

Eco Beach Lodge in Mozambique



Highlights

Pad barefoot across powder soft sand, gaze across azure-blue sea, and while away the hours in hammocks set beneath palms - a holiday at the Guludo Beach Lodge is anything but standard. Named by 'The Observer' newspaper as one of the top 20 deserted beaches in the world, this is a little bit of paradise on earth.

Africa's secret jewel, Mozambique, lies to the South East of the continent. Bordered by South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania, the country boasts 2,400km of palm fringed coastline. Think white sands and desert islands meet freshly caught sea food and snorkelling to die for! The country has not been without its struggles, however, ravaged by severe droughts and a civil war that continued until the early 1990's. The nation has attempted to put this all behind them now and with a stable government in place, has become one of the 'up and coming' countries in Africa - get there before everyone else discovers it!

This place is more than just a luxury resort. It's a luxury resort with a conscience. That's because the owners of the Guludo Beach Lodge have also set up their own charity - the Nemo Foundation. And with 5% of all income from the hotel going straight towards local community and conservation projects, your holiday contributes, too. But it's not just the lodge that's special, the area itself is pretty amazing. Inland, you'll find the wild African bush, while on your doorstep lies a white sandy beach that stretches for 12 kilometres, with the Indian Ocean beyond.

From games of village football to beach archery and trips into the African bush - there's lots to keep you occupied on a holiday here. But one of the main reasons people come is for the diving. The Guludo Beach Lodge is a registered PADI resort which offers a full-range of courses for beginners to the more experienced underwater explorer. Opposite Guludo's bay is the Quirimbas archipelago which is home to a striking array of coral reefs. Humpback whales, sharks, coral fish and turtles have all been spotted here.

Is it for me?

Who wouldn't be delighted with the prospect of staying on a deserted tropical beach in gorgeous accommodation? Maybe if you hate sun, sea and sand, then this could be your idea of hell - but it's highly unlikely! There's lots to keep you busy by way of organized activities, the accommodation is full-board so you needn't worry about cooking, and the only thing that might cast a dark cloud is the thought of going home. One more thing - 5% of all income from this place goes to the owner's charity, the Nemo Foundation, to be used to develop local community and conservation projects.

Accommodation

The accommodation here has been designed by award-winning architects, Cullum and Nightingale, so it goes without saying, what you'll be getting is something special, well-thought out and unique. The rooms themselves come in four styles - Adobe Bandas, Tented Bandas, Family Banda and the Zala Suite. The décor is a mix of traditional and contemporary, and all rooms have plush king-size beds. What's more, whichever one you stay in, you'll get a sea view that stretches out to Rolas Island and beyond.

In terms of food, expect a menu of freshly-cooked, locally-sourced ingredients.

Itinerary

Prices from
148 GBP (1 night) per person

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This place isn't about set itineraries – but that doesn't mean there's nothing to do. If you're feeling active, take your pick from any of the following activities – scuba diving, PADI diving courses, a trip to Rolas Island or Ibo Island, a bush lookout trip, a village trip, a sunset sail, a whale watching outing, beach archery or a game of village football. Alternatively, just sit back, relax and mellow on the beach.

Details

Getting there

The lodge is in the Quirimbas National Park, north of Pemba, Mozambique. Transfers can be arranged from Pemba airport, which is about 80km away.

Price includes

Full-board accommodation, non-motorised activities and a contribution to their charity, the Nema Foundation

Price details

Standard Rates per person per night:

Tented Bandas \$255

Adobe Bandas \$295

Adobe Suite \$355

Peak Rates (August and Christmas Holidays) per person per night:

Tented Bandas \$295

Adobe Bandas \$345

Adobe Suite \$395

Children under the age of 3 are free

- Children age 3-11 50% discount

- Children 12-15 25% discount

When is best

There are basically two seasons in this area of Mozambique; the green and the dry. The green season (December - March) is hotter with a higher humidity, however every day is sunny. It doesn't rain every day as the name of the season may suggest, and sometimes a week or so can pass without any rain at all. The rains do not last for long, with rainy episodes in the form of intense but brief showers, usually occurring at night. Diving is excellent at this time of year with warm, calm waters and excellent visibility. The dry season is very pleasant. It is hot to very hot in the day with pleasant warm yet fresh evenings. In the month of July and August some people wear a light jumper in the evenings.

Available

Jan—Dec

Typical Duration

2 days - 2 weeks

Comfort level

Refined (boutique or luxury accommodation and food)

Experience required

Not relevant