Soroi COLLECTION

Journey Guide

for Diani



your friendly guide to getting here, getting ready and getting going

DIANI BEACH, KENYA

HELLO, DIANI

you're booked, so let's get you packed

Congratulations, you are going to Diani! Soroi Blue is a boutique beachfront hotel of eleven rooms on Diani Beach, on Kenya's south coast. This little guide has everything you need before you travel: how to get here, what to know about Kenya, and what to pack.

SETTING	Along the shores of Diani Beach on Kenya's south coast, on Golden Beach Road in Ukunda. Eleven rooms and a maximum of 30 guests, in Swahili and Mediterranean-style architecture.
CLIMATE	Daytime temperatures average 20 to 30°C in the Kenyan highlands and are warmer at the coast, with cooler mornings and evenings.
STYLE	Barefoot coastal luxury. Light, breezy clothes by day and smart-casual in the evening.
DAYS	Beach, pool, spa and sea trips. Your concierge arranges activities, day trips and private transfers.
GETTING HERE	Ukunda airstrip is 20 minutes (5.49 km) from the hotel, and scheduled flights from Nairobi take about 1 hour 20 minutes.
POWER	Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout. UK-style three-pin plugs at 240V.
LAUNDRY	Available at the hotel.



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GETTING HERE

by air, by road, or by rail

Flying direct to Ukunda is easiest. The SGR train is a fun alternative.



BY AIR

- Direct flights from Nairobi to Ukunda airstrip, about 1 hour 20 minutes.
- About 20 minutes (5.49 km) from the airstrip to Soroi Blue on Golden Beach Road.

BY RAIL

- SGR (Madaraka Express) from Nairobi to Mombasa, about 4.5 to 5 hours.
- Then 45 minutes to 1.5 hours by road to Diani.
- The line passes through Tsavo, with wildlife views.

VIA MOMBASA

- Arriving through Mombasa? Ask reservations about a road transfer.

GOOD TO KNOW

- Soft bags only on light aircraft, with weight limits. Domestic flights allow 15 kg per person including hand luggage.
- Flights to Ukunda leave from Wilson Airport, not JKIA.

ON ARRIVAL DAY

from the airstrip to your first drink

A quick run-through of what happens when you land, so nothing is a surprise.

BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

- Reservations will send your flight or transfer details before you travel.
- Keep documents, medication, a warm layer and your camera in your hand luggage.

MEETING YOU

- A Soroi guide or driver greets you at Ukunda airstrip, or at the hotel if you drive.
- Your driver will take you along Golden Beach Road to the hotel.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE

- You will receive a welcome note with your manager's name and number. Save the number in your phone.
- Check-in from 12:00 pm.
- Your manager will talk you through the property, meal times and your first activity.

IF SOMETHING CHANGES

- Flight delayed, bag late or running behind? Call your manager's number, or reservations on +254 754 351 908.
- Light-aircraft and train schedules can shift, so build in a little slack.



DOCUMENTS AND INSURANCE

sort these before you leave home

Kenya's entry rules changed in 2026. Everything below is for most foreign visitors, so check the official portals for your own nationality.

YOUR ETA AND PASSPORT

- Apply for your electronic travel authorisation (eTA) well before you fly, at etakenya.go.ke, and carry a copy.
- Passport valid for at least 6 months, with at least 2 consecutive blank pages (3 or 4 if you are travelling through several countries).
- Keep a digital copy of your passport, itinerary and insurance.

KENYA HEALTH INSURANCE (NEW)

- From 6 October 2026, foreign visitors staying less than 12 months need Kenyan health insurance bought through the government portal. East African Community citizens are exempt.
- It costs US$44 per person, children included, plus small system and gateway charges at checkout.
- Buy it during your eTA application, or beforehand at insurance.ecitizen.go.ke. The two portals recognise each other. Use government portals only.
- No policy document is issued. Save your reference number and a screenshot of the "Valid" status.
- Details are still being clarified, so check the official portals before you fly, or ask reservations.

YOUR OWN TRAVEL INSURANCE

- Travel insurance is a requirement for all our guests: medical emergencies, medical evacuation, trip curtailment and loss of belongings.
- Medical evacuation is not included in our rates.
- The government portal does not currently accept a policy from another company, so keep your own cover as well.
- Insure your camera and video equipment and personal items too.

WHAT WE MAY ASK YOU FOR

- Your travel insurance details, passport numbers, an emergency contact, date of birth and blood group, for our records.

