



About Vamizi Island

The History of Vamizi



The original visionaries of this conservation project first visited the Quirimbas Archipelago in Northern Mozambique in 1998. They believed this undeveloped - and then unprotected - area to be of huge natural significance as a terrestrial and marine wildlife sanctuary not only for Mozambique but for the whole of East Africa. In 2001 they went on to secure the Maluane Concession, a group of three islands of which Vamizi is the largest. Thus the Maluane Project was conceived, and has since been supporting and funding the development of this concession. The primary aim of the project was to combine tourism with wildlife conservation and community development to protect this unspoilt area in the Indian Ocean.

The Making of Vamizi



The development of Vamizi Island for up-market eco tourism was an extraordinary undertaking. There was no fresh water available on the island. There was no reasonable access beyond small local wooden boats and there were no roads beyond roughly cut tracks through the bush. However, despite adverse conditions and logistical challenges, Vamizi Island Lodge was opened in 2005 and soon after visited by such luminaries as Nelson Mandela and Graca Machel. Now ten years on Vamizi has a beautiful, barefoot luxury lodge, with 13 private villas, a desalination plant providing thousands of litres of fresh water a day, an airstrip suitable for single engined aircraft and the formation of a road, circumnavigating the island.

It has taken extraordinary commitment and persistence but as one of the donors to this project says, "Vamizi Island is where we still have a chance to make a difference. You know, once you've seen Vamizi you become obsessed with saving it."

The Conservation of Vamizi



Vamizi Island and the seas around it harbour some of the most significant and endangered habitats and wildlife in the western Indian Ocean, with over 180 species of unbleached coral, and over 400 species of reef fish.

When the Maluane Project came to the area over a decade ago, there was great concern that this area would one day come under pressure from indiscriminate fishing and general population pressures. Vamizi Island and the Maluane Project have a permanent conservation team that support various direct conservation activities to actively resist this threat.

Besides a number of community initiatives, and day to day ocean surveillance, the team is also at work on the ocean and forest floor.



Current activities include: Turtle monitoring, reporting illegal activities of industrial long-line fishing, in-depth marine surveys, clearing reefs and bush of invasive species, a low level whale research programme, a dolphin research programme, a PhD study on the impact of the diving tourism in the local communities.

Through continued donations and a conservation fee charged to every guest, the Maluane Project continues to support marine research, community outreach and direct conservation initiatives.

The Maluane Project is all about the preservation of Vamizi's remote wilderness. It is hoped that by the use of responsible tourism to provide funding and to conserve and raise awareness of this extraordinary undertaking, Vamizi Island and its environs will remain as unspoilt and beautiful for many generations to come.



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Island Information



Location	Vamizi Island lies just off the coast of northern Mozambique in the Quirimbas Archipelago. The Archipelago is made up of 32 coral islands and stretched for 100 kilometres along the coast from Pemba to the Rovuma River, the natural border between Mozambique and Tanzania. Vamizi Island is 12 kilometres long and 2 kilometres wide.
Time zone	Vamizi Island local time is the same as Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (GMT + 3 hrs) Pemba and the rest of Mozambique is 1 hour behind Vamizi Island (GMT + 2 hrs).
Setting	Vamizi Island is surrounded by clear, bright turquoise and blue water, abundant with marine life and unbleached, untouched coral reefs. The main lodge, situated on the north side of the island on the edge of thick coastal forests, looks out across a wide white beach onto the Indian Ocean beyond.
Climate	<p>TEMPERATURE - Warmest months: October to April (monthly average 27 to 30 °C) - Coolest months: June to August (monthly average 21 to 25 °C)</p> <p>RAINY SEASON – January to March: Vamizi is a low-lying, offshore island and is not affected by the long rains as the mainland.</p> <p>WINDS - April to November: predominantly SW, S and SE. - December to March: predominantly NE and E and can be strong.</p> <p>WATER TEMPERATURE - Maximum: January to March (26 to 28 °C) - Minimum: July to September (21 to 25 °C)</p>
Health	<p>MALARIA - Vamizi Island is a low-risk malarial area, but it is recommended that anti-malarial prophylactics be taken for travel in Mozambique and surrounding areas.</p> <p><i>All guests are advised to check with their own doctor or travel clinic for advice before their date of travel to ensure that all vaccinations and medical certificates are valid. All guests are required to have their own medical and evacuation insurance.</i></p>



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Facilities at the Lodge

RESTAURANT - The main dining room is situated on the beach; private dining can also be organised in the sunset lounge on request.

MUNTU NKULU - Beach dining is also available on request, subject to weather. Situated on the estuary on the south side of the island (about a 5 minute drive away), *Muntu Nkulu* is a picnic-style restaurant, (meaning Big River in the local Kimwani dialect).

COMMUNICATIONS & INTERNET - There is wireless internet access in the office at the main lodge and a laptop is available for guests' use. There is also cell phone coverage for some networks, although this is restricted to the main lodge area.

We would ask that you please use discretion when using your cell phone in public areas.

BABYSITTING - Available on request.

What to bring

From October to April, the temperatures are over 30 °C. From May to September, the daytime temperatures are still hot, but a light sweater may be required in the evenings. The rainy season is from December to March, although it is rare that it rains all day.

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST:

- Lightweight cotton shirts/ t-shirts
- Long-sleeved shirts for fishermen
- Swimwear and kikoi (sarong)
- Smart casual wear for the evenings
- Beach shoes/ sandals
- Strong sunblock
- Hat and sunglasses
- Binoculars for bird watchers
- Medical certificates and PADI log books for divers

Straw hats and kikois (traditional sarongs) are provided in each villa.

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