

# The Red Pepper House

LAMU ISLAND - KENYA



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## treasured ISLANDS

Follow in travel editor Amanda Statham's globetrotting footsteps  
with a peek into her new book, *Heaven on Earth Honeymoon Islands*

### For rustic charm... LAMU, KENYA

For an authentic flavour of local life, Lamu town is a labyrinth of narrow alleyways chock-a-block with women scurrying to market and baskets laden with colourful spices. And the ideal antidote to a bustling day in Lamu? A dhow cruise through the peaceful mangroves at dusk, accompanied by the beat of a drum and a spontaneous outburst of singing from the crew. Floating past the swish Shela frontage – where the likes of Princess Caroline of Monaco have a holiday home – a fragrant concoction of herbs, dark woods, jasmine and ylang ylang line the shore. Arriving in the vibrant port full of fishing boats is a sublime way to watch the sun go down.

### The place to stay

Red Pepper House has just five suites under its vast Makuti thatch and a sweeping terrace: movie-star escapism at its purest. For a romantic dining experience, treat yourselves to a tempting fusion of Lamu's Arabian influences and Western menus; seared tuna, curried crab claws, chilled mango and courgette soup, and a cake of the day each tea-time that's impossible to resist. But this is luxury with a conscience and no guest ever leaves without visiting what must surely be the blue-print for all orphanages – a happy scene filled with laughter and smiles. Seven nights from £3865pp, full board including flights ([steppestravel.co.uk](http://steppestravel.co.uk)).

### When to go

The coolest months are April and September (25-27°C) and the hottest between November and March (30-32°C). The monsoon falls between May and June.