MONEY AND TIPPING

small notes make life easier

A few practical notes on paying for things and saying thank you.

CURRENCY

- The Kenyan shilling (KES). Exchange is available at airports, hotels and banks.
- ATMs dispense shillings only.
- Carry your passport or other photo ID, as proof of identity may be requested.

CARDS AND CASH

- Major credit cards are accepted at hotels, lodges and shops, but a surcharge of about 5% is often added.
- Bring some small notes (5s, 10s and 20s) for tipping. We recommend US dollar bills printed in 2013 or later.

KEEPING CASH SAFE

- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash, and spread it across different bags.
- Never leave luggage unattended, and keep valuables close or locked away.

TIPPING

- Tipping is never obliged, but it is warmly appreciated.
- Suggested: US$3 to 5 per day for porterage, stewards and housekeeping, and US$10 per person per day for your driver/guide.
- Use the tip box at reception for the whole team, or tip any standout staff member personally. Tip your driver/guide separately.
- Staff should never ask for tips or gifts for their families. If this happens, please tell us.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

the sensible bits

Kenya is generally a low-risk destination, and a few simple precautions keep it that way.

HEALTH

- We advise malaria prevention. See your doctor or a travel clinic 6 to 8 weeks before you travel about vaccinations.
- A yellow fever vaccination and certificate are needed for travellers from India, South America, Singapore or across the tropics.
- This is a general guide, not a substitute for your travel doctor. Carry personal medication in your hand luggage.

DRINKING WATER

- Mineral water is available at all Soroi Collection properties and in all shops and restaurants, and is provided in every room.
- Use it for brushing your teeth too, and drink more than you are used to in the heat and sun.

ON THE BEACH AND REEF

- Swim where it is safe, and ask the concierge about tides and currents.
- Keep an eye on children near the water, and take care of valuables on the beach.

LOCAL RULES

- The reef, the marine park and the nearby forests each have their own rules.
- Ask the concierge if you are unsure, and follow the guidance of your boat crew and guides.

