

Grilled Prawns on the Beach, Then a Dhow to a Coral Reef

Mozambique in six days: two nights in Maputo for grilled prawns, a Portuguese-era fort, and a build-your-own seafood lunch at the fish market, then a short flight and boat ride out to the Bazaruto Archipelago for three nights of dhow safaris, coral-reef snorkeling, and horseback rides along dune-backed white sand — with real hotels, real transfer operators, and 2026 prices for every stop.

DURATION

6 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

April–October (Dry Season)

Cooler, drier air with highs around 75–85°F (24–29°C) and the best underwater visibility for snorkeling the Bazaruto reefs, while November–March brings heat, humidity, and cyclone risk on the coast.

FROM

\$1,850 USD / person

for 2 people, incl. round-trip domestic flights & boat transfers, 5 nights' lodging & activities

Day 1

Arrive in Maputo

A first afternoon in Mozambique's capital covers a 16th-century fort, a craft market, and a plate of the peri-peri prawns the city is famous for.

Arrival — Maputo International Airport (MPM)

Private transfer · ~20 minutes to downtown

Most hotels arrange a private airport transfer on request; downtown Maputo is a short, direct drive from the terminal.

Fortaleza de Maputo

~45 minutes, self-guided · ~\$1 USD entrance

A star-shaped Portuguese fort completed in 1787, its courtyard ringed with cannons and a small museum of colonial-era relics — one of the best-value stops in the city.

FEIMA Craft Market

~1 hour, self-guided · Free entry

A leafy, open-air cluster of stalls selling Makonde wood carvings, capulana fabric, and batik paintings direct from local artists, with a few casual food stands for a snack.

Dinner — Restaurante Costa do Sol

~1.5 hours · \$15–25 USD / person

A Maputo institution open on the same stretch of waterfront since the late colonial era, known for peri-peri prawns grilled to order and views over the Indian Ocean.

Overnight — Polana Serena Hotel

From \$200 USD / night, for 2 people

A 1922 grande-dame hotel overlooking the Bay of Maputo, with landscaped gardens, a pool, and the kind of colonial-era architecture that anchors most Maputo city tours.

Polana Serena Hotel · +258 84 241 7000

Day 2

Maputo to the Bazaruto Archipelago

A morning at the fish market for a build-your-own seafood lunch, then a short domestic flight and boat transfer out to Mozambique's best-known island chain.

Mercado do Peixe (Fish Market)

~1.5 hours, self-guided · \$12–20 USD / person for lunch

Buy fresh prawns, calamari, or fish straight from the stalls and hand it to one of the market's attached grill stations to cook to order — Maputo's classic build-your-own seafood lunch.

Flight — Maputo to Vilanculos

~1.5 hours · From \$220 USD / person, one way

LAM Mozambique Airlines flies the domestic route between the capital and Vilanculos, the gateway town for the Bazaruto Archipelago, most days of the week.

LAM Mozambique Airlines · lam.co.mz

Boat Transfer — Vilanculos to Bazaruto Island

~20 min road + ~60–70 min boat · \$45 USD / person, one way

A shared speedboat crossing the channel from Vilanculos to Bazaruto Island; there's no jetty on arrival, so guests wade the last few meters through shallow water.

Overnight — Anantara Bazaruto Island Resort

From \$705 USD / night, beach villa for 2 people, incl. meals

An all-inclusive resort on Bazaruto Island's western shore, with thatched beach villas, a spa, and direct access to the dune-backed white sand the archipelago is known for.

Anantara Bazaruto Island Resort · +258 84 304 6670 · anantara.com

Day 3

Dhow Safari & Two Mile Reef

A full day on the water: a traditional dhow sail across the channel followed by an afternoon snorkeling one of the archipelago's best-known reefs.

Dhow Safari

~4 hours, guided · Included with resort stay

A traditional wooden dhow, the same design local fishermen have sailed for generations, carries guests across the channel to a sandbank for a beach lunch before sailing back with the afternoon wind.

Snorkeling — Two Mile Reef

~2 hours, guided · Included with resort stay

A shallow coral reef a short boat ride from Bazaruto Island, home to parrotfish, moray eels, and, in season, manta rays and whale sharks passing through the channel.

Overnight — Anantara Bazaruto Island Resort

From \$705 USD / night, beach villa for 2 people, incl. meals

A second night on Bazaruto Island, with dinner served beachfront under the stars most evenings, weather permitting.

Day 4

Dunes, Horseback Riding & Sunset Sail

A slower day on the island: a walk over Bazaruto's freshwater dunes, a horseback ride along the beach, and a sunset dhow cruise to close it out.

Dune Walk to the Lighthouse

~1.5 hours, guided · Included with resort stay

Bazaruto Island's interior rises into freshwater dune lakes and wind-sculpted sand hills, with a walking trail leading up to a small lighthouse overlooking the channel.

Horseback Riding on the Beach

~1 hour, guided · Included with resort stay

A guided beach ride at low tide along the island's hard-packed sand, with the option to wade the horses into the shallows at the end.

Sunset Dhow Cruise

~1.5 hours, guided · Included with resort stay

A calmer, shorter dhow outing timed to the sunset, usually with drinks served on board as the wind drops for the evening.

Overnight — Anantara Bazaruto Island Resort

From \$705 USD / night, beach villa for 2 people, incl. meals

A final night on the island before the return crossing to the mainland the following morning.

Day 5

Return to Maputo

A boat and short flight back to the capital, with an afternoon left over for one of Maputo's green spaces before a final night in the city.

Boat Transfer — Bazaruto Island to Vilanculos

~60–70 min boat + ~20 min road · \$45 USD / person, one way

The same shared speedboat crossing in reverse, timed to connect with the afternoon flight back to the capital.

Flight — Vilanculos to Maputo

~1.5 hours · From \$220 USD / person, one way

The return LAM Mozambique Airlines flight lands back at Maputo International Airport in the late afternoon, leaving time for dinner in the city.

LAM Mozambique Airlines · lam.co.mz

Jardim Tunduru Botanical Garden

~1 hour, self-guided · Free entry

A shaded 19th-century botanical garden in the city center, laid out by the same landscape architect behind several public parks in Durban, South Africa.

Overnight — Polana Serena Hotel

From \$200 USD / night, for 2 people

A final night back at the same Bay-of-Maputo hotel from Day 1, convenient to the airport for the next morning's departure.

Polana Serena Hotel · +258 84 241 7000

Day 6

Departure

A final morning in Maputo before the flight home closes out a trip that ran from a colonial-era fort to a coral reef in the Indian Ocean.

Morning at Leisure

Self-guided

A last walk along Avenida Julius Nyerere for souvenirs or a final coffee before checkout.

Departure — Maputo International Airport (MPM)

Self-guided

Six days that ran from a peri-peri prawn dinner and a Portuguese-era fort in Maputo to dhow safaris and coral reefs in the Bazaruto Archipelago.