

# Sun. Sand. Water.



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*The Indian Ocean is the third largest of the world's oceanic divisions, covering 70,560,000 km<sup>2</sup> (27,240,000 sq mi) (approximately 20% of the water on the earth's surface) and is the world's warmest ocean.*

The **Kenya Coast** has charmed many a visitor to its shores, where the warm **Indian Ocean** meets equatorial East Africa. Views of dhows sailing beyond the reef evoke images of trader's centuries old. The Indian Ocean monsoon winds are as influential today as they were hundreds of years ago when the sailors from as far away as China began reaching these shores. With the arrival of foreign influence came promise of prosperity, goods and charms as well as hardships and war. Kenya's coast has an immensely interesting and rich history - with many a reminder of bygone civilizations, cultures, and historical events to be seen scattered along her shores.

The **Kenya Coast** is an area of outstanding natural beauty, with brilliant **sandy white beaches**, coral atolls, mangrove forests, lagoons, creeks, remote islands, and secluded bays. Home to a vast array of marine and land flora and fauna.

The coast is a great tourism destination, in addition to the idyllic **beach life**, the coast also offers world class entertainment, activities and accommodation facilities catering to a wide variety of tastes from the young and adventurous, to those seeking sun and relaxation - or others keen on delving into the culture and history.

The **Kenya Coast** also provides a vital contribution to Kenya's economy in more ways than tourism. The port of Mombasa is the gateway for most goods into East Africa and beyond. A thriving business community exists along the coastline. The coast has a myriad of farms from small fruit 'shambas' to vast sisal plantations. Industrial activities include mining limestone coral deposits for cement and various processing plants near the port. In short, the Kenya coast is a melting pot of culture, tourism, industry, farming and business - set in an idyllic and exotic location on the shores of the Indian Ocean.

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**The coast of Tanzania** is perhaps most famous for the Zanzibar Archipelago, a cluster of islands that saw the growth and survival of Swahili civilization and trade until the mid-twentieth century. Zanzibar enchants and beguiles with its oriental mystique and forgotten exoticism — the very name evokes the Spice Islands and the dhow trade, sultans and palaces built of limestone and corals against the palm trees and the crashing surf, but there's more to the islands of Tanzania than just Zanzibar.

Throughout the archipelago, deserted islands and sandbars beckon and abound. Some have slave caves and colonial graves, others have the ruins of sultan's palaces and stately plantations. In Pemba, villages steeped in culture and traditions which preserve the Swahili way of life, almost oblivious to the world around them. On the islands of Mafia, old trading towns line the walkway to abandoned ports and the gentle sea. Throughout the Swahili Coast, diving, swimming, and snorkeling offer superb vistas of thriving coral and marine life. Whether your content to stay on the mainland coast, or want to venture off into the atolls and islands of the Indian Ocean, the Tanzanian coast is a place of untouched beauty and enchantment.

## ***SNORKELING /SCUBA DIVING:***

*Kenya maintains several marine parks and reserves. Kisite Mpunguti Marine Park, in the south near the Tanzanian border, includes four islands. Wasini Island is especially popular with snorkelers and scuba divers because of its surrounding reefs and sandbar. Watamu Marine National Reserve, about 75 miles north of Mombasa, offers several miles of shoreline, including Rock Cod Caves.*

*Sea turtles and dolphins frequently appear to snorkelers and boats. Tropical fish on and around the reefs include angelfish, butterfly fish, grouper, guitar fish, lionfish and parrotfish. The reefs also provide a home for crabs, eels, octopus, sponges and squids. During the winter, you may see harmless whale sharks, the largest shark species. Although these waters have few dangerous species, you should watch out for barracuda, jellyfish and, in some areas, reef sharks. Kenya's coastal waters also include more than 140 types of coral.*