KENYA IN A NUTSHELL

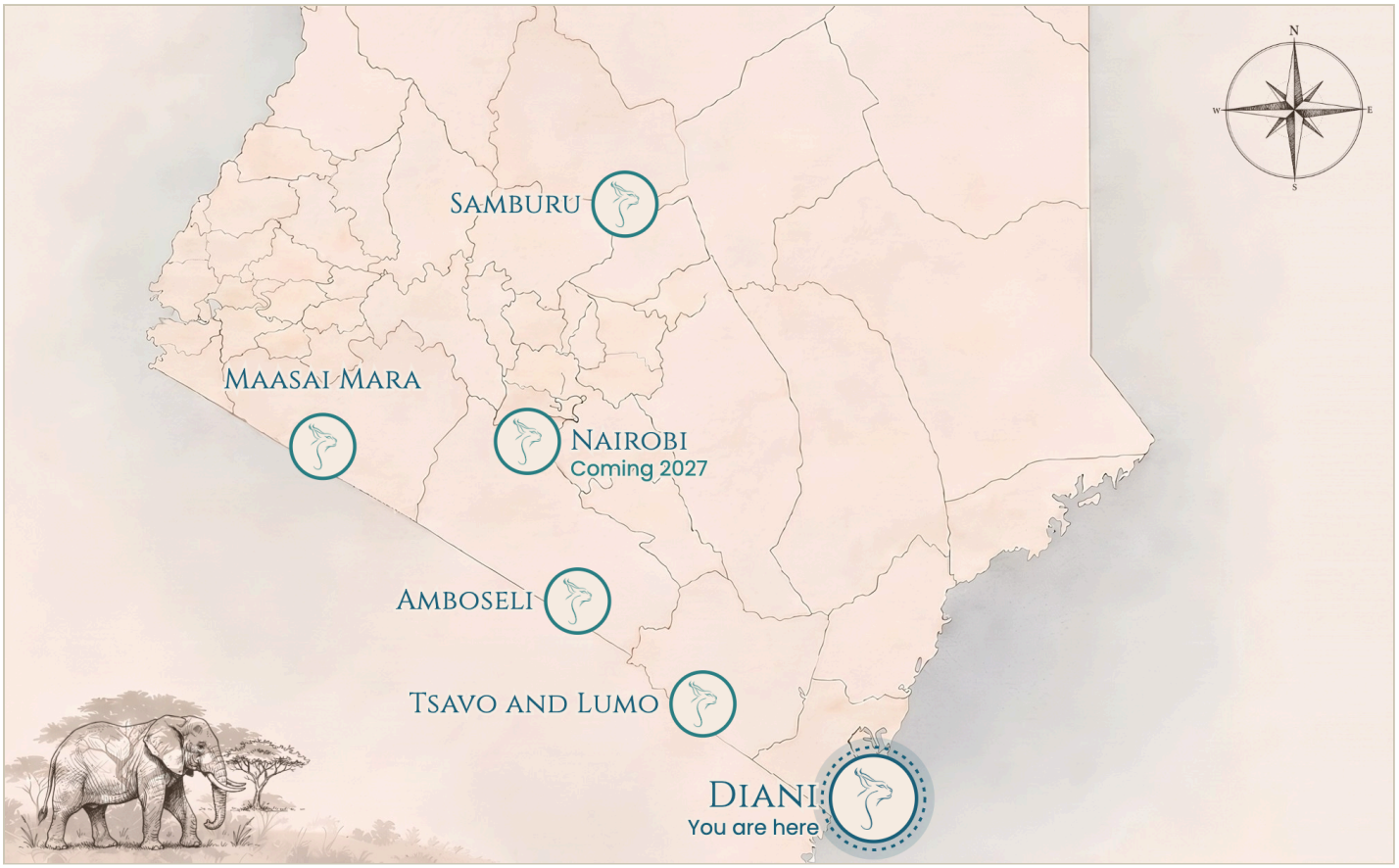
the quick-reference page

The practical basics, all in one place.

TIME	East Africa Time (UTC+3) all year. Kenya does not use daylight saving.
LANGUAGE	English and Kiswahili are widely spoken, especially in towns, lodges and hotels.
CLIMATE	Kenya lies on the equator, with altitude shaping the weather. Highland daytime temperatures average 20 to 30°C, and the coast is warmer. There is no real winter or summer, only dry and wet seasons.
DRIVING	Kenya drives on the left. Your Soroi driver or guide takes care of the roads.
POWER	220 to 240V, 50Hz, with UK-style three-pin plugs. Bring an adapter if your devices need one.
CONNECTIVITY	Phone coverage and Wi-Fi are available, and Wi-Fi is strongest in reception, dining and lounge areas. Occasional network outages can happen.
LUGGAGE	Pack in soft bags, 15 to 20 kg per person. Domestic flights allow 15 kg per person including hand luggage. Luggage can be stored at your hotel or our Nairobi office during your trip.
LAUNDRY	Complimentary laundry at Private Wing, Luxury Migration Camp, Larsens Camp, Soroi Amboseli and Lions Bluff Lodge. Other properties vary, so ask reservations.
PLASTIC	Single-use plastic bags have been banned in Kenya since 28 August 2017. Do not bring any in, as fines are strict and high, and remove them from luggage and purchases before you fly. Single-use plastic such as straws, bottles and cutlery is also banned in parks and reserves.

THE SOROI COLLECTION

six destinations, one Kenya



MAASAI MARA

- Soroi Mara Bush Camp
- Soroi Private Wing
- Soroi Luxury Migration Camp

NAIROBI

- Soroi Nairobi, inside Nairobi National Park (coming 2027)

SAMBURU

- Soroi Larsens Camp
- Soroi Samburu Lodge

AMBOSELI

- Soroi Amboseli

TSAVO AND LUMO

- Soroi Lions Bluff Lodge
- Soroi Leopards Lair
- Soroi Cheetah Tented Camp

DIANI

- Soroi Blue Diani

PEOPLE AND GIVING BACK

meeting Kenya well

Soroi is passionate about philanthropy and sustainability. A few guidelines help your visit do good.

WHO YOU MIGHT MEET

- Kenya is home to over 40 ethnic groups, each with its own dialect.
- Around our properties you are likely to meet Taita, Samburu and Maasai communities.
- Cultural visits are encouraged. Ask your manager, travel agent or reservations consultant when you book, or during your stay.

PHOTOGRAPHING PEOPLE

- Always ask permission first. Not everyone will agree.
- Ask your driver or guide before photographing local communities.
- Never photograph State houses, airports, military installations, police stations, government facilities, border posts, soldiers or police. It is strictly prohibited.

