



AZURA

at Gabriel's
BENGUERRA ISLAND, MOZAMBIQUE

The Azura Experience

Imagine an unspoilt island within a Marine National Park. Miles of deserted beaches with soft white sand. Sparkling turquoise seas, crisscrossed by local dhows plying their trade. Swaying palms, gentle breezes. Sunny days and star studded nights. This is Azura Mozambique.

Azura is the area's first luxury eco-boutique retreat. Built entirely by hand in partnership with the local community, it has just 17 villas, each with their own private pool stretching out to the Indian Ocean beyond, and designed for the ultimate undiscovered getaway.

With wonderful cuisine, friendly Mozambican service and a vast range of activities and experiences, including a unique African spa, it's the perfect island escape.

How you spend your time with us is your choice, but getting the small things right that will make the difference is ours.





The Villas

Azura's villas blend modern chic with all that is traditional in Mozambique. The creature comforts you would expect from a luxury boutique resort are there, set off by beautifully carved furnishings and traditional artwork beneath a local thatched jekka roof.

Each is just footsteps from the beach, yet designed with seclusion in mind. A haven of rest and relaxation, where you can feel at one with the environment. A fusion of indoor and outdoor space where time becomes your own.

Wander down to the pristine beach and welcoming azure sea beyond. Relax on your daybed and have your local Mozambican butler-host serve you drinks. Tan in private then cool off in your sparkling pool. Sip a cocktail in your beachside sala as the sun goes down, then shower beneath the stars before dining in private on your deck.

All of our villas are a welcoming place to stay. You may not want to leave them at all!



