

HEMINGWAYS

WATAMU



ACTIVITIES
BROCHURE



Discover Watamu: A Coastal Sanctuary within a Protected Marine Park

With beachfront rooms overlooking the Indian Ocean, Hemingways Watamu places the protected marine park right on your doorstep.

Wake up to the sound of the sea, snorkel over coral reefs just offshore, or sail through mangrove creeks at sunset. Set against a backdrop of white sands and swaying palms, Watamu blends natural beauty, warm hospitality and laid-back charm, inviting you to slow down, explore, and connect with Kenya's coast at its most unspoilt.



WINDS & SEA CONDITIONS



Watamu enjoys a warm, tropical climate year-round, with consistently pleasant sea temperatures (25–29°C) and reliable beach conditions.

The coastal winds shape much of the experience: the Kaskazi (November–March) brings warm, dry days and calm seas, perfect for snorkelling, dhow trips, dolphin spotting, paddleboarding and relaxed swims. From May to October, the Kusi delivers cooler breezes that create ideal conditions for sailing, windsurfing and kitesurfing, while still ensuring comfortable beach time.

Sheltered reef and creek areas provide calm waters throughout the year, making Watamu a dependable destination for both adventure on the water and tranquil escapes by the shore.

TOP EXPERIENCES



ON THE WATER

SNORKELLING

Explore the vibrant coral gardens of Watamu Marine Park, home to reef fish, turtles, and occasional dolphins.

THE HEMINGWAYS DHOW EXPERIENCE

Set out on a traditional Swahili dhow for a gentle sail along the mangrove-lined shores of Mida Creek. Watch the African sun sink slowly below the horizon as you sip a refreshing Dawa accompanied by freshly grilled bites, or choose a private bonfire dinner on a secluded sandy island, a truly magical way to end a day on the Indian Ocean.

HUMPBACK WHALE WATCHING (Late July – September)

Each year, the warm waters off Kenya's coastline play host to the awe-inspiring humpback whale migration. From late July to September, these ocean giants pass through on their journey north, often spotted breaching and tail-slapping offshore. We can arrange guided boat excursions during the season for guests hoping to witness this unforgettable natural phenomenon out at sea.

DEEP SEA FISHING (October – March)

Head offshore aboard a Hemingways fishing boat for world-class sportfishing, where the waters teem with marlin, sailfish, tuna, and other big game species. Both half-day and full-day excursions are available, offering an exhilarating adventure for seasoned anglers and first-timers alike.

DOLPHIN WATCHING

Watamu is a sanctuary for dolphins, including mothers and calves, best spotted from November to April when the waters are calm. Spend a morning watching Indo Pacific Bottlenose and Indian Ocean Humpback Dolphins in their natural habitat.

SCUBA DIVING

Join guided reef dives or take a PADI-certified course with Aqua Ventures Dive Centre, suitable for all experience levels.

KAYAKING

Paddle through sheltered bays or the mangrove-lined channels of Mida Creek at your own pace.

STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING (SUP)

Glide across calm waters or float down Mida Creek, ideal for beginners and a peaceful way to explore the mangroves.

KITESURFING (Dec – April / July – Aug)

Watamu's steady coastal winds and shallow waters offer perfect conditions for both beginners and seasoned kitesurfers.

WINDSURFING & WINDFOILING

Catch the trade winds or elevate your ride with windfoiling, a dynamic option for adventurous water lovers.

WAKEBOARDING

Adrenaline-filled rides across the smooth morning waters of Watamu Bay, with instruction available for all levels.

WATER SKIING

Classic watersport fun on calm seas, perfect for early mornings when the water is glassy.

DOLPHIN SUP SAFARI

A signature experience with Tribe Watersports, set out early on a paddleboard for a chance to spot dolphins in the bay.

BANANA BOAT RIDES

Fun and fast-paced inflatable rides, great for families and groups looking for a laugh on the water.

DONUT RIDES

Hold on tight as you're towed over the waves on a circular inflatable, a favourite among kids and teens.



TOP EXPERIENCES

NATURE & WILDLIFE

ARABUKO SOKOKE FOREST

Kenya's largest coastal forest, home to rare birds, butterflies, and the golden-rumped elephant shrew. Guided walks reveal its biodiversity, with the chance to spot elephants at the waterhole as the sun sets.

SABAKI ESTUARY

Where the river meets the ocean, sandbanks, mangroves, and tidal waters attract flamingos, herons, and hippos. A serene glimpse of coastal life, explored on foot or from a quiet vantage point.

