



Our top African tips

- 1 Go deep-sea fishing on Vamizi island with guide Stuart King for the most relaxing and exciting fishing trip of your life.
- 2 Indulge in a massage or Mozambican honey and spice exfoliation ritual in your own private lodge villa for ultimate relaxation.
- 3 Ask for the Laguna picnic spot at Vamizi – perfect for honeymooners!
- 4 Get up just before dawn when on safari because it gets so hot in the middle of the day that all the animals hide in the heat.
- 5 Make sure you have a room with a plunge pool which we found was essential for cooling down after.

OUT OF AFRICA



Newlyweds Issy and Jonathan relaxed beachside in Mozambique before going on safari in Tanzania



was always deliciously prepared, and had the added attraction of being landed by one of the guests a few hours earlier. During the day, after soaking up the sun in our own personal slice of heaven, we went deep-sea fishing, sailing on the catamaran, snorkelling or scuba-diving among the copious corals that litter the seabed around the island. The diving is spectacular at Vamizi, which boasts itself as one of the top 10 dive sites in the world. However, our favourite pastime was simply going for picnic lunches! These were no ordinary picnics: in the most idyllic desert island beach paradise, with no one to be seen for miles, an amazing lunch of lobster and salad, a cooler full of alcohol and soft-drinks served on a table, we were left entirely alone.

expert guide in an open-sided jeep with a fridge full of drinks following lions, giraffes, hippos, elephants and leopards in spectacular scenery. Sand Rivers Selous is one of the largest game reserves in southern Tanzania and offers remarkable game drives, fly camping and river boating. In the evenings we dined in the lodge by the Rufiji watching hippos, crocs and monkeys while discussing the excitements of the day with other guests.

AMAZING MEMORIES

On our last day we headed up the river, listening to the sounds of hippos who simply snorted at us from afar; for a picnic breakfast on a beach surrounded by crocodile nests. This all sounds a bit scary but it really wasn't as our guide assured us that nothing would bother us and, indeed, nothing did. This had been, most certainly, the holiday of a lifetime. And, as we were convinced that we had the perfect wedding, it was no surprise we had the perfect honeymoon. **W**

BOOK IT!

Seven nights at Vamizi and three nights at Sand Rivers is priced £6,713 per person, including all internal transfers, flight connections and international flights from London. Book with Aardvark Safaris on 01578 760222, www.aardvarksafaris.co.uk.

INTO THE WILD

We had an effortless transfer from Vamizi to Sand Rivers with two light aircraft hops and an overnight stay in the chic Oyster Bay Hotel in Dar es Salaam. The next day, we were refreshed and ready to head out into the African wilds. Our lodge at Sand Rivers was raised on decks with a spectacular panoramic view over the Rufiji River. The lodge was well equipped with an open-air bed positioned under a thatch canopy giving the excitement of camping, and a plunge pool and sitting area to soak up the sounds and smells of the African bush both in the day and at night. Although, watch out for the monkeys stealing your toothbrush and nibbling the soap! Our safari drives were exceptional: us and our

After a freezing January wedding, it seemed the perfect choice to head to the heat of Mozambique and Tanzania for a double-edged honeymoon of desert island beach relaxation followed by the more active excitement of an African safari. I like to relax on the beach (something I felt would be particularly crucial after our wedding) and my new hubby needs to be active, so it made sense to have an element for both of us. We chose Aardvark Safaris to plan our trip as we were so impressed by the quality of service.



sky. Each of the seven lodge villas stand 70m apart, offering unrivalled privacy for honeymooners. Barefoot luxury at its best, our new home offered a huge bed, a shower hewn

from a single block of marble, and an incredible veranda with sumptuous sofas. The breeze flowed through intricately carved wooden lattice-work windows and, instead of door-mats, there were marble basins full of cooling water. With miles of endless white sandy beach stretching out as far as the eye could see, and sun-loungers positioned under a tree, we relaxed in the sun listening to the sounds of weaver birds making their nests and watching the occasional boat sail past.

BEACHSIDE ROMANCE

For dinner we headed up the beach with a torch, being careful not to tread on any scuttling crabs and keeping an eye out for any new turtle tracks (we saw some on our third night) to the restaurant. Tables were laid on the sand and candlelit, with some private tables at the water's edge. Being fish eaters, Jon and I usually went for the local catch which

THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

We left a snowy runway at Heathrow dreaming of sunnier shores. After an overnight flight to Dar es Salaam, we were escorted to our eight-seater propeller plane where the real excitement began – a two-and-a-half hour flight over the spectacular Quirimbas archipelago to the dusty landing strip of Vamizi island. Upon arrival, we were shown to our home for the next six days: a lodge perched on the edge of the beautiful beach, with a backdrop of the turquoise sea and deep blue