GIVING BACK WISELY

- Please do not hand out money or gifts to locals. It goes against responsible tourism practice.
- Soroi works with community projects and schools. Ask your manager how to help.
- Pens, pencils, school supplies and clothing are valued, but a donation saves your luggage allowance and makes sure communities receive what they really need.

COMMUNITY AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

- Every booking contributes directly to our NGO, Community & Wildlife Conservation (community-wildlife.org).
- It supports communities with food donations, educational materials and job opportunities.
- It also funds anti-poaching work, tree planting to protect biodiversity, and education in remote villages.

COAST MANNERS

how to be a good guest by the sea

A few simple habits keep the reef, the beach and everyone around you happy.

ON THE REEF

- Do not touch, stand on or collect coral, shells or starfish.
- Keep a respectful distance from turtles, dolphins and whale sharks.
- Use reef-friendly sunscreen.

ON THE BEACH

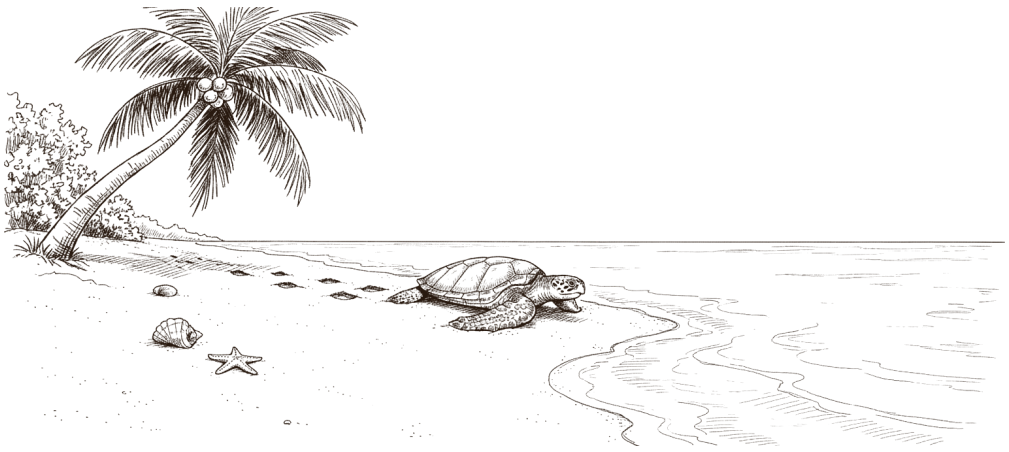
- Take your litter with you, and pick up any you see.
- Turtle nests and hatchlings are protected, so keep clear of marked areas.
- Take care of valuables and keep an eye on children near the water.

WITH PEOPLE

- A smile and a "jambo" go a long way.
- Ask before photographing anyone, including beach vendors.
- Please do not hand out money or gifts. Ask the concierge how to help.
- Dress modestly away from the beach, in villages and at cultural sites.

LOOKING AFTER THE COAST

- Leave shells, coral and sand where they are.
- Single-use plastic bags are banned in Kenya, so bring a reusable bag.
- Choose operators who respect the marine park rules. Your concierge can advise.



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A FEW WORDS OF SWAHILI

pole pole, you will get there

A little Swahili is always appreciated. Try these on your host, the hotel team and everyone you meet.

SWAHILI	SAY IT	IT MEANS
Jambo	JAHM-boh	Hello
Karibu	kah-REE-boo	Welcome
Asante (sana)	ah-SAHN-teh (SAH-nah)	Thank you (very much)
Tafadhali	tah-fah-DAH-lee	Please
Sawa	SAH-wah	OK, fine, agreed
Pole pole	POH-leh POH-leh	Slowly, slowly
Pole	POH-leh	I'm sorry (for your trouble)
Hakuna matata	hah-KOO-nah mah-TAH-tah	No worries
Ndiyo / Hapana	n-DEE-yoh / hah-PAH-nah	Yes / No
Kwaheri	kwah-HEH-ree	Goodbye

Pole pole is also a very good way to spend a beach holiday.

DRESS FOR THE COAST

light, loose and a little bit salty

Think linen, cotton and swimwear. Diani is a beach holiday first, so you can leave the khaki at home.

ON THE BEACH

Two or three swimsuits
One is always drying.

Cover-up or sarong

Wide-brimmed hat

UV-protective sunglasses

Flip-flops or sandals
The sand can be hot at midday.

BY DAY

Light, breathable day wear
Linen shirts, shorts, dresses and sundresses all work.

