

Mombasa, Coast Province, Kenya

Kenya's gateway port blends a 16th-century Portuguese fort, labyrinthine Swahili lanes, and one of East Africa's most ambitious wildlife coastlines — all within a day's reach.

Docked — Kilindini Harbour

Typical call: 8–10 hrs

Kenyan Shilling (USD widely accepted)

Swahili & English

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Mombasa Cruise Terminal, Kilindini Harbour — all cruise lines dock; no tender

Best For: History buffs, safari seekers, beach lovers, Swahili cuisine

Walk to center: 3–4 km to Old Town; taxi or tuk-tuk required

Don't Miss: Fort Jesus (UNESCO), Mombasa Tusks, Haller Park giraffes

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 **Taxi** ✅ KSh 850–1,100 (~\$7–9 USD) · 📱 **Rideshare** ✅ Uber, Bolt

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Fort Jesus & Old Town Walk** — Explore the 1593 Portuguese fortress — a UNESCO World Heritage Site — then wander Mombasa Old Town's carved-door alleyways, Swahili mosques, and...
- Tsavo East National Park Safari** — Full-day drive to Tsavo East for Kenya's iconic red elephants, lions, cheetahs, and Aruba Dam waterhole.
- Haller Park Nature Walk** — A reclaimed limestone quarry in Bamburi turned wildlife sanctuary about 10 km north of the port.
- Wasini Island Dolphin & Snorkel Trip** — Boat south to Kisite Mpunguti Marine Park for dolphin watching and snorkeling over coral reefs, then a Swahili seafood lunch on Wasini Island.
- Mombasa Old Town Spice & Food Tour** — Join a local guide through Marikiti Market, sample Swahili street food like mahamri and samaki wa kupaka, and browse fragrant spice stalls.

BEST WALKS

- Fort Jesus to Old Town** 1–2 km | 1–2 hrs | Easy | History & culture — Start at Fort Jesus on Ndia Kuu Road, explore the fort and its museum, then head north into Old Town's maze of Swahili streets.
- Moi Avenue & the Tusks** 1 km | 30 min | Easy | City landmark — A short stroll along Moi Avenue past the iconic aluminum Mombasa Tusks — built in 1956 to mark Princess (later Queen) Elizabeth's 1952 royal visit and now a city symbol.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		85°	77°	26d
Jun		81°	75°	19d
Aug		80°	73°	21d
Sep		81°	74°	20d
Oct		83°	75°	19d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:21AM–6:21PM · Jun 6:25AM–6:18PM · Aug 6:26AM–6:25PM · Sep 6:14AM–6:18PM · Oct 6:01AM–6:12PM

Kenyan Shilling (USD widely accepted)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- USD is widely accepted in tourist areas, but Kenyan Shillings get better prices at markets. ATMs are available near Old Town and major hotels.
- Agree on taxi fares before you board. Tuk-tuks (bajaj) are cheaper for short hops; Bolt and Uber apps give you metered pricing and are available in Mombasa.
- It's hot and humid year-round — light, breathable clothing is essential. Carry water and sunscreen, especially if you're walking Old Town midday.
- Dress modestly around mosques and Old Town — covered shoulders and knees are respectful and expected. Scarves available from market vendors.
- Safari excursions need an early start. Tsavo East is roughly a 2.5–3 hour drive each way — only viable if your ship arrives before 8 AM. Haller Park is a far easier half-day option.
- Malaria precautions apply — consult your doctor before the trip. Long sleeves at dusk and a repellent are wise on any outdoor excursion.

Mombasa, Coast Province, Kenya — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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|---|--------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | Mamba Village Mombasa | Large crocodile farm with other animals and a restaurant. | 2 | Golden Key Casino | A vibrant casino offering games, entertainment, and dining. |
| 3 | Holy Ghost Cathedral | Historic Roman Catholic cathedral with impressive architecture and stained glass. | 4 | Shree Cutch Satsang Swaminarayan Temple | Beautiful Hindu temple known for its intricate carvings and peaceful atmosphere. |
| 5 | Swahili Cultural Centre | Showcases Swahili history, art, and traditions through exhibits and performances. | 6 | Bombolulu Coast Workshop and Cultural Centre | Workshop and cultural center supporting disabled artisans with crafts. |
| 7 | Haller Park | Rehabilitated quarry now a wildlife sanctuary with giraffes, hippos, and birds. | P | Cruise port / terminal | |