

# WILD FRONTIERS



## Mozambique Tropical Beach Ride Mozambique

Romantic beyond belief and beautiful beyond compare, the stunning coastlines and islands that make up the Bazaruto National Park are amongst the most idyllic in the Indian Ocean. Instilled with a compelling mix of African, Arabic and Portuguese traditions, they provide the perfect setting for this fabulous riding holiday. Beginning in Vilanculos on the south-eastern coast of Mozambique, over the coming days we find ourselves enjoying the remote and hypnotic beauty of a region where African colour and colonial heritage vie for attention besides the swaying palms and clear waters of one of the most untouched corners of the planet. There will be ample opportunities to ride along golden beaches and among high dunes, to visit tiny fishing villages and explore the remote corners of one of the archipelago's most idyllic islands.

We will also have a chance to follow in the footsteps of the Arabic traders of old, as we sail by traditional dhow through coastal waters that are teeming with life and enjoy the chance to swim amongst coral gardens whose clarity and colour defy belief. For those wishing to dive this marine wonderland, there are several opportunities to explore the rich channels of the Two-Mile Reef, a small barrier reef that lies protected between the islands of Bazaruto and Benguerra.

**“To ride on beautiful deserted wide open beaches with only the moving figure of Lucas on the shimmering horizon to show us the way was an amazing experience and lasting memory.” John & Christine Yerbury.**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Riding along virgin beaches
- Swimming with horses in a turquoise sea
- Visiting the amazing Benguerra Island
- Opportunities to snorkel, dive and enjoy water sports at Two Mile Reef
- Robinson Crusoe evening camping by the sea

Duration: 10 Days

Average group size: 5 - 10

Start: Thu 26 Apr 12

Finish: Sat 05 May 12



WILD FRONTIERS Adventure Travel Ltd Tel: 00 44 (0) 20 7736 3968 Fax: 00 44 (0) 20 7751 0710

Email: [info@wildfrontiers.co.uk](mailto:info@wildfrontiers.co.uk) Website: [www.wildfrontiers.co.uk](http://www.wildfrontiers.co.uk)

## Why Wild Frontiers?

As a young, innovative company, Wild Frontiers is delighted to have been voted one of the 'Top 10 Tour Operators' by the readers of both Wanderlust and National Geographic Adventure. We are frequently asked what makes us different from other tour operators, and feel that the factors below answer this important question.

**The Traveller's Ethos:** WF is a company that has been set up by travellers for travellers, and our ethos is to help adventurous souls get to incredible and inaccessible places in safety and as much comfort as local conditions allow. We are firm believers that travelling is all about the experience and it's the details that make the trip - we specialise in drawing on our own extensive local knowledge and array of contacts to give our clients the very best experience possible.

**Personal Service:** Our London office is manned by experienced expedition leaders and every trip we run stems from their extensive knowledge - in short, we run the kind of trips that as passionate travellers, we like to do ourselves! When you ring our office, you can be guaranteed to chat to someone that knows the trips and the terrain, and is able to offer sound and practical advice.

**Authentic Experiences:** Our unique, original itineraries allow our clients to take journeys that venture beneath the surface of the region. Unlike the plethora of 'world specialists' out there who purport to know a hundred destinations, we concentrate on the locations we know and love. We don't run the same tour over and over, thus running the risk of creating a 'tourist circuit' and spoiling untouched regions. Instead, we rarely run any tour more than a couple of times a year and they are on routes we have discovered for ourselves, meaning we are able to give a truly authentic, off-the-beaten-track experience.

**Be the First:** Our style of travel is all about exploration, and nothing excites us more than opening up new routes to genuine travellers. We keep abreast of new destinations and are often the first to return to places that have vanished from the tourist map. We were the first back into Pakistan after 9/11, the first to return to Kashmir after a decade of tourist isolation, and the first to run a commercial travel trip to Afghanistan for almost 30 years. Since then we have helped bring Colombia, Yemen and Georgia back into the tourist fold, specialising in groundbreaking reconnaissance trips and imaginative expeditions.

