



## RIO AZUL, MOZAMBIQUE - FACT SHEET

### LOCATION:

The eco-paradise Rio Azul in Mozambique is a lodge that embodies serenity at a secluded beach escape in a true tropical wilderness. Nestled on the banks of a crystal clear lagoon, this stylish eco-lodge, surrounded by a magnificent mangrove forest, is the perfect setting for nature lovers, honeymooners, families and adventure enthusiasts.

The lodge is 110 km north of Vilanculos and situated on a peninsula with the Indian Ocean on one side and the lagoon that the Govuro River flows into, on the other side.

### GPS CO-ORDINATES:

Rio Azu, Mozambique - 21.2816° S, 35.1071° E

### HOW TO GET THERE:

#### Flying:

Fly From OR Tambo International Airport (Johannesburg) to Vilanculos International Airport, Mozambique. A 1h45 min road transfer to the lodge is arranged prior to arrival and an air-conditioned vehicle will transport guests to Rio Azul including a spectacular beach drive towards Bartholomew Dias Point and the lodge. Please note that the beach drive is dependent on the tide. During high tide there is a back road that accesses the lodge as well.

#### Self Drive:

From Johannesburg, it is a 16-hour drive via Maputo, Xai Xai, and Vilanculos. 110 km north of Vilanculos, turn right towards Inhassoro (14 km), and then a 24 km beach drive – (permits required - arranged by our Lodge prior to arrival) to Rio Azul. Please note that the beach drive is dependent on the tide. During high tide there is a back road that accesses the lodge as well.

### BEST TIME TO TRAVEL:

The climate is tropical with warm temperatures year-round. Dry season is from May to November and is considered the best time to visit. December and January will have higher temperatures. February to March is the rainy season which is characterized by occasional downpours.

When you choose to travel to Rio Azul may also depend on what activities you are interested in. The waters of the Indian Ocean are always warm, and snorkelling conditions tend to be good all year. Guests can snorkel in the mangroves and lagoon, there is also good coral snorkelling in the Bazaruto archipelago when booking a daytrip to Paradise Island. Migrating humpback whales are in these waters from June to September, and the best time to see whale sharks, although a rarity, is from October to early December.

**ACCOMMODATION:**

Rio Azul offers luxury lodge accommodation comprising of five twin/double chalets, and two luxury villas which sleep up to six adults and four children. Each villa has its own private swimming pool and is situated along natural beach shores.

**Chalets:**

Rio Azul has five elegant, thatched roof, wooden, beach chalets, with sublime views over the lagoon. Facilities include electrical plug-points, fans, mosquito nets, en-suite bathrooms with shower and double basins, night lamps, shelving, and tea & coffee making facilities.

**Villas:**

The two villas, also of thatch and wood construction both overlook the tidal lagoon of the estuary, from a private deck with its own pool. Both have a private lounge with overhead fans and a full kitchen for private dining. The villa is divided into 3 rooms sleeping 6 adults, which are all en-suite. The villa also has a loft with beds for up to 4 children. An additional bathroom with bath is located on the ground floor. Electrical plug-points, fans, mosquito nets, night lamps, shelving and hanging space are all standard.

**CHILD POLICY:**

Rio Azul is a Family friendly lodge and welcomes kids from the ages of 6 – 17, kids younger than 6 are on a request basis.

Children aged 6 – 17 years (Maximum 1 child) stay free of charge (FOC) when sharing with 2 adults in a chalet. Maximum one additional bed in room with adults. Children rates on rate sheet is for when staying in own room.

Children aged 6 – 17 years (Maximum 4 children) stay free of charge (FOC) when sharing with 4 adults in a Villa.

**SOLAR POWER AND USE OF ENERGY:**

Yes

**POOL:**

Yes

**ECO-FRIENDLY:**

Yes. Own vegetable and herb garden. Solar power and recycling.

