



Mozambique

Quirimbas Sea Kayak & Dhow Safari

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



Itinerary

Mozambique • Quirimbas Sea Kayak & Dhow Safari

8 Days • 7 Nights

Pemba – Ilha Do Ibo – Matemo – Ulumbwa Island – Quirimda Island – Ilha do Ibo – Pemba

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sea kayak/sail in beautiful Quirimbas National Park
- Exploring and camping on remote, tropical islands
- Snorkel in turquoise sea over pristine reefs and sea grass beds
- Look out for humpback whales and the endangered dugong.

TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Kayaking & Safari Expedition
Tour Start	Pemba
Tour End	Pemba
Accommodation	Camping & Lodge
Included Meals	7 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches, 7 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Medium

On this 8 day itinerary, we will spend the time discovering the little known and little visited wilderness of the Quirimbas National Park. Sea kayaking through the warm, blue waters of the Mozambique Channel and camping on tropical islands. Turquoise clear waters and beautiful scenery awaits you – as well as a host of local fishermen to meet and interact with along the way.

Overview

The Quirimbas Islands lie in the Indian Ocean off North Eastern Mozambique, close to Pemba, the capital of the province of Cabo Delgado. This archipelago was almost forgotten and has only recently opened up to the outside world. Life here is slow paced and charming. Thick mangrove forests, craggy tropical islands and a wild aquatic world make up this remote region. We explore this coastline fringed by tropical islands on a sturdy motorised 11- meter Arab dhow complete with experienced crew and a professional guide. You will have the option to kayak or sail into wild frontiers, an unequalled experience in one of the last undeveloped places in Africa.

The islands are well spaced and allow for excellent kayaking, dhow cruising, snorkeling, swimming and exploring. The entire archipelago is tide dependent and so your routing is carefully worked out based on local knowledge and weather and tide conditions.

This adventure is true expedition style as we sail or kayak from one tropical island to another; beach stops are frequent, and we camp overnight on uninhabited islands. Your chef will conjure up fresh seafood and traditional cuisine over an open fire under the stars.

We end our adventure with some well deserved luxury at a beautiful island lodge.

Itinerary



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DAY 1: PEMBA TO ILHA DO IBO (L,D)

An included beautiful light aircraft flight over the islands and turquoise waters transfers you from Pemba International Airport to Ibo Island Lodge.

Probably the most compelling attraction in the Quirimbas, Ibo's 200-year-old ghost town and 16th Century forts make for a fascinating journey to an era long forgotten. The Ibo Island guided Experience (included) provides a chance to interact with the amazingly friendly local people and observe their unique island culture and heritage and a way of life that has not changed for hundreds of years. Wander around the mysterious ruins amongst forts and ancient trade buildings with many fascinating stories just waiting to be told.

Ibo Island lodge has spectacular views over the waterfront and tidal bay and accommodates guests in beautifully simple yet elegant rooms. Historic colonial mansions with high ceilings have been stylishly renovated to accommodate the lodge with various verandas, tropical gardens and a spectacular roof top restaurant that provides the ideal venue to watch the sun go down. The emphasis at Ibo Island Lodge is a mix between guided activities and relaxation and a base from which to explore fascinating Ibo Island.

Guests will have ample time at magical Ibo to explore after the dhow safari as the safari returns to Ibo for days 6 and 7 of the itinerary

Overnight Lodge.

DAY 2 & 3: START OF DHOW/KAYAK SAFARI – ILHA DO IBO TO MATEMO (B,L,D)

Depart Ilha Do Ibo for your exploration into the Quirimbas Archipelago! You can either choose to stay aboard your dhow supported by crew with all camping equipment and supplies or kayak into the clearest of blue waters. The Quirimbas Archipelago offers a diverse and wonderland of sea kayaking experiences.

The ancient art of traditional dhow travel has been practiced in this region for centuries. Today it still remains the only way of travel between the islands and the last sailing trading dhow came to this part of Mozambique from India in 1969! Turquoise clear waters and beautiful scenery awaits you – as well as a host of local fishermen to meet and interact with along the way.

The islands are well spaced and allow for excellent kayaking, dhow cruising, snorkeling, swimming and exploring. The entire archipelago is tide dependent and so your routing will be carefully worked out based on local knowledge and weather and tide conditions.

Overnight camping



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DAY 3: DAY TRIP TO ULUMBWA ISLAND (B,L,D)

The beautiful Ulumbwa river mouth beckons and it is here where fascinating rural fishing villages dot the shore. Enjoy an early morning sail up the Ulumbwa estuary viewing a variety of birds & mangroves that thrive in this area.

We return to our beautiful beach camp set up under the palms on the shores of Matemo Island with enough time to explore Matemo, take a walk or swim.

Overnight camping

DAY TRIP TO ULUMBWA ISLAND (B,L,D)



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The beautiful Ulumbwa river mouth beckons and it is here where fascinating rural fishing villages dot the shore. Enjoy an early morning sail up the Ulumbwa estuary viewing a variety of birds & mangroves that thrive in this area. We return to our beautiful beach camp set up under the palms on the shores of Matemo Island with enough time to explore Matemo, take a walk or swim.

