



Lamu & the North Coast

Includes ➔

Kilifi	238
Watamu	241
Arabuko Sokoke Forest Reserve	244
Mida Creek	245
Gede Ruins	245
Malindi	246
Lamu	254
Shela	262
Manda Island	264
Paté Island	265
Kiwayu Island	267

Best of Nature

- ➔ Arabuko Sokoke Forest Reserve (p244)
- ➔ Mida Creek (p245)
- ➔ Malindi Marine National Park (p246)
- ➔ Distant Relatives (p238)
- ➔ Bio-Ken Snake Farm and Laboratory (p241)

Best of Culture

- ➔ Lamu (p254)
- ➔ Paté Island (p265)
- ➔ Malindi (p246)
- ➔ Gede Ruins (p245)

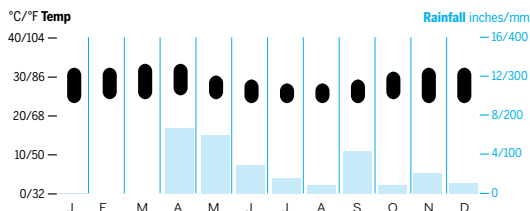
Why Go?

Prepare to fall under the spell of this hypnotic part of the coast. The exotic permeates everything here, blending spice and soul and cramming your head with the accents that equal adventure. Here you'll find honey-gathering crocodile hunters; ghost crabs, tree crabs and elephant shrews; the Vain Island and the Island of Wailing; and a stone city divided into halves, the Beauteous and the Fortunate.

You'll taste spice in fine Swahili cooking, catch it on the bow of a dhow, feel it as you slip into the salty emerald ocean. You'll hear it in the songs of village children in Malindi, chanting 'ciao!' in place of the familiar refrain of 'mzungu!' This land belongs to no single group. It's been seasoned by Cushitic Somalis, Bantu-speaking Mijikenda, cattle-herding Orma, Italians, Indians, the Bajun, who once sewed their boats together with coconut fibre, and, of course, the Swahili. This land is their land. And it can be yours, too.

When to Go

Lamu



Jul–Sep Lamu is aglow in the wake of Eid; satisfy your sweet tooth with a visit to the island's night markets.

Oct The light *matilai* wind blows softly, clearing the water for fantastic snorkelling and diving.

Nov–Feb The sky is ablaze with migrating birds and the sea is still.



Lamu & the North Coast Highlights

- 1 Island-hopping by dhow through the stunning **Lamu archipelago** (p253)
- 2 High-fiving Mother Nature on the bank of **Kilifi Creek** (p238)
- 3 Losing your bearings and doubting your map atop the otherworldly **Vuma Cliffs** (p240) in Kilifi
- 4 Watching shooting stars tear open the sky while camping at **Mida Creek** (p245)
- 5 Exploring the ruined city of **Gede** (p245)
- 6 Biting into the perfect slice of pizza in the Little Napoli of **Malindi** (p246)
- 7 Discovering the jagged Mars-like landscape of the **Marafa Depression** (p252)