



Underwater photography course

TANZANIA



9 days

15-23 February 2025

Underwater photographer (Cristian Umili)



The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- The underwater treasures of **Chole Bay**, with colourful nudibranches
- Encountering the mighty **whale sharks**
- **Underwater photography course** in the company of Cristian Umili



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On Mafia Island with Cristian Umili

Discovering Mafia Island and the Indian Ocean, admiring the underwater treasures of Chole Bay, meeting the mighty whale sharks and participating in a 6-day underwater photography course in the company of Cristian Umili.

The course programme is designed so that individual topics can be explored theoretically and then applied later during the dives, all designed for fast and fun learning, while also leaving room for photographing the beautiful island on the emerged side and making emotionally charged encounters.

The dives will be organised for the underwater photographers and their needs, so that they can take their time but also obtain top images.

We will delve into macro photography thanks to the nudibranches we will find on the Mafia seabed, environmental photography thanks to the beautiful coral reef, we will have fun photographing animals hunting at night but above all we will photograph whale sharks.

We will also carve out time to delve into the development of photographs taken using Lightroom and similar programmes, as it is an integral part of the creative process.



Cristian Umili

Born in 1976, underwater photographer since 1990, FIPSAS underwater photography instructor since 2001 and professional photographer since 2004.

He has collaborated with the Milan Aquarium, several diving magazines (Aqva, SubAqva, Sub, Scubazone, Scubashooters, X-Ray mag) and tourism magazines (Partiamo, Viaggiando, Gente Viaggi).

He has also dedicated himself to commercial photography working with diving brands such as Seac Sub, Scubapro, Mares, Cressi Sub.

In 2011, Cristian and his wife Alessia published the handbook "Underwater Photography in Digital" Magenes Edizioni, the result of their experience in digital underwater photography workshops held since 2008. Today they collaborate with leading photo agencies such as Mondadori Portfolio and VWPics.com



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Day 1: Saturday 15 February

Outward flight/Dar es Salaam (DAR)

Flight to Dar es Salaam.

Day 2: Sunday 16 February

Dar es Salaam (DAR)/flight/Mafia (MFA)/Utende

Arrive in Dar es Salaam early in the morning, transfer to the domestic flight terminal, for the Coastal Aviation flight scheduled at 09h00. In the 30 minutes or so that we fly over in a small aircraft, we will have the opportunity to appreciate the contrast between the skyscrapers of Dar es Salaam, the country's economic capital, the deep blue of the Indian Ocean and the green forest scrub dotted with white beaches of MAFIA ISLAND. Meeting with the Butiama Marine Camp staff who will arrange the transfer to the lodge, located on UTENDE beach. On the way, you will enter the marine park area, where fees must be paid (credit card only). Time for a first swim in the crystal-clear waters of Mafia, before lunch at the lodge and check-in to your rooms or tents, depending on your choice. After a well-deserved rest, we start the UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP with a theoretical lesson on preparing underwater photography equipment and tips on maintaining and using flash light with your own equipment. There will also be time to meet the diving staff (inside the lodge), proceed with the formalities and hire the necessary equipment for the following days. Overnight stay in bungalows with private bathrooms or double tents with shared bathrooms.



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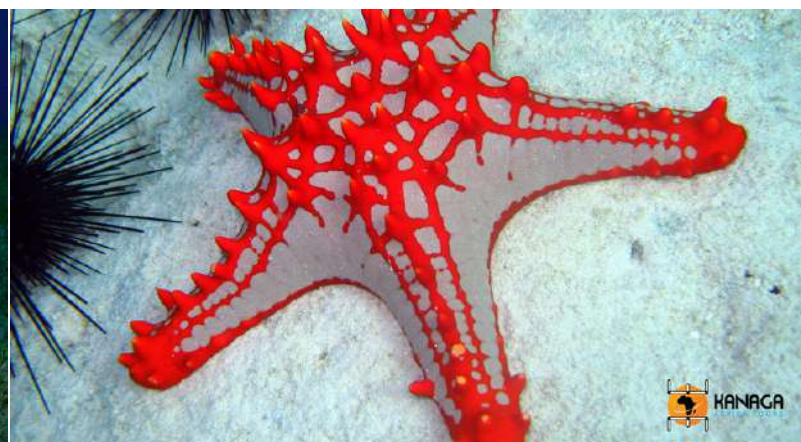
Days 3-7 : from Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February

