

Pole Pole

DIVING IN MAFIA



Almost all of Mafia's diving is at depths of less than 30 m. making it a paradise for all diving levels!

The reefs of the archipelago are home to an impressive diversity of underwater marine species from 5 species of turtle to over 400 different types of fish. The excellent condition of Mafia's underwater world stimulated the creation of the Mafia Island Marine Park; Tanzania's first. The abundance and variety of animal and plant life is hard to match, granting it the title of the 'best diving destination' in East Africa. All dives are extremely tide dependent and therefore departure times change slightly with every day. All our dive trips take place from traditional dhows, the signature vessel of the archipelago. Wind allowing the sail is hoisted, and divers return home at the mercy of the age-old trade winds, which is an experience in itself!

Here in Mafia we have 5 types of diving to offer...

SHORE DIVING

The shore is an exceptional Mafia Island Diving discovery where one can explore a range of intricate ecosystems that are a refuge for the rare, the weird and the wonderful. We have 5 different sites here, each with their own signature creature and unique topography. All these sites offer an impressive amount of macro life that have nestled amongst beautiful soft corals, bommies, seagrass beds and sponges to escape predators, only visible by an experienced eye. When the tide falls during the evening, the shore become the backdrop for creatures of all shapes and sizes that emerge from the darkness to play.

Examples of marine life you can find here are Nudibranches, Squids, Cuttlefish, Octopus, Spanish Dancers, Seahorses, Crocodile fish, harlequin shrimps, stingrays and Frogfish. We also get some slightly larger friends such as the resident school of trevally and the odd solitary barracuda. This is always a single dive and is the perfect choice for macro enthusiasts, photography fanatics and rusty or nervous divers.

INSIDE THE BAY DIVING

All but one of our dive sites inside the bay are open to all levels of divers. Each site offers its own identity with different fish species, size, topography and coral formations. Kinasi Pass, one of the most famous sites in Mafia is the only dive site restricted for Advanced Open Water Divers only. On the pass one has the opportunity to dive with our resident giant grouper – Jesus who has grown to an unfathomable proportion, dwarfing all other members of his species as floats on by. Most dive sites in Chole Bay have a maximum depth of 18 metres and are home to the best diving in Mafia Island. You can see turtles, napoleon wrasse, giant morays, giant stingrays and so much more!

These dive trips always leave for a double dive and usually last around 4 and a half hours.

OUTSIDE THE BAY DIVING

All the diving East, outside of the bay is restricted for Advanced Open Water Divers only. Here you have a combination of walls, and sloping reefs that play host to a less diverse collection of fish but some interesting suspects nonetheless. It is not uncommon to experience a mild current on these dives but it is the perfect speed to cross your fins, interlock your hands behind your head and watch the underwater world slowly pass you by. Encounters you can expect here are with giant and potato groupers, barracuda, giant trevallies, giant reef rays, Jenkins rays, large schools of snappers, red tooth trigger fish and more! These sites are available from October through to March and are extremely weather dependent. They also depart for a double dive and usually take around six and a half hours.

SANDBANK DIVING

We also have opportunities for full day diving trips to sandbanks on the southern outskirts of the archipelago. These adventures leave around 8 in the morning and return around 6pm. They are extremely weather and tide dependent and require a minimum number of guests to set off, also worth nothing is there is a dive site surcharge applicable. These sandbank reefs are suitable for both divers and snorkelers and are an excellent excursion to pair with whale watching during their migratory season. We usually plan these expeditions to include no more than one dive, so that we have ample time to explore the pristine sandbank and azure waters. Our team set up a camp on the sandbank and prepare a delicious feast of traditionally barbecued fish to satisfy growling stomachs! After a post-meal snooze or a refreshing swim in the stunning sea, we jump aboard our dhow and sail home.

EXPLORATION DIVING

A big part of our passion is exploring the unknown, stumbling upon new reefs, new species – big fish and little creatures. We invite our experienced divers to have the opportunity to embark on an underwater adventure of exploration. Although not guaranteed to find anything, the thrill of swimming into the blue over rubble never ceases to excite. This offer is for those who want to do something new or for those who have always fancied themselves as somewhat of an intrepid explorer. These trips are open to Advanced Open Water divers only with proof of at least 80 dives.



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DIVING RATES 2018 - 2020



1. GUIDED DIVES

USD

• Shore Dive	45
• Single/Double Boat Dive(s)	65/105
• 6 Dives	300
• 10 Dives	460

2. SURCHARGES

USD

• Night Dive (incl. torch)	25
• Full Scuba Review	50
• Private Guide for the day	100
• BweJuu	60
• Mange Reef	40

3. EQUIPMENT RENTAL

USD

• Full equip. (excl. torch / comp.)	25
• Fins + mask + snorkel	10
• Wetsuit	10
• Regulator	10
• BCD	10
• Computer	15
• Torch (diving lamp)	15
• Underwater camera	40/60

4. PADI COURSES

USD

• Discover Scuba Diving 1 dive	135
• Discover Scuba Diving 2 dives	175
• Scuba Diver (2-3 days)	415
• Open Water Diver (4 days)	580
• Adventure Diver (1-2 days)	365
• Adv, Open Water (2-3 days)	530
• EFR (1 day)	265
• Rescue Diver (2 days)	465
• Divemaster*	1000

4. PADI SPECIALITIES

USD

• Night Diver (3 dives)	340
• Deep Diver (4 dives)	435
• Underwater Photo. (2 dives)	260
• Enriched Air Nitrox (no dives)	150
• Sea Turtle Awareness (2 dives)	210
• Sea Horse Awareness (1 dive)	130
• Shark Awareness (2 dives)	210
• Peak Perf. Buoyancy (2 dives)	210
• Aware Coral Reef Conservation	105

1. Prices inclusive of tanks, weights and guide only. Packages are individual and cannot be shared between divers.

Packages are non refundable.

2. Prices to be added on top of the corresponding dive(s).

3. Prices are per day and vary depending on the model chosen.

4. Equipment, PADI Manual and certification card included on all courses.

*PADI Divemaster Crewpack not included in the price.

Prices valid from April 15th 2018 to April 15th 2020