

# AFRICANMECCA DESTINATION MANAGEMENT

## INTEGRITY IN AFRICAN TOURS & ADVENTURES

AfricanMecca Newsletter - Winter - Jan/Feb 2006 - Update from Americas, European and Africa Offices

### In This Edition:

- [Ruaha National Park](#)
- [Jongomero Camp](#)
- [Mnemba Island - Near Zanzibar](#)
- [Mnemba Island Lodge](#)
- [Indian Ocean Beach & Cultural Program Prices & Proposals](#)

### Safari Destination Guide

#### Ruaha National Park

Ruaha, pronounced ru-ah-ha, is located in south-central Tanzania. The boundary is a national park and is cushioned by multiple ecosystems: to the north of the Ruaha National Park lies Rungwa, Kizigo and Muhesi Game Reserves and to the east are the Rubeho Mountains and Iringa Highlands. The term Ruaha, referring to the river that runs through it, actually comes from "Luvaha", which means water stream, which is more of a generic terminology traditionally used by the natives of the region: The Hehe people. The actual indigenous name for the Great Ruaha River is "Lyambangari", pronounced li-yam-bahn-gar-ee. Ruaha National park formally came into existence in 1964 when it was given National Park status, and its relationship with the ecosystem it shared with the northern game reserves forced an official boundary survey in 1973 to what it currently stands: 12,950 square kilometers.



Ruaha National Park, the second largest National Park after Serengeti, is in its pristine ecological condition: It is a less frequented park making any visitors experience, a unique one. Ruaha is a park where at every turn of one's head, nature is undertaking its course. It is at Ruaha where when walking across the new bridge upon just entering the park, our eyes turned to the right looking for crocodiles basking on the Ruaha River, when we saw a speeding fish eagle in motion, fixated on a fish on the shallow waters, swoop down and clutch its meal while we watched with sheer amazement. With the splatter of the water and wiggling of the fish, causing ripples on the calm Ruaha River startled the crocodile making it slither back into the water. Just as that was an amazing experience, our ear picked up a "grunting-oink" sound, and we turned around and saw a spray of water made by a hippopotamus partially submerged in water. These are few among the many experiences of the Ruaha National Park.



[Click here for a complete guide to Ruaha](#)

#### Jongomero Camp - Ruaha

**AfricanMecca Tier 1 Accommodation.** [Click here](#) for details on Safari Tier™

For anyone seeking a true African wilderness experience, a visit to Ruaha National Park is indispensable. Although the second largest in

Tanzania, the park is perhaps the least well known and yet to connoisseurs it is without doubt one of the most spectacular in Africa. Ruaha National Park is one of the few Tanzanian parks where sightings of the rare antelopes, such as the sable, the roan and both lesser and greater kudu, are a probability rather than a possibility. The proliferation of plains game in the park also ensures that the larger predators - leopard and large prides of lion - are unusually active. The bird life, too, is unparalleled with some 450 species recorded.

In this magnificent setting, lies Jongomero Camp, a luxury safari camp in Africa set under shady acacia trees on the banks of the Jongomero Sand River in the remote southwestern sector of Ruaha. Being the only camp situated in this area of the park ensures unmatched privacy.



[Click here](#) for complete information on Jongomero Camp  
[Indian Ocean Beach Destination Guide](#)

## Mnemba Island - Indian Ocean's Serene & Romantic Destination

Mnemba island lies 15 minutes by boat from the North east coast of Zanzibar, protected by a lagoon with over 10 miles of reefs rich in colorful fish and corals. This private island resort offers "barefoot luxury" in ten self-contained cottages, positioned discretely amid the lush tropical vegetation. This is where Bill Gates comes to unwind and savor Mother Nature's delights, on the heart-shaped splash of sand in the blue depths of the Indian Ocean. Mnemba is an Arabic word for octopus.



**Recognition: Condé Nast Traveller chose Mnemba Island as one of the three most romantic ocean destinations in the world.**

[Click here](#) for more information on Mnemba Island

### Mnemba Island Lodge - Mnemba

**AfricanMecca Tier 1 Experience.** [Click here](#) for details on AfricanMecca Rating

Mnemba, an untouched atoll off the coast of Zanzibar, is therapy for the spirit. Mnemba, an Arabic word meaning octopus head, lies two kilometers northeast of the island of Zanzibar, a 20-minute cruise in a traditional 16 foot flat-bottomed boat. A pristine swathe of beach defines the island's one-mile circumference. A protection zone surrounds the island, conserving magnificent coral reefs where giant turtles, Ghost Crabs and spectacular tropical fish drift through the lagoons. Fresh, delicate sea breezes waft through Mnemba Lodge, lending a castaway air to the entire island.

- Mnemba Island features just ten ensuite banda cottages, bordered on three sides by tropical beach forest and overlooking the beach and coral reef. Each exquisite banda has been hand-woven and thatched from tree branches and traditional Zanzibar palm matting. The materials were chosen to allow the cooling sea breezes to move through the bungalow and assisted by overhead fans, the cottages remain cool all day.
- From each room, a palm-covered walkway leads to an en suite turquoise bathroom. The shower water comes from the island's well or boiled rainwater. Each banda also has a spacious outdoor



verandah.

• As is befitting an earthly paradise, Mnemba has near-perfect weather. The architecture of the lodge reflects this blissful serenity. You can wander through your lattice-wood doors across the wraparound verandah and stretch out on the beach on daybeds of wood and leather weave with soft white cushions. Zanzibar is famous for producing intricate and detailed woodcarvings and some of the island's most skilled artisans have created the scrolled headboards adorning the beds



[Click here for complete details on Mnemba Island Lodge](#)

## Recommended Indian Ocean Beach & Cultural Program

### Overnight Prices:

- **Mnemba Island Lodge:** From US \$585 or GBP 366 per person sharing. **Programs Inclusions:** Breakfast, lunch, dinner and all taxes.

[Click here for more Zanzibar Beach Holiday & Cultural Programs Prices.](#)

### Zanzibar Beach Program and Packages - 09 Aug 2006 - 7 nights departure from the UK - flights, hotel and transfers.

- Zanzibar Serena Inn: GBP 1349 per person
- Bluebay Beach Resort: GBP 1369 per person
- Ocean Paradise Resort: GBP 1349 per person

**Contact us** to customize your Zanzibar Beach Program with a safari to Selous, Ruaha or Serengeti.

### Mombasa Beach Program and Packages - 04 Aug 2006 - 14 nights departure from the UK - flights, hotel and transfers.

- Serena Beach Hotel: GBP 1929 per person sharing
- Turtle Bay Beach Club: GBP 1629 per person sharing
- Club Sun N Sand: GBP 1339 per person sharing
- Bamburi Beach Hotel: GBP 1239 per person

[Click here](#) more options for Mombasa beach programs.

## AfricanMecca Reservation Inquiry

We ask that all destination travel requests such as yours be submitted through our reservation inquiry services page, where we can generate a request number and have a specialist who can quote you accordingly. We have several confirmations we are working with and want to make sure we can serve you in the best manner possible and at the same time create a quality follow through of your request.

Please visit and submit all your details at: <http://www.africanmeccasafaris.com/reservationrequest.asp>

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