



ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS

The following are some of the activities available and organized at Hemingways Watamu.

SNORKELING

The Watamu National Marine Park boasts over 600 species of fish in just 10 square kilometers, although the reserve area itself spreads out over more than 32 sq km in total. It is virtually impossible to snorkel without seeing at least a few dozen species inside the main reef; divers outside the fringe reef stand an excellent chance of viewing the magnificent whale shark and Manta Rays that are seasonal visitors. We'll spend a leisurely morning or afternoon exploring this underwater world. Some of the more commonly seen fish include of course the parrotfish, whose digestion of the coral reef over the millennia has produced the white sand beach itself. Angelfish, groupers, filefish, lionfish and snappers are just a handful of the easily seen species within this superb, brightly colored underwater world.

- **Boat and Guide – Free of Charge.**
- **Park fees (payable directly to Kenya Wildlife Services)**
- **Residents: Ks. 300 per person. Citizens KS. 130pp.**
- **Non –residents: US\$ 17 per person.**

GEDE RUINS

Gede Ruins, an archeologist's delight, was one of the ancient Arab towns, which dotted the East African Coast. It dates from the late 13th or early 14th Century and was finally abandoned in the early 17th Century. Excavated since 1927, many areas have been revealed, including the Great Mosque, the Palace, several residential houses and pillar tombs. Surrounded by tall shady trees, a walk through Gede is a must for anyone interested in Kenya's history and provides an amazing insight into the development of the coastal culture. These ruins of a once thriving Islamic trading center is just one of the many signs of the trading empire that once stretched for hundreds of miles along the East African Coast. Mention of trading centers on the Kenyan coast date back to 600B.C. and the Egyptian explorers. The golden age of the Coastal towns was in the 8th and 9th centuries, when the population exploded as Muslims fled Arabia's religious wars to settle in Africa. The Kiswahili tribe, as this mix of Arab and African became, traded with an empire that spread as far east as China and as far west as the southern borders of France. Peaceful and quiet, great towns developed with superb engineering that even provided air cooling systems long before the modern air conditioner was invented. This culture thrived until the 15th Century, and the arrival of the Portuguese, with canons, Catholicism and smallpox

- **Transport – USD 50 per vehicle max 5pax.**
- **Residents & Non- Resident: USD 6.00 per person**
- **Guide fee: USD 5.00 payable per group max 5pax.**

VISIT TO ARABUKO SOKOKE FOREST

The Arabuko-Sokoke Forest is the largest remaining area (420 sq. km.) of indigenous coastal forest in East Africa. The forest contains six species of globally threatened bird, including the Clarke's Weaver, which is found nowhere else in the world. Rare mammals are also present, including the golden rumped Elephant Shrew, Bushy-tailed Mongoose and Ader's Duiker. One of the joys of the forest is that, with the exception of the Aders' Duiker, a quiet walk through the forest with your guide will generally provide sightings of all these rare birds and mammals. The Elephant Shrew has the shape of a rounded pig, with a bright gold-circled bottom and a long elephant shaped nose. A nighttime walk provides views of the famous Scope's Owl that are rarely seen in daylight. Rarely seen but also found in the forest are elephant, buffalo, leopard and hyena. The forest is also home to over 260 species of butterflies, including the large and highly colored, yellow, purple, red and black Swallowtails and Charaxes species. These butterflies are now being bred as a community conservation project, to help protect the forest, whilst benefiting the outlying forest communities. You'll enjoy a morning spent in the forest, learning about the traditional medicine plants, wood carving woods and other cultural uses for this fertile area. Special trips for Elephant sightings to the Arabuko swamp can be organized separately in the late evenings on request.

- **Guide and transport: US\$ 95 per vehicle and group of 4.**
- **Entrance fee: US\$ 6 per person.**

WATAMU BIO-KEN SNAKE PARK

Open Daily shut between 12-2pm

The Bio-Ken Snake Farm is literally a lifesaver for the Watamu and Malindi area. The owner, Sanda Ashe & her partner Rojan Taylor, are some of the few experts on the deadly green and black mambas and the large collection of Mambas at this snake farm produce nearly 90% of the world's anti-venom for this highly poisonous African snake. The farm is also an excellent introduction to some of the other dangerous snakes, such as the cobra and puff adder. The puff adder in fact is Africa's deadliest animal as unlike most snakes, it relies on camouflage rather than flight to escape notice, and villagers clearing land or gathering firewood are frequent casualties. Snakebites in this area of Kenya are treated immediately with anti-venom from the farm, a luxury not extended to the majority of the country!

- **Transport- USD30 for a group Max 4pax.**
- **Entrance fee: USD 10 per adult.**
- **USD 5 per child under 12years.**

MALINDI SHOPPING & HISTORICAL SITE VISIT

We do arrange Shopping tours to Malindi combined with a visit to some historical sites to include the famous Vasco Da Gamas Pillar, The Portugeuse Chappel, The British Governors house among others. Depart time 09h30 – 14h00.

Transport: USD 60 per group Max 5 including guide.

Entrances to Historical sites: USD 5 per person.

SUNDOWNER DHOW CRUISE AT MIDA CREEK

The Mida Creek, part of the Kenya Marine Reserve, is formed along 10km of unspoiled mangrove lined waters, warm shallow waters and large areas of mud flats at low tide. Sandy islands separated by narrow channels winding through mangrove-covered islands form the edges of this large inter-tidal creek. The area is known for its amazing bird life, such as Greater Flamingo, Yellow-Billed Stork, Great White Egret and Malachite Kingfisher. It is also the winter home of many migrants such as the Crab Plover, Curlew Sandpiper, Whimbrel and Sanderling. The osprey and African fish eagle are often overhead. The only human inhabitants are a handful of local fishermen casting their nets in the traditional manner. The perfect atmosphere in which to watch the African sunset slowly and bring yet another day in paradise to a close.

- **Hotel Residents: USD 45 per person**
- **Park fees (payable directly to Kenya Wildlife Services) –
Residents: KSh. 300pp. Non Res
US\$17pp. Citizens KSh130pp**
- **Time: 1630 – 2000**

**Beach BBQ – USD 70pp plus KWS entrance fees
as above.**

DOLPHIN WATCHING:

In the high season between November through to April with the North east trade winds, blowing waters become relatively warmer and seas calmer Dolphins tend to come more closer ashore, Daily trips to watch or swim with these magnificent sea mammals is an experience of a life time.

**Cost: USD 25 per person Min 4pax.
Park Entrance directly to KWS – USD 17pp for
Nonresidents. KSh.300 for East African residents.
KSh. 130pp for Kenyan Citizens.**

WHALE WATCHING:

During July and October the Humpback whales migrate from North in the Antactica to the East African coast mainly to breed and calve. Boat trips can be organized daily for sighting of these magnficent mamals departure times between 730am -1pm.

**Cost USD 600 or KES. 60,000/- per boat - Max up to 8 pax on a boat.
Includes some light snacks and bottled waters.**

For more Information and Bookings

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