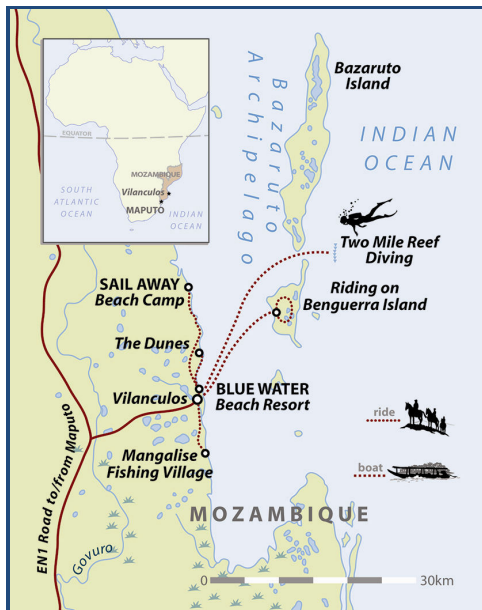
**Small Group Size:** We believe it is imperative to keep the group sizes small. Most trips are limited to a maximum of approximately 12 travellers, thus giving you more access to fragile cultures, better opportunities to interact with local people, and the knowledge you are making less of an impact while there.

**Cost of Tours:** We believe in an honest, upfront pricing system so you know exactly what the tour will cost before you book. We avoid local payments, 'optional extras' or forcing our clients to split every meal bill. Our tours are provided on a predominantly full board basis, with mineral water, government permits, entrance fees and transport all included.

**Added Value:** We aim to give our clients the very best (not the least expensive) experience through whatever facilities are available to us. We always try to provide accommodation that is interesting, characterful and convenient, and transport - another important part of any tour - that is as varied and comfortable as possible.

**Our clients:** Your companions can make or break a trip, and it's lucky therefore that our clients are our greatest asset. Travelling to remote regions is not for everyone, and as such we tend to attract open-minded travellers looking for genuine experiences, and a desire to reach those hard to get to places.

**Responsible Travel:** Awarded 5 star status by AITO (Association of Independent Tour operators), responsible tourism has always been an integral part of our company ethos and our adventures are designed with the local people, culture and eco-system in mind. For further details please refer to the RT section on this dossier.



**Day 1: Tour starts in Vilanculos:** Our journey begins amongst the subtropical paradise of the Bazaruto National Park. Lying along Mozambique's eastern coast, some 720 kilometres to the north of Maputo, Vilanculos provides an ideal base from which to explore the beautiful Mozambique coastline and the azure waters of the Indian Ocean. After a chance to freshen up, the early evening offers an opportunity to enjoy the town, soaking up the atmosphere of its bustling markets and its Portuguese heritage and perhaps even taking the time to wander along the beach and sample some of the town's famed seafood.

*Casa Rex (no meals)*

**Day 2: Fishing Village Community Ride:** The adventure starts after a hearty breakfast at Casa Rex. Clients will be transferred to the Blue Water Beach Resort. After settling in guests will be introduced to the horses. Once happy, we will ride south along the coast, at times cutting up through the mangrove and onto a ridge above the ocean. Riding with the tide out will give us ample opportunity to canter through the low surf. About 10ks south of town we'll come to a fisherman's village where we take lunch with the local community. This is great fun and is sure to be one of the highlights as we not only get to meet the locals but also partake of their excellent seafood - the crab in particular! In the afternoon we'll ride back to Blue Water.

*Blue Water Beach Resort (B,L,D)*

**Day 3: Benguerra Island:** Pristine and beautiful, the Bazaruto Archipelago is a true tropical paradise. Its reefs and islands are amongst the most stunning in the Western Indian Ocean, while its waters are a profusion of tropical fish, turtles, dolphins and whales. Abounding in a rich diversity of birds, the park is also a refuge for the last viable population of dugong on the East African coast. The second largest of the islands in the archipelago is Benguerra, a tropical haven of high dunes, pristine beaches and inland lakes that conjures up the ultimate image of an island paradise. Home to a rich diversity of flora and fauna, it provides us with our second day's riding and our first opportunity to explore something of Bazaruto's bountiful treasures. Transferring there by speedboat this morning we'll pick up the horses and ride in this amazing environment. We'll take a picnic lunch and return to the mainland and Blue Water in the late afternoon.

