

the
leap

MISSION LEAP

Leap to Kenya

FROM REEF TO VILLAGE TO WILDERNESS



Mission Leap to Kenya

On Kenya's north coast, something special is unfolding. This is a Mission Leap that blends beautiful coastal living with hands-on conservation, where your days are spent alongside Oceans Alive, and your time contributes to something bigger.

You'll be based by the ocean, settling into a rhythm that blends purpose with time to properly relax, working on reef restoration and community projects, then slowing down to enjoy life on the Swahili coast.

As the journey unfolds, the landscape shifts as you head inland to Tsavo East National Park for the final few days, out onto the plains, where elephants roam and the scale of it all brings a completely different perspective.

Behind the scenes, this is one of East Africa's most successful community-led conservation stories. Working with Oceans Alive, Leap teams help restore coral reefs and support coastal communities through practical, hands-on projects, all part of a long-term approach where protecting ecosystems and livelihoods go hand in hand.

This mission continues to evolve, with new teams joining each year.

If you're looking for an experience that contributes as well as inspires, this might be exactly what you've been looking for. Mission Leaps run on selected dates for individuals and couples, and can also be arranged privately for families, friends or corporate teams (minimum 8).

SOUTH SUDAN

ETHIOPIA

UGANDA

SOMALIA

KENYA

TANZANIA

INDIAN OCEAN

Tsavo East National Park

3-Night Safari

Kilifi

Dhow Ride

3

2

Vipingo

Marine Conservation
+ Community Development

1

Mombasa

Arrival / Departure

4



Kenya *Itinerary*

Day 1 Mombasa + Vipingo

Arrival + Transfer

You'll arrive in Mombasa, where the lively buzz of piki pikis and tuk tuks fills the air, and women sell fresh mangoes from wheelbarrows. After a scenic two-hour drive, you'll reach Vipingo, home to Oceans Alive, and settle into your home for next week which will be a stunning private house on the beach.

After a relaxed lunch, swim, and post-flight massage (optional extra) you'll meet Des and Tilda, the passionate founders of Oceans Alive. They'll introduce you to their inspiring work and take you to the protected lagoon, before sundowners and supper back at base.





Kenya *Itinerary*

Day 2 Vipingo

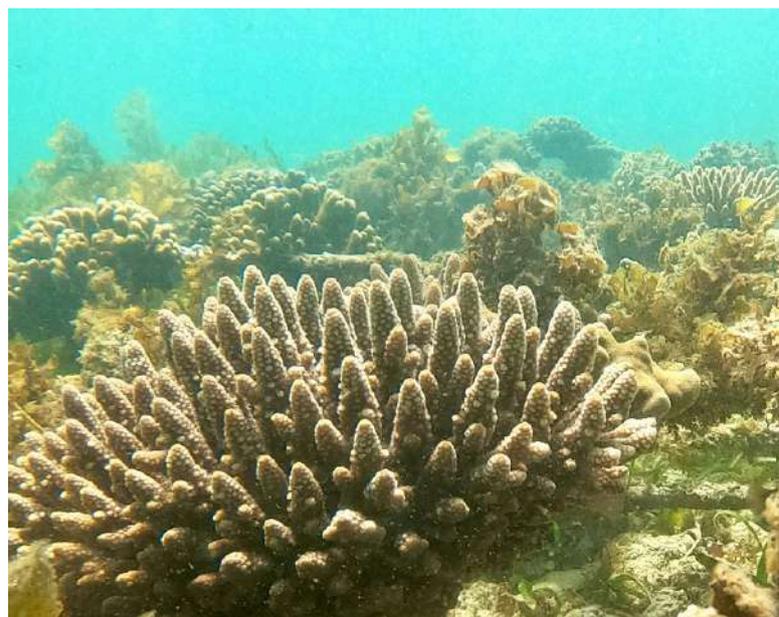
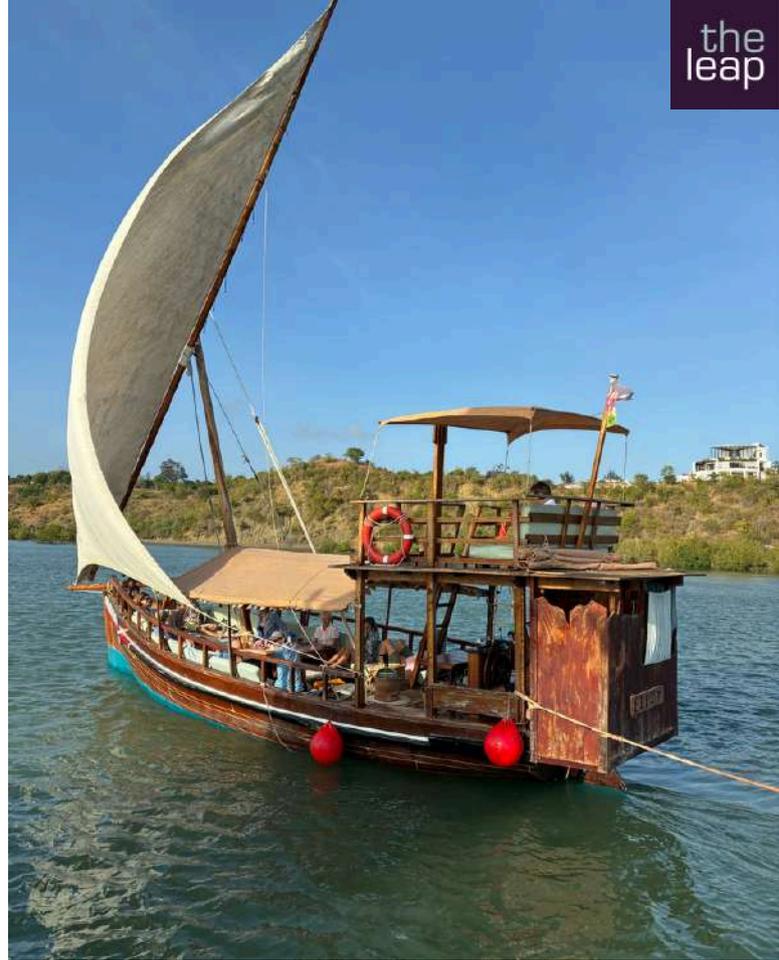
Marine Projects + Permaculture

