

# Ibo Island Lodge ACTIVITIES

IBO ISLAND LODGE, QUIRIMBAS ARCHIPELAGO  
NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE





IBO ISLAND LODGE

## UNIQUE DESTINATION: IBO ISLAND

Ibo Island has been described as one of the most unique and magical islands in the world and is the perfect place to explore the beaches and beauty of the Quirimbas Archipelago and National Park in Northern Mozambique. Nominated for World Heritage status, Ibo is an island that is still remote and relatively untouched by large scale commercial developments, and is one of the most fascinating, idyllic islands you could dream of visiting.

## GUEST ACTIVITIES

Ibo Island Lodge offers some of the broadest range of experiences in Mozambique set in an undeniably unique and tranquil island atmosphere. The flexibility of guest activities is what makes Ibo Island Lodge renowned. One day guests can be active and exploring with a wide range of guided land and marine experiences, and the next they can relax island style, with a massage and have a lazy day at the beach. It is the perfect island mix for guests wanting something authentic and more than just a typical beach holiday. It suits romantics, families and special interest groups alike.

Well trained guides offer unique special interest guided activities: Mobile Island hopping safaris, scuba diving and snorkelling, birding safaris, guided sea kayaking into the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest mangrove forest in Africa, castaway picnics to neighbouring islands, traditional dhow sailing, historical and cultural interactive experiences.

Ibo Island Lodge also **INCLUDES** a number of experiences in the rate. Full details are below:

### The Sand Bank Beach Experience – Complimentary

A motorized or sailing dhow excursion (depending on winds) takes you one of Ibo's best kept secrets... A beautiful white sand bank beach totally surrounded by warm blue sea, where the luxury is in the seclusion of the setting. You may have some local fishermen pull up on the beach with their catch of the day, or another boat with guests from a neighbouring property, but there is enough space and photographic experiences for everyone. This is one of the most unique beach experiences in Africa, and is regarded as one of the must do's in the Quirimbas Archipelago. Pack and use lots of sun screen, a hat, reading material, your camera, and beach gear. We take care of the rest!

The timing of this experience is entirely dependent on the tides. Head out to our little piece of paradise for either breakfast or lunch served under our Bedouin tent with your feet in the sand. There is ample opportunity for swimming, strolling, snoozing, and good snorkelling can be found right off the sand bank. Dolphins and turtles are regularly spotted en-route. This activity is weather, wind and tide dependent.

***One transfer to the sand bank is included each day for guests – subject to conditions.***

### The Ibo of Yesterday Guided Historical Experience – Complimentary

A guided walking journey throughout Ibo Islands Stone Town and important historical buildings many that have been rehabilitated, and some that have fallen into decline. Visit the ancient fort of St Joao Baptista and learn more about the turbulent history that this beautiful fort has endured and see where traditional silversmiths still hand craft exquisite intricate jewelry using ancient Arab technique sand tools and found no-where else in the world. Guests can observe the craft in the making and purchase unique gifts to take home. Guided historical and cultural activities enable guests to immerse themselves in the unique culture of Ibo and a rare chance to understand this unchanged lifestyle.

***Ibo Island Lodge offers the guided historical tour complimentary to each guest's stay.***

### Ibo of Today Guided Experience – Complimentary

A chance to interact with the charismatic people of Ibo. Mozambique's history has ensured that cultures have met and mingled - a blend of European, Indian, Arabic and Chinese. In addition to this, old Mozambique tribal customs and religions are still respected and followed on the island. All this creates a special way of life, completely unique to Ibo Island. The guided walk into the villages of Ibo reveals the day-to-day life of the Kimwani people. Discover how Muslim and African traditions have blended to create a way of life unique to Ibo. Visit the local witch doctor, meet some of the islanders, get an "Ibo face-mask" and soak up the truly authentic island culture.

***Ibo Island Lodge offers the guided Ibo of Today tour complimentary to each guest's stay.***

### Guided Mobile Island Hopping Dhow and Kayak Safaris – Contact us for rates

Ibo Island Lodge is the **ONLY** operator to offer fully guided **tailor made and Private Departures**. Mobile Island hopping dhow and kayak safaris. Under the expert leadership of a pro guide and a local crew, explore a coastline and new destination fringed by tropical islands with an abundance of heritage and unique culture. Combine with sea kayaking and dhow sailing up wide coastal river mouths teeming with red listed bird species and some of the largest mangrove forests in Africa. Snorkel off deserted white sandbanks and into turquoise sea, and sleep in mobile eco fly camps on uninhabited tropical islands. The crew conjures up fresh seafood and traditional cuisine over an open fire under island stars, leaving you free to soak up a once in a lifetime Mozambique safari. Contact [reservations@iboisland.com](mailto:reservations@iboisland.com) for all details and rates.



