



FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND	<p>Azura at Gabriels, on Benguerra Island Mozambique, is the first of several luxury Indian Ocean eco-island retreats from Christopher and Stella Bettany.</p> <p>Christopher has a background in luxury hotel development and investment and is one of the directors of the Banyan Tree Seychelles. The hotel first opened in September 2007.</p>
STYLE	<p>The vision is to provide the ultimate in private luxury hideaways in stunning undiscovered destinations.</p> <p>Azura at Gabriels was hand built by the local community, and blends designer modern chic with all that is traditional in Mozambique, including local wooden beams and thatched jekka roofs.</p>
ACCOMMODATION	<p>The 16 luxury beachfront villas comprise of 1 Beach Villa, 3 Luxury Beach Villas, 10 Infinity Beach Villas, 1 Villa Amizade and 1 Presidential Villa. All villas are very spacious with the Infinity and Luxury villas covering a total private area of 650m².</p> <p>The key difference between the Luxury Villas and the Infinity Villas is the prime positioning of the Infinity Villas, a larger bathroom with freeform bath, and the size of the villa pool. The Luxury Beach Villas each have 3.5m plunge pools whereas the infinity villas have a 5m long infinity pool. The Beach Villa is slightly smaller in all aspects but has an excellent location.</p> <p>The villas are all nestled amidst the indigenous trees and bushes and have been painstakingly created to offer guest their own private sanctuary where they can feel at one with the environment.</p> <p>Guests need only take a few steps to the pristine white beach or they may choose to just lounge around on plump cushions and have their host serve them tea and ice cold drinks. They can dine on the private deck, or sip a cocktail in the beachside Sala as the sun goes down. Lie in the large bath and gaze at the view, or shower beneath the stars.</p>
ROOM AMENITIES	<p><i>The following amenities are found in the villa:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingsize or twin beds with oversize mosquito net (note only 4 villas can be configured as twins and must be pre-booked) • Hairdryer • Mosquito repellent and bug spray • Multi national plug points • Telephone • Mini bar (not in the Beach Villa), stocked with complimentary soft drinks and beer – all other drinks are served by the Butler/Hosts, many of which are also complimentary. • Soaps, shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, ear buds, cotton wool and nail files all of which are eco friendly natural products and free of Parabens, and are the same top quality products used in the spa.

ROOM AMENITIES (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Books (fiction) are placed in the villa (as well as reference books in the library/lounge areas) • Beach bag • Laundry bag and complimentary laundry facilities (we aim for a 24 hour service but as laundry is air dried this is not always possible) • Air conditioning and ceiling fan
COMMUNAL AREAS	<p>Azura's public areas are right on the beach and open to the sea. We have created several different zones for relaxation, from the comfortable lounge area, to the vibey star bar. There is a media room for those needing TV and internet access, and a boutique at reception. The Jellyfish restaurant serves breakfast and more formal dining experiences.</p>
LOCATION	<p>Benguerra is the second largest island in the Bazaruto Archipelago, which is made up of five islands: Bazaruto, Benguerra, Magaruque, Banque (or Shell Island), and Santa Carolina (or Paradise Island). Santa Carolina is the only true volcanic island, whereas the others are sand based. It is approximately 11km x 5.5 km and lies some 14 km north east of Vilanculos. It is famous for its unspoiled white beaches, remarkable dive sites and excellent fishing. Benguerra Island has about 2000 inhabitants and there are 313 children in the school which was built by Azura's Rainbow Fund Charity. There are no shops, other than small trading posts, so please bring everything you may need with you, especially any medication you may require.</p>
ACCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily flights from Johannesburg International Airport on Federal Air and LAM which connect well with the major international flights to Europe. The flying time from Johannesburg is approx. 2 hours on modern aircraft. Max baggage 20kg including hand luggage. Passengers from Overseas must clear immigrations and customs in JNB and check-in land side for their onward flight, there is no transit possibility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Air: DEP JNB at 10h20 ARR VNX at +/-12h30, normally counter 54/55 International Departures (check in by 09h10). DEP VNX 13h30 ARR JNB +/-15h45. (check in between 11h00 and 12h45) LAM: DEP JNB at 10h55 ARR VNX at +/- 13h00 (check in closes 40 mins beforehand). DEP VNX at 13.20 (Tues, Thurs, Sat) ARR JNB 16h15 (via INH) DEP VNX at 14.15 (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun) ARR JNB 16h10 (direct) • On Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays the Federal Air flight stops and collects passengers from KMIA (Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport) in Nelspruit, which is near the National Kruger Park and Sabi Sands Reserves, with an onward flying time of just 1 hour, facilitating an effortless beach and bush experience. • The LAM flight also stops in Inhambane on certain days and collects passengers there (normally Mon, Wed, Fri & Sun on other days the flight is direct). • There are also regular flights on LAM from Maputo • CFA operates flights to and from Gorongosa National Park and the Bazaruto Islands on Mondays and Fridays. • A state of the art Eurocopter whisks passengers from Vilanculos straight to the helipad on the property with a flying time of 10-15 minutes. A return helicopter transfer currently costs 330 USD. • Airstrip co-ordinates for private aeroplane charters: Hard Grass 21.51.00 S / 35.27.00 E (1000meters) • The condition of the hard grass strip is changeable, and not maintained by Azura, so it is best to verify the condition before flying as a transfer from Vilanculos may need to be arranged.