*Blue Water Beach Resort (B,L,D)*

**Day 4: Town visit and swimming with the horses:** After an early breakfast there will be an opportunity to head to a local school to help with a conversational English class before heading into Vilanculos to explore the markets. For those clients wishing to take part in a refresher diving course there will be time for this as well. After lunch in town we will be transferred back to our hotel before going out for an afternoon ride, heading south along the shores from the stables. And knowing the lure of the tropical seas will be too much to resist, at some stage we'll take the horses straight out into the ocean and go for a swim! After this we'll enjoy a lazy afternoon and evening.

*Blue Water Beach Resort (B,L,D)*

**Day 5: A Day at Leisure:** Today you can do as much or as little as you would like. You can just relax on the beach or the more adventurous can book on to diving or snorkel trips in the archipelago or deep sea fishing for which the area is famous. Other activities can be organized on land like birding, beach walks or you could even choose to go for ride. A BBQ dinner will be served in the evening.

*Blue Water Beach Resort (B,D)*

**Day 6: Ride to Sailaway Camp past the Red Dunes:** Today we leave Blue Water and ride due north up the coast. The ride has breathtaking views and there are plenty of opportunities for long relaxed canter. As we pass the big sand dunes we will turn inland and head up into the dunes for exceptional views across the Archipelago. In the afternoon we will reach the secluded campsite where there will be a chance to relax on the beach and go for a swim. After dinner you can unwind around the campfire and enjoy the beautiful African skies.

*Sailaway Beach Camp (B,L,D)*

**Day 7: Dhow trip, Snorkelling and Diving:** Today you will be taken by traditional dhow to the island of Bazaruto. There will be a chance to Snorkel at Two Mile Reef where diving is also possible if pre-booked. Lunch will be served on the dhow at the base of a huge dune on Bazaruto Island. In the afternoon the dhow will return to the campsite for one last night under the stars.

*Sailaway Beach Camp (B,L,D)*

**Day 8: Benguerra Island:** Today we will head back over to Benguerra by dhow for our second ride on the island. We explore the southern part of the island, and maybe head inland to see if we can see the resident crocodiles and flamingos. After our ride we head back to the mainland, where the Dhow will drop on the beach in front of our hotel.

*Blue Water Beach Resort (B,L,D)*

**Day 9: Bush and beach Ride:** After breakfast we will head out for another stunning day as we ride the wide-open beaches of the mainland, cantering through the surf, with the sun on our backs. Along the way we stop at one of the small restaurants on the seafront for lunch before turning back to the stables where we will say goodbye to our horses.

*Casa Rex (B,L)*

**Day 10: Tour ends in Vilanculos:** This morning, after breakfast we will head to the airport for our flights home.

*(B)*

**Wild Extensions:**

Arrive early to adjust to a new time zone or just to get a feel for the country before your tour starts. Explore the

country after your tour on a bespoke Wild Extension or just allow a few days to relax afterwards. Maybe choose all of the above and get cheaper flights mid-week?

**Contact the office for extension specifics.**

**TOUR DETAILS**

**Tour Code:** MOZ/B

**Tour price:** All our tours are priced on a LAND ONLY basis, giving you maximum flexibility when deciding how to get to and from your tour.

**Single Supplements:** These are NOT compulsory for any Wild Frontiers tour. Where single supplements are available please note that a single room cannot always be guaranteed for every night of the tour as depending on the destination, rooms may be limited. On this tour we are happy to offer an optional single supplement that will cover you for all nights of the tour.

NB: for those nights when we are camping you will get a single tent.

**Flights:** If you would like us to send you a quote for the suggested tour flight (see GETTING THERE) or on any alternative flight that may suit you better, please let us know.

In all cases, for the latest prices, please refer to our website or contact the office.

