

Tanzania Marine Conservation N.G.O. Internship

Dive in crystal clear waters to research and protect pristine coastal ecosystems on a Frontier-Tanzania marine conservation internship.

Tanzania's coast is home to some of the most spectacular diving in the world. The crystal clear waters host a wealth of marine habitats and wildlife, making this a perfect location to scuba dive and explore this pristine and magical underwater world.

The vivid, multi hued coral reefs support a dazzling array of tropical reef fish and provide rich feeding grounds for turtles, rays and other marine creatures, whilst the deep blue offshore waters support sharks, dolphins and whale sharks as well as vast shoals of cruising pelagics.

Dive and snorkel to explore this pristine seascape and you'll discover and chart extensive areas of undamaged coral, find healthy populations of multicoloured fish, see turtles and marine mammals and learn to recognise a huge diversity of inter tidal animals from tiny hermit crabs to pastel hued anemones.

On shore apart from relaxing on the island's perfect, undeveloped beaches, you may have the chance to work in the lush mangrove forests, unique ecosystems which straddle water and land. You'll learn about the activities of the traditional fishermen as well as discovering and reporting which marine organisms are being sustainably harvested and which are being dangerously depleted.

The work you carry out will be rewarding and exciting, and hugely beneficial to Marine Park's conservation efforts, as well as being amazing fun! At the end of the day you will gain immense satisfaction from knowing that you have helped to save this precious marine wilderness, protecting it for future generations.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Help to monitor & conserve coral reefs and observe rare African marine wildlife
- Work on data from some of the world's best dive sites
- Extend your experience of tropical marine and coastal zone conservation field work

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- CV required
- Minimum 2 month placement
- Relevant academic qualifications to at least degree level

- Some experience of coastal zone or marine field work
- Diving - you may be able to dive train on the project prior to your internship

FAST FACTS

Location	Mafia Island, Tanzania
Activities	<p>Dive and snorkel to locate & map coral reefs</p> <p>Dive and snorkel to study the various coral reef communities</p> <p>Discover & record living organisms</p> <p>Dive and snorkel to do underwater visual census of reef & commercial fish</p> <p>Assess algal & coral reef cover to determine the extent of coral bleaching & damage</p> <p>Line intercept transects for benthic life & indicator invertebrate species</p> <p>Record observations of the feeding habits & behaviour patterns of a range of marine life</p> <p>Study the impact of dynamite fishing on the corals reefs</p> <p>Report the effects of global warming on marine communities</p> <p>Observe the impact of the marine curio trade on endangered marine invertebrates</p>
Transport	<p>Airport pickup on Mafia Island</p> <p>Light aircraft flight to project site on the island (extra cost applies)</p> <p>Alternative start dates possible, please speak to an adviser</p>
Accommodation	Communal camp near to the beach

WHAT DOES THE PROJECT DO?

Migrating Humpback Whales & Whale Sharks

Mafia Island is about as close as you can get to the quintessential Indian Ocean tropical paradise. The tiny island of about 40,000 is a friendly, laid-back place that has long been praised as a diver and sea angler's paradise.

Mafia's luxuriant mangroves, luminous sea grass beds and dazzling coral reefs play host to a multitude of tropical reef fish, thorny and spotted seahorses and four species of graceful and gentle sea turtles. Offshore there are dolphins and manta rays, and the deeper waters are a regular stop-off for migrating humpback whales and giant whale sharks. You can experience all this when you join the Frontier beach-camp on Mafia Island and learn to dive in the crystal clear, immaculate waters of Tanzania's exclusive Marine Park.

Dynamite Fishing Damaging Coral

Threats to the coastal environment on and around Mafia Island are on the up as unregulated tourism is on the increase and the level of the local population is rising. Increasing competition for food means that artisanal fishing techniques such as seine-netting become inadequate and inefficient,

encouraging use of less discriminate catch practices such as dynamite fishing. Other threats include the over-harvesting of shark fins, octopus and sea cucumbers and the over-collecting of shells and corals for the expanding marine curio trade.

Swim with Dolphins, Rays & Turtles

Your underwater exploration will involve you in mapping the incredible biodiversity of the coastal area and marine habitats. While diving you will locate and record spectacular coral reefs and survey dazzling reef fish, observe marine mammals and turtles, and examine the effects of dynamite fishing and global warming on the coral reefs.

Discover Swahili Culture

Sailing out on the traditional Frontier dhows you will dive from the boat and discover what it is like to sail on a traditional Tanzanian fishing vessel. Through participating in environmental awareness raising in local schools and community activities, you will experience the cultures and lifestyles of local peoples.

WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

The marine research and conservation programme is run in association with the Mafia Island Marine Park. The project provides the local communities and government bodies with the information they need to sustainably manage this priceless marine ecosystem preserving it for future generations. To gather the data needed you will dive, locate and map the extensive coral reefs and study the various communities existing on them.

You will also explore and record the living organisms that inhabit the luxuriant mangrove forests, dense sea grass beds and productive inter-tidals in the area. To do this you will use a wide range of newly learned research skills and scientific techniques including: underwater visual census of reef and commercial fish such as trigger fish and parrot fish, assessment of algal and coral cover to determine the extent of coral bleaching and damage, and line intercept transects for benthic life and indicator invertebrate species such as nudibranchs. You will observe the feeding habits and behaviour patterns of a range of marine life. You may even get to study the impact of dynamite fishing on the corals reefs, report the effects of global warming on marine communities or observe the impact of the marine-curio trade on endangered marine invertebrates.