CLIMATE	<p>The island is warm and sunny year round, and is exceptionally dry. In some years there has been very little rain at all. Rain showers are generally restricted to the mainland, although some will occur over the island close to the rainy season. These usually fall as short sharp bursts, often at night. Breezes are usually light and the sea temperature varies with the seasons and currents between 24 °c and 30 °c.</p> <p>Weather patterns globally are changing, and it is becoming harder to predict weather patterns with certainty. The below is based on observation over the past few years:</p>
CLIMATE (cont.)	<p>January: rain possible, still lots of sunshine, very hot and humid. 28 – 35°c. 82 – 100°F</p> <p>February: rain possible, still lots of sunshine, very hot and humid. 28 – 38°c. 82 – 100°F.</p> <p>March: hot and sunny, some lingering rain showers possible. 25 – 30°c. 77 – 86°F</p> <p>April: hot, sunny and dry, less humidity, lovely beach weather. 25 – 30°c. 77 – 86°F</p> <p>May: lovely sunny weather, with little or no rainfall. 20 – 28°c. 68 – 82°F</p> <p>June: lovely sunny weather with no rainfall. 18 – 27°c. 64 – 80°F</p> <p>July/August: our winter months, days are still sunny and warm, no rain, will require something to keep off the chill in the evenings. 15 – 26°c. 59 – 78°F</p> <p>September: spring, sunny warm weather, no rain. 18 – 28°c. 64 – 82°F</p> <p>October: sunny and hot, rain unlikely. 23 – 30°c. 73 – 91°F</p> <p>November: sunny and hot, with more humidity, possible short showers. 22 – 33°c. 73 – 91°F</p> <p>December: sunny and hot, with higher humidity, possible short showers. 23 – 36°c. 73 – 97°F</p> <p>Cyclones – Cyclone season in the Indian Ocean lasts from early January until the end of March, February being its peak. Azura is not in the cyclone belt like Mauritius. Only two have hit this area in the last 60 years of recorded history.</p>
DINING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A key focus at Azura is the cuisine, with a focus where possible on fresh local produce such as fish and seafood. The array of irresistible signature dishes will not disappoint, and nor will the accompanying fine wines, including those flown in from the owners chateau in France's Loire Valley. • Meal settings range from informal 'foot in the sand' dining experiences, picnics in secluded spots, to dinner by candlelight on the beach beneath the stars, to feasting in the comfort and intimacy of your own villa, to tasting dinners in the Jellyfish Restaurant. As many meals as possible are served outdoors. • Dining Mozambican style is a slow relaxed affair, so please advise your Host if you are in a rush. • Special dining events include a more formal seven course tasting menu at least once a week, as well as Mozambican seafood

