



**Matthew from Cheadle Hulme, United Kingdom**

**February 2018**

Pumzika tu is a place that will change your life. This place is a magical place where words and pictures will not do justice. The views over the Mwaluganje are phenomenal with an abundance of wildlife such as elephants, baboons, colobus monkeys, antelope, warthogs, Sykes monkeys, Rock Hyrax, eagles and the very cute bushbabies in the evening. The host and team are outstanding and feel more like a family than staff who find nothing too much trouble. Anything you want to do the team will arrange for you. John the chef will cook you up some great food (I'd highly recommend his Swahili rice and pepper steak!!). Ian will take you on a great safari around Shimba Hills and knows

all the best spots to find the animals. Saidi will take you down to an amazing sacred waterfall in the Mwaluganje jungles (you need to be reasonably fit for this as it's a steep walk down through the jungle to get to it). All in all this place is amazing and I'd highly recommend to anyone and be prepared to have your eyes opened and your life changed forever. A truly personal service in an amazing location. Thank you all so much.

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**Natasha**

**November 2017**

OUT OF THIS WORLD!!! We absolutely loved our stay at Pumzika-Tu and cannot wait to return in the future. The pictures really don't do it any justice, THAT VIEW, took my breath away everyday and it is a perfect spot for those who want to relax and really get a good idea of how the locals live. We were lucky enough to see the elephants on our first day, the baboons and we got to feed the bush babies at night!! John was a fantastic host and left us to it, but was always there if needed. The Staff.....WOW.....Chef John really looked after us so well and is an incredible chef, we ate like kings and queens for 10 days. Saidi was a brilliant host also, taking us to see the local sights and waterfalls. All of the staff

here really made our stay enjoyable and everyone was so warm and humble. This was a magical experience that we will cherish forever! THANK YOU!



**Maz of High Wycombe, United Kingdom  
October 2017**

The pictures really do not do this place justice. The view is simply incredible. The house too is wonderful with lovely furniture and lots of places to sit and read. John is very welcoming and does a great job of leaving the house to the guests but always close enough if you have any questions. We really enjoyed our stay and look forward to going again.



**Mark. East Molesey, United Kingdom ·  
August 2017**

Seven of us gathered from around the world at Pumzika - one 7yr old, 2 teens, 4 adults. The challenge had been to find an unusual summer holiday which would be entertaining for all. And it certainly turned out to be exactly that. We spent 2 & 1/2 delightful weeks being brilliantly cared for by John's staff from morning to night. Nothing was too much trouble and the chef's food was fantastic. Having him on call adds a small additional daily cost but we thought it brought a great value enhancement. We bought the groceries from local supermarkets and the chef produced meals to order. With a couple of fussy young girls on board we needed him to produce food the girls would eat alongside the main meal

for the rest of us and the Chef was more than happy to oblige. Otherwise the staff kept us worry free, with the entire house kept tidy and spotless, beds made up, a nightly fire, and as much advice and help as we wanted. This is a malarial mosquito area so be sure to plan for this. My advice would be to use the provided plug in liquid anti-mosquito dispensers with an appropriately robust refill. You will need to buy extra refills. I found the Doom product to be the most effective but you do need to be disciplined about this and ensure they don't run out. We hired our host's land-rover which came with a few rough edges but gave us a vehicle to go exploring with. There was more than enough in the region to keep us busy throughout our stay. Other visitors might find our top hits useful: 1/ Walking down the African path in the Mwaluganje Reserve down to the river for a picnic. 2/ Nightly visits from the bush babies and feeding them bananas. 3/ See Ben at his basic beach side house/restaurant (Sea Breeze Restaurant) on Tiwi Beach, next door to the Amani resort. Ben arranged for us to go out to the reef on traditional dugout sailing boats to snorkel and then fed us a delicious fresh grilled fish lunch afterwards. He'll also arrange traditional fishing trips if you'd like to do that. 4/ Travelled by dhow from Shimone to Kisite Marine Park to snorkel the beautiful coral reef in the outstanding marine reserve. Saw dolphins on the way there and even had a swim with them. 5/ Went for a game drive in the Shimba Hills reserve, just 20 mins from Pumzika and then had a drink and dinner in the spectacular Shimba Lodge overlooking a waterhole. There wasn't much game to be seen and getting access to the park is costly but it was a fun afternoon/evening and enabled us to tick off the 'safari'

