coastal forest in East Africa, located 3 km away from Kwale town and roughly 1 hour away from Diani. There are 4 campsites in the reserve where you can stay and visit the famed Sheldrick Falls: a 21-metre-high drop of fresh spring water.



TRY KITESURFING

Diani is one of the best places to kitesurf and learn to kitesurf in Kenya. Kenya is famed for its ancient shipping routes and relies heavily on the two winds, the Kusi which blows up from the south from April to September and the Kaskazi which blows over from India from December to April. Show off your pro skills or take lessons to hone in on your wind-riding abilities!



VISIT CHALE ISLAND



Chale Island is located at the northern end of Msambweni Bay which is roughly 40 minutes from Diani. It is a stunning white beach fringed by coral reefs and a tidal saltwater lake surrounded by a mangrove forest. A diverse mixture

of indigenous and tropical flora attracts a wide variety of fascinating insects and primates. Activities you can do at the island are; coral reef diving, glass-bottom boat rides, game fishing, catamaran sailing and kayaking.

KAYA KINONDO FOREST

This forest, sacred to the Digo people, is the only one of the area's sacred forests that's open to visitors.

Visiting this small grove is a nature walk, a historical journey and a cultural experience. As you make your way across tangled roots and chunks of ancient coral, the guide points out



various plants used in traditional medicine, and there's the chance to transmit your fears and worries to an ancient tree by hugging it! Guests must take off headwear and wrap a 'kaniki' cloth around their waists before venturing into the forest as a sign of respect. It is also important to note that cutting vegetation within the forest is strictly prohibited.

CONSERVATION WORK

MARINE CONSERVATION

One of the most critical aspects of conservation work in Mombasa revolves around protecting its marine ecosystems. With the Indian Ocean as its lifeblood, the city hosts a diverse array of marine life, including coral reefs, seagrass beds, and vibrant fish species. Organisations such as the Mombasa Marine National Park and the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) work tirelessly to preserve these vital habitats through coral reef monitoring, marine patrols, and public awareness campaigns. By advocating sustainable fishing practices and combating illegal fishing activities, these efforts aim to restore and maintain the health of Mombasa's marine ecosystems.

MANGROVE REFORESTATION

Mangroves serve as natural barriers against coastal erosion, storm surges, and rising sea levels, making them an indispensable component of Mombasa's ecological resilience. To counteract the rapid decline of mangroves due to deforestation and human impact, conservationists have embarked on mangrove reforestation initiatives. Collaborating with local communities, organisations like WWF Kenya, Nature Kenya and the Mombasa Coastal Wildlife Trust have successfully planted thousands of mangrove saplings along the coastline, helping to restore these critical ecosystems and safeguarding the habitats of various marine species.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Geocycle Kenya operates as the waste management division of Bamburi Cement, the largest manufacturer of cement in Eastern Africa, with its cement plant in Mombasa being the second largest cement plant in sub-Saharan Africa. This partnership empowers Bamburi to deliver eco-conscious waste management solutions to both industries and municipalities. The disposal of waste is efficiently managed using co-processing technology within Bamburi Cement's kilns. This acclaimed and environmentally friendly technology ensures sustainable waste management, earning global recognition for its positive impact on the environment.

BEACH CLEANUPS

Beach cleanups are another way to combat the growing problem of marine pollution and safeguard our coastal ecosystems. As plastic waste, debris, and other pollutants continue to plague our oceans, many beach clean-ups in Mombasa are volunteer-driven initiatives. Some environmental organisations, local communities, and concerned individuals, often organise regular cleanups such as at Mombasa Beach and the Jomo Kenyatta Public Beach, also known as Pirate's Beach.

SHOPPING IN DIANI

DIANI SHOPPING CENTRE

For your shopping needs, head to the Diani Shopping Centre. It offers a variety of shops where you can purchase clothing, souvenirs, and authentic local crafts.

ALI BARBOUR'S CAVE SOUK

Explore this extraordinary shopping destination situated within a natural cave. Discover a wide selection of handcrafted jewellery, art, textiles, and other unique treasures.

UREMBO CREATIONS

If you're keen on authentic African art, including beaded jewellery, wood carvings, and intricate paintings, Urembo Creations is a must-visit. This boutique showcases the work of local artists and artisans.

TAMA BOUTIQUE

This lovely boutique shop on Swahili Beach in Diani offers you a collection of artisanal designers & products made in Kenya. Most of what is featured in the collection are crafts and clothes that are Swahili-inspired.

TRIBEARTH

Tribearth is a multi-industry, social enterprise that works with manufacturers focusing on regenerative business practices, inclusivity and diversity, and economic empowerment of women & youth. Visit them to browse through the eco jewellery manufacturing studio & skills training centre, vegan restaurant and conscious retail boutique.





WHERE TO EAT

ALI BARBOUR'S CAVE RESTAURANT

Dine under the stars at Ali Barbour's Cave Restaurant. This gem is situated 10 metres below ground in an ancient, naturally sculptured coral cave open to the sky. The restaurant serves international cuisine specialising in seafood with other mouth-watering choices available. They are open for dinner from 06:30 PM every evening and reservations are recommended to ensure you have a table. The dress code is smart/casual and free pick-ups and drop-offs are offered to guests staying along Diani Beach.

