



THANDA ISLAND
PRIVATE MARINE RESERVE

Thanda Island Factsheet

Thanda Island

A Private Island To Call Home



Hotel Overview

A multi-award-winning retreat in the Indian Ocean, Thanda Island lies off the East Coast of Tanzania, cradled within the pristine Shungimbili Island Marine Reserve. Surrounded by protected coral reefs and crystal-clear waters, this five-hectare sanctuary is designed for those seeking total seclusion and unparalleled indulgence.

At the heart of the island, a singular private villa with five sumptuous suites is complemented by two traditional Tanzanian beach chalets. Together, they form an exclusive haven, served by a discreet, dedicated team offering exceptional service and Thanda's signature warmth.

This is not simply an escape; it is a rare and unforgettable encounter with barefoot luxury at its most refined.

Did You Know?

Global Cultural Spirit

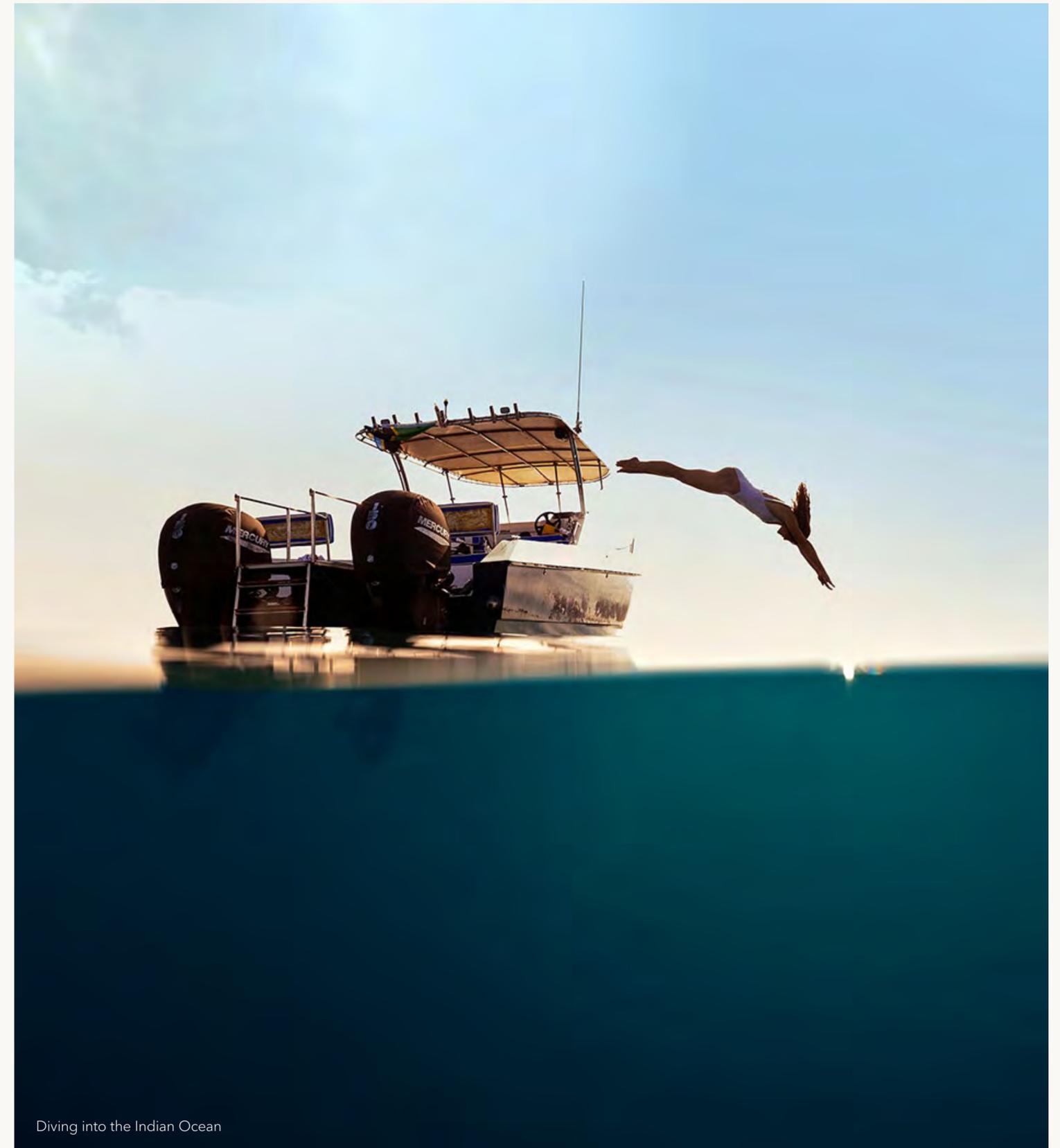
Once a vital corridor for ancient trade, the region reflects a storied maritime heritage shaped by African, Arabic, Indian, British, and European influences. This rich cultural fusion is beautifully expressed through its aromatic cuisine and the vibrant spirit of its coastal communities.

