



Is Vamizi Island the new Mauritius? By Jenn Selby 25 Mar 2010

MOZAMBIQUE

It's not the first place that springs to mind when you think of a stunning holiday in the Indian Ocean, but the beautiful islands just off the African coast of Mozambique offer a more rustic and unique experience than more famous holiday destinations nearby. Surrounded by icing-sugar sand and a bright cobalt blue sea, Vamizi Island is a paradise retreat that prides itself on privacy. Remote and secluded, its colonial-style villas are spaced over 70 meters apart, each with its own private decks and stretches of beach. Furnished with deep, comfortable sofas, muslin-draped beds and intricately latticed windows, the accommodation here is both luxurious and stylish.

During the day, you may choose to lounge in the African sun on your cushioned daybed, before heading out into the ocean for a spot of deep sea fishing on a private boat, or scuba diving on the island's spectacular coral reefs. In the evening, guests can enjoy a barbecue on the beach with friends or sample an elaborate candle-lit dinner in the island's formal dining restaurant. After that? Watch the sun go down with a glass of fine wine or a cocktail at the beachside bar. The island also has an impressive menagerie of wildlife - including samango monkeys, nesting turtles and over 112 species of tropical birds - and is an exciting place for nature lovers.

Tour operators Original Travel (0207 591 0300; www.originaltravel.co.uk) offers six nights at Vamizi Island and one night at nearby Oyster Bay for £3,475 per person, including flights and transfers. For more information, visit www.vamizi.com.