Long-sleeved linen shirt
Sun protection on boat trips.

Light rain jacket
Showers are possible, especially in the long rains.

EVENINGS

Smart-casual outfits
For dinner at the restaurant or on the beach.

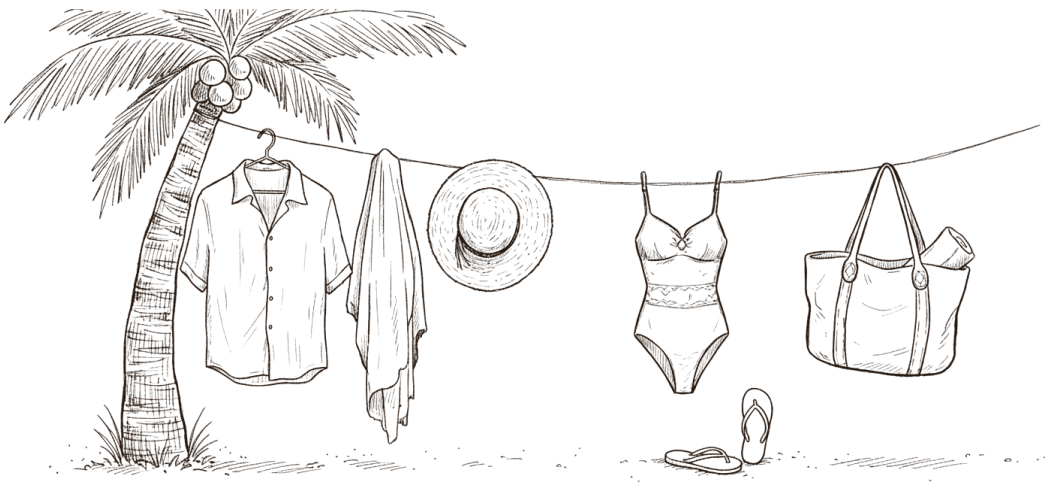
A light wrap
Sea breezes can be cooler after dark.

Light long sleeves and trousers
Covered skin keeps the insects off at dusk.

PACKING FOR FIVE NIGHTS

- A few swimsuits, 4 to 5 light tops, 2 pairs of shorts and 1 or 2 evening outfits is plenty.
- Laundry is available, so there is no need to pack for every day.
- Leave a little room for handcrafted souvenirs.

Pro tip: visiting Mombasa Old Town, Fort Jesus or the Kaya Kinondo sacred forest? Cover your shoulders and knees out of respect for local custom.



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SUN, SEA AND FIRST AID

the small stuff that saves the day

None of this is glamorous, all of it is useful.

SUN AND WATER

- **High-SPF sunscreen**
  Reef-friendly where you can find it.
- **Lip balm with SPF**
- **Insect repellent**
  Dusk and early morning, especially near mangroves and gardens.
- **After-bite relief**

HEALTH

- **Personal medication**
  Carry it in your hand luggage, with a copy of the prescription.
- **Basic first-aid kit**
  Plasters, antiseptic, rehydration salts and antihistamines.
- **Malaria prophylaxis**
  As advised by your doctor before you travel.
- **Hand sanitiser and wipes**

SNORKEL AND BOAT DAYS

- **Water shoes**
  For reef walking and rocky shores.
- **Dry bag or waterproof pouch**
  For phones and cash on dhow trips.
- **Seasickness tablets**
  If you are prone, take them before you board.
- **Quick-dry towel**

USEFUL GEAR

- **Small daybag**
  For day trips and the beach.
- **Reusable water bottle**
- **Power bank and plug adapter**
- **Binoculars**
  For dolphins on the horizon and birds in the gardens.

Good to know: the Frangipani Spa offers massage, facials and body treatments, so you may want to add a spa-day outfit.