Energy

The island's water is purified through an advanced on-site desalination system, while an expansive solar farm provides the majority of its power, allowing it to function largely off-grid. For those who wish to stay connected, full WIFI coverage and mobile reception are effortlessly maintained.

Beach and Bush

Once untouched and uninhabited, Thanda Island offers a singular coastal experience in the turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean, forming a harmonious counterpart to Tanzania's legendary safari landscapes. The country's iconic reserves, from the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater to the vast Selous, lie within easy reach, with Selous just a brief helicopter flight away.



Diving into the Indian Ocean



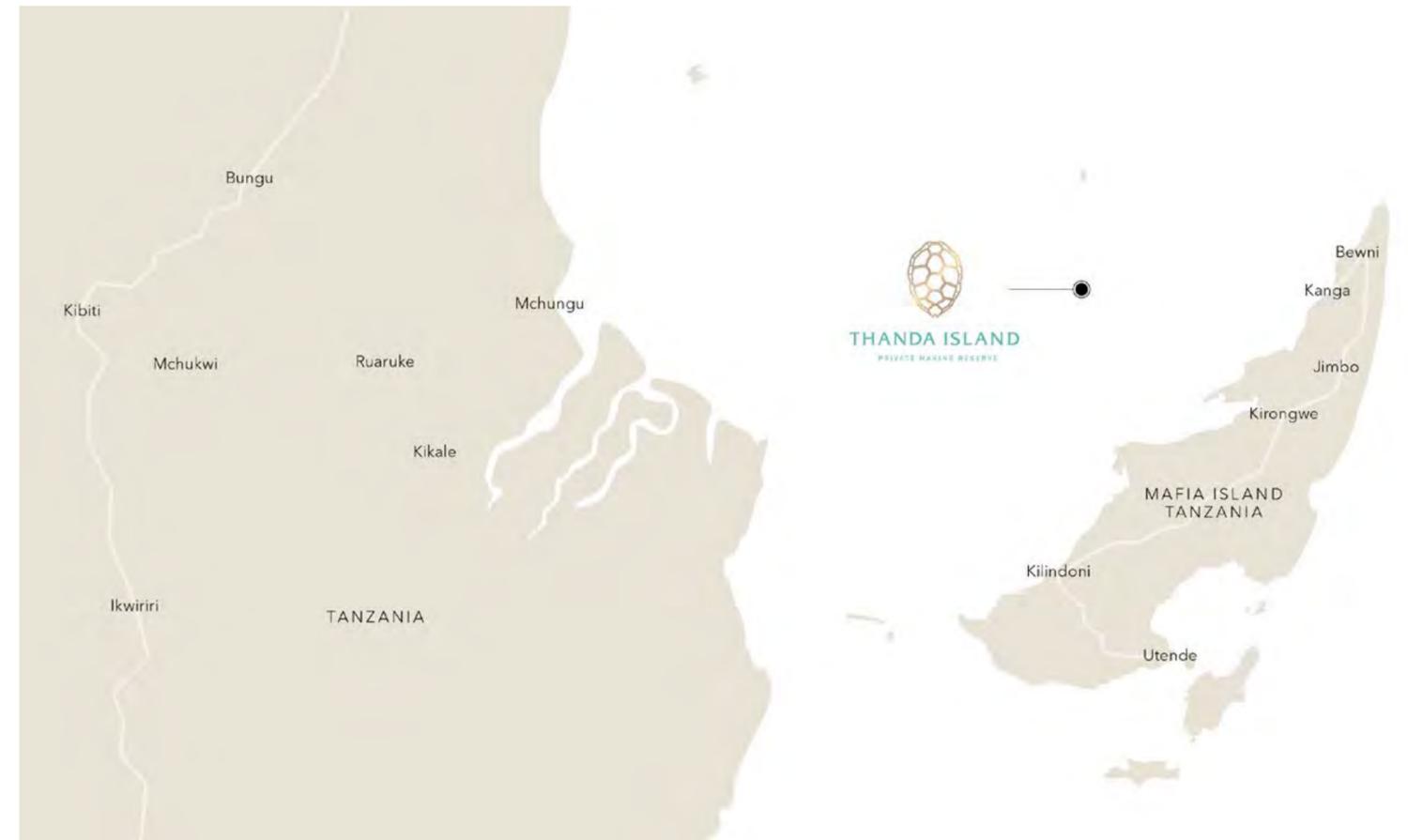
Helicopter Arrival

Accessibility

Guests begin their journey by flying into Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam, where they are welcomed by the Thanda Island team with personalised VIP assistance through immigration.

A luxurious Airbus EC155 B twin-engine helicopter offers a seamless 25-minute transfer directly to the island for up to eight guests.

For an alternative arrival, guests may choose a 30-minute flight aboard a 12-seater fixed-wing aircraft to nearby Mafia Island, followed by either a scenic 30-minute boat crossing or a swift 10-minute helicopter flight to the island.



The Villa

Ocean-Inspired Elegance

The Villa is a refined beachfront sanctuary where laid-back elegance meets immersive luxury. A wraparound deck offers sweeping 180-degree views of the Indian Ocean, while thoughtful interior details include a private aquarium, an intimate library with a curated collection of Ernest Hemingway's works, a climate-controlled gym, a handpicked wine selection, and a glass-rimmed infinity pool that captures the glow of every sunset.

