



## Quirimbas Sea Kayak Safari • Mozambique 10 Days • 9 Nights • Various Dates • £1895

**On this 10 day itinerary, we will spend the time discovering the little known and little visited wilderness of the Quirimbas National Park. Sea kayaking through the warm, blue waters of the Mozambique Channel and camping on tropical islands. Turquoise clear waters and beautiful scenery awaits you – as well as a host of local fishermen to meet and interact with along the way.**

### Highlights

- Sea kayak in beautiful Quirimbas National Park
- Exploring and camping on remote, tropical islands
- Snorkel over pristine reefs and sea grass beds
- Look out for humpback whales and the endangered dugong.

### Overview

We begin the expedition with a light aircraft flight to magical Ibo Island. Steeped in history and rich in culture, this World Heritage nominated site is the perfect place to acclimatise with a walk round the ancient town and opportunities to relax on the idyllic beaches or explore the mangroves. We will then set off on our kayaking adventure –

The islands are well spaced and allow for excellent kayaking, dhow cruising, snorkelling, swimming and exploring. The entire archipelago is tide dependent and so your routing will have to be carefully worked out based on local knowledge and weather and tide conditions.

Please note whilst on expedition all camping will be bush or island camping with no facilities what so ever. Washing water will be limited, and meals simple and nutritious based on the dry stocks able to be carried and the availability of fresh fish and seafood. The itinerary will need to be totally flexible and is weather and tide dependent. You are however assured of adventure against a backdrop of varied and pristine scenery. Services of an English speaking crew member and 2 Mozambican dhow crew.



## **Itinerary**

### **Day 1 and 2:**

#### **Arrive Pemba International Airport and light aircraft transfer to magical Ibo Island**

You will be met at Pemba airport by an Ibo Island Lodge representative and taken to the light aircraft departure point. An approx 30 minute breathtakingly beautiful flight over the islands and turquoise waters transfers you to Ibo Island where you will be met and transferred by vehicle directly to Ibo Island Lodge.

Ibo Island is a place where time has stood still, and people live pretty much the way they always have done for hundreds of years. The locals call it 'Ilha Do Ibo.' Ibo Island is probably the most visited in the Quirimbas Archipelago due to its fascinating history and beautiful old buildings. Lying to the north of Quirimba, historic Ibo Island was where Vasco da Gama rested in 1502. Probably the most compelling attraction in the Quirimbas, Ibo's 200-year-old ghost town and 16th Century forts make for a fascinating journey to an era long forgotten.

Ibo Island Lodge is the perfect place to start to explore the Quirimbas Archipelago National Park in Northern Mozambique. Ibo Island's magic is overwhelming. Steeped in history, rich in culture and nominated as a potential World Heritage Site, the island dates back to the early 1600's, making it one of the most ancient settlements in Mozambique. Since its role as one of the country's mighty trading centres, Ibo has remained all but forgotten to the outside world for almost a century. Today you can wander around the mysterious town amongst forts and ancient romantic buildings with many fascinating stories just waiting to be retold.

Ibo Island however boasts much more than historical significance. This island is one of the most pristine destinations in Africa. The warm turquoise waters surrounding Ibo are inhabited by turtles and tropical fish; viewings of dolphins and whales are frequent whilst the bird life is abundant and varied. In and around Ibo Island you will encounter idyllic beaches and explore rich coral reefs.

The lodge has prime, spectacular views over the waterfront and accommodates guests in beautifully yet simple decorated rooms. Historic colonial mansions with high ceilings have been stylishly renovated to accommodate the lodge with various verandas, tropical gardens and a spectacular roof top restaurant that provides the ideal venue to watch the sun go down. The emphasis at Ibo Island Lodge is on complete relaxation and a base from which to explore magical Ibo Island.

On Ibo Island become immersed in the unchanged, ancient culture of Ibo and the chance to interact with wonderfully hospitable islanders, or simply relax at one of the pools, refresh the senses with a massage and soak up the exotic atmosphere.

The Quirimbas Archipelago offers a diverse and wonderland of sea kayaking experiences. Take to the water to discover the Quirimbas National Park, island hop in and around Ibo and explore one of the largest mangrove forests in Africa.

Your time on Ibo can also be used to become acclimatized to the kayaking conditions and have a chance to meet your support sailing dhow crew and plan the next few days.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner whilst at Ibo Island Lodge.

Drinks including mineral water and all other extras to clients own expense.



## **Days 3 and 4:**

### **Sea and Interior Kayak Expedition: Ibo to Quirimba and the southern shores of Quirimba Island.**

Supported by your traditional dhow and trusty crew with all camping equipment and supplies you will depart Ibo Island for your exploration into the Quirimbas Archipelago! The ancient art of traditional dhow travel has been practiced in this region for centuries. Today it still remains the only way of travel between the islands and the last sailing trading dhow came to Ibo from India in 1969! Turquoise clear waters and beautiful scenery awaits you – as well as a host of local fishermen to meet and interact with along the way.

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Please note whilst on expedition all camping will be bush or island camping with no facilities what so ever. Washing water will be limited, and meals simple and nutritious based on the dry stocks able to be carried and the availability of fresh fish and seafood. The itinerary will need to be totally flexible and is weather and tide dependent. You are however assured of adventure against a backdrop of varied and pristine scenery. Services of an English speaking crew member and 2 Mozambican dhow crew.

