



# AZURA



## GUEST ACTIVITIES & EXPERIENCES

*Azura offers a range of outdoor guest activities, by boat or landrover, with light refreshments and drinks provided. A number of these are guided activities where you can have a real chance to learn about the wonderful environment we have here at Azura. Guided activities are accompanied by our Environmental Guide or Marine Specialist as appropriate. Activity duration & departure times listed are used only as a guideline, & can usually be specially tailored to suit your schedule or interests. Please discuss your requests with your butler/host and Azura's Guides who are available each evening at 7.30pm in the Star Bar. Activities are very popular so please try to plan early! All Activities are subject to Weather, Boat/Land Rover/Guide availability and Tide Conditions. Enjoy...*

## ISLAND ACTIVITIES

### Red Dune & Crocodile Lakes Island Drive (By Land Rover Gameviewer Vehicles)

#### Highlights Include:

- Red Dune, Dune Hike, Crocodile Lakes and attendant birdlife
- Traditional Village and Local Communities
- Island's Rich Fauna, Flora, and Topography, Indigenous Tree Species of the Region, and Wild Fruits to Taste
- Optional: Local School Project (Weekdays) or local Church Visit (Sundays)
- Refreshments & Drinks service at Red Dune Beach
- All interpreted by Azura's environmentalist/community guide

We leave Azura on Game Drive vehicles toward Red Dune and Crocodile Lakes. En-route we will pass through the Island's many villages where you have the chance to meet the local people of the local communities. The Island's lifestyle, history and way of life will be explained to you. If you would like to we will visit Benguerra's School (built by Azura's Rainbow Fund charity, all donations are appreciated), and you may then have the unique opportunity to see the local children attend class, meet the teachers, and even the school's Headmaster. If the drive is conducted on Sunday morning, the Guides may take you briefly to a village church service, which is attended by many of the local islanders. This is a rare and unique cultural opportunity that's been enjoyed by many of Azura's previous guests, many of whom rated this to be one of their favourite experiences.

Making our way toward Red Dune & Crocodile Lakes we'll pass indigenous trees with wild fruits for you to taste, a number of terrestrial animals, including a rich variety of reptiles, birds, and insects that all call this Island home, and of course the chance to see some of the large Freshwater crocodiles that live at the 3 lakes on the island. Some of these crocodiles have been seen to reach in excess of more than 2.5 metres in length! The Lake area boasts many unique trees, plants and birds, some of the beautiful indigenous birds you'll have the chance of seeing are Kingfishers (Pied) hovering in the air diving into water looking for fish, brightly adorned Lilac Breasted Rollers and Bee-Eaters.

Red Dune is near the base of Croc Lakes, and is quite a sight from our crocodile viewing location. From the dune, we can walk along the beach located east of the Island (the 'Wild Side') with strong wind and waves coming in from the Mozambique Channel & Indian Ocean. You have the opportunity to hike up Red Dune, its an easy climb, and once at the top offers amazing views of Benguerra Island. Drinks and refreshments will be offered en route.

Duration: Flexible (approx. 2.0 - 3hrs), Cost: first outing complimentary (optional Rainbow Fund contribution) / \$50pp thereafter. Departure Time: 09.00 & 16.00.



Large-Spotted Genet Track



Dressed-Up for Church



(*Crocodylus niloticus*), Nile Crocodile, Croc. Lakes



Azura Guests Top of Red Dune



(*Thelotornis capensis*) Twig Snake in Trees



## Southpoint Beach Picnic and Island Drive (By Land Rover Game Vehicles)

### Highlights Include:

- Traditional Village and Local Communities
- Island's Rich Fauna, Flora, and Topography
- Local School Project / Local Church Visit on Sundays (optional supplement \$10pp to Rainbow Fund)
- Indigenous Tree Species of the Region, and Wild Fruits to Taste
- Magnificent deserted Southpoint Beach
- Miniature Southpoint Beach Dunes
- Swim in Cool, Refreshing Waters of Southpoint Beach direct from the Indian Ocean
- Refreshments & Drinks service at Southpoint
- All interpreted by Azura's environmentalist/community guide

Departing Azura we head right across the Island toward picturesque Southpoint Beach. En-route our Azura Field Guides will talk to you about the unique fauna & flora, the Island's unique topography, history and its landscapes. The Island's demographics will be explained to you whilst we head toward the school, which was built by Azura.

