



# HOLIDAY SPOTTING

Looking for the perfect holiday spot for your family or friends? We've rounded up hot-to-be-missed destination picks complete with top tips and exclusive reader offers.



MOZAMBIQUE MEANDERS

## IBO ISLAND LODGE, Quirimbas National Park, northern Mozambique

Far, far away, where the waters are neon blue and scented with coral, is an island crammed with history... and a lodge of impeccable taste. Set in two restored Portuguese villas to third will be complete by December that look out over the mangroves, Ibo Island Lodge is a breezy, waxy-spiced haven peaced with periwinkle, sunrises, cuisine and attentive hosts.

**THE SOUNDTRACK** The dreamy nostalgia of Brazilian singer Gilberto Gil. **LOOK AND FEEL** The rains are all cool brushed-concrete floors, four posters in clouds of mosquito net, Victorian baths and wooden antiques. We feasted on papaya and lobster salad under an Indian umbrella tree in the splder fly-dressed gardens. At sunset, guests drift to a balcony to watch the night fall - a quiet point-of-constellations as we, tingling with salt and sun after a perfect day's snorkelling, sipped on local beer.

**THE HOOK** It's up for World Heritage Site status. The tiny crumbling colonial town of Ibo - once a bustling trading post - is now a mix of spooky ruins and gracious trading buildings, with a cloak of tropical vegetation and a cast of friendly locals. Sleeping here is like staying in a forgotten town... there are just three cars and generators provide the only electricity.

**PERFECT FOR** Couples and families with older children who enjoy outdoor activities and exploring local culture. It's not really a traditional beach holiday: the shores are lined with mangroves rather than silver sands.

**TOP TIPS** Take a dhow trip to the ultimate private swimming spot, where we snorkelled before emerging onto the sandbank to find a breakfast table set with fine linen, coffee and scrambled eggs. Don't miss the Fort of São João Baptista silvermiths, who melt down old Portuguese coins and turn them by hand into delicate silver jewellery.

**SPECIAL OFFER** Book a five-night stay and only pay for four - just R6,775 per person sharing. Return aircraft transfers to the island are R1,895. This special rate includes all meals (including beverages) and some activities (like a daily trip to the sandbank). Quote 'Marie Claire' when booking.

**TO BOOK** Call 03-702-0285, e-mail [reservations@iboland.com](mailto:reservations@iboland.com) or visit [iboland.com](http://iboland.com) - Jennie Sheehan

## MATEMO ISLAND, Quirimbas National Park

Beach lovers in search of a luxury getaway can hide from the world in equatorial tropical bliss in the unspoilt surrounds of the Quirimbas Archipelago. Matemó is pristine and just eight kilometres long. The lodge is dedicated to laid-back island-style life: a string of 24 palm-thatched chalets - with an Eastern influence - is scattered like pebbles along the picture-perfect shore. Admire the ocean from your hammock or nibble an lobster and other fresh seafood from the sea-facing dining areas. Matemó also offers some of the best diving in the Demimbas - let alone the country, drifting off a coral reef amid outrageously diverse marine life is unforgettable. Head to the wreck for a dive with a difference...

**SPECIAL OFFER** A rate of R5,700 per person sharing for three nights (normal rate is R9,420) and 20 per cent off a spa treatment at Matemó. This includes meals, some drinks and two motorized activities. Excludes air flights to and from Pemba Airport, airport taxes, visas, return flight aircraft transfers, motorized activities and any items not specified. Valid until 1 March 2012. Call 03-650-9633, e-mail [info@matemoislands.com](mailto:info@matemoislands.com) or visit [matemoislands.com](http://matemoislands.com).



### EVENING SPLENDOR

Exquisite sea views from Matemó lodge. Top: Tropical bliss on Matemó Island. Above left: The charm of Ibo Island Lodge.