Whilst diving, you'll see an extraordinary array of animals from turtles to sea cucumbers to feathery starfish, and spiny urchins to octopus. When you sail out each day on the Frontier sailing dhow to distant dive sites you may even be accompanied by dolphins or encounter gigantic Whale Sharks. By the end of your project you will be expert at identifying hundreds of coloured and patterned reef fish as well as being an experienced and competent diver. Although the work is intense and challenging you'll get immense satisfaction from having survived and from having made a valuable contribution to the conservation of this untarnished marine wilderness. You will return home with the new friends you've made and a wealth of incredible memories.

You'll find your team to be a fun, dynamic mix of ages and experiences, with members who all share a passion about travelling in developing countries and saving endangered marine life. Your staff will be young, friendly individuals who are highly experienced in their field and many have also volunteered on a Frontier project earlier in their career.

For further information about Frontier marine conservation work see the publications section of this website.

DIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Check out our video on [Frontier Gap Year TV](#) from Frontier-Tanzania, showing you our volunteers diving.

Your co workers will be committed, energetic and dynamic with a mix of ages and experiences, they will all share a passion for travelling in developing countries and working in marine wildlife conservation. Your staff colleagues will be young, friendly individuals who are highly experienced in their research field and may have started their careers as Frontier volunteers.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ARRIVE?

You will be welcomed onto camp on Mafia Island by the Frontier team and introduced to the Frontier Tanzania Marine research and conservation program. You will meet staff, receive initial project briefings, including an introduction to the work program and to the field research techniques used, as well as being given health and safety lectures, so make sure your medical kit is complete and start reading your Safety and Medical Guides now.

It is possible to reach Mafia by ferry but sailing times can be very unpredictable, the journey might be rough and it can be tricky with no knowledge of Swahili. If you choose to travel by road and ferry you need to transfer to the port town of Nyamasati, 90 km south of Dar from where you can catch the ferry (approximately a 6-hour trip) to the town of Kilindoni on the western side of Mafia Island. Once on the island you will be met by the Frontier marine field staff, either at the small harbour town of Kilindoni or at the airport on Mafia and transferred by boat or vehicle to the project camp site.

WHERE WILL I BE STAYING?

You will be living on our marine camp at Utende on the east coast of Mafia Island. You will have an authentic and memorable living experience. The Frontier marine camp was constructed by local craftsmen, using traditional building techniques and local materials.

Camp life is very simple, unsophisticated and fun. You will be staying in communal bandas; huts made from makuti (woven palm leaves), poles and mud, sleeping on beds constructed from wooden poles, your "shower" will be a jug or a bucket of water and you cook over an open campfire: so prepare for the basic, unencumbered lifestyle! On occasions you may stay in a "satellite camp", usually a mosquito net pitched on a beach.

As well as the diving and marine conservation work you may help with the community outreach and environmental awareness work in the local villages, scientific data entry and daily camp maintenance, taking turns to cook, tidy and clean the camp, rinse dive kit, collect water, and help with a wide variety of other essential camp duties.

WHAT WILL I BE EATING?

Camp food is simple and nutritious and consists largely of rice, vegetables, beans, all of which are purchased locally in order to help support the local economy. Luxuries such as chocolate, biscuits, peanut butter and drinking chocolate can be bought in nearby Kilindoni, so make sure you stock up before heading to camp! Part of your role on camp will be to help with the cooking, so get your cookbooks out now and start practising! Also, with luck you'll be invited to local parties and festivals – a great way to integrate with the local communities in the nearby villages and absorb the local

culture.

COSTS

8 weeks	€ 2.595
12 weeks	€ 3.645
20 weeks	€ 5.395
extra week	€ 345

PADI Open Water and Advanced Open Water training 1.114 EUR PADI Advanced Open Water training 493 EUR (at least PADI Advanced Open Water training necessary for marine surveying)

DEPARTURE DATES

First and third Monday of month

DURATION

You can join this project for a minimum of 2 months

WHAT'S INCLUDED

before you go

- Pre-departure support
- Travel & medical advice & documentation
- Equipment advice
- Discounted medical kit
- Free Frontier t-shirt
- UK residential briefing weekend including food, accommodation and training (extra cost applies)

in-country

- Airport pickup in Dar es Salaam and transfer to hostel (extra cost 18 EUR/\$20)
- First night hostel accommodation in Dar es Salaam (extra cost 18 EUR/\$20)
- Transfer to airport for connecting flight to the island (extra cost 18 EUR/\$20)
- Airport pick up from Mafia Island Airport and transfer to Frontier camp (extra cost 5 EUR/\$6)
- Camp accommodation near beach
- 3 meals per day provided on project site, 6 days per week. 2 meals provided on Sunday
- Local orientation
- Project training
- Dive training courses run monthly starting on the first Monday of the month. Dive training to PADI Open Water or PADI Advanced Open Water (depending on the duration of your stay) price includes PIC cards, PADI membership and use of Frontier project equipment and diving equipment, including tanks, regs, BCDs, weights, compressor etc

- Discounted further dive courses: PADI Emergency First Response (176 EUR), PADI Rescue Diver (473 EUR), and PADI Divemaster (1.013 EUR) qualifications
- FREE use of Frontier project dive equipment, including tanks, BCDs, regs, weights, compressor
- 24-hour in-country & international HQ emergency support & back-up
- Accommodation upgrades available in local lodge (extra cost applies)

AIRPORT INFORMATION

Nearest airport(s): Dar es Salaam (DAR), Mafia Island (MFA)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Call us on 020 7613 2422 (UK) / 1 949 336 8178 (US)

Mail us on info@frontier.ac.uk

Check out our social media here:

Project details were correct at the time this document was generated. Price, dates and other details are subject to change. Please see our website for current details for this project.