As we continue, you'll see the 'real' side of Benguerra's Island life by greeting islanders, and their adorable children (who love getting their photo's taken). If the drive is conducted on Sunday morning, Guides may take you briefly to a village church service, which is attended by many of the Islanders. This is a rare and unique cultural opportunity.

Making our way toward Southpoint we'll pass indigenous trees, wild fruits for you to taste, and a number of terrestrial animals, including a rich variety of reptiles, birds, and insects that all call this Island home.

Arriving at Southpoint Beach, you will notice how spectacular the scenery is that surrounds you. Southpoint is the most southern tip of Benguerra Island, and consists of two sides. Eastern side faces the Mozambique Channel/Indian Ocean with fierce waves crashing in. The location is dramatic, and a great place for taking photo's as there are many driftwood tree trunks lying on perfect white sands.

We walk through the miniature sand dunes and arrive at our swimming spot that is adjacent to the eastern side. Conditions here are calm, as the waves are broken-up by Shell Island (a sand bar about 100 metres in length). Swimming is highly recommended as you still experience the cool refreshing temperature crystal clear waters brought in by the Indian Ocean without any wave action what so ever. We will set up a wonderful picnic lunch for you with refreshments in a shady spot.

Duration: Flexible (approx. 3hrs), Cost: \$85pp plus optional Rainbow Fund contribution. Departure Time: Flexible  
You can also choose to just do the South Point picnic with access by boat, Cost: \$125pp

### Island Soccer Match

The whole of Africa is soccer mad. Come and support Azura's soccer team at the island's match played against the other lodges or the local island team most Sundays. We will set up a tent with refreshments, and you can join in the game if you would like to! Its great entertainment for all.

Duration: Approx 2 hours on a Sunday afternoon, Cost: Adults \$20pp, Children \$10pp



Benguerra School Children

Dramatic Southpoint Beach

Local Village Children

Swimming Spot, Southpoint

Village Church Service

# WATER ACTIVITIES

## Guided Island Hopping (By Speedboat)

### Highlights Include:

- Snorkelling (optional) at either; Ponto-Dundo, Two-Mile Reef, or 'The Aquarium'
- Pansy Island at Leisure
- Pansy Island Picnic Lunch
- Ponto Dundo and Bazaruto Dune, Bazaruto Island

This is a fantastic day out and Azura's signature activity! Depart Azura by Speedboat across to Two Mile Reef, where there are hundreds of species of tropical fish, rays, invertebrates, the possibility of Sea Turtles, and Dolphins. Our Humpback whales are often seen in season as they pass on their migration (April-Oct). Our Environmental Guide will answer any questions you may have on the fauna, and perhaps point out some interesting sightings along the way, including, if you are lucky, the highly endangered gentle giants of the area, Dugongs..

After snorkelling, arrive at Pansy Island for a tantalising picnic lunch. This has been prepared by our Azura chefs and is accompanied by drinks and refreshments. Pansy Island is an isolated sand-bar nestled between Bazaruto Island and the Mozambique Channel. It is an idyllic location, with bleached white sand that is coated with Pansy shells (Sea \$\$), and surrounded by crystal blue turquoise waters. A great view of Bazaruto Dune can also be seen from here. There is also the option to have our staff prepare your lunch on a Barbeque while you are there. Eating fresh fish straight from the BBQ on a remote sand island is truly a once in a lifetime experience.

After lunch enjoy Pansy Island at your own leisure, bask in the sun, laze around on cushions and beanbags, and swim in the cool clear deep waters. From here it's a short hop to Bazaruto Island, where we hike up Bazaruto Dune. An easy climb to the top offers unsurpassed 360 degree panoramic views of the Bazaruto Archipelago reef-system. If you are lucky the shifting sands will reveal ancient pottery relics from the Queen of Sheba's forays to these islands. Looking east are sweeping views of the Mozambique Channel lying direct with Madagascar, watch the waves crash in and the amazing amounts of 'blues' that are seen in the seas. For enthusiasts of photography, this location is a must!

Duration: Flexible (allow at least 3 hours). Cost: US\$175 pp (min 2 people). Optional BBQ on Pansy Island, add \$50pp. Note snorkelling at low tide only.



