



AZURA

at Gabriel's
BENGUERRA ISLAND, MOZAMBIQUE



The Azura Experience

Imagine an unspoilt island within a National Park. Miles of deserted beaches with soft white sand that squeaks underfoot. 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 country's first luxury eco-boutique retreat. Built entirely by hand in partnership with the local community, it has just 15 villas, each with their own infinity pool stretching out to the Indian Ocean beyond, and designed for the ultimate in pampering and privacy.

With unsurpassed levels of cuisine, friendly 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.

Azura... beautiful blue.



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. Or lounge around on plump cushions and have your butler serve you tea. Tan in private then cool off in your sparkling pool. Dine on your deck, or sip a cocktail in your beachside sala as the sun goes down. Lie in your bath and gaze at the view, or shower beneath the stars.

Our villas are a welcoming place to stay. You may not want to leave them at all.



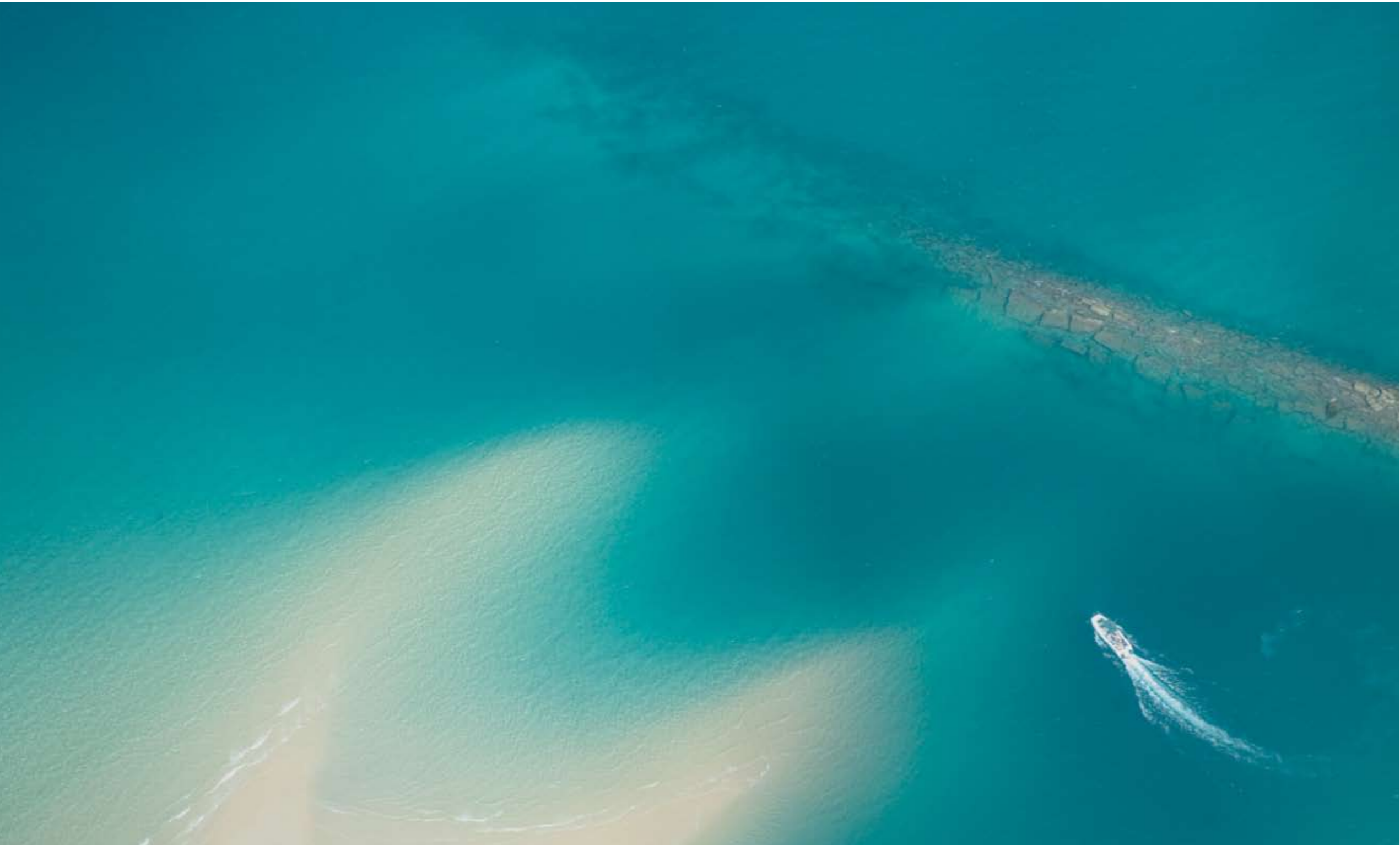
Our Facilities

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 a cocktail at the beach bar with your feet in the sand, or snack on fresh sushi in the Star Bar, which showcases the magnificence of the skies above you.

