

The Exotic Island of Lamu



Cast into the Indian Ocean off the coast of Kenya, the island and town of Lamu is heir to a distinctive tradition over a thousand years old. The Swahili culture and style of Lamu are a mix of East African, Omani, Yemeni, Indian, and some Portuguese and Victorian influences. Of all the old Swahili towns of East Africa, Lamu is one of the very few remaining substantially intact. On the tropical island of Manda, in the beautiful East African archipelago of Lamu, Diamond Beach Village can be found. Established in 2002, this eco-friendly beachfront resort offers a taste of African paradise.

Whether it is lazing the days away in the Indian Ocean, exploring Manda's diverse scenery, both on land and underwater, or taking the thirty minute boat journey to Lamu town and experiencing the rich Swahili culture and history, Diamond Beach Village is the place to stay.

Our priority is to make the client feel welcome and relaxed; our friendly staff are always on hand to make sure guests have everything they need for a peaceful, relaxing and enjoyable holiday. With daily flights from Nairobi, Mombassa and Malindi, Manda Island is easily accessible; it is the ideal choice for a beach extension after a safari or for the pure island getaway.



ACCOMMODATION

Diamond Beach Village offers an alternative to the concrete hotel, more of a Robinson Crusoe experience. The immaculately constructed bandas are made from natural Kenyan materials and are equipped with modern amenities.

Traditionally designed with high windows, the sea breeze flows through, making them the ideal retreat from the African sunshine. Individually spaced to offer privacy, each is unique and traditionally decorated with an outside wooden patio, chairs and tables.

The bandas are set in the gardens with drift wood and coral sculptures, hammocks and swing beds, bird baths and trees for shade.

Diamond Beach Village is the perfect place to relax away from the crowds and hustle and bustle of the town. We are the only beach side accommodation within Lamu and due to our superb location we enjoy the afternoon sunshine and a fantastic view of the sunset.

5 + Double Banda - en suit shower and sink, outside WC, double bed, single bed mounted in roof.



2 + Family Banda - en suit shower and sink, inside WC, one double bed and two single beds.

All Banda's are provided with cotton sheets, towels and mosquito nets. Each has a mains plug with a double British socket and all have electric lighting between the hours of 7pm and 10pm, after which paraffin lamps are provided.



1 + Treehouse - En suit shower and sink, outside WC, three floors, verandah, can sleep between two and six.



FOOD

Breakfast is served between 8am-11am

Fresh fruit platter

Banana pancakes with local Manda honey and fresh limes

Tomato and basil omelet

Poached eggs on thick toast

Fresh Kenyan coffee, chai, tea, fresh fruit juices

Lunch between 11am-4pm

Grilled red snapper

Refried kidney bean burgers with salsa sauce

Fishcakes cooked to perfection

All are served with homemade chunky chips or coconut

Rice and salad or vegetables.

And dinner between 6pm-9pm

Typical examples are:

Flamed grilled lobster with homemade mayonnaise

King prawns fried in garlic sauce

A delicious traditional dish of chapatti and bean

All are served with homemade chunky chips, boiled Potatoes or coconut rice and salad or mixed vegetables.

Then perhaps a magnificent dessert

Dessert Crème Brule

Banana fritters

Tropical fruit salad



Our two chefs are trained in Nairobi and can prepare a wide variety of dishes from traditional Swahili cuisine to more conventional western foods. All of our vegetable produce is bought locally, either from Lamu market or depending on the season, from Manda farmers. Our seafood is purchased daily from the local fishermen.

We have a well stocked bar with long cool drinks to soothe away the aches of modern living.



TOURS AND ACTIVITIES

If watching the diverse range of Manda's bird life, swimming in the Indian Ocean, enjoying the African sunset with a cocktail or taking a stroll along the moon lit beach is not enough, then Manda and Lamu can offer much more.

Coral reef snorkeling Off Manda beach on small reef - equipment provided - Free

Natural pools - 30 minute walk around Manda point - equipment provided - €-€ for local guide depending on how many people.

Dolphin spotting and snorkeling off large island - 1 hour 30 minute boat journey - equipment provided - Local boats to hire - €20-€45

Sailing To and from Shela, (10 minutes), Lamu, (30 minutes) on Quaswa, Diamond Beach Village's own dhow - free of charge

Day trips around the islands and mangroves, sunset tours and trips to old Swahili ruins - Local boats to hire - €15-€40

Walking Along the beach and coast line of Manda Island is fantastic

Through Manda Island to the Takwa ruins - Guide needed €

Windsurfing Lessons and equipment for hire from Shela - One hour €10

Fishing Off the beach or off Quaswa - equipment provided - Free

Open Ocean fishing on traditional dhow or modern speed boat- Equipment provided -
Local boats to hire - €30 - €50

Day trips need to be booked one day in advance; we can prepare picnics for day trips. All prices are in Euros and are subject to change depending on exchange rates.



Lamu Island is just a short plane hop from Nairobi and Mombassa. The mainland is only a 15 minute swim from the Island (although you could use a boat) where local markets teem and the exotic breezes waft the scents of Zanzibar through dusty towns. This is the perfect place to chill. Why not come to find peace in Yoga practice or book an art class and indulge your artistic bent. In any event you could not feel more like Robinson Crusoe in Beverly Hills.