checkbox. 6/ Diani Beach is the main tourist draw in the area with a string of world class but stylish and understated resorts and beach bars lining beautiful beaches in a 10km strip.



**Rachel from London, United Kingdom**

**March 2016**

Lynn and her husband were very welcoming. Lynn picked us up from the airport and took us to the shops to buy groceries before taking us to the house, offering us a welcome drink and showing us round. The view from the house is breathtaking and the house has been beautifully done up. The staff are excellent, particularly the cook. It would be a great location for a family holiday with older kids, but you'd need to keep constant watch over little ones (pool, cliffs).



**Jeremy, from London, United Kingdom**

**November 2014**

**DO NOT DELAY - VISIT HERE NOW!!!** As other reviewers note, 'Pumzika tu' (or 'Let's relax', in Kiswahili) is a truly special place. When I was combing Kenya for a place to stay, I was captivated by the views from Pumzika Tu shown in the photos on Airbnb. I was not disappointed - it is mesmerising vistas in all directions, which are constantly changing under different light. At night, the lights of Mombasa flicker in the distance in one direction. But that is the only reminder that you are actually quite near to Mombasa and the South Coast beaches. Otherwise, you feel removed in a wondrous sanctuary, surrounded by sweeping beautiful views of the elephant reserve. My group saw the elephants on two

occasions, and a baboon troop hopped across the garden one afternoon. The house itself is spacious, airy and comfortable. Much of the time you will want to be outside, and the veranda is quite large and shady, with a large dining table, a smaller table and chairs, some lounging chairs, and a hammock. There is also a separate seating area by the pool, which is tucked away in a secluded end of the garden, with 'affinity' views from the pool out across the escarpment. Lynn was incredibly gracious and responsive as a host. I had many questions before visiting, all of which she was quick to respond to. When I arrived, there was a baked lasagne, a bottle of red wine and chocolates waiting! I would love and sincerely hope to visit again. Highly, highly recommended!



**Eva from Stuttgart, Germany ·**

**December 2017**

We were a group of 13 people, 6 of us staying at neighbours house. We all had our meals together at Pumzika tu. Chef John prepared wonderful meals for us. We had gorgeous BBQ one evening. All the staff is so friendly and helpful. Risper and Aisha, Matano and Saidi and all the others made us feel very welcome. Thanks to all. It was my husband's and my second time here and we are already looking forward to stay again at this wonderful place with the most amazing view.



**Magdalena from Munich, Germany ·**

**October 2017**

We absolutely loved our stay at John's place. We stayed there after our safari to relax for another week before going back home. The view is absolutely stunning (sooo much better than on the photos!!!). The place is spacious and the rooms decorated with so much love. The staff was so nice and helpful, so we really enjoyed staying at the house (and the lovely little pool) and didn't do that much of activities. We really loved having all those animals around (elephants, bush babies, baboons and even one monitor lizard (I think his name was Herbert). John the chef made us wonderful food and our driver took us everywhere we wanted to go! It was such a great experience staying at Pumzika Tu! We would recommend this location to everyone and will definitely be back one day! Magdalena & Matthias



**Daniel from Austin, Texas, United States**

**September 2017**

The quality of this stay cannot be overstated. When we arrived, I almost thought we had made a mistake, either that we would be sharing with other families or we missed a zero on the price. Neither were true, and we enjoyed our stay immensely. John the host is fantastic, and the staff on site assisting you were all amazing. A little tip, be sure to add on the services of John the chef. Absolutely exquisite, I can't recommend this stay enough. Be sure to contact John the host if you need

any assistance planning or traveling. He is very accommodating and will help with anything he is able.