You'll head over to Oceans Alive to meet Katana (Head of Marine) and dive straight into your first snorkel. You'll swim above vibrant coral beds and hear first-hand about the marine restoration efforts happening beneath the surface.

Marine restoration involves several tasks, with the key ones being coral cleaning, out planting, and building new coral structures. You'll start with coral cleaning, heading into the shallow waters to find the baby coral in the nursery. Armed with a brush, you'll gently clean the coral and, if they're ready, help attach them to artificial reefs, contributing to the growth of a new underwater ecosystem. Lunch back at the house - a perfect break before heading into the afternoon's work.

Next, you'll dive into a permaculture project with the lovely Leah - a crucial initiative for building sustainable food sources. With the fishing ban in place, Oceans Alive has established a community farm where families learn about organic vertical gardening, and water recycling. Working alongside Leah, the project lead, you'll help local families grow their own food, reducing their reliance on the ocean, and creating new income streams. You'll wrap up the day with sundowners and dinner at your house.





Kenya *Itinerary*

Day 3 Vipingo + Kilifi

Marine Projects + Dhow

Back with Katana, for a spot of plug creation. On the beach, you'll get hands-on, crafting small concrete plugs the size of an egg cup, and attaching pieces of broken coral to them. These plugs will be placed in the coral nursery, sparking the restoration of the underwater ecosystem. It's a simple but brilliant way to contribute to the ocean's recovery.

After lunch, you'll head to Kilifi for a magical sunset dhow ride along Kilifi Creek. Set sail on a traditional wooden dhow, gliding through calm waters, surrounded by lush mangroves and the peaceful beauty of the creek.

The gentle breeze and golden light of the setting sun make it the perfect way to unwind.

Along the way, you might spot dolphins and tropical birds swooping by. It's a serene experience that connects you to the natural beauty of the area, leaving you feeling peaceful and inspired before heading to Salties for supper.



Kenya *Itinerary*

Day 4 Vipingo

Marine Projects + Jiko Stoves

Back to the ocean for your third morning of marine work, focusing on creating structures made of concrete and wire. These are built on land and then submerged into the ocean, where new coral plugs will be attached, helping to restore the reef.

