



The North Coast

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Best of Nature

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Best of Culture

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Why Go?

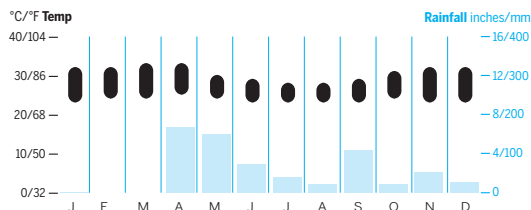
The exotic. It permeates everything here, blending spice and soul and cramming your head with the accents that equal adventure. Here you'll find honey-gathering crocodile hunters; ghost crabs, tree crabs and elephant shrews; the Vain Island and the Island of Wailing; and a stone city divided into two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

The inhabitants of this mythic land are, as everywhere on the edges of the Indian Ocean, a blend: Cushitic Somalis, Bantu-speaking Mijikenda, cattle-herding Orma, the Bajun, who once sewed their boats together with coconut fibre, and, of course, the Swahili.

It's these people who inspire the poetry of the place. Their muddy intermingling makes this a shore where people meet and move and leave stories; so come and be part of an adventure that's been writ since the first dhow sailed under the sunset.

When to Go

Lamu



Jan & Feb

The Maulidi Festival adds spice to Lamu.

Feb & Mar

Superb diving with tropical fish in the reefs of the marine parks.

Nov & Dec

Migrating birds flock to Tana River and Mida Creek.



The North Coast Highlights

1 Sailing from **Lamu** (p272) to the coral ruins of once-mighty **Takwa** (p284) on Manda Island.

2 Having no electricity, no cars and no worries on **Paté Island** (p284).

3 Watching shooting stars tear the sky open while

camping at **Mida Creek** (p260).

4 Exploring the ruined city of **Gede** (p263).

5 Slapping a mask on and peering at the underwater world of **Watamu Marine National Park** (p260).

6 Finding a slice of pizza even Italians appreciate, eaten by starlight in **Malindi** (p265).

7 Discovering the jagged Marscape of the **Marafa Depression** (p269).