	<p>evenings, also once a week. The tasting menu is a good opportunity for a dressier evening.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spawning season (beginning of October to end November) may affect the availability of fresh crayfish. At this time the netting of fish is also illegal and fish supplies dramatically decrease, although some is still available, caught on line. As we purchase locally from the fishing community, and try never to serve any frozen fish or seafood, we ask for understanding over this period, and the importance of preserving natural resources. • Should you have particular dietary requirements it is advisable to alert the Retreat as far in advance as possible, as some specialist ingredients may take as long as 8 weeks to get to us. • All main meals and house drinks are included in the rate. Other meal events and premium drinks are at a supplement.
SERVICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will be allocated a Mozambican Butler/Host during your stay. The Host is entirely responsible for "adopting" you and creating an unforgettable holiday experience for you. Most of the Hosts have English as a second language and many have only been communicating in English since their employment at Azura. Some understanding around this may be required. However the generosity and kindness with which you will be looked after will be difficult to replicate elsewhere. • The guest services and activities management team are there to work in a supporting role to the Hosts and are also there to make your stay memorable by offering and arranging activities and additional services.
ACTIVITIES	<p>We offer a large selection of activities, many of which are weather dependent. We do not pre-book activities for this reason. Activities are as follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scuba Diving – we are a PADI 5 Star centre, with dedicated dive training pool • Guided snorkeling trips • Island visits, including our recommended Island Hop • Guided tours of the island and its natural beauty, as well as visits to the community and school • Local soccer match • Visits to Vilanculos and its market • Deep sea fishing in a custom built boat • Shore based fishing • Spa treatments • Leisure flips in the Helicopter to various destinations • Horse riding • Dhow sailing and sunset cruises • Guided marine shore walks • Star gazing events • Beach walks with a picnic • Beach picnic and private dining • Guided bird watching / walking trails • Dolphin sightings (year round) • Dugong sightings • Whale sightings (in season, June-Oct) • Cultural encounters <p>Snorkeling – although we are happy to loan snorkeling gear for use by guests to snorkel outside their villas, there is not much to see other than sand. Some of the best snorkeling along the east coast of Africa is to be had a short 20 min boat trip away, at the aquarium.</p>

SPA (see separate spa menu)	<p>Azura's uniquely African Spa offers signature treatments based on local ingredients and traditions. These include being rubbed down with ground coconut shells, covered head to toe with tamarind and aloe, or gently massaged with warm marula oil.</p> <p>There is a double treatment room at the Spa and couples treatments are usually possible, dependent on how many therapists are on the island. In Villa treatments are also possible at a small supplement.</p>
FAMILIES	<p>Families are very welcome at Azura. Villa Amizade and the Presidential Villa are best for families, although our Infinity Beach Villas can accommodate an extra bed without compromising guest space.</p> <p>We have a range of children's and teens activities at Azura, with activities very much based around our pristine natural environment. Children can learn to dive at Azura from age 8, fishing is a great activity for all, and our younger guests can also enjoy the Spa.</p> <p>We ask children to respect guest privacy and tranquility at Azura. Younger guests may be requested to dine in-villa. Our chefs can prepare a range of meals which are suitable for children of all ages. Please discuss your requirements on arrival.</p>
COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As mentioned each villa is provided with a telephone with access to Azura's internal telephone lines. International calls may be arranged with reception and then once established, forwarded through to your villa, but we do charge for this service at 1 USD per minute. • Azura has a wireless internet access compatible with most laptops and smart phones. It covers the central parts of the retreat (restaurant and bar area, lounge, library and reception). Our network does not cover our villas, except the Presidential Villa. There is a PC in the library that has internet access as an alternative to bringing your own laptop or smartphone. Download speeds are limited by our satellite connection. • Cell phone signal is usually available. We advise that you check with your cell phone service provider whether they have a usury agreement with one of the two cell phone networks in Mozambique (namely Mcel or Vodacom) and activate your international roaming if they do.
TRAVEL INFORMATION	<p><i>Packing essentials:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathing suits, sunglasses, sunhat, sunscreen, kikoi's or wraps and shoes for the beach (that can get wet e.g. flip flops). We also suggest sneakers for some activities. • Batteries or chargers for cameras, phones etc. we provide electrical convertors • Light cool and informal clothing is worn during the day but in the evenings something smart casual or beach chic is appropriate. We usually serve dinner on the beach, so very high heels are not appropriate, although wedges do work when not on the beach. Paths are made of layers of crushed shells, so flip flops or sandals are useful for walking about in the day, and a lower heel or wedge in the evenings is more manageable. • American Express is not used in Mozambique, so if you are likely to pay using a credit card, we suggest you bring along a Visa or Mastercard • Please bring along any diving certification cards. It is now possible to undertake the theory part of a PADI qualification on-line with the practical dives completed on site.

