



Chris at the Malindi animal sanctuary and (below), Gill gets to know the local kids



Ex-colonial Pepo Mingi and (below) early morning fishing with the locals



the day's first fishing trip. Heading off in the tiny boat, we were tossed around by the ever larger breakers and I wondered what I'd got myself into. With the beating sun, only my trusty Tilley hat saved me from a complete scorching, and it seemed I was in for a morning of gruelling fishing. However, once we'd cast our rods a few times, the captain decided the currents were too strong to catch anything of note, so we headed back to the creek and contented ourselves with catching tiddlers on hand-held fishing lines.

North of Kilifi, the beach resort of Malindi is complete with a fascinating nature reserve. Mainly containing reptiles and birds, we spent a happy hour marvelling at some of Africa's deadliest snakes, including black mambas (of *Kill Bill* fame), green mambas (only slightly less lethal), spitting cobras and enormous pythons. There were

magnificent birds of prey and an adorable bush baby which virtually purred as we tickled its chin. Heading back down to Kilifi, we decided we were now suitably unwound, and ready for the next leg of our trip.

HOME COMFORTS

We'd heard about a beautiful ex-colonial residence that was now being run as a homestead by a British couple near Mombasa, so before heading off on safari we thought we'd stop by for a couple of nights to get a different kind of Kenyan experience. Ali and Tony Allport have Africa in their blood, both having spent their childhoods here – Ali in Kenya itself and Tony in Nigeria – and they now live right on the edge of the Indian Ocean. Here they've extended their lovely home to include several very comfortable guest bedrooms. With a huge

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