

KENYA CALLING



Sun, sand and serenity

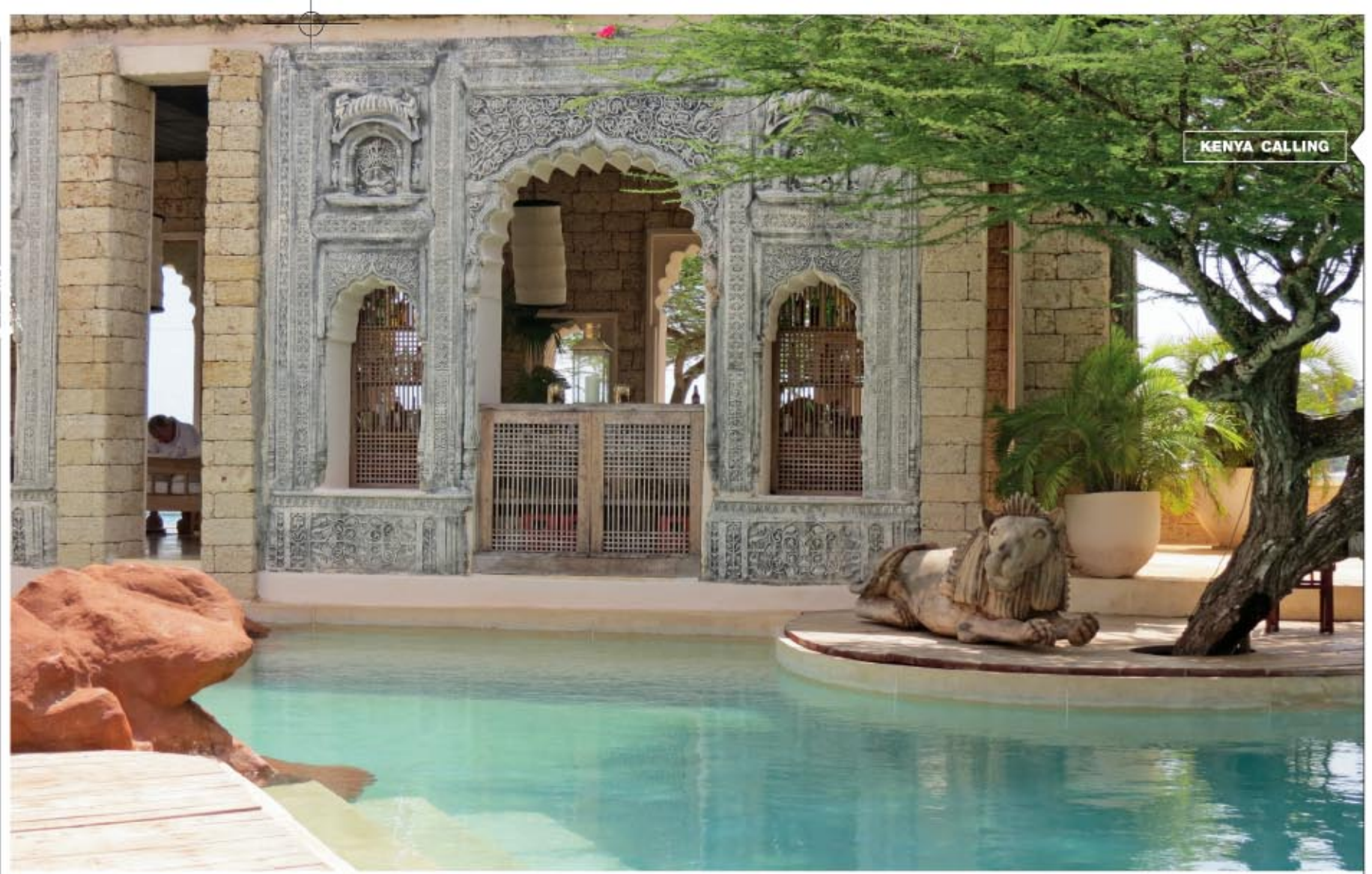
The lesser-known islands of Lamu and Manda are nowadays attracting tourists like never before, especially from our part of the continent

BY RAKESH MALIK



Looking for a beach holiday? Confused on where to head and looking for an area which is untouched, unblemished and offers some of the unbelievable sights! Considering lesser-known islands of

Lamu and Manda in Kenya can offer this and a lot more. Kenya, lies along the Indian Ocean to its southeast and at the equator. Known world over for its wide expanses onto the Indian Ocean and nature's bounty Lamu and Manda are nowadays attracting tourists like never before especially from our part of the continent. With a right mix of traditional and modern sensibilities these island offer a little bit of everything that one can ask for.



