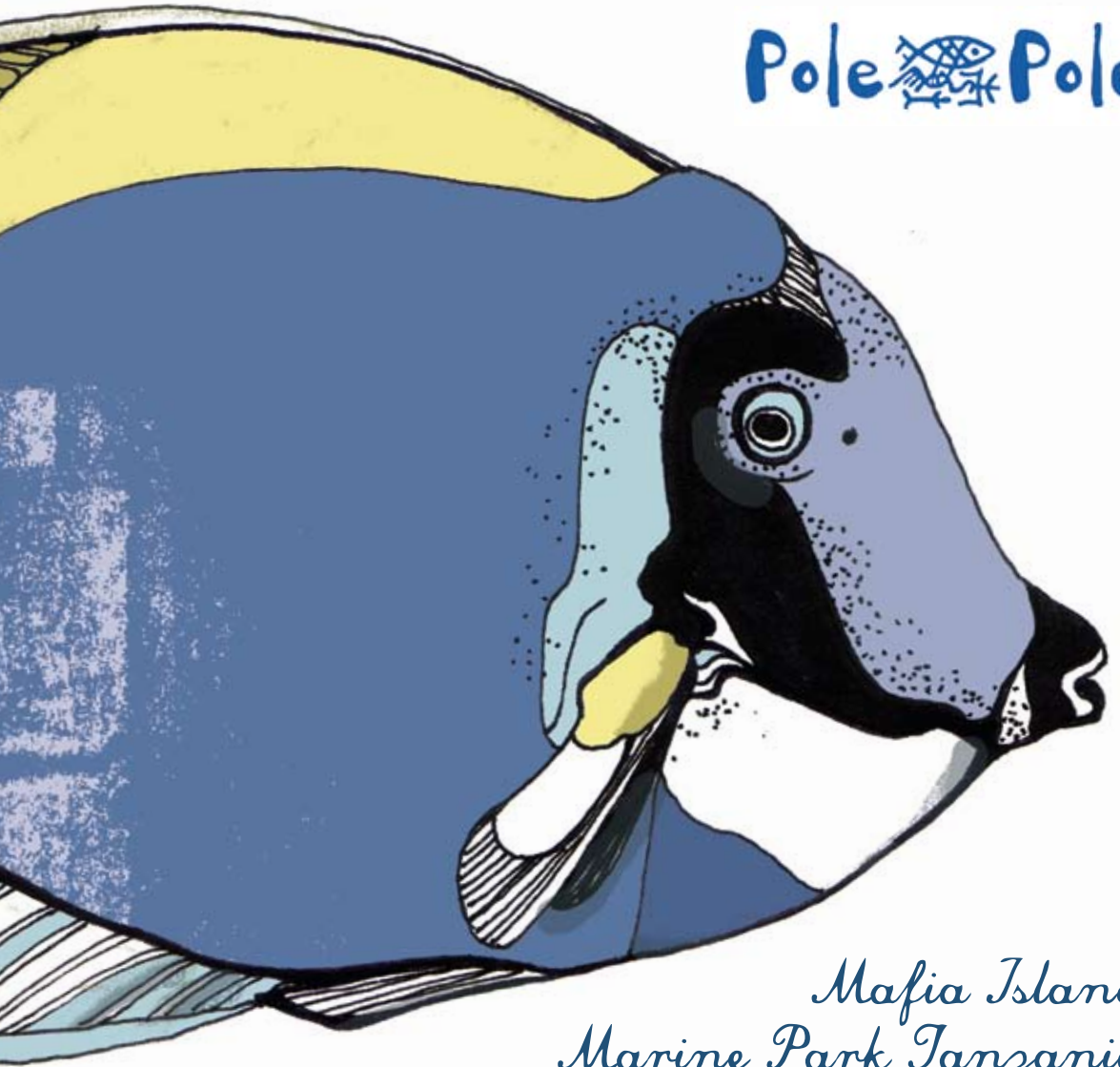


Pole  Pole



*Mafia Island
Marine Park Tanzania*

I have been thinking...

I have been thinking of **all the things that drew me to Mafia**... How, once somewhere has become home, you learn its rhythm, its people, its weather, its feel, smells, tastes and noises - it becomes your way of life. A place is constituted by a thousand elements... But instead of trying to represent each one, I want at least to try to convey an idea of the **philosophy behind the place**, as I perceive it to be.

To understand Pole Pole is to go a long way toward understanding Mafia - because **Pole Pole is quintessentially a product of its environment**. And by 'environment' I mean all that is Mafia.... Absolutely everything that surrounds you when you are here. And these elements are what were used to fashion a tribute to the uniqueness of this particular setting...a distillation of its essence, in the form of a small, quiet, eco-friendly lodge.