Overnight camping

DAY 4 & 5: QUIRIMBA ISLAND (B,L,D)

Depart Matemo Island for your exploration south into the Quirimbas Archipelago! Once you reach Quirimba Island you will explore the island that gave the Archipelago its name with its rural villages, culture and old church. Day trip by dhow to Quisiva Island or similar and/or Mefunvo Island from camp..our opinion Mogundula Island is one of the best islands in the archipelago which is why we spend 2 nights here giving you a fantastic base from which to explore. Known by the locals as the island with the sacred lake it provides us with beautiful bird watching, pristine swimming off the sandbank beach and excellent snorkeling. Our mobile camp is set under the shade of trees and you usually have this magical uninhabited island to yourself!



Overnight: camp and exploring on Quirimba Island and its surroundings

DAY 6 & 7: QUIRIMBA ISLAND TO ILHA DO IBO (B,L,D)

You will continue your adventure on the turquoise water to head Iha Do Ibo and your accommodation.

From our lodge it is perfect to start to explore the Quirimbas Archipelago National Park in Northern Mozambique. Steeped in history, rich in culture and nominated as a potential World Heritage Site, the island dates back to the early 1600's, making it one of the most ancient settlements in Mozambique. Since its role as one of the country's mighty trading centres, This historical place has remained all but forgotten to the outside world for almost a century. Today you can wander around the mysterious town amongst forts and ancient romantic buildings with many fascinating stories just waiting to be retold.

However there is much more than historical significance. This island is one of the most pristine destinations in Africa. The warm turquoise waters are inhabited by turtles and tropical fish; viewings of dolphins and whales are frequent whilst the bird life is abundant and varied. You will encounter idyllic beaches and explore rich coral reefs.

The lodge where you will be staying has prime, spectacular views over the waterfront and accommodates guests in beautifully yet simple decorated rooms. Historic colonial mansions with high ceilings have been stylishly renovated to accommodate the lodge with various verandas, tropical gardens and a spectacular roof top restaurant that provides the ideal venue to watch the sun go down. The emphasis at the lodge is on complete relaxation and a base from which to explore the magical places.

You will get the chance to immerse yourself in this unchanged, ancient culture and have the chance to interact with wonderfully hospitable islanders, or simply relax at one of the pools, refresh the senses with a massage and soak up the exotic atmosphere.

Overnight Lodge



DAY 8: TRANSFER TO PEMBA (B)

An included beautiful light aircraft flight over the islands and turquoise waters transfers you to Pemba International Airport.

Please note whilst on expedition all camping will be bush or island camping with no facilities what so ever. Washing water will be limited, and meals simple and nutritious based on the dry stocks able to be carried and the availability of fresh fish and seafood. The itinerary will need to be totally flexible and is weather and tide dependent. You are however assured of adventure against a backdrop of varied and pristine scenery. Services of an English speaking crew member and Mozambican dhow crew.

What our clients have said

"Thanks for your mail and for your hard work arranging our trip. It was wonderful. All aspects of the trip went like clockwork and all 3 lodges were excellent."

-Andrea G.

*"I've had a magical time in paradise!
I loved the dhow, the islands, the staff, the snorkeling, your beautiful hotel in a beautiful setting.
Thank you, thank you! I made 3 wonderful friends too!"*

-S. Tilley

"The highlight of our visit was the dhow safari. We loved the camping, the snorkeling, diving and canoeing. The reefs of Rolas Island were exquisite! We have never seen such a variety coral ever! The service all in all was excellent from the cooking, guiding and attentive help to the friendliness of the staff. Thank you for making our time a very memorable one!"

-The McAdie Family



Important Information

INCLUDED

- 🌿 All meals as described (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- 🌿 Itinerary as specified (NB itinerary may differ from as published)
- 🌿 Meet and greet in Pemba and light air transfer to Ilha Do Ibo
- 🌿 4 nights island and mainland hopping by dhow. Overnight island, river and beach camps
- 🌿 Experienced English and Portuguese speaking crew.
- 🌿 NON participation mobile camp.
- 🌿 All camping and catering equipment included for island camps (sleeping bag, pillow and towel supplied)
- 🌿 Occasionally breakfast and lunch may be combined into a brunch where necessary e.g. mornings with early kayak trips
- 🌿 3 nights in the Lodge at Ilha Do Ibo on full board basis (excluding all drinks)
- 🌿 Guided tours of Ilha Do Ibo
- 🌿 Light aircraft transfer from Ilha Do Ibo back to Pemba.

NOT INCLUDED

- All international airfares and related taxes/fees
- All meals that are not specified
- All drinks - Personal bar account whilst on safari, all bottled water, etc.
- Mozambique arrival / departure airport taxes
- National Park fees
- Items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, curio purchases, etc.
- Optional activities / optional excursions / transfers not specified.
- Vaccinations, visas, passports, travel and medical insurance.

Additional Information

ACTIVITY DURATION

This expedition is considered moderate as there are no long walks and our paddling days of 4 hours are broken up by lunch and swims. There is also a dhow support boat.

SEASON

January through December

BEST TIME TO GO

May through December for least chance of rain.

GROUP SIZE

Prices are based on scheduled trip dates below and assume a minimum of 4 people booked on trip. The trip can run with a minimum of 2 people, however a



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surcharge applies. We are also able to offer private departures & safari extensions.

EXPEDITION SCHEDULE

Scheduled Group Departures from March through December or Tailor made to suit your dates from January through December

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

Our grades have been designated based on our perception of the degree of physical activity you are likely to require to enjoy the adventure. These are only a guideline. This itinerary has a 'medium' level (2-5 per day). This means that you will need an average level of fitness.