Lunch and downtime will be spent at the Vipingo's beach bar, before you dive into the afternoon's community work. In the afternoon, you'll help with an amazing community initiative - building jiko stoves (think mini Agas). These efficient stoves help reduce reliance on fishing by allowing fish to be fried, extending their shelf life, and easing pressure on local reefs.

Unlike traditional open wood fires that contribute to deforestation, jiko stoves use minimal wood, making them more eco-friendly. As you build these stoves, you'll see firsthand how your work is reducing wood consumption and protecting local fish stocks, making a real difference for families and the environment.

Dinner will be back at the house.



Kenya *Itinerary*

Day 5 Vipingo

Marine Project + Water Appreciation Project

You'll head back to the ocean for your final day with Katana, wrapping up any remaining marine tasks before enjoying some peaceful time in the water - your very own underwater safari.

After lunch you'll head back into the community to get involved with the Water Appreciation Project, another unique opportunity to experience village life up close. This project is all about supporting those who struggle to carry heavy water buckets, ensuring they have access to clean water.



It's a simple but impactful task, and one that's deeply appreciated by the community. As you connect with local families and hear their stories, you'll see first-hand how small acts of kindness can create a lasting difference.

Supper will be back at the house.



If I had to say 2 words about this amazing trip it would be
–*Say Yes.*

You'll be so glad you did. This trip is enriching, rewarding
and JOYFUL.

Its such a happy trip from start to finish and I loved every
minute. Milly and her team have a knack of putting people
together, and taking care of them with their expertise and
enthusiasm.

The accommodation both at the beach and Safari was
dreamy. The people we met from all walks of life
inspiring. This is a perfect blend of volunteering, making a
difference, fun, making new friends, and returning back
uplifted. As the saying goes we get back what we put out.
And you'll get it back in spadefuls.

Francesca Edwards Feb 2026



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Kenya *Itinerary*

Day 6 & 7 Vipingo

Church Service + Relaxation

After spending the week immersing yourself in the local community, you'll be invited to join their vibrant Sunday celebrations at the local church. This is a truly special experience, where you'll be welcomed with open arms to sing, dance, and take part in the joyous service. It's a unique opportunity to connect with the heart of the community and share in their traditions and spirit.

Following the service, you'll head back to the beach bar for a laid-back lunch, where you can relax, soak up the sun, and enjoy the tranquil beach atmosphere. It's the perfect way to unwind and reflect on the incredible experiences of the week.

Later, you'll make your way back to the house where you'll celebrate the end of phase one. It'll be a time to toast to all the memories made, the connections forged, and the impact you've had, as you look ahead to the next exciting next chapter of this impactful experience.

The following day is a "wish list day" where you can choose which project you most want to focus on.



Kenya *Itinerary*

Days 8 & 9 Hildana Camp, Tsavo East

Safari + Relaxing

To end your adventure, you'll spend the final two nights at Hildana Camp – a beautiful safari retreat and the perfect place to slow the pace after an extraordinary journey.

Perched above a waterhole with sweeping views across the Tsavo landscape, Hildana blends understated luxury with a deep sense of wilderness. Spacious tents open onto private terraces where wildlife often gathers below, and the sounds of the bush replace the rhythm of everyday life.

Your time here is intentionally unhurried. Early morning game drives, guided walks and time by the pool offer the chance to experience this remarkable ecosystem from a new perspective – led by expert guides who bring the landscape and wildlife to life.

As evening falls, drinks are served as the sky turns gold and the bush begins to stir. Dinners are often enjoyed under the stars, sharing stories and reflecting on everything the mission has revealed – the reefs you helped restore, the communities you worked alongside, and the wild places that make Kenya so extraordinary.

It's a fitting final chapter: two days to breathe, reflect, and absorb the experience before heading home.

Day 10 Return to Mombasa

Fly Home

After your final game drive, Chris will take you to Voi train station, where you'll board the train back to Mombasa for your flight. This journey is another unforgettable experience, as the train winds its way through ever-changing landscapes, offering you a unique view of Kenya's stunning countryside.



My trip exceeded every one of my high expectations and I spent the most memorable time away with a wonderful group of like minded souls.

From the very start, the warm and friendly zoom call to provide more detailed information was a great idea, the fabulous staff that worked with us from Oceans Alive, and Tilda and Des were truly inspirational. As were the wonderful people we met in the villages and I will never forget dancing in the church.