Pole Pole and its environment are inextricably linked... I often think of it as **an organic expression of the soul of Mafia** - a natural product of its surrounds. It remains in keeping with the ethos of its owner and creator, Massimo: his deep respect for Mafia meant he took for granted that the choices he made in creating the place had to be in harmony with the environment. This harmony furthermore functions to extend the safari experience, situating you at the point of synthesis between the bush and the sea.

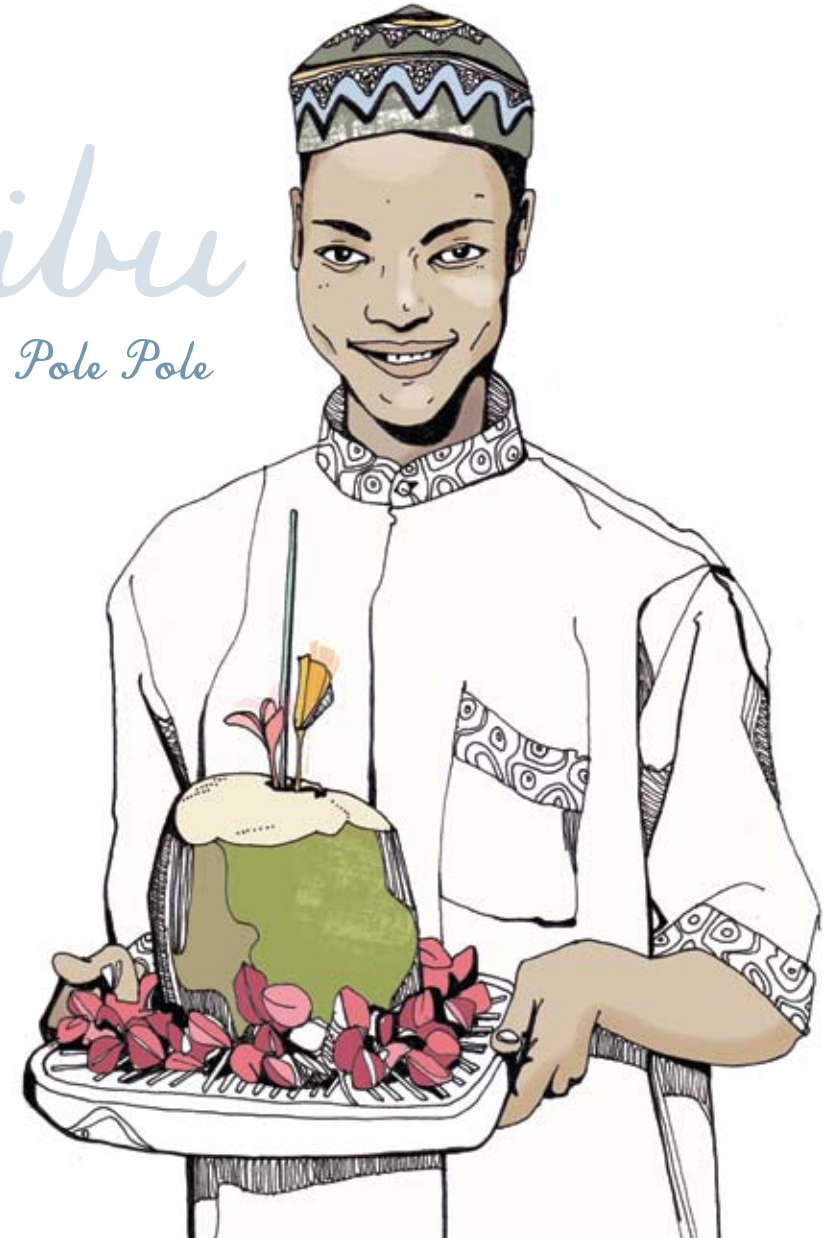
It is a fact that you can't see Pole Pole from the outside...**it merges seamlessly with the trees**. And these iconic palms serve as a perfect symbol. Their woven leaves are our walls, our roofs and our fences. Their wood: our floors, our stairs, the terracing for our lawn. You are welcomed with a freshly cut coconut to drink, and we use the discarded husks in our garden to anchor and nourish the soil. But look closer, and the gentle sway of the way people move, the upright grace of the women, the soothing rustle and whisper in the wind, seems all to be an **homage to these amazing palms**. Which is fitting, since they represent the backbone of Mafia's economy.