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### Visit the Ibo Island Pre School Project: Complimentary

Mozambique education levels are typically low, especially in the north of the country. On Ibo Island there is just one primary school that works three shifts a day in order to cater for the needs of children. The language of communication is English which we believe is vital for the development of the children and the island as a whole. Our mission is to provide a structured, safe and stimulating environment for our children to play. In addition children are given a grounding in English as well as taught to respect Ibo's natural resources, the unique eco-system in which the island is situated, and where the basics of personal hygiene, recycling and waste management are addressed. The facility is coordinated and operated under the care of the Ibo Island Lodge management team.

### Scuba Diving:

Ibo Island Lodge has a resident Padi Dive Instructor and offers scuba diving to accredited divers as well as PADI DSD's, Open Water and Advanced dive training courses. You can book a series of dives as a guest at Ibo Island Lodge, or book a dedicated dive package or a mobile island hopping dive safari – one of the most unique dive and adventure experiences in Africa! Ibo Island and her surrounds has some wonderful dive sites that recent guests have been raving about.

Definitely the most superior diving at Ibo is at the light house. It is a long wall dive that covers an area of 1 square km. Starting at 7 m of depth there are large gardens of coral tables, soft corals, bucket corals, green tree corals and at the wall side it falls away to a coral bottom at 21m where divers are likely to see a good range of tropical fish. Highlights on the lighthouse dive are angel fish, massive napoleon wrasse, trumpet fish, damsel fishes, leaf fish, praying mantis shrimp, ribbon eels and garden eels. On the wall side there are overhangs where divers can see potato bass. In the caves on this dive you can also see white banded cleaner shrimp and ghost shrimps. Just off the wall sightings of green turtle are very common with hundreds of big eye travellis, five lined snappers, hump head snapper and southern fusilier. You may also be lucky enough to see dolphins on the dive and often on the way to and from the dive site by boat.

Other dive sites that can be easily accessed from Ibo Island are Matemo, and Rolas Islands, Cocoons, the fantastic Zala Banks at Mogundula Island, and some wonderful shallow dives at the 19th century coal steamer wreck just north of the sandbank beach off Ibo.

#### Ibo Island Lodge Standard Dive Rates

Single Dive	Own Equipment from \$65 per person
Double Dives	Own Equipment from \$120 per person
Single Dive	Rent Equipment from \$75 per person
Double Dives	Rent Equipment from \$140 per person

### Guided Sea Kayak Excursion - \$35 per person

#### This activity is also available in a small tender boat for the not so energetic who don't want to paddle, \$40

One of our most popular excursions and a chance to experience a completely different aspect of Ibo Island. Starting at either the coral beach directly in front of the lodge, or paddling from the harbor point you will navigate the winding, peaceful channels in one of the largest mangrove forests in Africa. This guided excursion takes you deep into Ibo's lush, fertile mangrove channels to understand more about the mangrove ecosystem and a wide array of bird and marine life it supports. We have tandem and single kayaks and a moderate level of fitness is required. Novice paddlers are welcome.

### Dolphin Encounter Safari - \$65 per person

A wonderful adventure on board our magnificent solid teak 12 meter sailing dhows, scanning the horizon for dolphins (bottle-nose and humpback), turtles and humpback whales (in season), and if you are lucky, under snorkel and with the assistance of your guide leap into the warm azure Indian ocean to swim and snorkel amidst these wonderful creatures .... Just another magical once in a life time Mozambique experience!

HUMPBACK WHALES protect their calves in the calm waters surrounding Ibo. Excellent sightings are also possible from August to early November before they migrate.

### Snorkeling Excursions from US\$ 15 per person or minimum charge US\$ 50 for the boat and guide

Lying in warm turquoise shallow waters an old coal steamer was wrecked over one hundred years ago. She lies in shallow waters offering some of the best soft corals in the Quirimbas Archipelago. If you look carefully you can still see scattered pieces of coal set amongst the rainbow, clown and angel fish darting around the reef. Floating the currents is effortless and water temperatures are as comfortable as a warm bath. *Tide, weather and boat dependant.*

## Snorkelling Rates:

- Snorkelling expedition to the wreck from Ibo Island Lodge minimum charge **\$ 150** for boat and guide or **\$ 40** per person.
- Add on snorkelling excursion to the wreck from the sand bank beach: Minimum charge for boat and guide **\$ 75 or \$ 25 per person.**
- Snorkeling equipment is available for hire at **US\$ 5 (five)** per mask and snorkel per day, and **US\$ 5** per pair of fins per day. *You are also welcome to bring your own equipment.*

## Guided Nature and Bird walk - \$25 per person

Ibo Island is the head-quarters of the Quirimbas National Park. The island is surrounded by the Indian Ocean, and is uniquely located in front of one of Africa's largest and independent mangrove forests. This makes Ibo a floristic kingdom and a great island for viewing the wonderful birdlife of Mozambique. Whether a dedicated ornithologist or an amateur bird-watcher, you will marvel at the wealth of opportunities to see some of the most beautiful, and often rare, birds in Mozambique. There are a number of wooded areas on Ibo and viewing is very good with the incoming and outgoing tides. The islands lush, low-lying sea mangrove forests are a special adventure for ardent bird-watchers and are impressive to be in at sunset when hundreds of birds fly in to roost. For photographers, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Bird walks can be tailor made to suit your specific interests and are arranged with your guide the day before.