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FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHERS

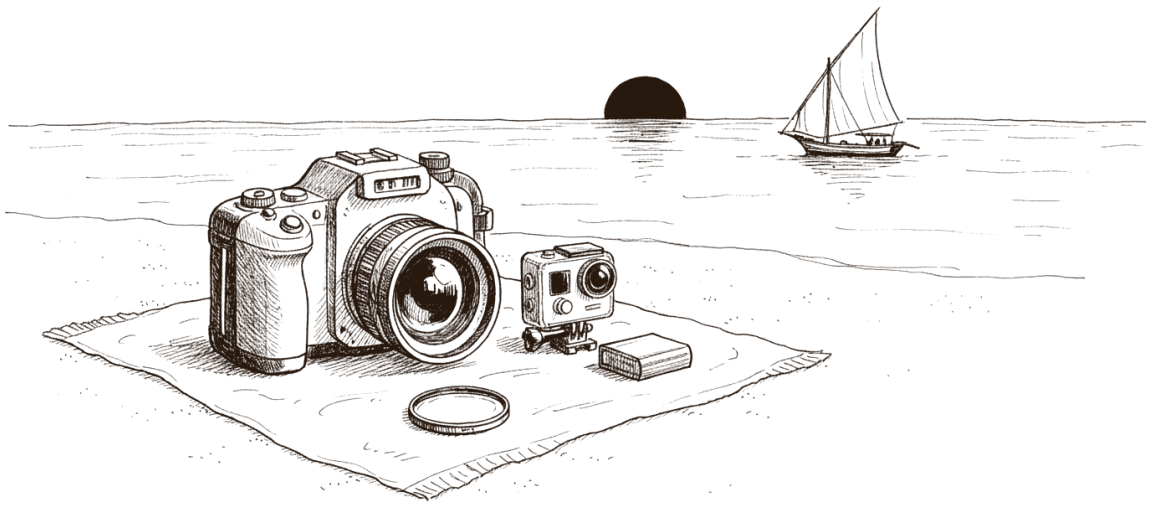
what to bring for the good light

Diani is bright, blue and full of reflections. Pack for sunlight, sand and salt.

WHERE	SUGGESTED KIT	TIP
Beach and boats	Standard zoom (24-105mm), a wide-angle	Shoot early or late. Midday sun flattens everything.
Underwater	Waterproof action camera or housing	Snorkelling the Diani reef and the Wasini and Kisite trips are made for it.
Wildlife	70-300mm or longer	Colobus monkeys, turtles and dolphins. Ask the concierge about the Colobus Conservation walk and turtle hatchery.
Golden hour	Polarising filter, ND filters, a tripod	Beach sunrises and sunsets are the easy win.
Salt and sand care	Blower, microfibre cloths, lens hoods, zip-lock bags	Rinse and wipe gear after boat days. Salt spray is hard on lenses.
Power and storage	Spare batteries, extra memory cards, power bank	Charge fully every night.

CAMERA BAG CHECKLIST

- Camera body, plus a spare if you have one
- Waterproof pouch or housing
- Extra memory cards
- Rain cover
- Lenses to suit the table above
- Spare batteries and charger
- Blower and microfibre cloths
- Laptop or drive for nightly backup



REEF, SAND AND SEA

what to pack for the water

Diani's best days are spent on or in the water. A few of the activities your concierge can arrange, and what to bring.

DHOW AND REEF TRIPS

- Glass-bottom dhow sailing, snorkelling the Diani reef, and the dhow trip to Wasini Island and the Kisite-Mpunguti marine park.
- Bring a hat, sunscreen, a cover-up, a towel and a dry bag.
- Seasickness tablets if you need them.

MARINE LIFE

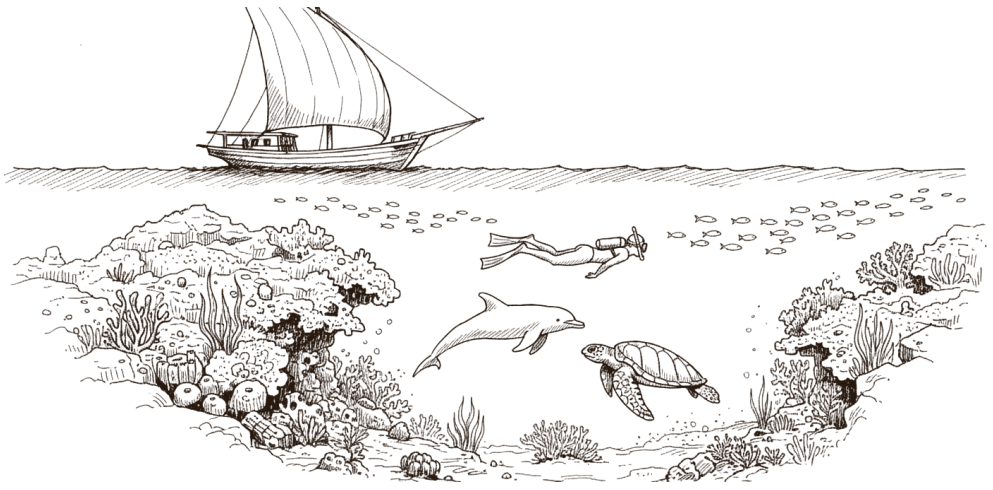
- Spinner and bottlenose dolphins are resident year-round. Whale sharks visit seasonally.
- Sightings and conditions vary, so ask the concierge before you book.