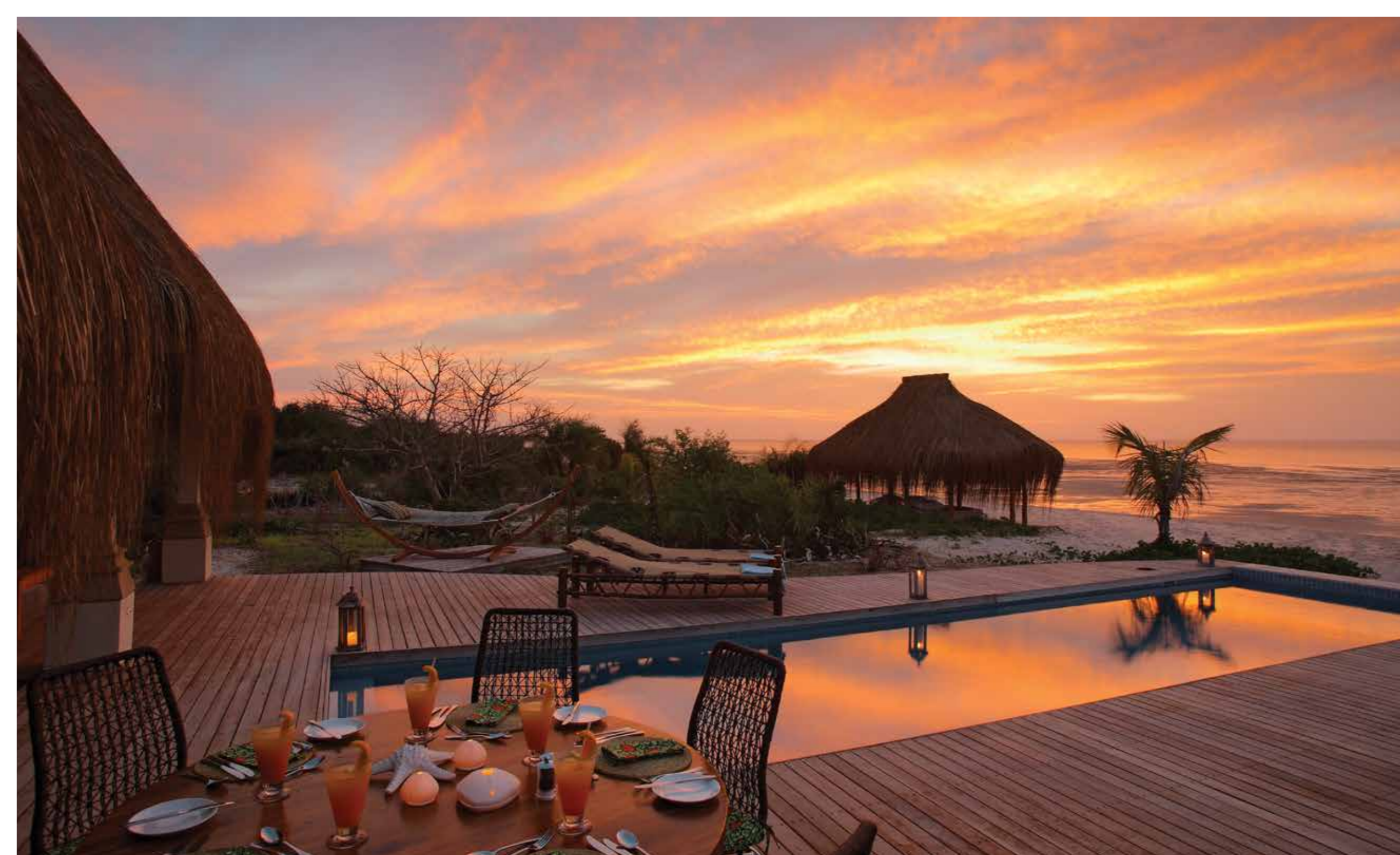
Villa Amizade

Villa Amizade, which means friendship in our native Portuguese, has a wonderful location on the western end of the property with magnificent sea and sunset views. This 2 bedroom en-suite villa is perfect for families, friends, or those requiring a little more relaxation space, or more of a private residence feel, during their stay with us.

The master bedroom has a real indoor/outdoor feel with sliding doors opening up on two sides to your lounging decks beyond. All the normal Azura creature comforts are there, including Egyptian cotton bedlinen, and air-conditioning, plus an en-suite bathroom with freeform bath and indoor and outdoor feature showers. The second bedroom can be configured as a king or a twin and features a 'look through' sea view, small lounge area with TV/DVD, large bathroom with freeform bath, and double outdoor shower.

The relaxation areas at Villa Amizade are extensive, including a lounge with TV/DVD and a selection of games to while away your time, leading out to your very own 'wine bar'. The fully tiled 10 metre feature pool is perfect for cooling off or swimming a couple of laps before you relax in the hammock with a good book, or lounge in your double sala on the beach with a cocktail as the sun goes down.

"Best Beach Villas in the World"
Condé Nast Traveller Magazine



Presidential Villa

The epitome of style and luxury with its own unique décor, the Presidential Villa at Azura is one of the most secluded and luxurious private residences to be found anywhere in the Indian Ocean. With its own beach-front location, nestled in amidst the surrounding indigenous vegetation, it offers complete privacy for the most discerning of guests.

The magnificent split level master bedroom is immensely spacious with its own sitting and lounging areas, and panoramic bathroom with freeform bath and shower. There are a further 2 bedrooms, the first with the same gorgeous layout as our Infinity Beach Villas, and the other being a small twin with en-suite shower, which is perfect for nannies, guides, staff or small children. All of the rooms are linked together by natural thatched wooden walkways.

The spectacular 16m Infinity pool lies at the centre of the relaxation area. There are daybeds aplenty on the deck, or settle in with a book in your beachside sala. Have your butler-host fix you a drink at the feature star bar, or dine on the beach beneath the stars. The sitting room with flat screen TV/DVD/DSTV and surround sound is perfect for taking in a movie. And nothing beats a massage al fresco in the lofty treehouse lounge, with its wonderful views out to Bazaruto Dune and the setting sun.

The Presidential Villa comes with its own private chef and Mozambican butler-host for the ultimate in personalised service during your stay with us.





Our Facilities

Our public areas are open to the beach and sea with amazing vistas across calm blue waters to the Indian Ocean beyond. Furnished with cool contemporary cottons and the textures of Africa, they are open to the breezes, in harmony with nature. Comfortable, simple, spacious and chic.