**Tod from Seattle, Washington, United States**

**July 2017**

One of our favorite rental homes ever. John and his team are wonderful hosts. View, house design and furnishings, access to wildlife, meals: all excellent. Can't wait to get back!



**Isabelle from Brussels, Belgium ·**

**July 2017**

If one wants to spend a true moment of African lifestyle, enjoy utter peace and a stunning landscape, then Pumzikatu is the perfect place. The owner, John is a true gentleman, who has treated us with great care and friendliness. The whole staff was very caring, smiling and friendly as well. The house is just fantastic, with spacious rooms opening on the terrasse facing the view, a huge living room in which we enjoyed our evenings gathered around the big open fire, a fine bar where long drinks after a day of safari are like a blessing, and last but not least the terrasse which is in itself the main attraction of this place. The landscape is a pure marvel evolving over the day but always as stunning. The swimming pool also offers some magnificent views over the whole valley. Oh, one last thing : I highly recommend John the cook, who has contributed to the happiness of our stay thanks to the delicious food that he cooked for us every day (special notice for the Rosso bucco and african dishes). Pumzikatu is surely one of the most pleasant and beautiful place that we have ever been to. It's a very special place meant to be appreciated for some very special occasions. It will surely leave the best souvenirs ever!



**Alexander from Germany**

**June 2017**

Amazing! Rooms and the house are pretty cool with a lot of space, unique interior and an amazing view. There are a lot of monkeys around and also a swimming pool where you can enjoy the view. All people were so friendly and helpful. A special thanks to Beatrice who cooked perfect food for us. We can only recommend this place. If I would visit the Mombasa area again, we would definitely come to your place again. Thanks.



**Dmitry from Moscow, Russia**

**May 2017**

The house of Lynn and John as a good wine, every year only adds beauty, quality and a unique atmosphere. Returned here three years later and will definitely come again. Thanks dear Lynn & John. Thank you for the great time! Hugs!))



**Ammar from New York, New York, United States**

**April 2017**

My stay at John and Lynn's needed to be perfect. We weren't going there just for a weekend of relaxation, we had chosen this destination for our honeymoon. You can imagine what was at stake! From even before confirmed the booking I was impressed with Lynn's communication; her response time, her willingness to offer any help she could to make our stay excellent, and that attitude would set the tone for our entire experience. If you appreciate both privacy and beauty, five stars is simply not enough. My wife and I both

agreed this was the most breathtaking and beautiful house we have ever stayed in. The views from the deck are magical as are the views from the rooms from the top floor. The staff at the house are capable and hospitable. Beatrice is a wonderful in house chef and most gracious. She would cook up breakfast as we liked and when we liked. Ironically, after our stay we went and stayed at a five star hotel in Mombasa with full board and agreed that breakfast with Beatrice was better than every meal we had in that hotel! In fact having breakfast on the deck every morning with the view very much felt like having "breakfast in the sky" as my wife described it. The infinity pool is a beautiful blue with a view and always clean, the rooms are exquisite with a writing desk in each in case inspiration suddenly catches you, and the bathrooms had great water pressure. John and Lynn also connected us with local resources such as Saeed who took us to our activities beyond Pumzika. He was extremely reliable and honest, two qualities that are crucial for tourists in a place like Kenya. I really could write much more about our stay at Pumzika, but in the interest of brevity I'll say it was beyond our expectations, it is even more beautiful than the pictures suggest and John and Lynn and the staff are sensational hosts. I needed it to be perfect, and it was.