LAND AND CULTURE

- Shimba Hills National Reserve, Fort Jesus and Mombasa Old Town, Kaya Kinondo and the Colobus Conservation forest walk are all day-trip options.
- Pack closed shoes for forest walks, and cover shoulders and knees for cultural sites.

BEACH MANNERS

- Ask before photographing people, including local beach vendors and our staff.
- Respect other guests' privacy at the pool and on the beach.
- Never touch or chase turtles, dolphins or other marine life.



LIFE AT SOROI BLUE

what to expect when you arrive

A few practical details so nothing surprises you.

ROOMS AND SERVICES

- Eleven rooms, each named after a place along the Kenyan coastline: 4 Garden View Rooms, 4 Ocean View Rooms, 2 Junior Suites and the Bahari Blue Executive Suite.
- 24-hour security and intercom, and secure parking.
- Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the property.

MEALS

- A restaurant serving Swahili coastal cuisine and fresh seafood, an indoor bar, a beach bar, and a BBQ and pizza oven.
- Private dining and dietary requests are catered for on request. Tell reservations before you travel.

FACILITIES

- A swimming pool and a kids' pool, a pool table, a library and a TV room.
- The Frangipani Spa for massage, facials and body treatments.

STAYING SAFE

- Take care of valuables on the beach, and use the hotel's security for evening walks.
- The beach and pool may not have lifeguards.



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A WORD ON DRONES

we get asked this a lot

Please talk to us before you pack one.

We know many guests would love aerial footage. Drones can disturb wildlife and other guests, and in Kenya they need permits from the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority. Soroi prohibits drones in all the conservation areas where we operate, and beaches and marine areas have rules of their own. Please do not fly a drone at the hotel without written approval.

Can I fly a drone at the hotel?

Not without prior written approval. Contact reservations before you travel.

Can I bring one into Kenya?

Drones are regulated and may need to be declared on arrival. Check current requirements before you fly.

Why so strict?

Wildlife, guest privacy and local rules come first.

BEST LEFT AT HOME

- Drones, unless approved in writing
- Single-use plastic bags, which are banned in Kenya and attract high fines
- Camouflage and bright white clothing
- Valuable jewellery you would hate to lose



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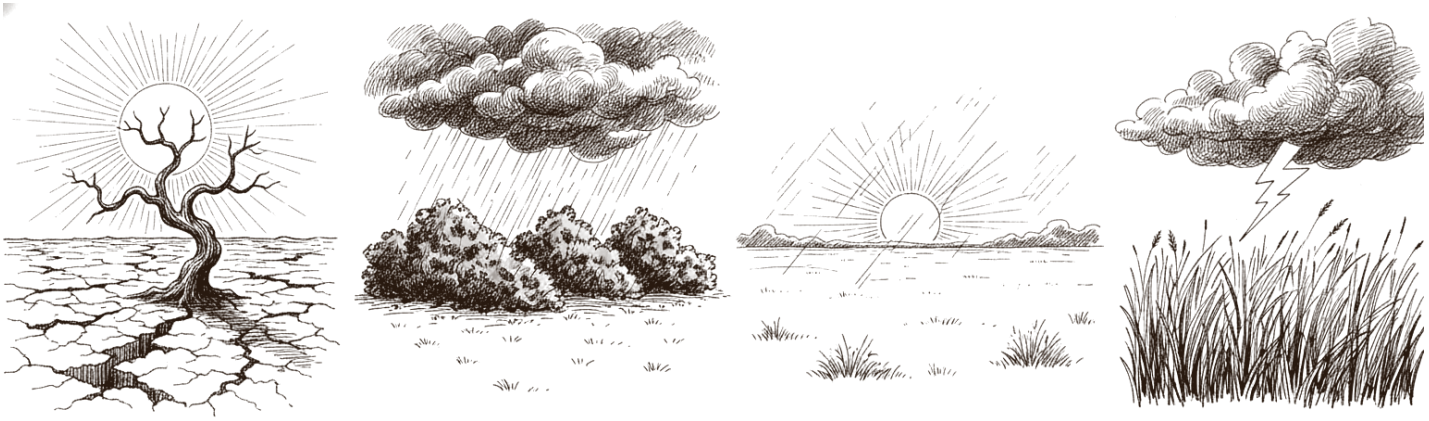
SEASONS AT A GLANCE

any month works, the bag just changes

Diani can be visited all year. Kenya has no real winter or summer, only dry and wet seasons, and what changes is the landscape and what you will want in your bag.