Top of Bazaruto Dune



Lunch, Pansy Island



Pansy Shell, Pansy Island



Cocktails, Pansy Island



Laze about... Pansy Island

## Paradise Island (Santa Carolina) - By Speedboat (or Heli at a supplement)

### Highlights Include:

- Spend the day at Paradise Island, the only 'rock' island in the archipelago
- Tour the island and visit the relics of the old hotel and church
- Snorkelling/Diving in Paradise Island's calm waters, right off the beach, with an amazing variety of sea life
- Paradise Island Picnic Basket Lunch

Depart Azura by Speedboat for the 1 hour trip to Paradise Island (Santa Carolina), in the far north of the Bazaruto Archipelago, looking out for dolphins and dugongs on the way. This island is home to a ruined hotel from the days of Portuguese rule, and was named Paradise Island for its beautiful white beaches and fantastic snorkelling. If you got married in the 60s/70s this was the place to go on honeymoon! It is scheduled for redevelopment so the opportunity to visit here won't last for long.

The ruins of the old hotel and church are fascinating and your guide will show you around and tell you the stories of yesteryear. Then settle down on Paradise Island's pristine deserted white beaches for a picnic lunch. Relax and spend a few hours here, and wander in and out of the sea. The snorkelling here is amazing, and completely different to the reefs closer to Azura. Its easy to access being straight off the beach in shallow water, with schools of reef fish in abundance.

Duration: Flexible (allow at least 5 hours). Cost: US\$250 pp (min 2 people).

## Other Water Activities

Requests for the following must be made with Azura's activities staff the night before departure or earlier if possible, and are subject to availability. Drinks and snacks provided as appropriate.

- [Sunset Dhow Cruise](#) Departs 16.30. Duration: 1½ hours, Cost: Free (first trip), \$25 thereafter
- [Guided Ponto Dundo/Bazaruto Dune - climb the dune with our guide](#) Duration: 1 hour, Cost: US\$60pp
- [Pansy Island Visit - look for pansy shells](#) Duration: 1 hour, Cost: US\$75pp
- [Pansy Island at Leisure & Special Hosted Lunch](#) Duration: 2 hours, Cost: Picnic US\$125pp or BBQ US\$175pp
- [Benguerra North Point - be dropped on the sandspit with a picnic hamper](#) Duration: Flexible, Cost: US\$100pp
- [Guided snorkelling Safari - have the marine life of Two-Mile Reef or 'The Aquarium' shown and explained to you](#) Duration: 1½ hours, Cost: US\$80pp

NB All snorkelling is at low tide only. Where possible all activities will be undertaken privately, but this cannot be guaranteed at busy times, and your understanding is appreciated. Minimum 2 guests per activity. General boat hire: Dhow \$40.00 per hour; Speedboat \$100.00 per hour plus \$2.50 per litre fuel.

## SCUBA DIVING



The reefs in the Bazaruto Archipelago are abundant with a variety of fish and corals, and offer a range of depths and reef topography to suit beginner and experienced divers and snorkellers alike. Azura is positioned closest to the reefs and hence access is quick and easy. Our marine life and corals are often cited as the best off the East Coast of Africa.

We have green and leatherback turtles, reef sharks, stingrays, devil rays, moray eels, whale sharks (seasonal), manta rays (seasonal), humpback whales and their calves (seasonal), as well as a variety of reef fish such as grouper, bat fish, surgeons, puffers, moorish idols, parrot fish, clown fish, trigger fish and chocolate dip fish. Hard and soft corals are in abundance, with Christmas tree anemones and nudibranchs for those who like to spot the smaller stuff!

Azura has a PADI 5 Star Dive Centre with new top of the range Scubapro equipment. Our training pool is perfect for refreshing your diving skills or even trying out snorkelling before you head off to the reefs, and for training we offer a full range of courses and have a PADI Instructor. If you are interested in learning to dive and would like to try it out first free of charge please contact the WaterSports Manager.

DIVING		COURSES	
2 mile reef	\$95.00	Scuba Review	\$100.00
Other reefs	\$75.00 ++	Padi Discover Scuba	\$95.00
Double tank dive	\$165.00 ++	Padi Discover Scuba Diving	\$195.00
Adventure dive	\$115.00	Padi Scuba Diver	\$385.00
5/8 dive package	\$395.00/\$600.00	Padi Openwater Course	\$675.00
Computer Hire	\$10.00 per dive	Padi Adventure Diver	\$400.00
		Padi Advanced Course	\$500.00
		Other courses	Please enquire

Note: no reduction for own equipment; appropriate certification/medical certificates to be shown prior to diving. (Rates p.p. include all equipment, refills, refreshments and instructor leading the dive). Min 2 persons per dive.