BIO-KEN SNAKE FARM

East Africa's leading reptile research and anti-venom centre. Guided visits offer safe encounters and fascinating insights into snakes and reptiles, with a vital role in producing life-saving anti-venom.

TURTLE WATCH (Local Ocean Conservation)

Learn about marine conservation and the rescue of injured turtles. During nesting season, witness hatchlings make their way to the ocean, a magical and meaningful experience.

WATAMU ECO WORLD

See how beach plastics are transformed into useful products and learn about community conservation. End with a dugout canoe ride through Dabaso Creek, spotting migratory birds at sunset.

DAY TRIPS TO TSAVO NATIONAL PARK

Just 2.5–3 hours away, Tsavo East offers wide savannahs and striking red-dust landscapes. Game drives bring close encounters with elephants, lions, giraffes, buffalo, and an array of plains game, with chances to spot cheetahs and other predators.

ARABUKO SOKOKE FOREST



CULTURE & HERITAGE

MARAFA HELL'S KITCHEN

Journey to Marafa Hell's Kitchen, a dramatic sandstone canyon glowing red, pink and orange at sunset.



MAMBRUI SAND DUNES

Discover the towering dunes just north of Malindi, around an hour's drive from Hemingways Watamu. Here, sweeping views across the coastline make for a striking and scenic detour from the beach.

GEDE RUINS

A mysterious 13th-century Swahili settlement hidden within the forest. Coral stone mosques, tombs and crumbling walls offer a fascinating glimpse into a lost civilisation. Afterwards, visit the Mekatilii Cultural Centre for an engaging talk that shares the traditions and way of life of the Mijikenda people.

MALINDI OLD TOWN

Stroll through narrow streets lined with traditional Swahili architecture, explore the Vasco da Gama Pillar and Portuguese Chapel, and browse vibrant local spice markets. Round off the experience with a visit to the Falconry of Kenya, the coast's only sanctuary for birds of prey.

RESTAURANTS

THE CRAB SHACK

THE CRAB SHACK

A community-run restaurant renowned for its fresh crab samosas, set on wooden decks built above the mangrove roots with sweeping views over Mida Creek.

KOKOMO

Casual Lebanese-inspired dining where parents can enjoy cocktails while children play on the beach.

MANNI'S

A relaxed, family-friendly Italian trattoria in the heart of Mida, known for its fresh pasta, wood-fired pizzas, and welcoming garden setting.

NON SOLO GELATO

Located at Blue Moon, this Italian café serves homemade gelato and light dishes in a cool, breezy setting.

OCEAN SPORTS

A long-standing local favourite with a beachfront setting and family-friendly classics.

PAPA REMO

Known for wood-fired pizzas and sunset dining right on the sand.

PILIPAN

Asian-fusion cuisine with creek views and a popular happy hour.

TAMU

Offers a stylish, contemporary take on coastal cuisine, perfect for a relaxed yet elevated evening.

VISIWA

Barefoot beachfront dining with Italian-influenced seafood and grilled specials.

KOBE

A refined Italian seafood restaurant set right on the beachfront, offering uninterrupted ocean views.

LICHTHAUS

Set above Mida Creek, this laid-back hangout features hammocks, grilled skewers and signature sundowner cocktails.

BARRACUDA

A relaxed beachside bar offering cocktails, seafood bites and ocean views.

SUNSET LAB

A stylish beachfront spot known for craft drinks, music, and panoramic sunset views.



WELLNESS



HEMINGWAYS SPA

A serene setting for African-inspired massages, facials and body treatments using natural, local ingredients.

TREEHOUSE YOGA

Enjoy daily group yoga and meditation classes in a harmonious, elevated studio that offers panoramic views of both forest and ocean. A variety of styles, including Vinyasa, Hatha, Power, Yin, Ashtanga, and Dru, are offered each day to suit all preferences.

BEACH WALKS & RUNS

The long stretch of white-sand beach offers space for a quiet morning jog or sunset stroll.



PRIVATE YOGA AT HEMINGWAYS

Tailored sessions can be arranged on the beach or in the hotel's peaceful garden setting.

GOLF AT VIPINGO RIDGE

Just over an hour from Watamu, Vipingo Ridge is a scenic coastal estate offering world-class sporting facilities. Play a round of golf on its 18-hole PGA-accredited championship course, ranked among the finest in Africa, while enjoying sweeping views of the Indian Ocean and rolling hills.

HORSE RIDING AT VIPINGO RIDGE

Explore Vipingo Ridge on horseback, riding well-tempered rescue ponies through the Wildlife Sanctuary, mango forests and past Chodari Dam. Suitable for riders under 60 kg, these guided treks often reveal giraffe, zebra and antelope along the way, best enjoyed in the cooler hours of morning or late afternoon.