**Anneke from Sint Annen, Netherlands**

**March 2017**

We (my husband and I with 2 friends) stayed at Pumzika-tu for a whole month and we loved every minute of it. The house is very spacious and has a fantastic view. Lynn is a great and welcoming host and, if needed, helps you with lots of advice and practical things. The staff (Beatrice, Saidi, Mantano, Rebecca and Salim) is always stand by and do everything you would like them to do. Beatrice is an great cook and prepares the most delicious meals. In the morning you wake up and hear the birds singing. A lovely sound. In the evening the galagos (bushbaby's) come to collect their treat, little pieces of bananas and mangoes. Some galago's take it even from your hand. Down in the sanctuary we saw

13 elephants. They (Lynn and John) are making a waterhole down in the sanctuary, just in front of the house. You will have a fantastic view seeing the animals (especially elephants) drinking. At night we even heard hyena and leopard. We absolutely love to come back.



**Eva from Vierhuizen, Netherlands**

**January 2017**

Beautiful house, a gorgeous view, amazing hosts, peaceful and quiet. It is like a safari lodge, but you have the whole place to yourself.



**Tomas from Slovakia**

**January 2017**

We were really happy that we have booked Lynn's beautiful house with jaw-dropping view on Shimba hills. I can only recommend it to everyone who wants to spend some time near the coast. Lynn was an excellent host and the place in fact operates more like a hotel because of the excellent staff. Definitely coming back



**Thogori from San Francisco, California, USA**

**January 2017**

Our stay at Pumzika Tu hosted by Lynn was absolutely splendid. Communication was great before the stay and she was extremely hospitable and flexible accommodating the groups needs. We visited over NYE '17 and though she was away with her family, her staff took excellent care of us. Chef John cooked amazing food, Matano and Said were all friendly and extremely helpful. It was a very restful and comfortable stay. We would not hesitate staying at Pumzika tu. The views from the house are truly breathtaking - pictures don't even do it justice. The pool was a superb way to while away an afternoon and the area is open for adventure. Don't wait, book your stay at Pumzika Tu and do just that. Thank you so much Lynn, you were wonderful! Happy 2017!



**Raza from Lakewood, Colorado, United States  
May 2016**

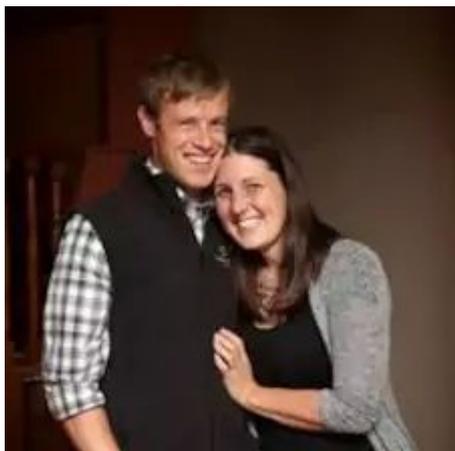
We absolutely loved our stay. We had booked a few days stay after a weeklong safari in Masai Mara to rest and recharge. What a beautiful, beautiful place. Lynn was amazing in helping get everything set up and suggesting fun things to do in Kwale and also in Mombasa. However, the house is just so stunning, and the cook Chef is world class, so we ended up resting and recharging. The house overlooks the nature reserve and we were able to see elephants, we were also visited by monkeys and bush babies. The pool was lovely as well, we mostly just sat in the patio and enjoyed the amazing panoramic views. What an experience! We were treated as family, everything was

taken care of and true to its name, we were able to "just rest" - "pumzika-tu". Overall, it was an absolutely wonderful experience and we can not wait to go back.



**Barrie from Nairobi, Kenya  
January 2016**

We had a wonderful stay and would highly recommend coming to stay at Pumzika Tu. We will be back! The views are exceptional and it was perfect for a relaxing few days. We wished we could have stayed longer. Lynn really did a super job at making us feel at home and making sure we had everything we needed and more. A big shout out to the fabulous Mr. Chief, who ensured we ate like kings. It was all brilliant, thank you!