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With thick presence of historical stamp on the Lamu, this island town figures on UNESCO's World Heritage site list. What makes these island towns serene and peaceful is the fact that they have no motor able roads and no motor vehicles. The twin islands have in total 4-5 vehicles that include emergency vehicles and the only way to commute is on foot or by dhow boats. The island is linked by boat to Mokowe on the mainland and to Manda Island, where there is an airport. There are no roads on the island, just alleyways and footpaths, and therefore, there are few motorised vehicles on the island. Residents move about on foot or by boat, and donkeys are used to transport goods and materials.

Far North coastline of Mombasa, It is most famous for the Lamu Archipelago. It consists near-shore Islands, bays, creeks and large

Did you know?

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Lamu Old Town, the principal inhabited part of the island, is among one of the oldest and believed to be best-preserved Swahili settlements in East Africa. Built primarily in coral stone and mangrove timber, the town is characterised by the simplicity of structural forms enriched by such

features as inner courtyards, verandas, and elaborately carved wooden doors. Most inhabitations have similar structures that preserve the old world charm. This island town has hosted major Muslim religious festivals since the 19th century, and has over the years become a significant centre for the study of Islamic and Swahili



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FISHING SAFARI
 These islands are one of the world's most famous destinations for deep sea fishing

cultures.

Lamu town overlooks the channel across the Manda Island. Manda is an island of the Lamu Archipelago of Kenya, known for the prosperous 9th century ports of Takwa and Manda town. The island is now linked by ferry to Lamu and is home to Manda Airport, while Manda Toto Island lies to its west. The island is separated from the mainland by the narrow Mkanda channel.

It's believed that both Manda town and Takwa were abandoned due to lack of water in the first half of the 19th century. But again in the past few years this island town has been picking up and today it boasts of some private residential villas of the rich and famous from across the globe and also a few uber luxurious resorts that attract tourists from US, UK, Europe and the Asian sub continent.

Both island towns are well connected with the major airports of

LAMU MANDA

Kenya has a lot to offer to the tourists. People don't really know about the beach destinations here. After seeing many other beach destinations I can vouch that Lamu and Manda are among the best beach destinations that one can go in for. While Lamu has a lot of history to be explored, Manda is truly a paradise on earth. I would recommend, that everyone should explore these destinations.

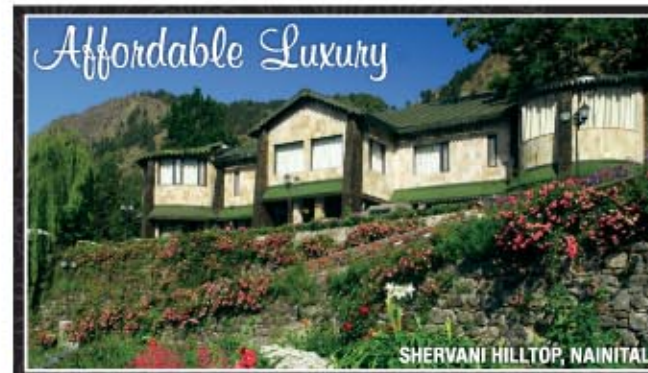
QUOTE

AKANKSHA SHARMA

Kenya via the Manda airstrip that has flight connectivity from all major aviation players who play small planes. Dhow boats take the journey further to the respective destinations.

Deep sea fishing safari, these islands are one of the world's most famous destinations for Deep Sea Fishing. They offer some of the finest deep sea fishing in the world with a huge variety of different species close to shore. Manda Beach has many of the ingredients of the perfect tropical holiday destination. Thanks to warm seas and beautiful coral reefs it is also one of the best places to get close to the richly diverse marine life of the southern Kenyan coast, by snorkelling, scuba-diving or joining a boat safari or Dhow Sailing.

Go take a plunge!!



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