Wander in and out as you please. Find a quiet corner to read a book, or a place to share the stories of your day with others. Sip the cocktail of the day with your feet in the sand, or snack on fresh sushi in the Star Bar when the fishermen have been lucky with their catch.

Learn more about the environment you are in with our specialist guides or browse our collection of designer clothing, handcrafted artefacts and jewellery at the Trading Store. The mod cons are there too if you need them, with satellite TV and internet discreetly tucked away in our library, where there is complimentary wifi internet access. And the ultimate African spa if you feel in need of some pampering.



Wining & Dining

Indulge your desires with our dining experience. Fresh local Mozambican produce, much of it home caught, put together with contemporary style and flair. Our top international chef's signature dishes will delight even the most discerning palate.

We always offer a choice of dishes, including lots of fresh fish and seafood, and will happily try to accommodate any personal requests you may have. The seven course tasting menu is a particular highlight.

All meals and a large selection of house drinks are usually included in the rate at Azura. We have a fabulous wine cellar for special wine tasting events and themed dinners, and even offer a selection of the owner's wines, especially flown in from their Chateau in the Loire Valley, France.

Where to eat is as much of a decision as what to eat. The main restaurant has magnificent uninterrupted views out to sea, but most guests love more informal dining with their feet in the sand, or having a picnic in a deserted location on their own. And nothing beats dining by candlelight on the beach beneath the stars.



Activities

A kaleidoscope of colour greets you above and below the ocean. Snorkel or dive the magnificent reefs that are home to the turtles that nest nearby. You can learn to dive at our PADI 5 Star Dive Centre or improve your skills through a range of PADI courses. Try your hand at fishing, the waters off Azura offer a variety of reef and big game fish. Sail on our dhow, go island hopping, or cruise to deserted beaches to look for pansy shells. Swim up to dolphins, which are regular visitors to our beach, or track down humpback whales on their migration past our shores. Our guides will show you the best this pristine marine paradise has to offer.

Take a Land Rover tour of the island, and experience the local culture for which Mozambique is rightly famous, as well as visiting the school which was built with donations to Azura's Rainbow Fund. Climb the dunes, some of which are scattered with the remnants of ancient Arab pottery. Visit the island's lakes and spot a crocodile or two. Discover the local fauna and flora. Take a long walk and we will meet you with a picnic. Or join one of our star gazing events and lie back and listen to the ancient African stories that chart the cosmos.

Our Uniquely African Spa

Azura's beautiful African spa is nestled into the bush, at one with the environment. Our signature treatments are based on local ingredients and traditions. Be rubbed down with ground spices, covered head to toe with African body butters, have an African facial, or be gently massaged with warm marula oil.

Our professional spa therapists offer a full range of treatments, and will even come to your villa if you would like. Relax, lie back and be pampered.





Conservation and Community

Our dedication to conservation and the community lies at the heart of everything we do. We are one of only a handful of resorts where the community are major contributors and stakeholders. Gabriel and his family, after whom the site is named, first established a tourism business here several years ago. They are major stakeholders in the resort, and continue to be involved on a daily basis.

Many of our staff have grown up in the local community, and are welcoming you to their home. In return, we do our best to make their home a better place for them and their families.

Our Rainbow Fund supports a variety of social and environmental projects large and small. From building a new school and houses for the teachers to sponsoring our local football team (you can join in and play if you would like). We have established the Island's first no-fishing zone to protect the seas around us, and help to guard Africa's last viable population of the elusive Dugong. We work alongside the National Park and local communities in all of these projects.

New initiatives include our Rainbow Children who regularly dance for our guests in return for a meal programme, and we are currently working on plans for a health clinic.

We will add \$10 a night to your stay towards our Rainbow Fund. It's not compulsory, but we hope that you will want to be part of helping preserve what you will have discovered during your stay at Azura.