**David Birmingham, Alabama, United States  
August 2015**

Pumzika tu was exactly what the name suggests - relax only. Absolutely beautiful house and view, elephants roaming below, chef cooking fantastic meals, kids swimming in the pool. An amazing getaway. Bring a set of binoculars (there are some at the house, but more is helpful for elephant watching), and a light jacket - it can get cool at night even close to the coast. Dinner on the porch watching the sunset over Kilimanjaro is delightful.



**Eva from Stuttgart, Germany**

**August 2015**

We (my husband and my two adult daughters) have stayed at this house for 4 days to finish our 2-week-safari-holiday in Kenya. To relax a bit we decided to rent a private house close to the beach. It was a good choice to stay up in the Shimba Hills – the landscape is beautiful, the climate pleasant and still close to Diani Beach with all the shopping facilities and of course the wonderful beach. The house is very nice – something really special! The highlight definitely was the terrace with this fantastic panoramic view and its sunsets but also the pool and fireplace with bbq. The staff was very very nice! We miss John (the most joyful cook we have ever met)

who was preparing us delicious breakfast and dinner every day. Also Matano and Said (the two guards/waiters) were very kind and took care of us very well. Lynn asked us if it was ok to leave the two dogs around the house during our stay. These two are so cute and made us laugh so many times – we felt like home (we also have a dog)! Thank you Lynn, John, Matano and Said – I am sure we will come back when we are in Kenya for the next time.



**Ari from Finland**

**February 2015**

Madam Lynn and her place was just fantastic. Everything is as described and as on pictures. Fantastic views. Great staff and Chef. We will definitely be back. Just don't chance the place too much from what it is now due it has its charm as it is Thank you! Ari & Pett



**Stein from Norway**

**December 2014**

Great views and even better chef! We enjoyed the hospitality, the quiet, the authenticity.



**Dmitry from Moscow, Russia**

**August 2014**

When we saw the photos of this place the first time we said to each other 'this can not be real, surely it is a photoshop!' and I'll never forget our first morning in Pumzika. The feeling that you're flying on a plane and in front of you half of Africa. And every morning the feeling was repeated. All that you see in the Lynn's pictures - this is reality! Elephants run directly under your feet. Lemurs come in the evening eat bananas. Every evening turns valley below into the sea. It is impossible to describe. It must be seen! The house has everything you need for a comfortable stay (kitchen, washing machine, plenty of space and air, swimming pool, tennis table, a large garden). The work on the house and garden occupied by 4

persons - Modest, Duncan, Said and Matano. They are hearty welcome and help us a lot. The house is a bit far from main roads and attractions exclude the Shimba Hills game park. To feel comfortable you will need a car. Driving to Diani beach takes around 35-40 minutes one way. This place is good for families with kids and will give you a silent and restful vacation. I want to emphasize the incredible support and assistance, which was provided for us by Lynn. Lynn has been with us for a week and helped to understand the house and its arrangement, describe and showed to us all around and tried very hard to help us in every way. Lynn you are the best host we have seen :=) Thank you so much! (You can contact with me in case you need to clarify something)



**Duane from Chetumal, Mexico**

**February 2014**

What a treat ! Our party of four adults loved every minute of our three-month stay. We travel full-time and are always on the lookout for a unique experience but in a real home with all the things you have at home, especially a real kitchen. Well, this is it? We have never had quite as perfect a combination of home AND novelty. The cook also manages the staff who takes care of the grounds and keeps watch over you 24/7. He cleans the rooms, shops for your every need, prepares any food you desire, and will chauffeur you to any game park, beach, airport, as you wish. He never blinked an eye when he learned he'd be preparing all