**Please remember that all Wild Frontiers tour prices mean NO hidden extras, NO local payments or kitty and NO compulsory single supplements.**

**WHAT IS INCLUDED?**

- Full services of a Wild Frontiers Tour Leader with local guides and drivers.
- Meal plan as detailed in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner) with mineral water as required.
- All transport as outlined in the itinerary.
- All accommodation
- All entrance fees, as per itinerary

### WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

- Visas (if applicable)
- Local airport taxes
- Tips to local guides
- Any diving costs (including refresher courses)
- Beverages & any costs of a personal nature.
- Lunch on day 5; dinner on days 1 & 9 - this is because the variety of food is so good and we want to leave you free to order lobster if you wish!
- International Flights
- Airport transfers (unless booking suggested flights through WF).

### GETTING THERE

For this trip our suggested flights (subject to change) are:

25APR BA055 LHR-JNB 19:05/06:55+1  
26APR 7V400 JNB-VNX 10:20/15:20  
05MAY 7V401 VNX-JNB 14:00/16:30  
05MAY BA056 JNB-LHR 19:15/05:15+1

Key:

LHR - London Heathrow  
JNB - Johannesburg  
VNX - Vilanculos

BA - British Airways  
7V - Federal Air (Pelican)

**NB** If you wish to arrange your own flights you are completely free to do so and in this case we can arrange any transfers or supplementary accommodation that you may require.

Please note that if you are making your own flight arrangements, we recommend that you only purchase flights that are totally flexible and refundable as due to the nature of adventure travel, itineraries can change at any time. For more information, please refer to our booking conditions.

### PRACTICALITIES

**Accommodation:** Hotel Casa Rex is a very quaint hotel, built as a private house (belonging to Rex) and has that feel. It has a lovely living room, which leads onto a terrace where you take your meals looking out over the bay.

There is a nice garden, two swimming pools, and lovely views. There are 16 rooms, all of which are stylishly furnished, with comfy beds and nice bathrooms. Perfect for a first and last night in the region.

Blue Water is a funky beach place right on the ocean. Consisting of 10 small rondavals, each with ceiling fan the place has a great view of the beach, the rooms are small but neat and the bathrooms are good. It also has the best swimming pool in the area, overlooking the sea, a great bar and open restaurant.

**Transport** on this tour includes a traditional dhow (see below), 4WDs on the mainland, motor boats for diving and horses!

**Dhow** - The dhow to be used is a traditional model, meaning it's full on character and low on amenities! Land is always within sight.

**Snorkelling & Diving** - one of the best reasons to visit this part of Mozambique is to experience life underwater. If you want to snorkel that's fine and equipment can be hired once there. For those of you with PADI or BSAC qualifications, a full day's diving can be arranged with two or three dives out at Two Mile Reef. There will also be a chance in the afternoon of some of the other days to dive should you wish to. The cost for the diving is not included but the full day trip will cost approximately US\$140 per person, fully inclusive of all equipment (excluding dive computers).

### **Trip Grading:**

Adventure Rating ❖❖❖❖❖❖

Comfort Grade ❖❖❖❖❖❖

Fitness Level ❖❖❖❖❖❖

Cultural Interest ❖❖❖❖❖❖

Please note that this grading is an indication only and should you have any concerns please contact the office.

### **Fitness and riding skill...**

You should be able to ride at an intermediate standard: be comfortable walking, trotting and cantering, be reasonably fit and in a decent state of health (If you are a novice rider and want to do this trip, do please get in touch. As

the trip is not a trail ride, but stays in one place for the majority of the riding, we may well be able to facilitate you on a slightly different itinerary).

**The Horses:** The care and well being of our horses takes top precedence ensuring that they are responsive, alert, tough and fit. We have over 30 horses in Mozambique to choose from and each horse will be handpicked to suit your individual need. Breeds include a combination of Thoroughbreds, Arabs and the South African Boerperds. They are schooled to a very high level and react easily and lightly to the aids.

**The Tack:** We use a combination of English saddles, South African McClellan's and a selection of Australian stock saddles for those who prefer. We train our horses in both English and Western riding styles.

**Safety when Riding:** Although we understand that a large part of the fun of horse riding holidays is the freedom you derive from riding wild and free over magical terrain, we would like to point out that this form of holiday can be hazardous and it is important you follow a few basic rules.