NOMAD BEACH BAR & RESTAURANT

Always a must-go while in Diani, Sands at Nomad offers a brilliant farm-to-table experience from 3 on-site restaurants serving a range of cuisines from around the world. Their 'Thinking Green' philosophy means that all food is expertly prepared using locally sourced ingredients. Fruit, vegetables, herbs, spices and eggs are harvested on the Nomad organic farm, which uses the guiding principles of permaculture farming. Fish is also freshly caught by local fishermen. Seafood measuring boards are used to support sustainable fishing and to ensure that undersized seafood is returned to the sea.

ANCHOR BAR & RESTAURANT

A trendy place in the exclusive Seareenity Villas with patio seating facing the gardens and beach. Anchor serves a mix of delicious Swahili, Indian and Italian food with a good selection of vegetarian picks. The sharing plates allow you to sample several main courses or desserts. The brunch menu is also a treat with fresh juice and a wide selection of sweet and savoury options. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, walk-in guests are welcome. Advance reservations are recommended.

SHAN E PUNJAB

The only Indian speciality restaurant in Diani. Shan E Punjab is a no-frills eatery in downtown Diani, with both indoor and outdoor seating. As the name indicates, it serves North Indian (Punjabi) cuisine. Your meal begins with a serving of free crispy deep-fried poppadoms with dipping sauces to whet your appetite. The biryani rice and vegetarian dishes are well-liked, as are the Murgh Makhani and Tikka. Main courses are served in earthenware pots kept hot over charcoal burners. Sauces cooked to your choice of spiciness.

FINE DINING AT INDULGE

A true fine dining restaurant, Indulge is an intimate experience for a maximum of 12 guests. Located in Sands at Nomad Hotel, inside a private room with glass windows and over 200 types of wines and spirits. Chef Gabriele prepares the menu daily depending on your preferences for seafood and meat. Fresh produce harvested from their organic farm. Each five or six-course meal comes with different wine pairings. Reservations are necessary, only one booking a day and guests have exclusive use.

SAILS BEACH BAR

Sails Beach Bar in Almanara Boutique Hotel is rated one of the best eateries in Diani. Notable are the beautiful beachfront setting, attentive service, and superb seafood. A semi-formal, serene ambience outdoors but under a canopy structure of sweeping sails. A range of European cuisine with Kenyan influences, vegan options and vegetables that come straight from their kitchen garden. Calamari, Kilifi oysters and the red snapper are customer favourites. A lovely place for late-afternoon cocktails. Advance bookings are advisable.

SALTY SQUID BEACH RESTAURANT AND BAR

The Salty Squid is placed beachfront with stunning views of the Indian Ocean. It offers a great selection of fantastic food and cocktails. With well-trained staff and a great atmosphere, this is the perfect spot for lunch, dinner and drinks.

SHIMBA HILLS TREE LODGE

If you venture into the Shimba Hills National Reserve, make time for lunch at the tree lodge within the park. It's a unique opportunity to dine amidst the natural beauty of the reserve, adding an authentic safari experience to your journey.

CASAMIA

Located in the heart of Diani Beach, Kenya. A true oasis of culinary delight, offering an exquisite fine dining experience with a unique twist – an underground glass-ceiling wine cellar.

From the moment you step through the doors, you'll be transported to a world of luxury and sophistication as you settle in for a culinary journey through the flavours of Italy.



WHERE TO STAY



Lala Galu



Sands At Nomad



Lazy Days



Dzumbe



Kinondo Kwetu

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GOOD TO KNOW

Diani experiences warm, humid weather year-round. Temperatures in Diani range from 24 °C to 33 °C during the day. January to March tend to be the hottest months of the year. However, it is ideal for visiting any time of the year for a beach holiday. It depends on your preference for balmy weather. Some hotels may close in the low season months of April and May, so check availability and plan accordingly.

The period from April to September, when the Kusi winds are blowing and seasonal rains occur, are the coolest times of the year. The rain here does not fall all day long but the rain showers clear after a while, allowing you to go about your day. The Indian Ocean remains warm all year round.



EVENTS

DIANI FESTIVAL

Usually held on Diani Beach, this is a musical festival that sometimes features live music. The show explores different genres of music as revellers party all night long on the beach.



DIANI REGATTA NGALAWA FESTIVAL

This is an annual event in Diani celebrating the local Mijikenda coastal culture and is usually hosted at Safari Beach Hotel. The event includes a sailing competition, as local dancers entertain. Swahili food is plentiful from the neighbouring Funzi and Wasini islands as well as the sale of traditional crafts. The event also has a fashion show where the models dress in traditional attire.



NOMAD

A F R I C A

Nomad Africa is a premier travel company committed to a more respectful, conscious, and uplifting way of travel. Blending luxury and adventure, we specialize in crafting unique journeys that provide unmatched access to East Africa.

Led by a passionate group of intrepid female explorers on a mission to find unique hidden gems and create lasting impact through travel, our team shares a common vision of showcasing the wonders of East Africa, providing customers with exceptional service, personalized attention, and a passion for travel that is unparalleled.

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