karibu

Pole Pole

DRINK FROM A
FRESH COCONUT
SURROUNDED
BY FRANGIPANI

M.
Robyn Lee Ghau
Pole Pole manager



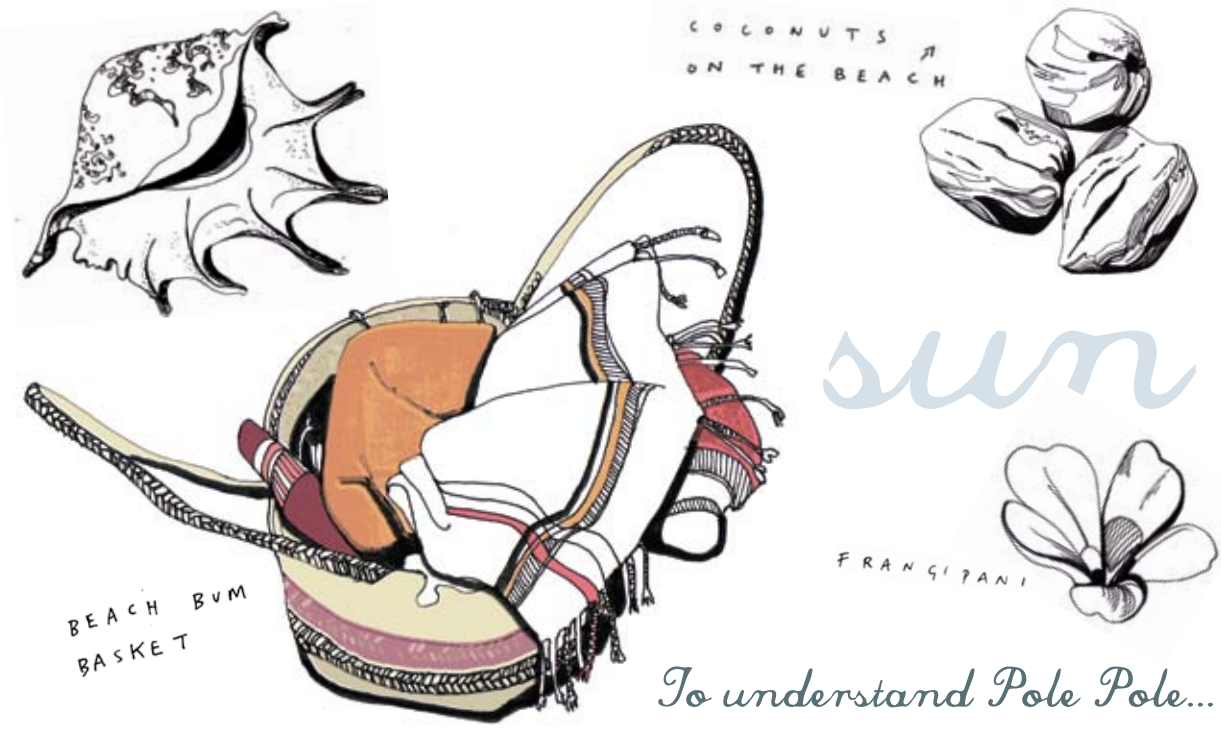
...once somewhere has become home, you learn its rhythm, its people, its weather, its feel, smells, tastes and noises

Like the palm tree, taking nourishment and in turn providing a livelihood, we give back... We are deeply conscious of the people that enable Pole Pole, and the village that sustains them. Most of our staff come from Utende village, and we encourage guests to explore - to visit the clinic and schools we support, but also to experience **the openness and warmth of such a small, close community**. Here, you will constantly hear the word that best embodies the soul of Swahili culture: **Karibu**. It is the genuine, innate pleasure that people take in receiving guests, and it is this attribute that is the heart of our hospitality.



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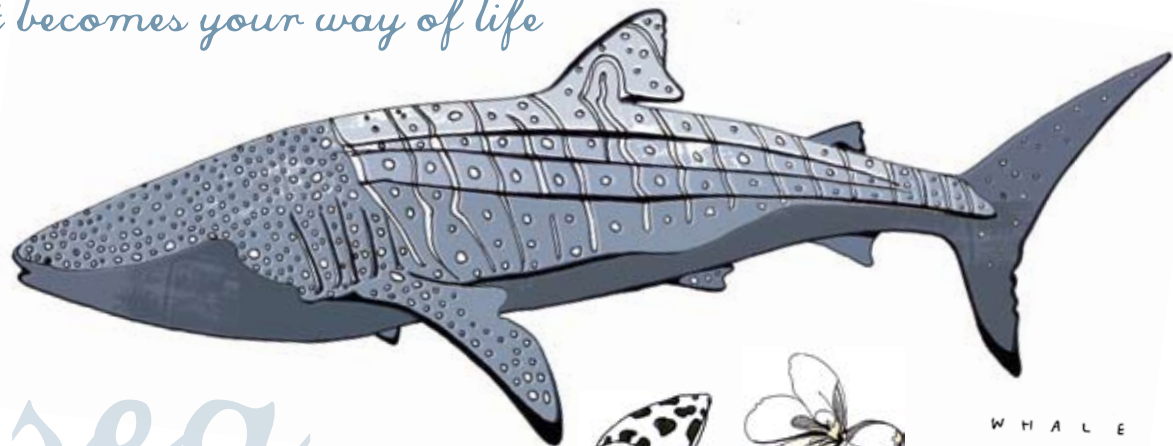
sun

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To understand Pole Pole...

