

You'll see local people who live around Kilwa Kisiwani today. For them, the most special ruins are the mosques and the graveyards. They are holy places for prayer and ritual.

The entire site is used for education. Primary school kids are taught their history by reflecting on their attachments to the ruins.

The community also entertains guests and relatives, touring them around as with visitors like you.



Remember that the residents of Kilwa Kisiwani value this site as their home. When you visit the area, please treat it with care.

- Say hello to the locals whenever you see them. "Shikamoo!" for elders. "Mambo!" for juniors.
- Dress to show your respect all the time. Cover your shoulders and legs.
- During Ramadan, the fasting season, ask your tour guide for a private place to eat.
- People are buried here. Please don't step on their graves.
- Keep the site clean!

### What you need to know before your visit

- Get your permit to visit the site at the Antiquities Office near the harbor.
- You can buy snacks and drinks in the village. Ask your tour guide to arrange a local meal.
- Find the toilets near the Makutani Palace or Husuni Kubwa.
- Feel free to photograph the ruins but ask before photographing people.
- Watch your step. The trails can be uneven.



### Thanks to



### Special thanks to

Antiquities Division of Tanzania  
Kilwa Islands Tours  
Village Ruins Committee and community of  
Kilwa Kisiwani

## Kilwa Kisiwani UNESCO World Heritage Site

Welcome to this ancient Swahili trading city and the most famous port along the East African coast. It flourished between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, but has been occupied since the 9<sup>th</sup>.



Kilwa Kisiwani contains fascinating standing ruins built of coral and lime mortar like

- Great Mosque, roofed with unique domes decorated with Persian bowls.
- Husuni Kubwa, a 14<sup>th</sup> century palace with a large 8-sided pool.
- Makutani Palace, the grand home of an 18<sup>th</sup> century sultan, surrounded by a massive wall and built on the proceeds of the slave trade.
- Portuguese Fort, used to house 12 men who from 1505 controlled trade through Kilwa. Later expanded by the Omanis.
- Malindi Mosque, linked to a prominent coastal Kenyan family. Their graveyard is right outside.
- Residential homes, like the House of the Mosque, with its own little mosque inside!

# Kilwa Kisiwani



Mosque



Trail Entrance



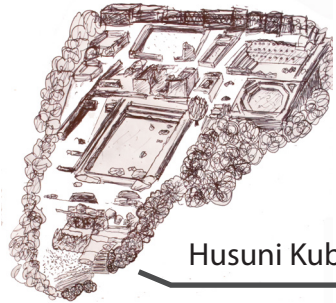
Walking Trail



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Jetty



Husuni Kubwa (Palace)

Can you find a set of low walls in the shape of an octagon? It's a pool! How nice would a cool swim feel right now?



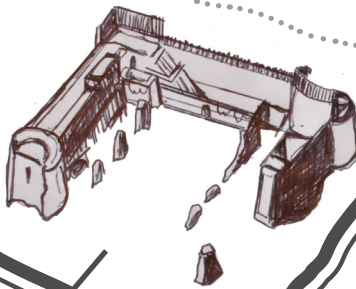
Graveyard

The tombs and graves here are still important to the local people, and they ask you kindly not step on them. Watch where you walk!



Gereza (Portuguese Fort)

Stone was expensive and hard to move. Coral of different types, taken from the sea, was easier to use. Can you find coral shaped like a fan, like a brain, or like a little tree?



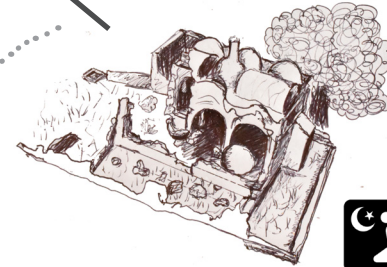
Village

The people of Kilwa Kisiwani would like to meet you. Visit the village to say hello, and to buy water.



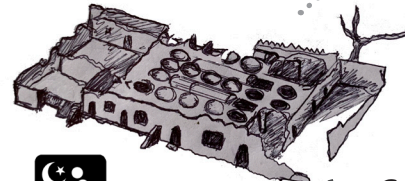
Small Domed Mosque

Look up! Beautiful ceramic bowls can be found in the dome ceilings. Which one is your favorite?



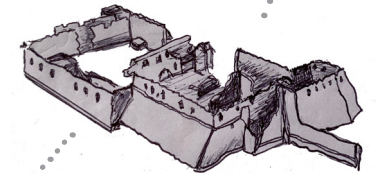
Great Mosque

Are your feet tired? Are they dirty? Look for the big piece of coral near the door. It was used to clean feet before going inside.



Great Mosque

Don't trip over the tracks! As you get to the Great Mosque, look for the remains of the carts and tracks used by archaeologists in the past to move dirt.



Makutani Palace

Keeping buildings from the 1400s looking this nice is a lot of hard work. Today, people take coral from the sea, burn the coral to get lime, and soak it to remove salt. They mix it into a paste that goes on the walls to keep them strong.

