

ACCOMMODATION PARTNER • OC LIFE COLLECTION

DOLPHIN GALU BEACH HOUSE

Galu Beach, Diani, South Coast, Kenya

Overview & Ownership

Dolphin Galu Beach House is a private exclusive-use beachfront villa on Galu Beach one of three exceptional properties that together form the OC Life Collection, a curated portfolio of luxury Kenyan escapes established and managed by a team of passionate Kenya-based hospitality professionals. The Collection includes Dolphin, Babylon, and Jahazi Beach Houses on Galu Beach, as well as Camp Acacia in Naivasha each property sharing the same foundational philosophy: the warmth and personality of a private home, delivered with the standards and service of a luxury hotel.

Dolphin’s story begins as a private residential beach house a family home on one of Kenya’s finest stretches of coast. It has since evolved, with considerable care and investment, into a serene and beautifully managed oceanfront escape that welcomes guests from across the world. What has not changed is the quality that defines it above all else: it feels like someone’s home. Not a resort, not a hotel, not a collection of serviced units but a real, warm, beautifully furnished house that happens to sit on one of the finest beachfront plots on the entire East African coast.

The OC Life Collection is bookable exclusively on a whole-villa basis meaning that when your group books Dolphin, the entire property, its staff, its pool, and its beach is yours. No other guests, no shared spaces, no strangers at breakfast. This is the defining luxury of the private villa model: absolute exclusivity at a price that, divided among a group of friends or family, represents exceptional value relative to the finest hotels in the area.

DETAIL	DOLPHIN GALU BEACH HOUSE AT A GLANCE
Property Type	Exclusive-use private beachfront villa
Collection	OC Life • Three beach houses on Galu Beach + Camp Acacia Naivasha
Booking Model	Whole-villa exclusive use only • no shared accommodation
Location	Galu Beach, Diani • Ukunda, Kwale County, Kenya
Beach Access	Direct private beach access • 2-minute walk from villa
Airstrip	Ukunda Airstrip • 10-minute drive
Contact	dream@oc-life.com • @dolphinhousegalubeach on Instagram

Setting & Design

The house sits within a generous, landscaped compound of emerald lawns, exotic trees, and shady palms a lush green frame for the sapphire Indian Ocean beyond. The compound benefits from an abundance of natural light and enjoys direct views of the ocean and the manicured gardens from virtually every room and outdoor space. The interior design language is coastal elegance: cool tones and coastal accents, whitewashed wood touches, natural stone, cooling floors, and a palette drawn from the sea and sand immediately outside.

The overall atmosphere is one of effortless, unhurried beauty. There is nothing over-decorated or performatively luxurious about Dolphin the luxury is in the space, the light, the quality of the materials, and the extraordinary natural setting. Balconies and verandahs open to unobstructed sights of nature. The pool area is furnished as the ultimate outdoor living room. And the beach a mere two-minute walk across the soft lawn provides the defining context for everything.

The Rooms

Dolphin Galu Beach House features five en-suite bedrooms, accommodating up to 12 guests in comfort — making it ideal for large family gatherings, friend groups, corporate retreats, or multi-family holidays. Each bedroom has been individually designed and decorated, sharing the house’s characteristic palette of coastal elegance while offering its own distinct character and views.

THE GRAND MASTER SUITE

The house’s finest bedroom and its most romantic space. A king-sized bed dressed in crisp white linen faces windows that frame the infinite Indian Ocean in every shade of blue. The atmosphere is one that suggests romance and bonding in equal measure the light shifting from dawn gold to noon turquoise to evening violet across the water beyond the glass.

THE MASTER ROOM

Tailored for couples, the Master Room features a luxuriously outfitted double bed with the same coastal design language as the Grand Master. En-suite bathroom with quality fittings.

THE FAMILY ROOM

Purpose-designed for families travelling with children. A solid-wood bunk bed and two single beds provide sleeping for up to four, with the same light, airy design as the rest of the house. The Family Room is where children will feel immediately at home and have genuine adventures.

THE GUEST ROOM

Bursting with natural light and a soothing blue view of the ocean, the Guest Room comfortably accommodates two guests in queen-sized beds. A bright, generous space with the same quality finishes throughout.

THE GARDEN ROOM

Decorated in cool sea blues and whites, the Garden Room features a queen bed whose double doors open directly onto a soothing view of exotic trees and lush manicured lawn. A serene, private space with its own distinctive garden outlook.

Culinary Experience & Dining

The culinary experience at Dolphin Galu Beach House is one of the most compelling reasons to choose the private villa model over a conventional hotel. The property's resident chef — an experienced culinary professional with deep knowledge of both Swahili coastal cooking and contemporary international cuisine is your personal kitchen, available for every meal of the day from the moment of arrival to the moment of departure.

THE RESIDENT CHEF

Guests are invited to discuss their culinary preferences, dietary requirements, and meal wishes with the chef on arrival. The kitchen at Dolphin is fully equipped to a modern professional standard — light woods, quality appliances, generous counter space — and the chef works exclusively for your group throughout your stay. From leisurely breakfasts of tropical fruit, fresh-baked goods, and eggs prepared to order, to lunch served poolside with the ocean as backdrop, to dinner menus that range from fresh Swahili seafood to international comfort food, the standard is consistently high and the personalisation absolute.

