

Ibo Island Lodge WEDDING PROPOSAL

IBO ISLAND LODGE, QUIRIMBAS ARCHIPELAGO
NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE





Ibo Island Lodge is situated on the Indian Ocean paradise of Ibo Island just 71 nm from mainland Pemba City, northern Mozambique.

Virtually unknown to the outside world and undisturbed for centuries there is a place where time has stood still. This is Ibo Island, or as the locals call it: Ilha do Ibo.

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 commercial developments and one of the most fascinating, idyllic islands you could dream of visiting.

Once Mozambique's mighty trading centre, Ibo Island has remained all but forgotten to the outside world for almost a century. Wandering around this colonial little town amongst old forts and ancient romantic buildings you can almost feel the history and fascinating stories crunching under your feet.

For the last 500 years Ibo Island was a prosperous and important trading post along the coast of East Africa. Grand colonial administration buildings lined its streets, and three majestic forts stood guard over the sea. This little coral and palm-fringed island has a turbulent history of slave trading, pirates, and intrigue. The ruins date back to the early 1500s and Africans share their history with Arabs, Indians and Portuguese.

IBO ISLAND LODGE WEDDINGS

Ibo Island offers bridal parties and guests nature's greatest gift: its unique tidal bay, the beautiful pristine sand bank beach or the old stone town architecture as a backdrop to your wedding ceremony. Ibo Island Lodge has an extremely competent and friendly staff under the management of Rob and Glynn McKenzie and along with their team they ensure a professional, romantic and stress free environment for this, one of the most special days of your life. Along with the on-site team, the owners and marketing team of Ibo Island Lodge will also bring to fruition all that you have planned, leaving you free to indulge yourself and enjoy the day to the full with your guests.

LODGE AND ACCOMMODATION

Ibo Island lodge is located on the prime waterfront site, where romantic dhows sail out to sea on each high tide. The lodge encompasses magnificent mansions each over one hundred years old with walls over a meter thick and lofty high ceilings. Some rooms are sea facing, and some are garden facing. Ibo is a potential World Heritage Site and therefore the rooms have been designed to incorporate the original architecture of the buildings. All are individually designed and unique. The wide verandas are furnished with hand crafted furniture and soft cushions. All rooms are air-conditioned and also have ceiling fans.

The lodge has two swimming pools set in tropical gardens, an air-conditioned lounge and private dining room as well as a roof terrace restaurant with an open-air lounge area for after dinner drinks under the stars.

WEDDING CEREMONY VENUE

Ibo Island offers a choice of amazing venues for a totally unique wedding:

a) The old Stone Town Square and Cathedral of Ibo Island:

Built in the 1700's, the island's Catholic Church with its tower and old brass bells is beautiful and extremely atmospheric, and is a firm favorite for those seeking a truly special old world church atmosphere. The old forts and town square that make up Stone Town on Ibo with their grand old buildings and special features are also just as unique and most can be used for ceremonies or receptions with enough prior planning. Past weddings on Ibo have included a procession through the Stone town to the chosen ceremony place.

The little fort of Sao Sebastian (a few steps from the church) can be used for after ceremony drinks. This setting has beautiful views through the old turrets and cannon holes overlooking the bay. The photographic opportunities throughout Ibo Island are in abundance, and many guests have likened it to being on your very own movie set with many significant buildings and ruins to explore. The church can be used for day time ceremonies, and also when lit by candle light at night makes for a stunning night time ceremony. The acoustics in the church are wonderful.



b) The Amazing Sand Bank Beach:

One of the most beautiful and pristine beaches in the Quirimbas Archipelago and one of Ibo's best kept secrets is accessed by a short motorized boat trip from the lodge. Gliding slowly, you will slip out of the ancient harbor of Ibo, passing the old fort of Joao Baptiste, and out into the blue open water. We will have timed it just right so that the sand bank beach has unfolded as the tide retreats, revealing a perfect sandy beach totally surrounded completely by sea and luxurious in its seclusion.

The sandbank is usually totally private with the odd traditional dhow sailing past. Here we set up Bedouin style tents for shade and the bridal couple stands under palm fronds to make a little canopy and the ceremony is conducted right there on the sand.

The sand bank is the perfect wow factor wedding ceremony venue. After the ceremony, champagne, drinks and snacks can be served and photo's taken. If wanted the bridal party can enjoy some special time on the sand bank with guests swimming and snorkeling. We suggest that the wedding then re locates back to the lodge where we have more facilities for the full reception. (air conditioning, showers, flush toilets, pool and gardens)

The sand bank is truly magnificent and we can't think of a more unique and breath taking wedding ceremony venue.

*Please note that the sand bank option is both weather and tide dependent.



c) Roof Terrace:

The west-facing roof terrace restaurant specializes in the freshest of seafood accompanied by tropical sunsets. Perched high up on the flat roof of the Bela Vista mansion overlooking the bay and mangrove forests beyond to the mainland. The sun sets right in front of the terrace and makes for magnificent sunsets. This venue is suitable for an intimate sunset ceremony.



d) Lodge Gardens:

Ibo Island Lodge has tropical gardens with palm trees, frangi pangi bushes, flor do Ibo and lawns. Wedding ceremonies followed by the wedding feast and reception can be staged in this shady setting. The gardens are alive with birds that swoop down to drink from the swimming pool and bird baths and the lodge's main swimming pool provides a great backdrop for pool side cocktails and can also be lit with candles and flowers at night.

Garden weddings can lend themselves to a more relaxed atmosphere and seafood feasts or BBQ's can be prepared on open coals for a different take on a wedding reception. Alternatively, we can equally as easily do a sit down more formal style reception with several courses. Ibo Island Lodge is extremely flexible.