Five expansive en-suite bedrooms each feature king-sized beds, generous lounge areas, and both indoor and outdoor rain showers, all enhanced by cooling air-conditioning. For families travelling with young children, additional beds can be arranged within the suites.

Villa Amenities	
Extra Beds	Yes
Fans	Yes
Airconditioning	Yes
Mosquito Nets	Yes
Outdoor Bath	Yes
Indoor Shower	Yes
In-room Safe	Yes
Laundry	Yes
Wi-Fi	Yes



Main Suite in the Villa



Traditional Tanzanian Banda

Tanzanian Bandas

Authentic Island Charm

In addition to the main villa, the island features two traditional Tanzanian bandas, transforming the retreat into a nine-bedroom sanctuary that welcomes up to 18 guests in total comfort.

Crafted with hand-carved furnishings and artisanal textiles sourced from nearby Mafia Island, one banda is appointed with two king-sized beds, while the other offers a king bed alongside two single beds.

Each en-suite, air-conditioned banda spans 72 square metres, positioned within a gentle stroll of the main villa, and offers a tranquil, private setting with captivating sunrise views.

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Airconditioning	Yes
Mosquito Nets	Yes
Indoor Shower	Yes
In-room Safe	Yes
Laundry	Yes
Wi-Fi	Yes

Dining

Savour the finest coastal cuisine, from delicate sashimi and fragrant prawn curries to freshly grilled lobster and vibrant tropical fruits. Rooted in authentic East African flavours and delivered with impeccable service, each dining experience is tailored by expert chefs to reflect individual tastes and dietary preferences.