The southern leg of the expedition will begin with the trip through the mangrove canal that links Ibo and the Quirimba. This ancient mangrove canal which was cut by the slaves in the 18 century. This canal is still used today and provides a fantastic kayak and sailing route into the mangroves and beyond to Quirimba island.

This needs to begin at high tide.

Guided trip around Quirimba Island and the areas largest coconut plantation. One of the oldest families in the region the Gersners have been farming here since the twenties. Fascinating insight into their lives and that of the islanders and their history. Camp set up on Quirimba and used for two days as a base camp. Explore Sencar Island and the mouth of the Montepuez River and return to camp for both nights.

Meals for all days: Breakfast, lunch and dinner. All drinks including bottled water to clients own expense.

## **Days 5 and 6:**

### **Sea and Interior Kayak Expedition: Ibo to Darumba and the southern tip of Matemo Island.**

Early morning departure for the main Quirimba canal and another route through the mangroves.

Dependent on weather and local conditions kayak across to the beautiful Darumba river mouth and paddle up this wide river where fishing villages and rural life is the norm.

Overnight on Day 6 on one of the beaches south of Darumba villages.

On the morning of day 7 paddle on into the clearest of blue water with corals below with a stop on the south western tip of Matemo Island.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner. All drinks including bottled water to clients own expense.



## **Day 7:**

### **Sea and Interior Kayak Expedition: Matemo to Rolas Island**

Rolas Island is a tiny island surrounded by crystal clear waters with breath-taking reefs to snorkel and a stunning white sandy peninsular. Local legend says the island is owned by the sacred, resident coconut crabs, the largest land crabs.

During your visit to Rolas, you will meet some of the local fishermen who use the island as temporary base and, if you dare, go with "old man coconut crab" into the Rolas Coral Rock Forest to see some of the infamous crabs for yourself.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner. All drinks including bottled water to clients own expense.

## **Days 8, 9:**

### **Rolas to uninhabited Mogundula Island**

In our opinion Mogundula Island is one of the best in the archipelago. Known by the locals as the island with the sacred lake it provides beautiful bird watching, pristine swimming off the sandbank beach and excellent snorkelling en-route.

Overnight camping and exploring on Mogundula Island.

This base camp allows exploring of Macaloe Island as a day trip for a full day on day 9 OR a scheduled trip over to the mainland and visit to Pangane – one of the oldest settlements in Mozambique. Fascinating village and ancient ruins of mosques make for a very interesting day trip.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner. All drinks including bottled water to clients own expense.

## **Day 10: Mogundula Island to Mucojo and road transfer to Pemba**

Early morning boat transfer to the mainland and the 3 and a half hour road transfer to Pemba in time for flight back to Johannesburg.

Meals: Breakfast. Lunch

All drinks including bottled water to clients own expense.

## **Expedition Grade**

### **Moderate**

This expedition is considered moderate as there are no long walks and our paddling days of 4 hours are broken up by lunch and swims.

# PIONEER EXPEDITIONS

www.pioneerexpeditions.com



## INCLUSIONS

- Kayak use with all safety gear including vest, paddle etc
- Accommodation in Ibo – 2 nights
- Camping – 7 nights
- Support boat throughout
- Radio contact between Kayakers and support boat
- Internal flight from Pemba to Ibo lodge
- National park fees
- Professional English speaking guide throughout expedition
- Airport transfer
- All meals as indicated in itinerary

## EXCLUSIONS

- Airport taxes
- International flights to Pemba
- Snorkel and flippers
- Visa
- Personal expenses
- Beverages including bottled water
- Tips to guides and other staff (optional)

## Expedition Schedule

Pioneer Expeditions have the following scheduled dates designed to coincide with the full moon, however we can arrange additional dates for 2 or more people.

### 2010

Wed 20th October – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010

Wed 8<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Wed 19th October – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010

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## USEFUL INFORMATION

### FAQs

#### **Sea-kayaking... What's it like?**

Sea-kayaking is a most wonderful way to explore the world. It's inexpensive and environmentally-friendly, does not require months of training and superior strength, and is good for the body and soul. Sea-kayaking can take you beyond the reach of civilisation into the natural world, into the space between earth, sea and sky.

#### **Is it easy to learn? Do I have to be fit?**

No prior experience is necessary. As long as you are in good health and have a sense of adventure, you will quickly master the skills needed to paddle and steer your kayak. Our experienced guides will give an introductory lesson at the beginning of the journey, and will be there to help and keep everyone happy and safe throughout.

#### **Would the expedition be too hard/too easy for me?**

These are not beyond a person with general fitness. If you are physically fit and have a sense of adventure then these expeditions are for you.

#### **Do I need to be able to swim?**

No. In the unlikely event that your sea-kayak should capsize, you will easily exit the boat and your high-buoyancy life-jacket will keep you afloat. Even snorkeling is possible for non-swimmers, with the help of your guide and your life-jacket.

#### **What's our group size?**

We keep our groups small, a maximum of eight on each, to minimize our impact on the places we pass through, and to maximize our enjoyment of each day.

#### **Are the kayaks singles or doubles?**

We use double kayaks, which means you will be paddling with another person. You may like to book with a friend and paddle together, or you may be happy to get to know your fellow travelers by kayaking with them. For more experienced kayakers we can convert the kayakers into a single if you wish.

#### **Is diving possible?**

Scuba-diving can be organized from IBO lodge