

VAMIZI ISLAND

M O Z A M B I Q U E



DIVING

'WITHOUT A DOUBT THIS IS ONE OF THE BEST DIVES IN THE WORLD'

TIM ECOTT, THE GUARDIAN



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Vamizi's waters contain a plethora of marine life. The island is ideally situated where the south equatorial current splits heading north to Tanzania and south towards the eastern coastline of South Africa. These currents contain large resources of microscopic plankton, a major food source which supports the vast array of species found within the coral reef system.

A survey carried out on the waters of Vamizi identified 46 genera of coral species with more than 400 species of fish. This number, according to studies carried out by scientists at Vamizi, represents over half the number of reef-associated species for the whole of Mozambique.

Even more promising, the waters here have been deemed one of the healthiest coral reef eco-systems in the world, abundant with what ecologists term 'indicator species'. These species are so sensitive to changes in the marine climate that they are the first to disappear if there is a change in reef conditions, including temperature and pH as well as human interferences such as over-fishing. Vamizi and its surrounding coral islands provide a much-needed refuge for marine biodiversity.

Many of the coral reefs along the East African coast have been marred by bleaching, a condition where the coral dies off owing to thermal stress. El Nino in 1998 wiped out 70% of the shallow water coral reefs in the Indo-Pacific and Caribbean region. Vamizi Island's proximity to upwelling cool deep water prevents this thermal stress and allows the coral to flourish. Vamizi and its environs provide a sanctuary and potential re-stocking ground for corals which have died out elsewhere in the Indian Ocean.

Some parts of the island's coastline is fringed with mangrove forests which provide an extensive nursery area for the fish. It is thought that these nurseries are one of the most important breeding grounds to replenish fish stocks.

DIVING ALL YEAR ROUND

All year round Vamizi's many dive sites provide spectacular diving. There are many more being discovered all the time, catering for all diving abilities, from the novice to the experienced diver. The dive instructor will determine which dive sites are suitable for which conditions on any given day. The water temperatures is warm year round and ranges from 25-29 degrees.



DIVING SITES

SITES FOR ALL DIVERS

SITES FOR ADVANCED DIVERS

COURSES

THE ABYSS, CAVE WALL, PONTA PAPAGAIO, SKUNK ALLEY, CHAMINE EXPRESS, CANAL WALK, SOUTH BEACH & KIZINGOZINGO

These sites are ideal for seeing some of the larger marine flora and fauna whilst still being shallow enough for novice divers. Groupers, large Napoleon wrasse and colourful parrotfish are common here, as well as Vamizi's Green and Hawksbill turtles. Shoals of barracuda are common here in September. These sites are suitable for macro-dives looking at the smaller and more delicate and camouflaged flora and fauna. Beautifully jewelled nudibranchs brighten up the corals and, if you look carefully you might spot camouflaged stonefish, leaf scorpionfish and lobster hiding in nooks and crannies.

THE ABYSS & PONTA PAPAGAIO

For the more experienced diver there is a huge sea wall at these sites, descending to depths of more than 150 metres, to which cling huge Gorgonian sea fans. The coral and fish are there in abundant supplies. This, and its proximity to the deep water, often attract the larger bill fish which prey on the numerous reef fish.

BABYLON

A very secluded spot within Vamizi's waters, Babylon boasts some of the most spectacular corals which are unbleached and almost constantly flowering. This site is also home to a number of different species of pufferfish which blow themselves up into round spiny balls when threatened.

NEPTUNE'S ARM & FRAGGLE ROCK

Situated on the edge of a spectacular drop off about an hour's boat ride from Vamizi, Neptune's Arm is the jewel in the crown. The wall starts at ten metres below sea level plunging dramatically to below 200 metres. As well as the multitude of reef fish species, turtles are often spotted as well as shoals containing thousands of snapper. Neptune's Arm provides a breeding zone for grey reef sharks.

DISCOVER SCUBA DIVING/RESORT DIVE

Your first experience of the underwater world starts with a brief explanation and then your first underwater breaths in the shallows followed by a reef dive from the boat.

PADI SCUBA DIVER

In 2-3 days you can obtain a diving license to dive to a max depth of 12 metres under the supervision of a Dive Master or a Dive Instructor. You will receive a lifetime certification valid worldwide. Certification fees are included.

PADI OPEN WATER DIVER

In 4-5 days you can obtain a full license to scuba dive independently in buddy teams to a max depth of 18 metres. You will receive a lifetime certification valid worldwide. Certification fees are included.

PADI ADVENTURE DIVER

The next step: Three adventure dives of your choice. You get a lifetime certification valid worldwide. Certification fees are included.

PADI ADVANCED OPEN WATER DIVER

For certified divers only. Obtain a license to dive to a maximum depth of 30 metres after completing five dives. Certification fees are included.

SINGLE TRAINING DIVE

Interested in trying a deep dive, a drift dive or any other dive of your choice? We will provide you with the proper training which will be credited towards your Adventure Diver or Advanced Open Water Diver certification.

GROUPS

Diving is organised as a group activity. Private trips can be discussed, dependant on availability, cost and discretion of the island management.