

# Mozambique Safari *Untamed hush and island heaches*



Explore one of Africa's largest and lesser-visited conservation areas in northern Mozambique. Niassa Reserve is virtually unknown and receives very few visitors, despite being a wonderful wildlife reserve. Covering over 15,000 square miles, the reserve offers untouched bush land, rivers, miombo woodland, savannah plains where granite inselbergs dot the landscape and a wide variety of wildlife. Following a safari in Niassa you will relax on one of the smallest islands in the Quirimbas Archipelago, idyllic Medjumbe Private Island.

Niassa Reserve is a very special place; if you are looking for somewhere that is untamed, off the beaten track, and with very few visitors, this is the destination.

#### Day 1: Pemba

On arrival in Pemba you will be met and transferred to Pemba Beach Hotel & Spa for one night in a courtyard room (B&B).

#### Pemba Beach Hotel & Spa

Situated on the beach in Pemba, on one of the world's largest inland bays, Pemba Beach Hotel has a full-service spa, outdoor pool and a health club.

All rooms at Pemba Beach Hotel have individual balconies with a view of the Indian Ocean just beyond the gardens. The rooms are air-conditioned and have en-suite bathrooms (bath and shower). Amenities include mini-bar, direct dial telephone, satellite TV, coffee / tea-making facilities and electronic safe.

In the evening, enjoy a drink at the hotel bar, or sample Mozambique's famous seafood at the Quirimbas Restaurant.



During the day, relax at the hotel pool or take a stroll to the Club Naval and adjacent yacht marina. The activity centre here offers a range of water sports (windsurfing, sailing, kayaking or water-skiing), diving, snorkelling and deep-sea fishing.

## Days 2-4: Lugenda

After an early breakfast, transfer to the airport for the flight to Lugenda (0800/0930). On arrival you will be met and transferred to Lugenda Wilderness Camp for the following 3 nights in a luxury tent (FB).

### Lugenda Wilderness Camp

Lugenda Wilderness Camp is an intimate, unpretentious camp situated in the Niassa region. The camp comprises eight luxury raised tented rooms spread across the banks of the Lugenda River beneath a canopy of fig trees (which attract elephants), each with its own patio deck and wonderful views of the mountains and forests of Niassa. Facilities include en-suite bathroom, ceiling fan (no aircon), personal safe and hairdryer.



The camp also has a swimming pool, located just metres from the river bank.

#### Niassa Reserve

Niassa Reserve is Mozambique's prime wildlife attraction (the Lugenda Wildlife Reserve, where you stay, is a private concession of the greater Niassa Reserve). It is one of Africa's most unique, albeit little visited, wilderness reserves, and at approx. 42,000kms in size (almost twice as large as Kruger National Park in South Africa), also one of its biggest.

Niassa received very few visitors until Mozambique's Civil War ended in the 1990s, but since then it has seen growing wildlife numbers, with healthy populations of lion, leopard, buffalo, hyena and elephant. Tourist numbers nevertheless remain low, which means you can expect a quiet, intimate safari (think Botswana, as compared to the busy safari routes of Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa). The camps in Niassa tend to be small and private, and few in number.

As one would expect of a reserve of this size, Niassa is hugely varied, encompassing both flat savannah-like territory and hilly regions covered in huge swathes of forest and miombo woodland, and dotted with dramatic granite inselbergs. This is not a destination for those just





wanting to tick off the big 5, but for the more adventurous traveller or those looking to travel off the beaten track, Lugenda is a perfect choice.



There is the opportunity to spend a night, or longer, in the bush on a mobile camp. Please let us know in advance if you would like to include this.

NB. Canoeing in the reserve is a popular activity, but it is generally only offered at the start of the season (to August), when the river is high.

### Day 5: Medjumbe Private Island

After breakfast you will transfer to the airstrip for the flight to Medjembe Private Island (0945/1115). On arrival you will be met and taken to your beach chalet for the following 3 nights (FB).



## Medjumbe Private Island

1km long and 500 metres wide, Medjumbe Private Island is one of the smallest islands in the Quirimbas Archipelago. It is also one of the prettiest, with powder white sand beaches and warm, shallow waters. The shoals and sandbars that surround the island stretch for miles, making this intimate retreat seem larger in scale.

Medjumbe has thirteen chalets, each constructed of wood and thatch and set on the beach

overlooking the ocean. Each has a private plunge pool, and the Indian Ocean is of course only a few steps away. Other amenities include TV, minibar, air-con, and en-suite bathroom with outdoor shower.

There is a beachside restaurant serving local seafood. The bar faces the sea, perfect for sundowners. You may even see humpback whales in season! Your stay at Medjumbe is on an all-inclusive basis, including drinks.

The diving and snorkelling at Medjumbe is excellent, with some of the best reefs in the Quirimbas. There is a choice of soft coral dive sites. Big game fishing is an option.

#### Day 8: Homeward

After breakfast take the flight to Pemba (1055/1225). On arrival check in for your international flight.





## **Price Guide:**

The cost of this safari itinerary is from £1995 per person, based on twin share and subject to availability at the time of booking. For more information, or if you would like to enquire about a tailor-made holiday combining part or all of the above itinerary, please contact us.

#### **Includes**:

- Light aircraft transfers to Lugenda and Medjumbe
- Accommodation and meals as described
- Non-motorised water sports
- Soft drinks, bottled water, house wine, local beer and spirits at Lugenda/Medjumbe
- Mini bar at Medjumbe
- Safari activities
- Return airport transfers
- Emergency medical evacuation

### **Excludes:**

- International flights
- Arrival/departure taxes
- Visas
- Laundry
- Park/conservancy fees at Lugenda and Medjumbe
- Gratuities
- Travel Insurance ask us for a quote
- Items of a personal nature

\*Niassa Reserve is open from May to November only. Additional nights can be added at both Lugenda and Medjumbe, ask for a quote.



