

# Maputo and the Mozambique islands

*Looking for something different ? Then this may well fit the bill*

## MAPUTO > QUIRIMBAS/BAZARUTO ARCHIPELAGO

### Day 1-2

Fly to Maputo, the capital of Mozambique. You will be met and transferred to the Polana Serena Hotel overlooking the Bay of Maputo, one of Africa's great colonial era hotels. During your 2-night stay relax at the terrace restaurant or explore this vibrant African city.

The most important landmark in the city is the Fort of Nossa Senhora da Conceição, the heart of the original settlement over a century ago. Also worth a visit is the palatial Central Railway Station with its copper dome or take the ferry to nearby Inhaca Island. Maputo has long been famous for its seafood, especially its spicy prawns, which can be found at many of the local restaurants. For nightlife, visit one of the many bars and clubs on Feira Popular, where you can dance all night to the Afro/Latino beat. An excursion south of Maputo will take you to the large Maputo Elephant Reserve, home to nearly 200 elephants.



*The Polana Hotel can also be combined as simply a city add-on from Johannesburg or a stay in the Kruger National Park area. There are also scheduled services from Cape Town and Durban to Maputo.*

### Day 3-6

Back to the airport this morning in time for your LAM (Linhas Aereas de Mocambique) flight to Pemba or Vilanculos. On arrival transfer by air or boat to either the Bazaruto or Quirimbas Archipelago, stay for 4 nights at one of the lodges and enjoy the crystal clear waters, good water-sports and amazing diving and fishing. If you are expecting Mauritius, you have come to the wrong place - Mozambique is for those travellers who want a distinctly African flavour.

The Quirimbas Archipelago in northern Mozambique consists of 32 tropical coral islands and some of the richest coral reefs in the world. The area is largely undeveloped and remains a little discovered tourist paradise providing the habitat for an amazing array of marine life. Lodges in the area include Quilalea, Ibo Island Lodge and Matemo Island Resort.

The Bazaruto Archipelago, formed when a peninsula broke away from the African mainland, was declared a National Park in 2000. The archipelago comprises 5 habitable islands and sustains a diverse range of fauna and flora including forest, savannah and wetland ecosystems. Lodges in the area include Indigo Bay, Marlin Lodge and Benguerra Island Lodge.

### Day 7

Take the return journey, via Pemba or Vilanculos, to Johannesburg or Maputo to continue your onward journey.