AL FRESCO DINING

The house's al fresco dining area — open to sea and garden views, designed for the communal pleasures of shared meals — is the social heart of the property. This is where the group gathers: for hearty breakfasts before a morning on the water, for lunches that drift lazily through the afternoon, for dinners lit by the stars and the sound of the Indian Ocean. The breezy, open-air setting transforms every meal into an event, however casual the mood.

THE DOLPHIN BOMA — BBQ AREA

A poolside barbecue area with plush towels, lounge chairs, drinks, and the irresistible aromas of Kenya's finest choma tradition. A classic Kenyan barbecue at the Dolphin Boma — fresh seafood, marinated meats, cold Tusker on ice, and the sound of the sea — is one of the coast's great informal pleasures.

SELF-CATERING OPTION

The modern, fully equipped kitchen is also available to guests who wish to cook for themselves, shop locally at the Diani markets, or try their hand at Swahili coastal cuisine. The caretaker team can arrange shopping trips to local markets on request.

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

All dietary requirements — vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, halal, specific allergies — are accommodated with care and advance notice. Guests should advise Vard Africa of requirements at the time of booking.

Facilities & Amenities

- Private swimming pool — crystal-blue, designed for relaxing; generous sun deck with lounge beds and parasols. Seaside views that will comprehensively distract you from your lengths
- Children's paddling pool — warm, shallow, and safe; lined at one end of the main pool for families
- Private direct beach access — 2-minute walk across the lawn to the private beachfront on Galu Beach
- Al fresco dining area — open to sea and garden views; the social heart of every Dolphin stay
- Dolphin Boma BBQ area — poolside grilling station with lounge seating; the ideal setting for the Kenyan choma experience
- Fully equipped modern kitchen — for the resident chef or self-catering guests
- High-speed Wi-Fi throughout — including garden and pool areas
- Air conditioning — in all bedrooms and living areas
- Ceiling fans — in all rooms for natural coastal ventilation
- Work desks — available for guests who need to stay connected
- Massage services — in-villa spa treatments can be arranged on request
- Private parking — secure, enclosed compound
- Landscaped gardens — manicured lawns, exotic trees, shady palms; an extraordinary natural setting

Staff & Service

A full complement of professional house staff is included in every booking at Dolphin Galu Beach House, operating to the standards of the finest boutique hospitality while maintaining the warmth and personality of a family home. The caretaker and house team are knowledgeable, attentive, and committed to ensuring every guest's stay is genuinely memorable.

The resident chef is on duty for all meals and takes personal pride in delivering excellent food from fresh, locally sourced ingredients. The caretaker team can arrange local transport, shopping, activity bookings, and any additional requirements throughout the stay. Guests report consistently that the staff are among the warmest and most genuinely hospitable of any property in Diani.

Activities & Excursions

Dolphin Galu Beach House's location on Galu Beach provides immediate access to the full range of Diani's water sports and beach activities, as well as easy access to the major excursions and cultural experiences described throughout this guide.

- Beach and water sports — all operators on the Diani strip readily accessible by tuk-tuk or villa vehicle; snorkelling, kayaking, and paddleboarding from the beach immediately in front of the villa
- Tidal pool exploration — Galu's low-tide tidal pools are directly in front of the property; exceptional natural aquarium accessible with reef shoes
- Wasini Island & Kisite Marine Park full-day dhow excursion — arranged through villa caretaker team

- Shimba Hills game drive — half or full day; arranged on request
- Colobus Conservation Centre eco-tour — 20 minutes north by tuk-tuk
- Kaya Kinondo Sacred Forest guided walk — 10 minutes by vehicle
- Sunset dhow cruise — bookable through villa caretaker team; one of the coast's finest experiences
- Ali Barbour's Cave Restaurant dinner — free transfers available from all Diani properties
- Mombasa Fort Jesus & Old Town half-day cultural excursion — approximately 45 minutes by road
- In-villa spa treatments — massage, beauty treatments; arranged through caretaker team on request

Dolphin Galu Beach House — Quick Reference

DETAIL	DOLPHIN GALU BEACH HOUSE
Property Type	Exclusive-use private beachfront villa
Bedrooms	5 en-suite bedrooms • Grand Master • Master • Family Room • Guest Room • Garden Room
Capacity	Up to 12 guests
Booking	Whole-villa exclusive use only
Beach	Direct access to Galu Beach • 2-minute walk across the lawn
Pool	Private pool + children's paddling pool • sundeck with lounge beds
Dining	Resident chef for all meals • al fresco dining area • poolside BBQ (Dolphin Boma)
Included	Full-time house staff and caretaker team • resident chef • Wi-Fi • air conditioning
Check-in / Out	Check-in from 14:00 • Check-out by 10:00
Best For	Families • Friend groups • Couples seeking private villa • Honeymoons • Corporate retreats
Nearest Airstrip	Ukunda / Diani Airstrip • 10 minutes by road