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





Wining & Dining

Indulge your desires with our fine 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 not disappoint, and nor will our extensive wine cellar, which includes fine wines flown direct from our owner's chateau in France's Loire Valley.

Where to eat is as much of a decision as what to eat. The main restaurant has magnificent uninterrupted views. The Gecko Deck offers informal dining with your feet in the sand. Or we'll pack a picnic of your choosing and whisk you off to a secluded spot on your 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. Fly fish or big game fish for marlin, sailfish and tuna. Sail on our dhow, or cruise to deserted beaches to look for pansy shells. Swim with the dolphins, who are regular visitors to our beach, or track down hump-back whales on their migration past our shores.

Take a tour of the island, and experience the local culture for which Mozambique is rightly famous. 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

This is a spa like no other. Nestled into the bush, at one with the environment. Our signature treatments are based on local ingredients and traditions. Be rubbed down with ground coconut or diamond dust, covered head to toe with African body butters, and gently massaged with warm marula oil.

Nothing is hurried. Relax, lie back and be pampered, in your villa if you would like. Take in the aromas and sounds that surround you. And savour the experience.



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 to sponsoring the local football team, from helping local fisherman to forming the Dugong Protection Foundation, which protects Africa's last viable population of this elusive mammal. We work alongside the National Park and local communities in all of these initiatives

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.



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 daily flights from Johannesburg International airport that connect well with the major airlines' international flights to Europe. The flying time is 2 hours, usually on a 42 seat ATR aircraft. On certain days these flights collect passengers from Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport, with an onward flying time of just 1 hour, facilitating a beach and bush experience.

There are also regular flights on LAM from Maputo, on Swazi Airlines connecting with Matshapa and Durban, and on Travelmax from Lanseria International north of Johannesburg.

An inter-island light aircraft operates from Vilanculos to the grass strip adjacent to the resort, with a flying time of 10 minutes. If the flight is not available it is also possible to transfer from Vilanculos by speedboat in 20-30 minutes. All transfers are subject to availability depending on weather and sea conditions.

Visas:

Are available on arrival or can be purchased in advance from your local Mozambican embassy. Not required by South African passport holders.

Accommodation:

3 Luxury Beach Villas, 11 Infinity Beach Villas and 1 Presidential Villa.

All villas have their own pool, beach frontage, outdoor sala, sundeck, daybeds, and double outdoor showers. Interiors feature extra length king size beds (some twins available), full bathroom, dressing room, hairdryers, mini bar, international plug points, air conditioning and Mozambican butler service. At least 110m² under roof and 645m² total private area.

In addition to these facilities, the Presidential Villa planned for 2008 has a second ensuite bedroom, sitting/dining area, larger pool, and extended decking with jacuzzi. 260m² under roof, 1075m² total private area.

Guest Facilities:

The main area offers formal dining, lounge, feature star bar, library with TV and internet access, and reception with guest relations staff in attendance.

The watersports centre and Gecko Deck features a fishing and diving centre, beach bar and grill. Our 40 foot traditionally carved dhow is moored offshore and available for guest use at all times.

Dining:

Our formal restaurant offers fine dining, with lighter fare available at the Gecko Deck. We regularly hold a beach barbeque for all guests beneath the stars. In room dining is available through our butler service, as well as private picnics and beach barbeques on request.

Dress Code:

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

Activities:

Swimming, sailing, snorkelling, scuba diving, big game fishing, salt water fly fishing, kayaking, island drives, cultural encounters, beach picnics, star gazing, spa.

Children:

Children are welcome though not explicitly catered for.

Malaria:

Mozambique is a malarial area and suitable prophylactics are advised. Government testing has found no malaria bearing mosquitoes on Benguerra Island. For guest comfort, we operate pioneering MozMag machines, which eliminate biting insects within a 500 metre radius of our villas and public areas.

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 October to March. The sea temperature varies with the seasons and currents, and ranges between 22° C and 32° C.



Design: Tin Shack Design Co. (011 467 6377) Photography: Mike Story, Niel Ellingson and Allister Starke. E & OE.

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