The accommodation and food exceeded my expectations and there were truly so many WOW moments, there is not enough time to list them. I think the endorsement is that I would like to replicate this trip with my family and there is not a single thing I would change about the trip. Thank you Milly, it was a leap of faith on my part, but you went over and beyond, to provide us with a magical and unforgettable trip of a lifetime.”

Jane Rumsey Feb 2026

Kenya *Staying & Food*

Private House, Vipingo Beach

You'll stay in a super stylish private beachside house in Vipingo, just north of Mombasa and a short hop from Kilifi - there are many to choose from and the one we choose will depend on the configuration of the group - expect to be in twin or double rooms.

Hildana Camp, Tsavo East

A spot of luxury in the bush - so you finish off your adventure in style.

<https://www.thehildanalodge.com/>

Meals

All meals are provided in your private house and on safari - however if you eat out that will be extra,



Project *Background*



We're proud to work alongside Oceans Alive, an award-winning community initiative founded by Tilda and Des Bowden. Their vision was to create positive environmental, economic, and socio-cultural change in the Kuruwitu area. You'll be working directly with Tilda, one of the driving forces behind the project, and will benefit from her boundless enthusiasm and deep experience. In response to rapidly declining fish stocks in the Kuruwitu Lagoon, Tilda and Des established Kenya's first Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA).

Their groundbreaking work has not only helped restore the lagoon's health but has also provided the community with alternative livelihoods, reducing their dependence on overfishing. Oceans Alive's success has gained international recognition, with King Charles visiting last year and becoming a passionate supporter of the initiative.

By working with Oceans Alive, you'll dive into a unique blend of marine, environmental, and community development projects - all interconnected to create lasting positive change in this stunning coastal region.

<https://www.oceansalive.org/>

Kenya *Costs* 2027

2027 - £3950 (10-DAYS)

INCLUDED:

- All volunteering project materials
- Transport throughout
- Accommodation as described
- Food in your private house and on safari
- Entrance fees to National Park
- Pre-departure briefing
- Leap T-shirt
- Safety and induction course on arrival
- Airport pick-up and return transfers for team flight

NOT INCLUDED:

- International and internal flights
- Train ticket to Nariobi
- ETA
- Travel insurance
- Soft drinks and alcoholic drinks etc
- Laundry fees
- Private transfers to and from the airport if you do not arrive on the main team flight
- FYI meals away from the house are extra
- Optional massages available

See our website for dates & availability, or contact us if you'd like to discuss a bespoke trip for you and your family, friends, or corporate team.

INFO@THELEAP.CO.UK - 01672 519922

Kenya *Nitty Gritty*

What to Pack?

Clothes

Consider the climate when packing; it's hot and often humid. Pack lightweight and cool clothes. On safari it can get chilly at night, so you'll need a light fleece and cotton trousers. Laundry is included at Bahari Hai.

- Sports tops and shorts are what you'll spend most of the time in.
- T-shirts - long and short sleeves
- Swimsuits - you wear these every day so bring lots.
- Sun hat
- UV sun rash vest - essential for snorkelling
- Feel good clothes for the evenings
- Reef shoes - essential
- Flip-flops / sliders / crocs
- 1 pair of casual summer shoes for wandering about / going out
- 1 pair of trainers for cycle / safari



Kenya *Nitty Gritty*

What to Pack?