LEGALITIES

The ceremony will be a blessing, and not a legal ceremony. All legalities will need to be done in your home country pre or post the Mozambique wedding. The blessing can be conducted by a member of the Management team of the lodge, or by a family member or friend.

FRIEND

Many couples use family members or friends to conduct their ceremony. This always results in a very personal and special ceremony with the vows written by the couple.

PHOTOGRAPHIC

There can be no more photographic island than Ibo Island. If you wish to bring an official photographer we can offer a 20% discounted rate for a maximum of 2 nights for the photographer.

FLOWERS

Flowers can be sourced locally from the island and will be local flowers according to what is flowering during that month. Typical island flowers are spider lilies, frangi pangi, bougainvillea and palm fronds / greenery. Anything else will need to be flown in with you. Import fees might be applicable at the airport, and an invoice needs to accompany the flowers because they may need to be declared at customs in Pemba and duty might be payable. Palm fronds are readily available locally and they are the traditional way of enhancing a wedding venue. Strips of palm can also be used as table decoration. (We can discuss specifications, as depending on what you want extra fees might be applicable) Flower petals & bubbles are a great alternative to the traditional throwing of good luck confetti.

Please be aware that in tropical conditions flowers wilt very easily, so we do recommend going local with the flowers.



MUSIC

The local, rural religious singing groups can be arranged to sing during the ceremony. The songs are normally either Portuguese or Kimwani, the local language spoken in the area. This will be charged at a nominal fee.

As the wedding party takes the entire lodge music can be played loudly until the party ends!!!

Should you wish to bring your own DJ, he would have to supply and bring his own equipment.

We can also arrange a local DJ on request with enough prior notice.

BAR

Ibo Island Lodge would need to agree on all bar requirements at least 8 weeks prior to the wedding to allow the lodge time to import any special requests not available locally.

Cash Bar can include wine, spirits, beers and soft drinks, and any limits set will be controlled by the manager on duty, and needs to be signed off by the person responsible for the account.

We will supply a price list on request. Bar prices are subject to currency fluctuations & change without notice.

No Wine, Malts, Spirits, Beers, Soft drinks or Champagnes may be brought onto the premises without prior written agreement with Ibo Island Lodge. (A corkage fee will also be applicable)

WELCOME DRINKS

Welcome Drinks are included for your guests arriving at the lodge. Alcoholic and Non-alcoholic options are available.

WEDDING CAKE:

A simple wedding cake can be made at the lodge at a small extra charge. Dependent on requirements we can agree on these finer details, and then give you a price for this.

Should you require a more elaborate cake this will have to be brought with you to the island (not recommended as it is difficult to transport adequately in the heat)

WINING & DINING

The restaurant and bar is magnificently situated on the roof terrace of the Bela Vista mansion facing west for unforgettable sunsets and affording spectacular views over the bay. Cuisine features freshly grown vegetables, herbs and fruits. Traditional Ibo specialities such as fragrant fluffy coconut rice are combined with the freshest of seafood: giant tiger prawns, game fish, crab and lobster.

Wedding menus can be totally flexible and designed and agreed upon between the bridal couple, our F and B manager and us. Menus will need to be confirmed with Ibo Island Lodge in writing at least 60 days prior to the wedding.

GUEST EXPERIENCE AND ACTIVITIES

Guests partake in a multitude of experiences and are always captivated by the islands tranquillity, history and ambience: beach, kayak, sail, swim, massage and snorkel. Become immersed in the unchanged, ancient culture of Ibo and the rare chance to interact with wonderfully hospitable islanders. Visit and understand the lodge's community projects that support many households on Ibo or simply relax, refresh the senses and soak up the romantic atmosphere. Ibo Island offers all the ingredients of a tropical island and a unique journey to an era quite forgotten.

GETTING THERE

You and your guests would fly from Johannesburg into Pemba and then air hop by light aircraft from Pemba to Ibo Island. We can assist with competitive flight rates from Johannesburg and can offer the service of additional accommodation bookings should your guests wish to explore the Archipelago further after your wedding. We can also help with all your planning and booking your dream honeymoon – should you wish to travel onwards beyond Ibo Island.

Guests will need to fly to Pemba from Johannesburg International Airport and can make use of two airlines with different schedules and prices:

AIR MOZAMBIQUE (LAM) FLIGHTS

Johannesburg to Pemba via Maputo: Monday, Thursday, Friday departs at 08h40 arriving at 13h10
Pemba to Johannesburg via Maputo: Monday, Thursday, Friday departs at 14h00 arriving at 18h30
or

AIRLINK

Johannesburg to Pemba direct: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday departs at 11h30 arriving at 14h20

Pemba to Johannesburg direct: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday departs at 14h55 arriving at 17h50

In addition, once your guests arrive in Pemba they will be met by our local English speaking representative – who can assist with any customs and immigrations issues you may have. With his assistance, you will take a short walk to the light aircraft section of the airport. Here you will board a Cessna Caravan or Cessna 206 for the 25 minute **light aircraft flight** over the islands to Ibo Island (a breathtaking flight in itself and always a guest highlight). Please note there is a 15 kg strict weight limit per person for all luggage on the Pemba/Ibo transfer. **Rates are subject to change prior to notice.**

The 2018 cost per person for this light aircraft transfer is as follows:

Pemba to Ibo Island: US\$245 per person one way

Ibo Island to Pemba: US\$240 per person one way

Return flights: US\$485 per person

Valid from: 01 April 2018 – 31 March 2019

*Please note that all planning for the wedding, catering, bar or any special requirements must please be put in writing including any agreed changes.

We look forward to welcoming you to Ibo Island and planning a wedding of your dreams!