

AFRICANMECCA DESTINATION MANAGEMENT

INTEGRITY IN AFRICAN TOURS & ADVENTURES

AfricanMecca Newsletter - Summer 2008 - Update from Americas, European and Africa Offices

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News

Kenya Masai Mara June 2008 Game Report From Governors Camp!

The fantastic river crossings of large numbers of zebra that we witnessed in May continued into early and mid June, and many zebra can still be seen in the plains areas. Large numbers of these zebra have come down from the east, crossing the Mara River at Paradise to the west and then crossing back again. June marks the start of the rutting season for the wildebeest, and big herds moved down on to the short grass plains of the conservation areas and then into the Game Reserve as competition with livestock for grazing outside the reserve intensifies. The rutting bulls were noisily grunting and chasing and fighting rival males for dominance, territory and ultimately access to females. With loud thumps, heads clashed together as they jostled for dominance. These males also scrape the ground with their forefeet as they have interdigital hoof glands to mark their territory. On the feline front, we were thrilled when the Bila Shaka/Marsh pride of three males of which one dark maned Lion is called 'Pavarotti' and six females added a further two new cubs (estimated at one month old) to the pride. There are now nine cubs of varying ages in this pride. The pride is also feeding well, and on the 11th June was seen on a giraffe kill near the Musiara gate. They have also been seen feeding off zebra, and all signs are that the pride is thriving. The Ridge/Paradise pride, which consists of four breeding females, two of which have three cubs estimated at two months old, are often seen near the river crossing that takes one into the plains area. [Click here to read the complete report.](#)

Safari Destination Guide

Mikumi National Park - Tanzania

Mikumi National Park is located south of Dar es Salaam right on the main Morogoro-Iringa Highway with an approximate travel time of 4½ hours and the first national park stop on the Tanzania southern circuit safari. The word Mikumi has nothing to do with number ten in Swahili, which is kumi but the name comes after a local word for Borassus palm trees referred to as Mikuky. Mikumi was the name given to the villages created by a tribal chief of Wavindunda community with the name of Mtwahela

Kikuwi (pronounced *mm-twa-hhe-laa Kee-kuu-wee*). Mikumi was named as National Park in 1967 and currently has an approximate size of 3,230 square kilometers. The wildlife viewing experience at Mikumi National Park can be experienced right upon entering the park where guests can encounter baboons, zebras and impalas speedily crossing the road. Making a right turn after paying the park fees leads you right into the Kikoboga-Mikumi Wildlife Camp where guests can watch the Elephants in the distance splattering themselves with mud. Circumambulating around the Kisungura road circuit leads you to the hippo pool, which is best visited during the evenings because of the distant setting sun and the bobbing heads of the hippos create perfect pictures. Next to the flood plain, AfricanMecca guests might see the birds such as crowned crane, kingfishers, hornbills and storks each having a sharp eye out for anything that might slither or move in the water or on the grassy patches. Traversing further northwest heading to the Foxes Safari Camp may lead you to wallowing buffalos taking advantage of Mkata flood plains small catchments or you might see the unpublicized tree climbing lions of Mikumi National Park. Crisscrossing the safari road tracks of the Mikumi National Park can lead you to the ultimate treat of viewing the giraffes who are being debated by many naturalists to be a cross between the Maasai and reticulated giraffe because of the compromising patterns. Such are the experiences on any given day at Mikumi National Park.



[Click here for a complete guide to Mikumi National Park - Tanzania](#)

[Vuma Hills Tented Camp - Mikumi](#)
AfricanMecca Tier 2 Accommodation. [Click here for](#)

[details on Safari Tier™](#)

Vuma Hills Tented Camp is perched above the trees stretching over the seemingly endless wilderness southwest of Mikumi National Park. 'Vuma' translated from Kiswahili meaning "a good rumour that is spread with the blowing wind". Now a reality rather than just a rumor, it is the ideal place to evoke the true spirit of Africa. Your spacious and comfortable mosquito proofed tent is one of sixteen, all with a rather old antiques fashioned colonial décor. The tents have ensuite bathroom facilities and a verandah. Hot water at Vuma Hills Camp is heated by solar energy keeping in line with the preservation of the park.