## Traditional Dhow Sailing Excursion - Minimum charge \$120 or \$35 per person

Dhow travel is still one of the most traditional and ancient ways of travelling the archipelago. The last sea faring dhow expedition sailed all the way from India to Ibo Island in 1969! There is nothing quite like learning to sail a traditional Quirimbas dhow with the wind in your hair, and a local crew to lend centuries of experience. Weather, wind and tide dependent.

## Traditional Sunset Dhow Cruise - Minimum charge: \$120 or \$35 per person excluding drinks

Sunsets are usually a legendary pink, red and orange affair on Ibo Island and a sunset dhow sailing cruise gives you the chance to photograph mother nature's spectacle against the back drop of historic Ibo, all whilst sipping a cocktail or two out in the bay!

## Trip to Quirimba Island - Minimum charge \$200 includes a guide or \$50 per person, add an additional \$ 30 per person if doing the coconut plantation tour

At low tide it is possible to walk through the mangroves canals to the fascinating neighboring island of Quirimba. A popular excursion for those with an adventurous spirit taking you into the heart of the mangrove forests. A moderate amount of fitness is required as it is an approx. 2–3 hour walk depending on tides and conditions. This is not a race and the pace can be set by you. Once you reach Quirimba Island you will explore the island that gave the Archipelago its name with its rural villages, culture and old church before heading to the beach to catch an authentic working local sailing dhow back to Ibo through the canal cut by the slaves in the eighteenth century.

Please note that this activity is entirely tide dependent, and often entails a wait on the beach for the incoming tide to be deep enough at Quirimba Island before you can set sail 'home' to Ibo. Based on tide times and wind conditions, it could also mean arriving back to Ibo after dark. Pack and use lots of sun screen, a book, a torch, camera, swimming and beach wear and drinking water.

## Sailing Adventure to Rolas or Matemo Island

### Matemo Island South Minimum charge \$200 or \$ 50 per person

### Rolas Island Minimum charge \$ 450 or \$ 135 per person

Some of the most beautiful islands in the Quirimbas Archipelago lie north of Ibo. Rolas is the next island north of Matemo Island (two islands north of Ibo) and has a dreamy white sand spit to step off into turquoise warm ocean. It is officially uninhabited but it's frequented by local fishermen and occasionally boats with guests from other lodges. Other than migrant fishermen who use the island, or the odd passing yacht and the resident coconut and ghost crabs the island is all yours to explore, laze and enjoy. Island excursions have to be planned and confirmed a minimum of 24 hours in advance. Subject to the availability of boats and guides and weather and tide dependant.

## Ibo Massage and Relax treatments

Ibo's treatments have been culturally inspired and can include traditional body scrubs prepared using Ibo coarse sea salt and zesty lemon grass grown locally as part of the lodges' garden project.

The characteristic Ibo Island Musiro 'white face mask' is also popular. Traditionally made from the bark of a tree and painted onto the face using a coconut husk brush, the gentle paste ensures skin is protected from the sun and when removed leaves skin silky soft. The Mussiro mask is typically traditional to northern Mozambique and is the exotic and beautiful mask that many of the Ibo women wear daily.

Full body Massage	US\$ 60
Back and leg Massage	US\$ 50
Back Massage	US\$ 30
Musiro Face mask	US\$ 20
Hand and Foot Massage	US\$ 20
Hydro Boost Facial	US\$ 50
Glow Radiance Facial	US\$ 60
Pure Being Body Balance	US\$ 120

## Guided Night Walk- \$ 12 per person

Take a guided night walk in the cool night air to seek out the nocturnal life of Ibo. Under the soft moonlight Ibo's stone town and architecture is particularly beautiful and offers a completely different atmosphere on Ibo.

## Fishing - Contact Head Office for rates and options

Ibo Island Lodge works with various specialist fishing, dive live aboard and yacht charter partners to bring you fantastic special interest fishing, diving and yacht charter opportunities in the Quirimbas Archipelago. Fishing and Yacht charters need to be pre booked with Central Reservations at the time of booking Ibo Island lodge and are NOT available as day excursions directly from the lodge.

Contact [reservations@iboisland.com](mailto:reservations@iboisland.com) for quotes, rates and availability.

## OWNERS AND KEY STAFF:

Ibo Island Lodge is owned and operated by Kevin and Fiona Record who along with their proficient team have been actively involved in safaris and tourism throughout southern and east Africa including northern Mozambique and Ibo Island for the last fifteen years. With this experience the company is able to offer a destination for guests seeking an unequalled tropical island and cultural experience in one of the last undiscovered places in Africa.



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