Utende (Underwater Photography Course)

Five days dedicated to the UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY COURSE, in which two dives per day (10 total dives, including one at night) will be carried out, with de-briefing in the field of underwater photography, advice on how to solve any problems encountered and viewing a selection of the images produced. The following topics will also be covered:

- Macro photography, accessories, lighting and composition;
- Ambient photography, accessories, lighting and composition;
- Night photography, accessories, lighting and composition;
- The development of photographs taken underwater;
- The development of underwater images without flash;
- Snorkelling and apnea photography.

In free time, or for non-diving companions, a number of additional excursions can be organised on site: snorkelling at Chole Bay; a visit to Chole Island (ruins of the sultanate and flying foxes); a visit to Kua Lagoon (snorkelling with harmless cassiopeas); excursions to sandbanks that appear at the rhythm of the tides, where picnics with the freshest fish can be organised; a boat trip outside the bay for whale watching (ideal period between August and October); a visit to Kanga Beach and the hippo pond... PADI courses (Open Water, Advanced Open Water specialities) are also possible. Breakfasts at the lodge, overnight stays at the lodge.



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Day 8: Saturday 22 February

Utende (Whale Sharks)/Mafia (MFA)/flight/Dar es Salaam (DAR)

Breakfast at the lodge. In the morning, transfer to Butiama where we will take a boat out for SNORKELING WITH WHALE SHARKS, the 'gentle giant of the sea' is the largest shark on the planet and at the same time the most harmless. Swimming in the company of these majestic and tame creatures will certainly be an emotion that will be hard to forget. Return to the lodge and lunch (depending on the actual operation of the domestic flight, lunch may be taken at Butiama Lodge). Flight to Dar es Salaam scheduled for the afternoon, on arrival transfer to a hotel near the airport. Overnight stay in double rooms with services.

Day 9: Sunday 23 February

Dar es Salaam (DAR)/Return flight

Early in the morning transfer to the airport in time for your return flight. END OF SERVICES.

** Programme and order of visits may be altered depending on actual Dar es Salaam/Mafia/Dar es Salaam domestic flight operations and sea conditions.*



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Individual participation fee in double room/tent (min. 6/max. 10 pax)

1,690 €/pax

**in promotion at € 1,590
for booking before 15/11/2024**

Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free!**
- Single room/tent: **120 €**
- Utende room supplement: **210 €/pax**
- 10 dives package: **400 €/pax**
- Full equipment hire*: **100 €/pax**
- Extra night in Dar es Salaam: **120 €/room**
- Extra DAR transfer: **30 €/pax/transfer**

* **Excluding computers.**

The fee includes:

- Underwater photographer;
- 1 online lesson on the basics of underwater photography (timing, diaphragms, iso, composition) and 5 lessons in person on Mafia Island;
- Local English-speaking guides/divemasters;
- Visits and excursions as scheduled;
- Admission and activities mentioned;
- All transfers by minibus/car depending on the size of the group, including drivers, diesel and taxes/fees;
- 2 lunches in Mafia;
- 7 nights in a hotel with breakfast.

The fee does not include:

- Tanzania visa (50 USD on arrival);
- Insurance for cancellation, health, luggage;
- International and domestic air flights;
- Entrance fees to the Utende Marine Park (about 20 Euro/pax/day);
- Additional excursions;
- Airport transfers with companies other than the one indicated;
- Possible extra nights in Dar es Salaam;
- All lunches and dinners (except D2 and D8);
- Mineral water and beverages;
- Tips and expenses of a personal nature;
- Everything mentioned in 'supplements';
- Anything not expressly mentioned in 'the fee includes'.