Ingredients are thoughtfully sourced, with seasonal produce, rich coconut milk, artisanal muesli, and house-made ice creams selected for both quality and provenance. Guests are invited to join in the joy of pizza-making, using the freshest Italian ingredients.

Every meal becomes a memorable occasion, whether it is an Italian or Arabian-themed evening, a beachside fish barbecue, a traditional Swahili celebration, or a candlelit dinner in the yoga sala. Dining may also be enjoyed in the privacy of the Villa or beneath the open sky.



Sawhilli Night



Beach Picnic

Island Activities

Fitness

Thanda Island offers a harmonious balance of leisure and vitality. Guests are invited to enjoy a variety of on-island experiences, from mindful movement on the open-air yoga platform to energising beach volleyball, tennis matches under the sun, or tailored workouts in the climate-controlled gym.

Wellness

Wellbeing lies at the heart of the island's philosophy. Expert therapists craft personalised treatments designed to restore and revitalise, delivered with care and intuition. Therapies may be enjoyed along the shoreline or within the serene privacy of the suites.



Tennis Court



Spa Treatment



Swimming with Whale Sharks

Marine Adventures

At Thanda Island, guests are granted privileged access to the breathtaking Shungimbili Island Marine Reserve, a haven of vibrant marine life and unspoiled beauty. The surrounding waters invite exploration and exhilaration, with experiences ranging from swimming alongside graceful whale sharks to deep sea fishing, sailing, and sunset cruising.

Days may be spent paddleboarding over crystal-clear shallows, kayaking through tranquil coves, or enjoying the thrill of water skiing, jet skiing, wakeboarding, snorkelling, and tubing.

Swimming with Whale Sharks

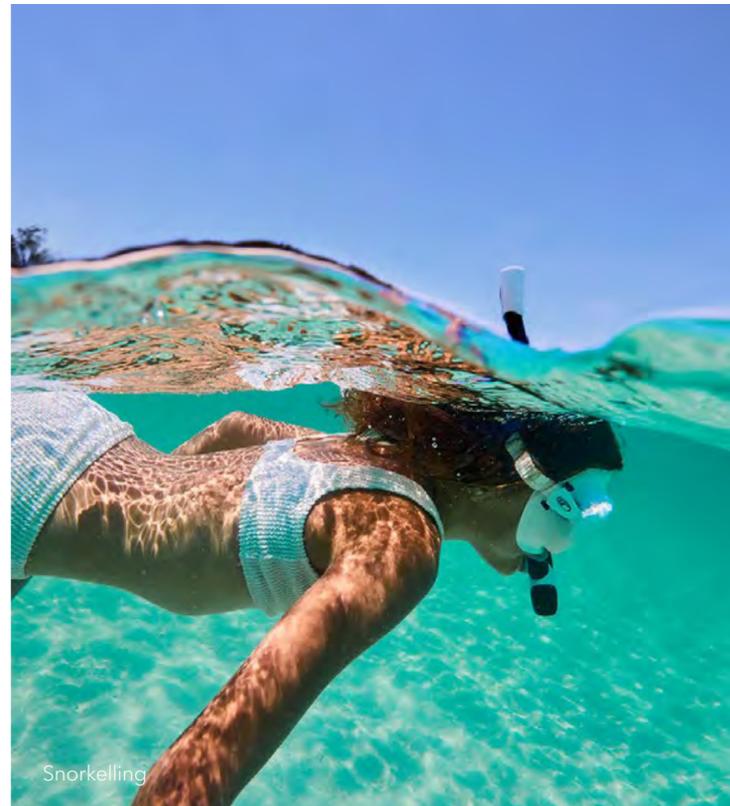
Encountering the whale shark, the ocean's largest fish, is a truly unforgettable experience. These gentle giants, classified as vulnerable, appear around Mafia Island from October to March. Guests may swim alongside them or observe from a luxury adventure vessel guided by an expert captain.