SEASON	WHAT TO EXPECT	ADD TO YOUR BAG
Warmer months (December to mid-March)	Hot, humid and bright, with calm seas.	Sun hat, extra sunscreen, lightweight cotton
Long rains (late March to May)	Lush and quiet, with the heaviest showers. Rainy seasons bring quieter parks and vibrant greenery.	Waterproof jacket, closed shoes, insect repellent
Cooler months (July and August)	Breezier and less humid, though often overcast.	A warm fleece for early starts and evenings
Short rains (late October to November)	Greener landscape, with showers.	Light rain jacket, quick-dry layers

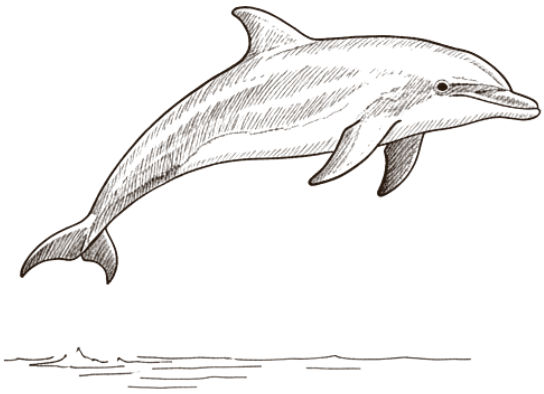
Whatever the month, layers are the best thing you can pack.

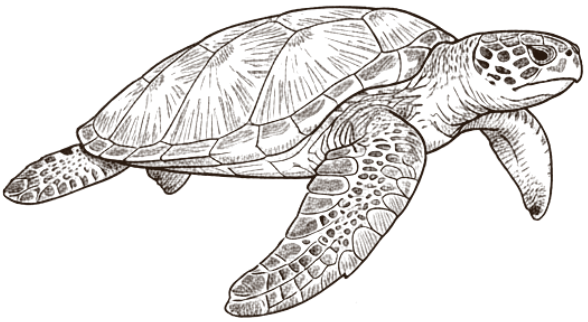


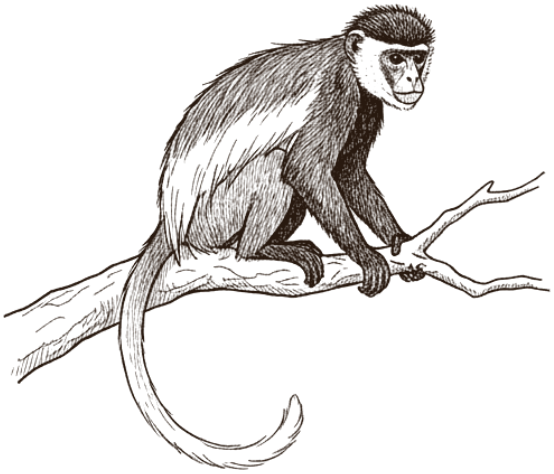
SEE YOU SOON

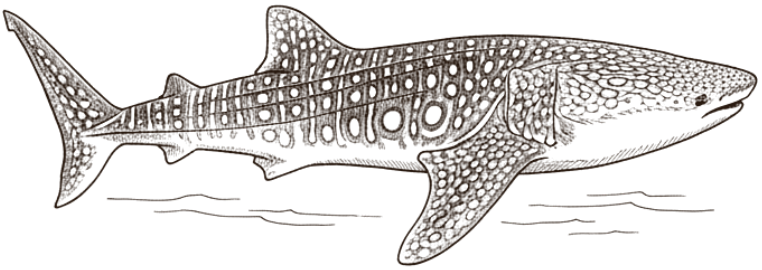
Questions before you travel?

Our reservations team is happy to help with transfers, dietary needs, spa bookings and anything on this list you are unsure about.









Diani's locals include spinner dolphins, sea turtles, colobus monkeys and, seasonally, whale sharks. How many will you spot?