Southeastern Tanzania

Includes

- Mafia ............... 287
- Selous Game Reserve .......... 292
- Kilwa Masoko .......... 296
- Kilwa Kisiwani .......... 298
- Songo Mnara .......... 300
- Kilwa Kivinje .......... 300
- Songo Songo .......... 301
- Lindi .......... 301
- Mtwara .......... 303
- Mikindani .......... 308
- Mnazi Bay-Ruvuma Estuary Marine Park .. 309
- Makonde Plateau & Around .......... 310

Why Go?

Time seems to have stood still in Tanzania’s sparsely populated southeast. It lacks the development and bustle of the north and tourist numbers are a relative trickle. Yet, for safari enthusiasts and divers, and for adventurous travellers seeking to learn about traditional local life, the southeast makes an ideal destination. But, get here soon: the region’s easy pace is already starting to show signs of strain from recent discoveries of offshore gas reserves.

Among the southeast’s highlights: Selous Game Reserve, with its top-notch wildlife watching; white-sand beaches and stunning corals around Mafia island; and the Kilwa Kisiwani ruins, harking back to days when the East African coast was the centre of trading networks stretching to the Far East.

Mafia and the Selous offer comfortable accommodation and Western amenities. Elsewhere, infrastructure is undeveloped, and road journeys can be long and rugged.

When to Go

Mtwara

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C/F Temp</th>
<th>Rainfall inches/mm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40/104</td>
<td>16/400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30/86</td>
<td>12/300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/68</td>
<td>8/200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/50</td>
<td>4/100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0/32</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mar–May Many Selous camps are closed; for those still open, birding is excellent.  
Oct This is the prime time for diving and snorkelling around the Mafia area.  
Nov–Feb See whale sharks swimming offshore from Kilindoni (Mafia).
Southeastern Tanzania Highlights

1. Taking a boat safari, and enjoying wildlife watching and birding in Selous Game Reserve (p292).
2. Diving or relaxing in the Mafia Archipelago (p287).
3. Exploring traces of bygone days at the old Swahili trading town of Mikindani (p308).
4. Visiting the ruins of the famed medieval city-state of Kilwa Kisiwani (p298).
5. Relaxing on your own private island at Fanjove (p301) in the Songo Songo archipelago.
6. Immersing yourself in local life in Kilwa Masoko (p296), Lindi (p301) and other southeastern Tanzanian towns.