**FOOD:**

Dining at Rio Azul is a delightful affair with the freshest ingredients locally sourced and produced, or grown in our own vegetable and herb garden, as well as straight from the sea. Expect Mozambican specialties such as peri-peri chicken and freshly caught prawns. Our 3 course dinners in particular are always a

delightful experience and can vary between relaxed and informal evenings, romantic and candle lit affairs, as well as lively beach BBQs.

**GUEST AMENITIES:**

- The lodge has electricity supplied by solar power and plug points for charging camera batteries, laptops, etc.
- The fully stocked bar is available at all times.
- Transport to and from the lodge can be arranged upon request.
- Fishing equipment and deep sea fishing boats are available for hire.
- Complimentary WIFI

**WATER SUPPLY:**

Borehole water.

**TRANSFER VEHICLES:**

An air-conditioned vehicle will transport guests to Rio Azul. A maximum of 3 guests per vehicle is used to transport guests.

**ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:**

**Use of your own private boat on lagoon:**

Each chalet has the use of its own “tinnie” boat, a small aluminium alloy boat with 15hp outboard motors that is so easy to use it doesn’t require a boating license. Set out on your very own adventure in the lagoon, take a camera, some binoculars or even snacks and enjoy the freedom.

**Snorkelling in the mangroves:**

Make use of the lodge’s complimentary snorkelling gear and explore the unique ecosystem of the mangrove forest searching for colourful little fish among the tree roots.

**A trip to Pansy Island or Flamingo Island (tide dependent):**

Enjoy a secluded beach picnic on an uninhabited island and look for pretty white Pansy shells that have a distinctive petal-shaped imprint. In season, flocks of flamingos add a vivid pink paintbrush to the white and blue surroundings. Other birdlife such as is white-breasted Cormorants, Grey herons, Pelicans, and elegant Great ibis can be observed as well.

**Beach picnics:**

Enjoy a delightful picnic on the beach where everything has been set up for you by our attentive staff. Recline on a comfortable beach chair under shade cover while nibbling on snacks, drinking cool drinks and feasting on freshly caught fish roasted over open coals right on the beach.

**Nature walks:**

A guided nature walk will allow you to become intimately acquainted with the area's fauna and flora. Discover more about the unique ecosystems surrounding the lodge and understand why we are so passionate about protecting them.

**One dhow trip per stay:**

Since 600 AD Mozambicans have been using dhows as transport along the coast. Step back in time on one of these traditional wooden boats with canvas sails and enjoy a magnificent sunset journey on the open seas.

**Kayaking:**

Paddle through the warm turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean on a kayaking excursion exploring the mangroves or along the coast.

**Bird Watching:**

Rio Azul is blessed with a pristine unspoilt estuary, making it ideal for bird watchers. Your bird watching holiday at Rio Azul can include a guided bird walk along the Rio Azul shores and in the surrounding bush of Rio Azul. Rio Azul also offers its guests boat rides on the estuary where there is a large variety of common and exotic birds.

**ACTIVITIES EXCLUDED:**

**Island trips to Bazaruto Archipelago Reserve and 'Bartholomeus Diaz (BD) Island / Paradise Island**  
*(Additional charge):*

The Bazaruto Archipelago was once a peninsula jutting out of Mozambique but now forms six unspoilt islands waiting to be explored. White sand dunes protect the archipelago and form a striking backdrop against the blue sky and azure sea.

**Ocean Snorkelling** *(Additional charge):*

Take a boat trip out into the ocean and snorkel in the open sea where magnificent marine life awaits. You may even come across a Whale Shark, gentle giants dappled with white spots who call this area their home. Being surrounded by shoals of fish is another fantastic experience that is not to be missed.

**Deep sea fishing** *(Additional charge):*

Experienced and qualified guides know the area intimately and take guests out to a nearby reef where they have the option of trolling, plugging, jigging, fly-fishing or drift bait fishing for game fish. The lodge operates on a strict catch and release policy.