

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS

www.pioneerexpeditions.com



Quirimbas Sea Kayak & Dhow Safari • Mozambique

8 Days • 7 Nights • Various Dates • from £1395

On this 8 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/sail in beautiful Quirimbas National Park
- Exploring and camping on remote, tropical islands
- Snorkel in turquoise sea over pristine reefs and sea grass beds
- Look out for humpback whales and the endangered dugong.

Overview

The Quirimbas Islands lie in the Indian Ocean off northeastern Mozambique, close to Pemba, the capital of the province of Cabo Delgado. The Quirimbas Archipelago was almost forgotten and has only recently opened up to the outside world.

Life here is slow paced and charming. Thick mangrove forests, craggy tropical islands and a wild aquatic world make up this remote region. We explore this coastline fringed by tropical islands on a sturdy motorised 11- meter Arab dhow complete with experienced crew and a professional guide. You will have the option to kayak or sail into wild frontiers, an unequalled experience in one of the last undeveloped places in Africa.

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. Wild waters and winding channels are the scenery around you.

This adventure is true expedition style as we sail or kayak from one tropical island to another; beach stops are frequent, and camp overnight on uninhabited islands. Camping open fire dinners under the stars, and set up mobile tents on sparsely populated islands. Your chef will conjure up fresh seafood and traditional cuisine over an open fire under the stars.

We end our adventure with some well deserved luxury at Ibo Island Lodge.



Itinerary

Days 1 and 2:

Arrive at Pemba where you will be met at the airport and shown to your transfer vehicle for the 3-hour road transfer to Mucojo. Arrive Mucojo and dhow transfer to Mogundula Island. Relax or enjoy a paddle around the island – maybe even a visit to Panagane.

In our opinion Mogundula Island is one of the best in the archipelago which is why we spend 2 nights here as it is a fantastic base from which to explore. 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.

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

Day 3

Start of Dhow/Kayak Safari – Mogundula Island to Ulumbwa

Depart Mogundula for your exploration into the Quirimbas Archipelago! You can either choose to stay aboard your dhow supported by crew with all camping equipment and supplies or kayak into the clearest of blue waters. The Quirimbas Archipelago offers a diverse and wonderland of sea kayaking experiences.

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.

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.

The Ullumbwa river mouth beckons and it is here where fascinating rural fishing villages dot the shore.

Camp on the beach in the open Mozambique bush south of Ulumbwa.

Overnight camping

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

Day 4:

Dhow/Kayak Expedition: Ulumbwa to Matemo Island

Turquoise clear waters and beautiful scenery awaits you on route, but before we have an early morning sail or paddle up the Ulumbwa estuary where we will get the chance to view the large variety of birds and mangroves that thrive in this area. In the afternoon we take a tour through this fishing village, getting to know the ways of these fishermen & women. We then paddle on into the clearest of blue water with corals below with a stop on the south western tip of Matemo Island.

Overnight camping

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



Days 5 6 & 7:

Matemo Island to Ibo Island

Dhow/Kayak to Ibo Island.

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.

Overnight Ibo Island Lodge

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

Day 8:

Ibo Island to Pemba

An included beautiful light aircraft flight over the islands and turquoise waters transfers you to Pemba International Airport from Ibo Island Lodge.

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. There is also a dhow support boat

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 Mozambican dhow crew.

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS

www.pioneerexpeditions.com



Costs

Prices are based on scheduled trip dates below and assume a minimum of 4 people booked on trip. The trip can run with a minimum of 2 people, however a surcharge applies.

We are also able to offer private departures

Scheduled Departure Dates 2012

25 th March – 1 st April	1 st April to 8 th April	15 th April to 22 nd April	29 th April – 6 th May
6 th May – 13 th May	13 th May – 20 th May	20 th May – 27 th May	27 th May – 3 rd Jun
10 th Jun – 17 th Jun	24 th Jun – 1 st Jul	1 st Jul – 8 th Jul	15 th Jul – 22 nd Jul
29 th Jul – 5 th Aug	26 th Aug – 2 nd Sept	2 nd Sept – 9 th Sept	9 th Sept – 16 th Sept
16 th Sept – 23 rd Sept	23 rd Sept – 30 th Sept	30 th Sept – 7 th Oct	7 th Oct – 14 th Oct
14 th Oct – 21 st Oct	21 st Oct – 28 th Oct	28 th Oct – 4 th Nov	4 th Nov – 11 th Nov
11 th Nov – 18 th Nov	18 th Nov – 25 th Nov	25 th Nov – 2 nd Dec	2 nd Dec – 9 th Dec
9 th Dec – 16 th Dec			

INCLUSIONS

- Kayak use with all safety gear including vest, paddle etc
- Accommodation in Ibo in standard room (based on 2 sharing) – 2 nights
- Island Camping – 4 nights (sleeping bag and mat not included)
- Support boat throughout
- Radio contact between Kayakers and support boat
- Internal flight from Ibo lodge to Pemba
- 2 guided tours of Ibo Island with local guide
- Full board excluding all drinks
- Professional English speaking guide throughout expedition
- Airport transfer
- All meals as indicated in itinerary

EXCLUSIONS

- Airport taxes
- International flights to Pemba
- National Park fees
- Snorkel and flippers
- Visa
- Personal expenses
- Optional activities/ excursions not specified
- Beverages including bottled water
- Tips to guides and other staff (optional)

Expedition Schedule

Tailormade to suit, for a list of guaranteed departures, please email us.

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS

www.pioneerexpeditions.com



USEFUL INFORMATION

FAQs

Do I have to kayak?

No. You will have the opportunity to stay aboard the Dhow and explore the islands by sail rather than kayak.

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