



Newsletter, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009

Dear Valued Friends,

Hello and **thank you** for your support during our third season.

This season saw us focus our camps on the two **best loved islands**. The new formula proved just right, with the perfect balance of **paddling, exploring and time enjoyed in the camps**. We continued our success with kayak fishing, building on our experience and techniques and bringing in some rewarding catches. A paddle into the open seas, amidst diving terns, resulted in some fights with **Giant Trevally and Bonito (not to mention the sighting of one huge leatherback turtle!)**. Amongst the mangroves we hit some feisty **red snapper** and a **record sized garfish** that took 30mins to land (if only we had the scale onboard!).

Other highlights included our first attempts at **'kite kayaking'** - using some acrobatic stunt kites for some great fun; the introduction of **star charts** to help explain the brilliant stars seen in these remote parts; and on one expedition an incredible moment when a young **vervet monkey was trapped** against an overhanging cliff, between a **rapidly rising tide and a large hungry fish eagle**. After slipping into the sea several times and scurrying to get out of eagle reach, it eventually found an overhanging vine and clawed its way safely through some thorny bush.

Last season, Sand Dollar Kayak Expeditions was chosen as one of '50 top adventures to do in Africa'. More recently we were selected in the April 2009 issue of **OutThere Magazine** as one of the **must-do adventures on Kenya's coast**. Other significant news was the completion of Brent's quest to paddle the length of Lake Tanganyika - the world's longest lake. He did this in August 2008, with two South Africans (Morne Smit and Louis Peters) - their story has been published in SAPaddler Magazine, Twende East Africa Magazine and several local newspapers. The Sand Dollar website also posted some new additions, most notably the new **3-D gallery** wall and the addition of a **'Testimonials'** page.

Like many operators, we experienced an **unpredictable season** due to the global recession. The turn in the financial market saw several cancellations and some understandable hesitation to commit. Our forecasts for next season **remain optimistic** with early requests from repeat customers and some provisional bookings through agents. Thankfully, the **islands, fish and reefs** remain oblivious, as do most of the local fishermen and remote villages in the reserve. Once on tour it is only too easy to forget the worries of the world!

Sand Dollar continues to **support the local community**, and with funds from this season we helped repair the catchment roof that forms an important **freshwater reservoir** for the village of Rubu. The **Rubu Agricultural Project** continues - the Chairman of the village reiterated his **thanks for the farm implements and seeds** they now have to plant with during the coming rainy season (May-July). As well as the nutritional benefits, the project goes some way to relieving the pressure on the marine resources, providing an alternative income.

We look forward to the 2009-2010 season. Our **eco-friendly and intimate tours begin again in August**. Fred will continue to manage the **Lamu rentals and guiding office** taking tours of the Lamu waterfront and to nearby ruins, reefs and islands. The Kiunga Marine Reserve Tours offer **3 or 4 night** options and are booked on request. Given the financial situation, prices will remain the same as for the 2008-2009 season. Please note, however, that Kenya Wildlife Services have **new 2009 park fees** (an extra \$5 a day for Kiunga Marine Reserve). Good news is that Kenyan entry **visas** have been **reduced** from \$50 to \$25.

For more news, pictures and information please refer to our website:  
[www.sanddollarexpeditions.com](http://www.sanddollarexpeditions.com).



Thanks again to all who chose to **safari by kayak**, we hope you enjoyed it. Join us again next season as we continue to **explore more of Kenya's amazing coast**.

Best Regards,

Brent Wibberley, Director  
Sand Dollar Kayak Expeditions Ltd.

**Rates and Reservations**

**Tours are on an all-inclusive basis** and include all meals, snacks, drinks (soft drinks as well as limited wine and beer), transfers from Kiwayu Airstrip, guides and all camping, kayaking and snorkelling equipment. **Excluded** are KWS fees and flights to and from Kiwayu (which can be arranged through Sand Dollar).

<b>RATES : AUG 2009 - APRIL 2010</b>			
<b>Tours of 4 to 10 pax*</b>	<b>3-Night p/p</b>	<b>4-Night p/p</b>	<b>KWS Fees p/p</b>
EA Residents	KES 45,000	KES 60,000	KES 300/day
Non-residents	US\$ 900	US\$ 1,200	US\$ 15/day
<b>Exclusive Tours 2 to 3 pax*</b>	<b>3-Night p/p</b>	<b>4-Night p/p</b>	<b>KWS Fees p/p</b>
EA Residents	KES 63,000	KES 84,000	KES 300/day
Non-residents	US\$ 1,200	US\$ 1,600	US\$ 15/day
<i>(i.e. honeymoon)</i>			

- \* *Exclusivity can be offered to groups of 6 or more. Groups of 5 or less may be topped up with more clients at the discretion of Sand Dollar booking office.*
- \* *Exclusive tours for groups less than 4 (i.e. honeymooners) are required to pay the supplemented rates as shown.*

**Please note** rates are based on current exchange rates and may be subject to change should Sand Dollar find it necessary. Sand Dollar also arranges **Dhow tours** of the Lamu Archipelago and Kiunga Marine Reserve; these are custom designed and handled on a case by case basis.

Please contact us for all enquiries and bookings:

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