



**IN THE MAST LANE**  
Onboard the *Tositiri* dhow. Opposite: the spacious deck of *Tositiri*

## FOR EXOTIC CHARM

### TUSITIRI DHOW, LAMU, KENYA

This 75-year-old traditional dhow once ferried mangrove poles and cement to Mombasa and back, but today it is fitted with Persian rugs, Zanzibari chests and brass lanterns for exclusive charters. Spending just one night aboard is a magical experience. The dhow can take up to eight guests, who sleep on bedrolls on *Tositiri's* ample decks, either beneath an awning or under the stars.

**The route** *Tositiri* travels the ancient Indian Ocean trade routes between northern Kenya and Mozambique. She anchors most frequently in the shallows of the Lamu archipelago, the natural habitat of turtles, dugongs and whale sharks; this coastal landscape of mangroves and deserted beaches has a strange and wild beauty.

**Her crew** At least six men are needed to hoist the huge sail, and the chef is a genius, whipping up extraordinary meals from a tiny alfresco galley on the poop deck. The crew are expertly captained by Mark Eddy, a former surfer from South Africa.

**X-factor** This is one of the great romantic sea journeys of the world; the tranquillity of life on the dhow will make you shed layers of stress.

**Would suit** Though it's very comfortable, this is no gin palace; it's not for those who want air-con and luxury. *Tositiri* sails from August to mid-April. *Three nights' full board, from £187 a person. Book with Journeys by Design (01273 623790; www.journeysbydesign.co.uk).*

### OTHER OPTIONS

**Cevri Hassan III, Turkey** A traditional Turkish gulet, hand-crafted in pine, teak and mahogany, *Cevri Hassan III* is designed to sail or cruise, with spacious berths for up to 12. Seven nights, from £4,000 a person. Book with DayDreams Travel (020 7637 8921; www.daydreams-travel.com).

**Discovery, Kerala, India** Malabar House's new state-of-the-art rice barge cruises the peaceful backwaters of Kerala with a super-quiet engine. Contact Malabar Escapes (+91 484 221 6666; www.malabarescapes.com).

# The life aquatic

Drift away with this swell selection of boat-based breaks, say **Catherine Fairweather** and **Eleanor Southall**