vegetarian; soooo accommodating! We are all in love with the staff and mention them almost daily as it felt like we were Dorothy leaving Oz for Kansas saying goodbye to three lovely people whose memory we will always cherish. Imagine your group in front of the lodge-type fireplace after dinner in the great room with soaring natural-wood ceiling, beautiful bar/stools, endless view thru a wall of windows, and massive rock right in the middle of the room with outdoor foliage planted in red sand among the massive rock. The baboon clan of twenty came thru our yard maybe twice a week; sometimes hanging out eating and playing for half an hour. If you love nature, this is the place. It's the perfect safari where you live in a luxurious private lodge with all the service and no other guests and

the nature comes to you; elephants, squirrels, baboons, bush babies, monkeys live in the roof and drink from the water in the houseplants three meters from your dining table, bats snatching bugs inches from your face in front of the fireplace and for at least the first thirty days i said to Lori, "I saw another new bird today." Nearby there are even hornbills which are like a toucan. Our cook took us to the safari park just five or ten minutes away; we saw every animal in the brochure; giraffes, sable antelopes, baboons, warthogs, deer, water buffalo, too many to remember. The entry fee was only 15 dollars USD per person; very low compared to many African parks but with twenty kilometers of good dirt road. Most people are looking for a place to sleep so they can run around all day sightseeing. What we loved about Lynn's lodge is that you don't have to run around every day like a nut but instead stay home in style and let the sights come to you. You'll see so much more.



**Jereme from Cabarete, Dominican Republic**

**November 2013**

This is a very special place on the planet. On the clearest of days after a rain, I could see the outline of Kilimanjaro in the distance - effectively seeing across 1/3rd of Kenya. Even on days when you don't see elephants below, the baobab trees of Mwaluganje Elephant Sanctuary are enchanting. Kwale is a unique community that maintains a lot of the color and traditions of the local Digo community and Shimba is a nice attraction. Being so close to the popular beach town of Diani is a great plus too. Abed, Said and Matano are great guys that will meet your every need. I highly recommend staying here...



**Hilary from Nairobi, Kenya**

**January 2013**

This house must have one of the best views in Kenya. We had a fabulous stay there, enjoying the tranquillity in the morning as we spotted elephants from the deck and again in the evening from the pool, while spending a few hours at the beach in the afternoon - a great combination. The Indian Ocean is just 30 minutes drive away - fabulous for swimming, snorkelling, sailing etc. We relished the coolness of Pumzika-tu after the heat of the beach. The staff were friendly and attentive - nothing was too much trouble. Would definitely recommend it.



**Caroline & Roland from Zurich, Switzerland**

**January 2013**

Much was promised, but what we got even exceeded our expectations! The view onto the elephant sanctuary is unbeatable, and we could not get enough of it. 4 of the 5 days we spent at Pumzika-tu we were able to spot elephants from the terrace. Lynn was extremely helpful and organized everything for us in advance: pickup and drop-off from/to the airport, a car with driver for the entire stay. She gave us plenty of info about Diani and much more. Her cook/houskeeper is a wonderful person spoiled us by preparing wonderful dishes and keeping the house clean and tidy at all times. If you want a memorable trip in a unique

location, you need to go there!



**Peter from Dhaka, Bangladesh**

**July 2016**

I was personally picked up at the airport and Lynn arranged a driver for the entire 3 weeks. The remote location of Punzika Tu - which gives this place its unique magic - and having a driver, 24h / 7 days a week makes the place an unforgettable experience. This is the experience of 3 weeks Punzika, which is shared by my family. John the cook, the housekeeper as well as the guards, gardeners are all warm, welcoming people who do an outstanding job and for an incredible feeling of security and hospitality ensured. The qualities of the chef are sufficiently described in other reviews. The experience Punzika Tu remains incomparable and becomes inevitable repeated!



**Olga from Moscow, Russia**

**July 2015**

*As written*

[Прекрасная вилла. Очень гостеприимные хозяева. Замечательный повар. Провели чудесные 5 дней]

*Translated*

Beautiful villa. Very hospitable hosts. A wonderful cook. Spent a wonderful 5 days