Equipment

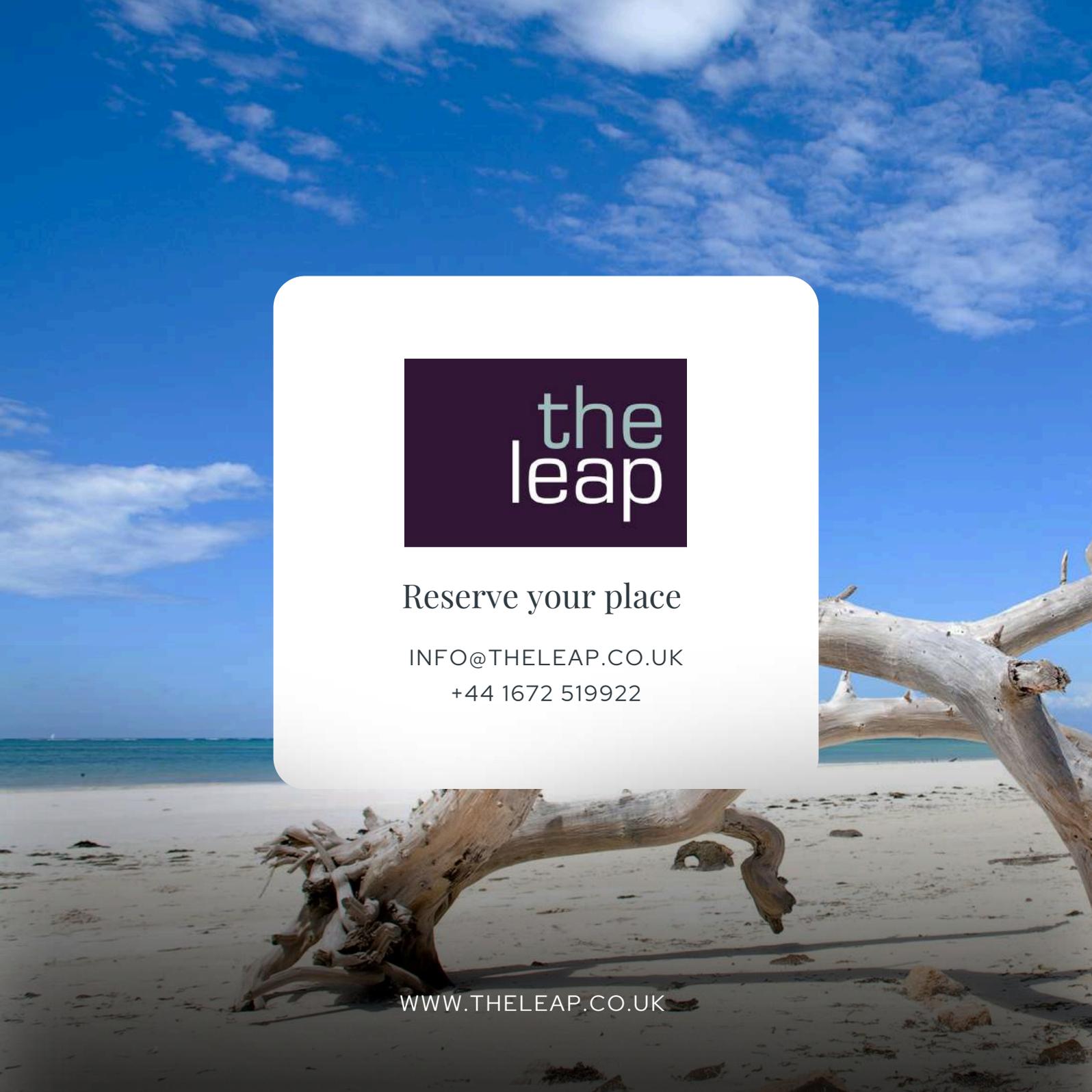
- Reusable metal water bottles
- Head torch
- 2 x towels (quick drying microfibre ones are best)
- Day rucksack
- Your main bag **MUST** be a rucksack or soft duffel bag - no rigid suitcases
- UK plug adapter - only for USA and EU leapers.
- Sunglasses
- 1 pair of working gloves - a pair of sturdy gardening gloves will be perfect
- Snorkel and mask **ESSENTIAL**. Please consider leaving these behind so they can be donated to Oceans Alive.
- Portable phone charger
- A hardback notebook and pens/pencil

Toiletries & Medical

- Basic everyday toiletries
- Sun cream factor 50 REEF FRIENDLY ONLY PLEASE
- Insect repellent - Jungle formula works best
- Solid shampoo bars (avoid plastic where possible)
- After sun
- Hand sanitiser
- Antibacterial spray/cream for open wounds.
- Rehydration powders
- Savlon
- Antihistamines
- Immodium
- Personal Medication: Bring extra supplies, know the generic names of your medication, and ensure you can manage allergies (e.g. carry an epipen if necessary)

A man in an orange t-shirt and a dark hat stands on a sandy beach, looking out at the ocean. He is holding a black bicycle with a bright yellow cooler on the back. The ocean is blue with white waves breaking on the shore. The sky is clear and blue.

“The planning that you and your team put into the trip made it so special. Your dedication and hard work, together with your amazing team made the trip most memorable.”



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Reserve your place

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