

ATBC + SCB Africa Meeting, Arusha 2011

Organised Fieldtrips

Diving with Whale sharks in the Spice Islands, 17 – 23 June 2011



Description: Which do we describe first: the largest living fish species on Earth or the exotic Spice Islands (Pemba, Zanzibar, and Mafia)? You'll get to experience both on this fieldtrip, that's for sure! Culturally and biologically, on land and deep in the sea, this 7-day trip will leave you

filled with Indian Ocean goodness.

Day One: Traveling day. You'll fly from Zanzibar and catch a connecting flight to Mafia Island where we'll be picked up and drive to Ras Mbisi, our location in Mafia. On **Day Two**, we'll start diving and looking for whale sharks, accommodating different types of diving depending on your comfort level. For those of you who haven't dived in a while, you'll get your refresher course. For those of you who've never dived and want to learn, we'll have a series of classes available upon request. **Day Three and Four** are flexible. You will have an opportunity to dive 1 to 2 times per day, following the sharks and whatever else strikes your fancy. The beaches at Ras Mbisi are gorgeous, and there'll be plenty of time to relax and take in the



Indian Ocean and visit local village communities. **Day Four:** After breakfast, we'll fly to Zanzibar and transfer to the Zanzibar Dolphin View Paradise Hotel on Menai Bay. This is **the bay of 'a thousand dolphins'** and is a good example of sustainable tourism – fishermen who previously butchered dolphins for bait now take tourists to

swim with the dolphins. **Day Five** will be a relaxed day; you can decide to **swim with dolphins** or go snorkeling or diving. It can all be arranged directly with the hotel. On **Day Six** we will switch gears. Zanzibar, once the capital of Oman the producer of spices for the Arab world, is a cultural medley of Bantu and Arab culture and traditions. You'll find out on a **Spice Tour** that will give you a new appreciation of the spices in your kitchen shelf. After the tour, we will be served a delicious meal cooked with the same spices. We will also visit **Jozani Forest**, the last remaining original forest still inhabited by endemic red colobus monkey. If you are up to it, we will also visit the **Zanzibar Land Animal (ZALA) Park**, a unique and successful example of sustainable development and a butterfly farm. **Day Seven** will consist of early departure to the Zanzibar airport to catch the 9.30 am flight to Arusha.

Requirements: You must be a certified diver to do the dives and a good swimmer to do the snorkelling. Diving lessons can be arranged for you in Mafia at an extra cost.

Group size: Flexible

Cost: \$2200 to \$2400 per person depending on group size; includes flights, transport and meals. Does not include cost of diving and snorkeling or cost of refresher and diving courses which can be arranged directly with the hotels we will stay at.

Equipment and preparation: Just bring your sunscreen, swim trunks, and underwater camera.

Book today! Please complete the [Fieldtrip Booking Form](#). Email us with questions: fieldtrips@atbc-scbafrika2011.org

