



HERITAGE HOTELS LTD

www.heritage-eastafrika.com



KIPUNGANI EXPLORER, LAMU ISLAND

LOCATION

Coordinates

GPS [S 2 19.280; E 40 48.983]

With our luxurious palm-thatched bandas perched between a mangrove-lined channel and the edge of a 12-kilometre white sandy beach, Kipungani Lamu enjoys one of the most romantic locations on the entire east African coast. Our exquisite seafood, traditional Arabian dhows, kayaking safaris, and diving and fishing adventures offer the perfect recipe for those seeking a true desert-island holiday.

Why Kipungani Lamu?

- Pristine eco-lodge with close ties with local Swahili custom
- A Robinson Crusoe getaway to get away from it all
- Breath taking location with miles of deserted beach front
- Variety of water sports like knee boarding, kayaking and wind surfing
- Romantic pursuits like sunset cruise on the dhow, beach dining Sea food dining
- Pleasant weather most of the year
- Beach weddings
- Visits to historic sites in Lamu and Manda Islands
- Snorkeling with dolphins at Kinyika reef

ACCOMMODATION:

Our 13 spacious bandas sit at one end of Kipungani Bay, which is Swahili for 'the place of fresh air'. Shaded by the palm trees that line our 600-metre beachfront, the bandas are constructed entirely from local materials, with mkeka palm floors and makuti thatch roofs woven by the residents of neighbouring Kipungani village. The large interiors are a picture of rustic simplicity, with giant king-size beds and furniture all handmade from local mangrove and palm woods. Each banda has an ocean-facing veranda with local funzi sofas and chairs piled high with colourful cushions. Amenities include freshwater showers, flush toilets, and separate dressing areas with wash basins.

HOTEL CHECK-IN AND CHECK-OUT

Normal checkout time is 10am.

GETTING THERE

After a 90-minute flight from Nairobi, you will be transported by boat to the lodge, which is located two degrees south of the Equator, on the edge of a near-deserted 12-kilometre beach. The airstrip, which is located on Manda Island is serviced daily by

Safarilink, Fly540, Mombasa Air and Air Kenya from Wilson Airport in Nairobi, Malindi Airport and Moi International Airport in Mombasa.

The Board basis is usually full board, which includes three delicious meals, accommodation in our en suite luxury bandas, with all non-motorised watersports free.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- Freshwater swimming pool with all-day bar service
- Gift shop with local handicrafts and 'beach essentials'
- Safety deposit facilities for all guests' valuables
- Fresh water for bathing from our own wells
- Reliable generator-backed electricity supply
- Mobile telephone coverage and VSAT Internet links
- Boat connections to Lamu town and Manda airport.

ACTIVITIES

- Snorkelling and swimming with 'Africa's friendliest dolphins' on the reefs of Kinyika and Manda Toto
- Waterskiing and kayaking in the Kipungani channel
- Sailing and sunset cruises aboard our Arab dhows
- Barracuda fishing from beach, dhow or speedboat
- Deep sea game fishing (please book in advance)
- Crab-catching excursions with expert fishermen
- Bird walks around the property and beach dunes
- Visits to Lamu's historic mosques, markets and museums
- Day trips to the ruined 14th century fort on Manda Island
- Tours of local boat-building and mat-weaving industries.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

DECORUM

Lamu is a predominant Muslim community, with strong traditional values. While the island has many resorts and holiday homes, which have employed the locals, it is good manners to cover up while visiting the town or villages, especially for the ladies. A light dress/skirt covering the knees and top is preferred. Men can wear shorts and a shirt/t-shirt. Ladies need not cover the hair or face.

AIRPORT DEPARTURE TAX AND SERVICE CHARGE

Airport departure taxes are now included in price of the international flight ticket for all three East African countries. It is also the policy of most travel agencies to quote domestic fares inclusive of airport taxes.

CLIMATE

The equator divides Kenya: Seasons run as follows

Summer: September - April 34°C/194°F 20°C/68°F

Winter: May - August 25°C/77°F 11°C/52°F

Rainfall: April - May (long rains), November - Mid December (short rains).

Kipungani is normally closed during long-rain (monsoon) period between April and July. The closing-opening dates are normally announced just before.

WHAT TO WEAR

Cotton shirts, skirts and khaki shorts or pants, sandals and open shoes.

Additionally, one can pack sun hats, sun cream, sun glasses, insect repellent and swim wear.

ELECTRIC SUPPLY

It's 220/240 v 50hz.

Plugs are 3 point square.

Those coming from North America with 110v/60hz appliances should be sure to use an appropriate transformer.

Kipungani is an eco lodge, and power is by generator. The generator is switched on at 8.00 am till noon, and 6.00 pm till 12 midnight. It is possible to re-charge your electrical appliances, including video camera batteries, laptops, tablets, cell phones, etc in your room, as well as use appliances like hair dryers. Extra batteries, chargers and camera memory cards can be bought at the hotel's boutique.

HEALTH

Vaccines commended for travellers to Africa include those against – check with travel agent at time of travel:

- Tetanus
- Diphtheria
- Polio
- Typhoid
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Yellow fever*
- Rabies
- Meningitis

Certificate required for entry into, or travel between, some African countries.

Several of these vaccines require more than one dose, or take time to become effective. Seek advice on immunisation well in advance, best 6 weeks before departure.

In Kenya, excellent medical facilities are available in Nairobi but at a fee. There is NO free health care provided. Our hotels have a camp doctor and nurse on duty but in case of specialized treatment, evacuation has to be arranged.

Malaria

This is a disease spread by the female anopheles mosquitoes that bite mainly at dusk and at night. It is advisable that every traveler to Africa consult with their doctor before arriving. We provide

mosquito nets for night protection, as well as repellants for use during the day.

LIABILITY AND INSURANCE

Please check the validity of your insurance against personal injuries and any loss. Heritage Hotels will not accept liability against injury or loss.

TIME ZONE

Kenya is GMT + 0300 hours.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The official languages of the Republic of Kenya are Kiswahili and English.

BANKS

Most banks are open from 09:00 to 16.00 from Monday to Friday and half day on Saturdays except at the airport where the services are available 24 hrs. Banks with branches in major shopping malls open longer.

CURRENCY

The official currency of the Republic of Kenya is the Kenya Shilling (Ksh).

Major currencies like the US Dollar, British pounds and Euro are accepted (enquire at the hotel for daily exchange rates). However, US Dollar bills printed between 1996 and 1999 are generally not accepted in Kenya due to excessive forgery.

CREDIT CARDS

Major credit cards are accepted in most hotels and restaurants in the city.

Heritage accepts Visa, MasterCard, Amex and PayPal.