- Firstly you must be a competent rider. If you are not sure if your level of riding skill is sufficient for the particular trip you are signing up for, please contact the office for advice
- We strongly recommend that you wear a hard hat - at least while you get used to the horses. Accidents can happen to anyone at anytime particularly while both horse and rider are sussing each other out. A hard hat can be the difference between a minor accident and a very serious problem
- Concentrate - particularly over tricky terrain. It is all too easy to get carried away with the scenery, the adventure and the ongoing conversations. Remember you are riding and take care.
- Until you are sure of your horse's demeanour, try to keep at least a metre apart.
- Pass messages back.

And if you do all that and use your common sense, all should be fine and you

will have a fabulous horse-bound adventure holiday.

**It may sound obvious but...**

Wild Frontiers tours are not always for everyone and it is important to us that the tour you choose is the most suitable. Please therefore take time to read the dossier carefully. All our tours are graded to give an overall picture of the trip but these are only guidelines and you should check the daily itinerary. Should you have any concerns about your ability to partake in any aspect of the tour then please contact the office.

**Insurance:** Insurance that provides cover for emergency repatriation in case of a medical emergency is compulsory for all tours. You should be aware that many standard insurance policies may not cover you adequately for all aspects of a Wild Frontiers trip and so we strongly recommend that you purchase a suitably designed insurance policy. One such policy is the "Wild Frontiers" policy underwritten by Travel & General Insurance Company plc, which is available to UK and Republic of Ireland residents through our website or via the insurance company direct on 0845 408 0583. Under this policy there are two different levels of cover available and for this trip the minimum requirement would be the Standard policy.

**Cover explained:**

**Standard policy:** a comprehensive travel insurance policy that provides cover for all Wild Frontiers activities, including trekking up to 6,000m. This policy does not provide cover for travel to areas where the FCO is advising against all or all but essential travel.

**Elite policy:** provides the same comprehensive level of cover as the standard policy. In addition the Elite policy also provides cover for travel to areas where the FCO is advising against all or all but essential travel. The policy will not provide cover for any claims arising from or relating to the reasons why the FCO is advising against travel.

If purchasing the Elite policy you also have the option to **extend the cover** provided by the policy to include cover

for claims arising from a terrorist act in an area where the FCO is advising against travel. You can add this cover to your policy when purchasing online or over the telephone.

These policies are only available to those travelling on a Wild Frontiers holiday.

For more information and to purchase your policy online please visit the Insurance section of our website.

The cover is underwritten by the International Insurance Company of Hannover Limited (IICH), who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA). Wild Frontiers Limited is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Travel & General Insurance Company plc, details of which can be found at the FSA's website [www.fsa.gov.uk](http://www.fsa.gov.uk).

If you do decide to purchase alternative insurance, then you must ensure that it covers you for every aspect of this trip. Please pay particular attention to ensuring that you are covered for horse-riding and diving if you intend to do so.

**Visas:** Visas are necessary for many of the destinations we travel to and while we aim to provide you with the most up-to-date information, requirements frequently change and as such we advise that you check with the relevant embassies or contact our recommended visa agency, Travcour (020 7223 5295) [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) for the latest advice.

For this tour, UK passport holders currently require a visa for Mozambique.

Non-UK passport holders should contact the relevant embassies for individual requirements.

Further details will be sent out to you on booking, however ensuring that correct and valid visas are obtained remains the sole responsibility of the client.

**Responsible Travel:** Responsible travel and sustainable tourism are fundamental ideas that Wild Frontiers has been committed to since our birth. It is our strong belief that these words should not be simply 'tagged on' to dossiers and websites but should be at the very core of

each trip, and our adventures are therefore designed with the local people, culture and eco-system in mind. We believe that a successful trip not only delivers a unique and unsurpassable journey for our clients, but that it also benefits the peoples whose lands we are privileged to visit.