Facts at a Glance

Location:

Benguerra Island lies some 14km north east of Vilanculos, the nearest town and site of the international airport. Co-ordinates: 21°51'12.83"S 35°26' 18.79"E

Access:

There are regular flights from Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport on SA Airlink and LAM that connect well with the major airlines' international flights to Europe. The flying time is less than 2 hours. There are also regular flights on LAM from Maputo. Transfer from Vilanculos to Azura is normally by state of the art Eurocopter Helicopter, an exhilarating 10 minute flight. If the flight is not available it is also possible to transfer from Vilanculos by speedboat or light aircraft in 20-30 minutes. All transfers are subject to availability depending on weather and sea conditions.

Visas:

Are normally available on arrival but we recommend that they be purchased in advance from your local Mozambican embassy. Not required by South African passport holders.

Accommodation:

2 Beach Villas, 3 Luxury Beach Villas, 10 Infinity Beach Villas, Villa Amizade and the Presidential Villa.

All villas have a beachfront location with their own pool, outdoor sala, sundeck, daybeds/loungers, and double outdoor showers. Interiors feature king size beds (some twins available), Egyptian cotton bedlinen, expansive bathroom with feature shower, dressing area, hairdryers, mini bar, international plug points, air conditioning and Mozambican butler-host service. Luxury and Infinity Beach Villas are at least 110m² under roof and 645m² total private area. Infinity Beach Villas additionally have a freeform bath, and larger 5 metre Infinity pool.

Villa Amizade offers 2 en suite air conditioned bedrooms (1 can be made as a twin), lounge with TV/DVD/DSTV and iPod dock, 'wine bar', 10m fully tiled pool and extensive relaxation areas including a double beach sala. 285m² under roof, 975m² total private area. The Presidential Villa offers a magnificent master suite with freeform bath and lounge area, a second fully ensuite bedroom, 3rd small staff/children's bedroom with basic en suite facilities, sitting area with TV/DVD/DSTV, iPod dock and Wifi, star bar, treehouse lounge, 16m infinity pool, and extended decking and relaxation areas. Private butler-host and chef. 425m² under roof, 1075m² total private area.

Guest Facilities:

The main area offers formal dining, wine cellar, lounge, feature star bar, library with TV and internet access, trading store and reception with guest relations staff in attendance. The Watersports centre and Gecko Deck features a fully equipped PADI 5 Star diving and fishing centre and dive training pool. Our 40 foot traditionally carved dhow is moored offshore and available for guest use.

Dining:

Our formal restaurant offers fine dining, with lighter fare available for lunch at the beach or at the Star Bar. We regularly hold beach dinners for all guests beneath the stars. In room dining is usually available through our butler/host service, as well as private picnics and beach dinners on request. All standard meals and certain drinks are included currently.

Dress Code:

Informal by day, and smart beach casual by night. Evenings can be a little chilly in winter (June – August) and a light sweater may be required.

Activities:

Dhow sailing, island hopping, snorkelling, scuba diving (range of PADI courses offered), fishing, island drives, cultural encounters, beach picnics, star gazing, spa. Note: Mozambique has a 5m intertidal range and the sea can be shallow in front of Azura at low tide.

Children:

Children are welcome and we offer a full range of activities and experiences tailored for their needs. Villa Amizade and the Presidential Villa are best for families. We request that your children respect the privacy of our other guests, and

younger children dine in villa.

Malaria:

Mozambique is a malarial area and suitable prophylactics are advised. Benguerra Island is considered a low risk malaria area.

Weather:

The island is warm and sunny year round with temperatures averaging 25° C in the winter months (May – August) and over 30° C in the summer months (December - March). Rain is possible from November to March, usually in short bursts, and mainly overnight. The sea temperature varies with the seasons and currents, and ranges between 22° C and 32° C.



Design: Tim Shack Design Co. (011 467 5377) Photography: Mike Story, Niel Ellingson, Allister Starke, Steve Mann and Peter Mallett. E & OE.

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Brides Magazine – Honeymoon Hot List

The Sunday Times Travel – ‘Summer 100 travel picks’

Sunday Times Travel: Fabulous 50: the best so far

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