[Click here for complete information on Vuma Hills Tented Camp- Mikumi](#)

Indian Ocean Beach Destination Guide

Bawe Island

Elegantly lying 5 miles off Zanzibar Stone Town, 30 minutes boat drive, Bawe Tropical Island is an island not bigger than a football pitch. A beautiful island that takes the breath away; acres of lush, sexy paradise haven so skillfully done that you will think it all happened naturally.

Arrival at Bawe is something truly unforgettable; a spectacular private island, a haven of peace, silence and seclusion from the madding outside world.



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

Bawe Tropical Island Lodge

AfricanMecca Tier 2 Experience. [Click here](#) for details

on AfricanMecca Rating

This lost corner of the world offers a very elementary place with no air condition; simplicity, anonymity and freedom are the determining factors for the guests, 30 people cut off from the rest of the world for whom clothing is optional. Of course, it is your private stretch of sandy beach with barely anyone on it. Only footprints; maybe your own. Life is so sleepy in this island... It is said that the clocks strike twice the second time is for those who weren't awake for the first. The spacious cottages host magnificent dhow type of beds equipped with mosquito nets. The tasteful interiors, known as los colores given their warm combination of soft colours (greens, yellows, oranges, grape fruit) are elegantly decorated and they all contain ensuite bathrooms, all with double basin, 2 al fresco showers and bathtub. The large private wooden verandahs looking over the ocean give an impression of living outdoors, with air remaining mild all year round.



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

Recommended Indian Ocean Beach & Cultural Program

Overnight Prices:

- **Bawe Tropical Island Lodge:** From US \$356 or GBP 190 per person/night sharing a deluxe room. **Programs Inclusions:** Breakfast, lunch, dinner, drinks and all taxes.

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

Recommended African Safari Program

- **3 Days - Mikumi Explorer Safari II Extension:** From US \$1110 or GBP 591 per person sharing. **Programs Inclusions:** Round-trip road transfers to Mikumi National Park, 2 nights accommodation at Vuma Hills Tented Camp, meals, conservancy and park fees, game activities and all taxes. [Click here for complete itinerary](#)

We recommend adding the Mikumi Explorer Safari II Extension to our recommended safari programs. [Click here](#) for complete details

Another Perfect AfricanMecca Customer Experience - Traveled June 2008

Planning my trip to Zanzibar with Raza was a wonderful experience in many ways. Raza responded immediately to any question or information I requested. He was extremely thorough and gave me information about the trip in great detail. I could not have asked for a more thoughtful agent than Raza. During the trip there was a flight change and Raza sent the new departure information to me via my hotel which I greatly appreciated. Also during my trip my husband became worried about me and called Raza who very kindly assured him that I was safe and well. At the outset of my trip due to problems with the plane and weather conditions, I missed my connecting flight from Brussels to Entebbe and had to wait two days to get another flight. Due to this delay, my travel plans in Uganda and Tanzania had to be changed. Upon landing in Entebbe, I was able to email Raza about these changes and call AfricanMecca team office in Zanzibar both of whom made the necessary arrangements for my new schedule of lodging, transfers and tours. Their kind attention to this matter made a difficult and unexpected situation as pleasant as it could possibly have been and was greatly appreciated. Raza had recommended that I stay one night at the Emerson Green Hurmuzi hotel in because he said it was unique. It was a perfect place to stay and get a feel for Stonetown and its comings and goings and I was glad he recommended it. My transfers all worked well and were punctual and all of the staff that I met were kind, courteous and cordial. My stay at Matemwe Bungalows was lovely as was Chumbe Island. At both places I enjoyed many opportunities to snorkel in the clear water of the Indian Ocean and the staff in both places were helpful and cordial. On my flight back home the driver stayed with me through the entire check-in process. This was extremely helpful and greatly appreciated because the check-in routine was not the usual type. From the beginning to the end of my trip all of the services of AfricanMecca were dependable and pleasant. This makes a huge difference in the overall enjoyment of traveling in a foreign country and the day to day experiences. It allows the traveler to concentrate on the new adventures rather than worry about the trip logistics. My thanks and appreciation to all of the people who made my trip so memorable. attaching some photos.

Nancy Donahue
United States



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

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