

Immersed in adventure

African archipelagos are
a drawcard for divers

The islands scattered along Mozambique's coastline are a glimpse of paradise. And the extraordinary sights that lie just below the surface are as stunning as the ocean views.

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Mozambique is renowned for its marine life and the tranquil blue waters these creatures live in, making it a popular destination for divers seeking their next big oceanic adventure. And the Bazaruto and Quirimbas archipelagos are rated among the world's best dive sites according to Africa.com.

Each location offers its own set of unique experiences, including rare sightings of dugongs and humpback whales that swim among thousands of tropical fish that occupy the protected reefs in Bazaruto, and the Spanish mackerel, reef sharks and rays that can be seen 5m down in the warm waters of the Quirimbas Archipelago.

Both Anantara Bazaruto Island Resort and Anantara Medjumbe Island Resort offer PADI scuba diving courses, and Dive Master Antonio Zivane has been taking guests around these diving destinations for four years. Here are his five best ocean adventures for a visit to Mozambique.

Manta Reef

Diving excursions to the famous Manta Reef require two dives to complete. Manta Reef is vast and flat, boasting kaleidoscope gardens of sea anemones and coral that attract large numbers of bright downfish, as well as green turtles and populations of graceful manta rays.

Rainbow Runner Reef

The Rainbow Runner Reef is perfect for beginners and is renowned for its forests of green-tree corals and thrilling

opportunities to see Zambezi sharks in their natural habitat. It's also a great area for observing other marine life passing along the ocean floor, like manta rays, spotted eagle rays, kingfish, and potato and brindle bass.

Neptune's Nursery

A short boat ride from Anantara Medjumbe lies a diver's dream – a selection of 12 unique dive sites featuring untouched marine ecosystems and some of the world's most beautiful coral reefs, a highlight being Neptune's Nursery. Neptune's Nursery is a 15m-deep flat reef with delicate coral, and is a rich hunting ground for game fish and blue-spotted stingrays.

Sambi Sambi

Intermediate divers might prefer to tackle Sambi Sambi's 40m sloping wall, frequented by elusive leopard sharks as well as green and hawksbill turtles.

Edge of Reason

For seasoned divers, there can be no greater thrill than peering over the 800m sheer drop at the Edge of Reason, which gets its name from the sensations that you feel as the wall plunges into the ocean. Hollows embedded in the ocean floors at this site are home to species such as humphead wrasse, groupers, reef sharks, snappers and unicorn fish.

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