**The Wild Frontiers Foundation:** In order to facilitate an enduring support structure for the communities we visit, and to show a commitment to these values, Wild Frontiers has set up a charitable foundation through which we can channel funds to both existing NGOs and our own development projects. In addition to organising ethically sensitive tours, having our own charitable foundation allows us to raise money - through the cost of our tours, charity trips and fund raising events - which can then be used to fund various projects in education, sanitation, reforestations and a number of other important issues facing developing communities. Wherever possible we are happy for our clients to visit these projects to see for themselves where and how this money is being spent. For a full list of partner NGOs please visit our website. Should you wish to donate to the foundation please contact the office for details.

**The Environment:** Trying to do our bit for the environment, in 2005 we were among the first UK-based travel companies to automatically offset every client's international flight (if booked with us) with a payment to Carbon Clear to help promote sustainable energy.

**Climate:** Being within the tropics Mozambique seldom gets cold, but on some evenings during the winter months of June and July a light jacket or pullover will be necessary. The summer months of November through to February can be extremely hot and this is also the rainy season, though storms seldom last long. Winters are sunny and dry and cool off substantially in the evening.

**Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO):** The FCO travel advice highlights potential hazards people might experience when travelling abroad. Given the nature of destinations offered by Wild Frontiers it is inevitable that from time to time some itineraries contravene this advice. Whilst

WF takes the safety and security of its clients extremely seriously, we will not necessarily cancel a trip because of the FCO advice. It is recommended therefore that clients check this advice before booking and contact us if they have any queries or concerns. Please see our website for further information.

**Further information:**

When you make a confirmed booking with Wild Frontiers we will send you our confirmation pack with complete pre-departure information giving you details on visas, health and vaccinations, packing lists, suggested reading on the region, insurance, photography and other useful tips to make your trip more enjoyable.



In recent years it has managed to perfectly blend its diverse cultural heritage with its world famous natural beauty and, as yet unsullied by the tourist trappings that have affected some other parts of the continent, it still retains something of the captivating spirit of old world charm. Echoing to the hypnotic beat of traditional marrabenta rhythms, its island havens and colonial towns perfectly encapsulate a glorious fusion of tradition, history and matchless scenic splendour, whilst its pristine beaches and coral reefs still remain one of Africa's best kept secrets.

## MOZAMBIQUE - THE FACTS



**Mozambique:** Sandwiched between the vast landscapes of the African interior and the rich deep waters of the Indian Ocean, Mozambique has emerged from a recent turbulent past to become one of Africa's most stunning travel destinations. Colonised by the Portuguese in 1505, the country attained independence in 1975, when it became the Republic of Mozambique.



**The Bazaruto Archipelago:** A chain of six islands that comprises the 4 main islands of Bazaruto, Benguerra, Magaruque and Banque, as well as the smaller islands of Santa Carolina (Paradise Island) and Shell, the Bazaruto Archipelago was formed from the sands deposited by the Limpopo River thousands of years ago. Largely covered by dunes and freshwater lakes, the islands are home to beautiful black-winged flamingos, whilst its outlying reefs provide a haven for dolphins, dugongs and an incredible array of game fish. Declared a national park in 1971, the Archipelago can also boast some 180 species of birds, endemic butterflies, freshwater crocodiles and suni antelope amongst its rich diversity of wildlife, whilst its tourist attractions include some of the most pristine coral reefs in the Indian Ocean,

making it a paradise for divers and fishermen.



**How to book:**

In order to confirm your booking we need to have a completed signed booking form for each client together with a £400 deposit per person. You can either return your booking form to us by post or by booking online at [www.wildfrontiers.co.uk](http://www.wildfrontiers.co.uk)

You can contact the office by email to [info@wildfrontiers.co.uk](mailto:info@wildfrontiers.co.uk) or we are very happy to take your call on 020 7736 3968.

Wild Frontiers is a fully licensed and bonded tour operator and our ATOL number is 5975. You can book your holiday with Wild Frontiers in complete confidence that all monies you pay to us for your tour are fully protected.

We are also bonded with the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO). AITO members comply with the highest standards of consumer protection. Every AITO holiday is backed not only by AITO's Quality Charter but also by full financial protection.

We do recommend that you take out adequate travel insurance at the time of booking in the event that you are no longer able to travel as all deposits are non-refundable - full booking conditions can be found on the booking form and online at our website.