This symbiosis with its environment has attuned Pole Pole to the heartbeat of Mafia... Even the name 'Pole Pole' embodies a cultural concept innately part of the Swahili lifestyle... A slow gentleness that has its source in the landscape and the pace of the day. Hence the broken antique clocks in the rooms, encouraging you to forget about time... Because Mafia exists **outside of the normal parameters that govern a life**: here, there is the flux of the tide, and the movement of the sun...which are ruled by a completely different law of gradual precision.

- it becomes your way of life



sea

W H A L E
S H A R K

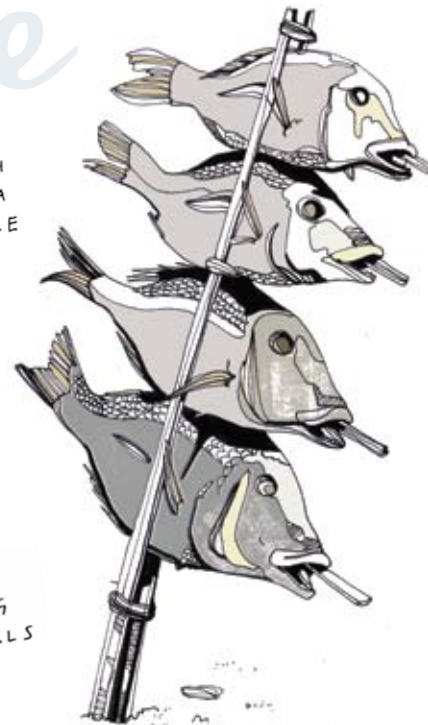
To exist in Mafia is to immerse yourself in a new set of parameters. The beauty of this experience is what we want to share with you - which is why we don't have air-conditioning, or TV, or internet... Or anything that serves to keep you connected to your everyday life. We want to open you up to the possibility of **a completely different way of being.**

embrace



BEACH
BANDA
↓

FRESH FISH
COOKED ON A
COCONUT FIRE
IN THE SAND



↑
STUNNING
SEA SHELLS

... is to begin to understand Mafia, because Pole Pole is quintessentially a product of its environment.



HIS + HERS
STRAW HATS



Go beyond delicious cuisine and creature comforts, and **succumb to the seduction of your surrounds.** Pole Pole sits in the embrace of Chole Bay, the heart of Mafia's Marine Park, hence the breathtaking views and the enormous scope for activities. The richness and abundance of the corals and marine life never fails to leave snorkelers and divers speechless - not to mention the thrill of swimming with whalesharks... And visitors to the many islets and sandbanks are always humbled by the peaceful simplicity of an unspoilt corner of the world.



Seven bungalow suites overlook Chole Bay

elements



One of the longest whaleshark spotting seasons in the world

...We thought we'd leave something to the imagination, but for more imagery and information, please visit www.polepole.com



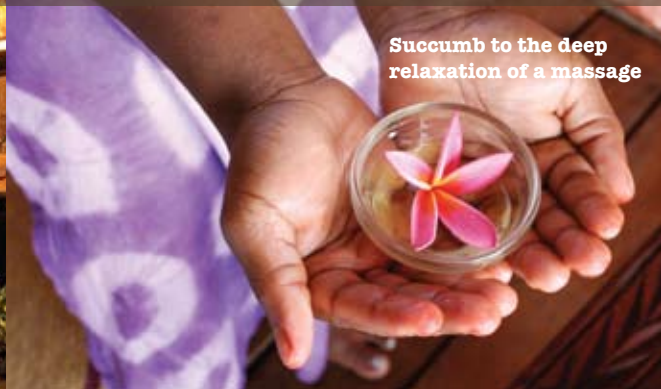
Explore the archipelago at the pace of the wind and the waves



A tasteful blend of subtle luxuries



Our cuisine incorporates diverse cultures and flavours with an Italian touch of class



Succumb to the deep relaxation of a massage

So, go beyond, into the warm waters of the Indian ocean, the astounding colours of the underwater world, the pristine silence of mangrove channels, the open warmth of the people in the villages, the billowing sails of traditional Arabic dhows, the haunting atmosphere of abandoned ancient ruins, the smokiness of fresh fish barbecued on a sandbank... **Slip into Pole Pole's way of being, and you'll find Mafia has its own unique answer to every one of your senses.**

contact us

welcome@polepole.com

www.polepole.com

P.O. Box 23215

Dar es Salaam

Tanzania

beyond