# SALTWATER FISHING

The Bazaruto Archipelago has some of the best big game, reef and bill fishing in the Indian Ocean. Species include: Marlin, Sailfish, Tuna/Bonito, King/Queen Mackerel, Prodigal Son, Wahoo, Dorado, and Barracuda. Giant Trevally (GT's), the local speciality, often top the scales above 25kg. Azura caters for beginner and experienced fishermen/women alike, and operates a strict tag and release policy on protected species. You can choose to go trawling with our local guides, or we can bring in the specialist fishing guides available in the area, who offer saltwater fly fishing, jigging for Giant Trevally, and other specialist techniques. Fishing is extremely popular and should be booked well in advance to avoid disappointment.

## Main Fishing Seasons:

	Marlin	Sailfish	Tuna/ Bonito	King Mackerel	Queen Mackerel	Kingfish/ GT's
Jan	Some	Few	Excellent	Good chance	Great	Year round
Feb	Few	Few	Excellent	Good chance	Great	Year round
Mar	Few	Few	Excellent	Good chance	Great	Year round
Apr	Good chance	Good chance	Great	Good chance	Excellent	Year round
May	Good chance	Superb!	Great	Excellent	Excellent	Year round
June	Good chance	Superb!	Great	Excellent	Excellent	Year round
July	Good chance	Excellent	Good chance	Excellent	Excellent	Year round
Aug	Good chance	Excellent	Good chance	Excellent	Great	Year round
Sept	Great	Excellent	Good chance	Excellent	Great	Year round
Oct	Superb!	Great	Great	Great	Great	Year round
Nov	Superb!	Good chance	Excellent	Good chance	Good chance	Year round
Dec	Superb!	Good chance	Excellent	Good chance	Good chance	Year round

Rates: Half Day (local Azura guide) \$350 per boat includes all equipment & refreshments  
 Optional: stop at North Point on the way home to BBQ your catch and enjoy a picnic lunch, add \$150  
 Half Day (specialist guide) \$500 per boat includes all equipment  
 Full Day (specialist guide) \$800 per boat includes all equipment  
 All fishing subject to weather and boat/guide availability.



## EQUINE ACTIVITIES

For those who like to ride, a trek along the water's edge on the horses based on Benguerra Island and back along some of the island's tracks and trails is an experience never to forget! Arranged through Mozambique Horse Safaris, there are 9 horses available to suit all levels, from complete beginner upwards.

Duration: 2 hours Cost: Adults: \$130, Children under 12: \$75



## AIRBORNE ACTIVITIES

Azura's helicopter is available for charter on request to take you on some amazing sightseeing flips around the Archipelago. A great opportunity to take photographs, visit another island, or spot marine life from the air.

Cost: \$1,650 per hour, subject to availability. See separate Helicopter Activities Sheet for more info.

## EVENING ACTIVITIES

### Star Gazing & Astronomy Talk

Join our Environmentalist who will guide you through an informative presentation and discussion about the African night skies and the glittering Milky Way. We'll even show you how to orientate direction from constellations such as Orion and the famed Southern Cross to locate North and South! Our Sky Ranger is equipped with a laser pointer reaching 1.5km into the skies, and an 8-inch reflecting telescope. If we're lucky we can point our telescope toward Mars, Jupiter, our Moon, even Saturn's icy rings! The presentation will be conducted on our beach with comfortable beanbags and drinks (if requested). Subject to staff availability.

(Starts: 19.30 - 20:30, Offered Most Evenings, Location: Beachfront, Cost: Free, Cloud Cover & Weather Dependent)

### Beachfront Movie Viewing

Lie back and relax on beanbags while you watch one of the movie's in Azura's DVD collection outdoors on the big screen. A really unique experience and a must for movie lovers. Subject to weather and availability. Cost: \$25pp

### Private Beach Dinners

Your host will set up a private dinner on the beach in front of your villa, surrounded by candles arranged in the sand. Or you can choose to have this candle-lit on your deck or beneath your sala. The ultimate in romantic dining! Cost: included on your last night, \$30pp otherwise.



All Information is Correct at the Time of Print. Issued June 2011. E & OE.

*All activities are subject to tide and weather conditions and boat/vehicle/guide availability. Safety is our priority. Appropriate certification cards required for scuba diving. All activities are undertaken at your own risk.*

*All activities subject to local Mozambican taxes of 17%*