PADEL AT OCEAN SPORTS

Right next door to Hemingways, Ocean Sports Resort offers two modern padel courts that can be accessed directly from the beach. Easy to learn and played in pairs, padel is a fun and social racquet sport for all ages, an ideal way to add a touch of friendly competition to your coastal stay.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EXPERIENCES



WATAMU MARINE PARK

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Safe, shallow snorkelling spots close to shore allow young swimmers to explore coral gardens and tropical fish.

ARABUKO SOKOKE FOREST

Guided walks introduce children to birds, butterflies and forest life in an easy, engaging way.

OCEAN SPORTS

A beachfront space with a children's play area, large open grounds, and a relaxed family-friendly atmosphere.

TURTLE CONSERVATION CENTRE

Visit the local rehabilitation centre to learn about nesting and marine protection, and, if lucky, see a hatchling release.

BIO-KEN SNAKE FARM

A fun and educational stop where children can see snakes up close and learn about their role in the ecosystem.

TRIBE WATERSPORTS

Offers water-based activities for all ages, including paddleboarding and kayaking in the calm creek, with expert guidance.



SHOPPING & LOCAL FINDS

WATAMU VILLAGE

Browse handmade jewellery, carved woodwork, local honey and coconut oil in the town's small markets and stalls.

BLUE MOON SHOPPING CENTRE

A relaxed retail hub with boutiques, gelato, cafes, a pharmacy, supermarket and ATMs, all in one spot.

SOOZ JEWELS

Beautiful, handcrafted jewellery made with semi-precious stones and coastal details, located at Blue Moon Shopping Centre.

POSEIDON

Stock up on elegant beachwear, kaftans and accessories for sunny days and barefoot evenings.

SHAKIRS

A trusted name for tailored resortwear and high-quality fabrics, popular among both visitors and locals.

BULUU DRIFT

Timeless, sustainable homewares crafted from foraged, recycled and natural materials, with a strong focus on local design.

SAMPLE ITINERARIES

DHOW SUNSET CRUISE

DAY 1

SEA & SAFARI

MORNING

Guided snorkelling in Watamu Marine Park, exploring coral gardens and tropical fish.

LUNCH

Fresh seafood at The Brasserie, overlooking the ocean.

DINNER

Return to Hemingways Watamu for dinner under the stars on the beach.

AFTERNOON

Guided walk and game drive in Arabuko Sokoke Forest, timed to see elephants gathering at the waterhole.

DAY 2

WATERSPORTS & WELLNESS

MORNING

Paddleboarding, kayaking or kitesurfing with Hemingways' watersports team.

LUNCH

Relaxed poolside dining at the Gede Café, with fresh wraps, grills and homemade gelato.

DINNER

Step aboard the Hemingways dhow for a sunset cruise on Mida Creek, followed by a light evening meal back at the hotel.

AFTERNOON

A rejuvenating ritual at the Hemingways Spa, or a half-day golf experience at Vipingo Ridge.

DAY 3

CULTURE & COASTLINE

MORNING

Guided visit to the Gede Ruins, a 13th-century Swahili settlement hidden in the forest.

LUNCH

Enjoy wood-fired pizza and fresh seafood at Papa Remo, set on a pristine white sandy beach.

AFTERNOON

Continue to the towering sand dunes north of Malindi, where sweeping coastal views make for a dramatic backdrop. (Optional stop at the Bio-Ken Snake Farm for those interested in reptiles and conservation.)

DINNER

Dine at Tamu Beach Bar & Restaurant, a laid-back beachfront venue perfect for sunset cocktails and fresh coastal cuisine.



GEDE RUINS

DAY 4

SLOW DAYS & COASTAL THRILLS

MORNING

Private yoga session on the beach or in the gardens, followed by breakfast at The Brasserie.

LUNCH

Light bites and gelato at the Gede Café.

DINNER

Toast your final evening at Lichthaus, perched above Mida Creek, before returning to Hemingways Watamu for dinner under the stars.

MID-MORNING

Browse local boutiques, relax by the pool, or take a gentle kayak on Mida Creek.

AFTERNOON

End your stay with adventure on Mida Creek — try waterskiing, wakeboarding or a fun doughnut ride.

HOW TO BOOK

For more information or to make a reservation, visit our Activities Centre at Hemingways Watamu. Our team will be delighted to assist with planning and booking experiences to suit your stay.



View the activity price list

LOCATION & CONTACT

Hemingways Watamu

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