★ VARD INSIDER — DOLPHIN GALU BEACH HOUSE

- Book the Grand Master Suite for honeymooners or the most senior guest in the group; the ocean view from that room at dawn is one of the finest you will find on the East African coast
- The Family Room makes Dolphin an outstanding choice for multi-family bookings with children; the bunk bed and additional singles mean kids have their own proper adventure zone
- Request a traditional Kenyan choma evening at the Dolphin Boma on your first or second night — fresh fish from the market that day, local beers, the pool, the stars, and the sound of the ocean; there is no better welcome to the coast
- The chef can be briefed in advance through Vard Africa; sending dietary requirements and meal preferences before arrival means your first breakfast is already personalised
- Galu Beach's tidal pools are directly in front of the villa — bring reef shoes and explore at low tide; the marine life is extraordinary and requires no boat or operator
- Arrange the Wasini Island dhow excursion for Day 2 or 3 of your stay; the Kisite reef snorkelling is consistently described by guests as a highlight of their entire Kenya journey
- The villa's caretaker can arrange local tuk-tuks on standby throughout the day; the independence of the villa model combined with easy local transport gives guests genuine flexibility
- Ali Barbour's Cave Restaurant offers free pick-up from all Diani properties; book a table for one evening and confirm the transfer with the caretaker team on arrival

12. THE OC LIFE COLLECTION

Dolphin Galu Beach House is one of four exceptional properties within the OC Life Collection — a carefully curated portfolio of luxury Kenyan escapes sharing the same founding philosophy: the warmth, personality, and intimacy of a private home, delivered with consistent standards of quality and service. For groups requiring more space or for multiple families wishing to holiday together, the three Galu Beach houses can be combined.

PROPERTY	OVERVIEW
Babylon Beach House	Sister villa on Galu Beach • 6 bedrooms, 2 living rooms, 6 bathrooms • up to 12 guests • infinity pool • directly beachfront
Jahazi Beach House	Third Galu Beach villa • smaller and more intimate • ideal for couples or small groups seeking maximum privacy
Camp Acacia Naivasha	OC Life's inland property • lake-shore camp in Naivasha • ideal for combining beach and highland lake experiences

For larger gatherings weddings, landmark celebrations, extended family holidays the three Galu Beach properties can be taken together, creating a private compound of significant scale on one of Kenya's most beautiful coastal stretches. Vard Africa can arrange exclusive multi-villa bookings with combined staffing, catering, and bespoke event management on request.

13. COMBINING DIANI IN YOUR JOURNEY

Diani is the definitive conclusion to the classic Kenya safari journey the beach after the bush, the Indian Ocean after the savannah. The combination of a Kenya wildlife safari with a Diani beach extension is one of the world's great two-act holidays, and one that Vard Africa has designed and delivered for our guests repeatedly and with consistent results.

Recommended Safari + Beach Combinations

- Masai Mara + Diani — Kenya's most popular combination. Three to four nights on the Mara plains followed by four to five nights on the Galu Beach. Fly Mara–Nairobi–Ukunda. Total 8–10 nights. Perfect for first-time Kenya guests
- Amboseli + Diani — Kilimanjaro's elephants and a Galu Beach sunset. Fly Amboseli–Nairobi–Ukunda. 7–9 nights. A visually spectacular pairing
- Meru + Samburu + Diani — The northern Kenya circuit with a coast conclusion. 10–14 nights. The complete Kenya journey for those with time and appetite for excellence
- Laikipia + Diani — Private conservancy safari in the north followed by the coast. 8–10 nights
- Diani Only — For guests who simply wish to disappear. Four to seven nights at Dolphin Galu Beach House is a complete holiday in its own right, particularly for families seeking sun, sea, and simplicity

ITINERARY	NOTES
Diani Only	4–7 nights • beach, water sports, excursions, complete relaxation
Mara + Diani	3–4 nights safari + 4–5 nights beach • total 7–9 nights
Northern Circuit + Beach	Meru/Samburu/Laikipia + Diani • 10–14 nights • the complete Kenya experience
Family Kenya	Amboseli or Mara + Diani • family game drives + beach • 8–10 nights

14. A NOTE FROM VARD AFRICA

Kenya’s wildlife is what the world knows. But Kenya’s coast is what its most devoted visitors come back for. There is something about the specific quality of the Indian Ocean light at Galu Beach the way it moves across the water from gold to turquoise to deep indigo over the course of a single afternoon that is not quite replicated anywhere else in Africa. It is a coast that rewards stillness. That asks nothing of you except that you be present.

Dolphin Galu Beach House is, in our view, one of the finest ways to experience it. The private villa model a house that is entirely yours, with your own chef, your own pool, your own patch of beach provides a quality of coastal experience that no hotel, however excellent, can quite match. The intimacy is different. The freedom is different. The sense of genuine home is different.

We have selected Dolphin as our Galu Beach partner because it delivers all of this without pretension, without over-management, and with a warmth of service that our guests consistently report as exceptional. We are confident it will be the same for your guests.

“The Indian Ocean does not hurry. Neither should you.” — Vard Africa