Snorkelling

Guests can step directly into the turquoise waters just beyond the villa to discover an extraordinary underwater world. Guided by a resident snorkelling expert, encounters with sea turtles, trumpet fish, blue-spotted stingrays, and cleaner wrasse are common. This experience is perfect for all ages and skill levels, mere steps from your private retreat.



Snorkelling



Snorkelling

Scuba Diving

Thanda Island partners with Mafia Island Diving, a five-star operator offering exceptional experiences for divers of all levels. Excursions explore the Mafia Island Marine Park, Tanzania's largest protected area, including the vibrant Chole Bay, home to over 400 reef fish species and sea turtles. Reef dives are also available directly from the island's shores.

Cruise the Islands

Exploring Thanda Island and nearby isles aboard a luxurious 45-foot catamaran offers pure indulgence. Equipped with a private cabin, music system, and attentive crew, guests can savour island cuisine and refreshments while discovering marine reserves. Three elegant suites are available for overnight charter with advance notice.

Traditional Arab Dhow

Kasa, meaning Turtle in Swahili, is a traditional East African dhow that has sailed these waters for centuries. Guests may enjoy a romantic sunset sail aboard this elegant vessel, where the gentle sea and warm twilight create an enchanting atmosphere and a deep connection to the region's maritime heritage.

Discover Nearby Islands

Explore Chole Island

The Chole Island Tour offers a community-led journey to the eastern shores of Mafia Island. Guests embark on a scenic one-hour voyage from Thanda Island aboard a traditional East African dhow, immersing themselves in the island's rich heritage and tranquil beauty.

Explore Mafia Island

Mafia Island, the nearest inhabited island to Thanda, invites exploration of its vibrant village communities. Renowned for traditional boat-building, clay pottery, ukili mats, and coconut plantations, it offers an authentic glimpse into local craftsmanship and culture.

Explore Juani Island

Part of the Mafia archipelago, Juani Island boasts a breathtaking natural channel and a serene blue lagoon to the east. Sailing aboard a traditional Arab dhow reveals stunning views of mangrove forests, abundant birdlife, and culminates in refreshing swims within the lagoon's shallow, sandy waters.

Explore Zanzibar Island

Zanzibar, a historic nexus of ancient trade routes, remains a lush spice haven with farms producing cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg, and exotic fruits. Guests may enjoy fragrant spice tours and wander Stone Town's UNESCO-listed streets, famed for its intricate carvings, winding alleys, and rich heritage. A scenic one-hour helicopter or fixed-wing flight provides easy access for day trips or overnight stays.

Explore Dar Es Salaam

Tanzania's bustling port city, Dar es Salaam, is a vibrant blend of African, Arabic, Indian, British, and German influences. Visitors can explore Oyster Bay along the sparkling seafront, home to upscale hotels, fine dining, and a charming beach. Helicopter transfers enable convenient day trips or overnight visits.





Thanda Island Reef

Sustainability

Energy:

The island generates 80 per cent of its power from solar energy, harnessing the sun to provide a sustainable and reliable source of electricity.

Water

Sixty per cent of the island's freshwater is produced on-site through an advanced desalination plant, complemented by rainwater harvesting and environmentally responsible brine disposal.

Waste

Waste management is carried out with great care, including regular beach clean-ups, shipment of recyclables off-island, and composting of organic material to nourish the island's gardens.

Sea Turtle and Whale Shark Conservation

Thanda Island partners with Sea Sense to protect endangered sea turtles by monitoring nesting sites and supporting successful hatchings. The

team also collaborates with the Marine Megafauna Foundation to advance whale shark research and conservation.

Local Employment

Seventy-five per cent of the island's staff hail from the local community, primarily Mafia Island. Comprehensive training in hospitality, conservation, and permaculture fosters skill development and contributes to the region's economic growth.

People and Culture

The local culture is deeply woven into the guest experience, with active support for local artisans, youth education, empowerment initiatives, and collaborative conservation efforts. These endeavours strengthen community bonds and promote sustainability.

*For bookings and further information,
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