**TRAVEL
INFORMATION (cont.)**

Departure from Johannesburg, KMA or Maputo:

- Your luggage allowance is 20kg. This includes your hand luggage and the airline is not very lenient. Please consider that you are more than likely boarding a helicopter to fly to and from Azura, which also as a limited luggage hold. The helicopter company respectfully request that soft bags are used as they are more easily accommodated in the Eurocopter.
- Please note that in the event of overweight luggage being charged, payment is made at the airlines offices using credit cards only.
- We recommend that you padlock your luggage whilst traveling to Mozambique.
- Keep your passport, wallet and valuables in your hand luggage as on arrival your other bags will be taken directly to your villa, yet you need your passport for check-in purposes.
- We also recommend tagging your luggage clearly with your name, as it makes for swift and accurate delivery of luggage to your villa.

Immigration and border procedures:

- If you do not already have a visa, you can get one upon arrival. A single entry visa is approx. 85USD, depending on what border post you use to cross into Mozambique. Difference in prices are due to Mozambique gradually phasing in sophisticated border control technology, at which access points, costs are higher. **please note:** these prices are subject to change at any time and we recommend that you carry 100 USD cash, in smallish notes, per person traveling.

Arrival:

- Once you arrive off the plane you will be directed to the immigration counter. If obtaining a visa a separate entry form needs to be completed, and the counter is on the far left. Queues can be long at peak times, and sitting at the rear of the Federal Air aircraft will enable you to reach the immigration area first.
- All of your bags will be x-rayed at customs. Your luggage may be searched upon arrival, and this might include hand luggage. It will also be searched upon departure, as they will check that you are not taking anything from the protected parks, like shells.
- After customs, an Azura representative will be there to assist you. Please note that this is likely to be a local man with English as a foreign language. He assists guests everyday at the airport and knows the procedures and will make sure that you do the correct thing. Kindly have patience when communicating and know that you are in good hands.
- Once your bags are claimed and documents are stamped, the Azura representative will lead you to the seating area, and then call you to the helicopter when it is ready to depart. Please be advised that the waiting time, before boarding the helicopter flight depends on the number of passengers flying that day, as the helicopter can only accommodate 4 passengers at a time. The sequence of passenger transfers is entirely managed by the helicopter company, who reserve the right to make decisions best suited to the overall transfer schedule on that day. Azura has a preferential transfer agreement with them and they will, as far as possible, always transfer our guests before any others, unless this will cause a delay in the overall transfer schedule.
- In case of emergencies or problems on arrival you can contact the retreat direct on (00258) 293 84087 or the pilot on (00258) 84 8395 204
- Private charters should contact the Retreat direct with an expected arrival time, so that the helicopter or vehicle transfer from the Benguerra island runway can be co-ordinated.

	<p><i>Check-in at Azura:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On arrival you will be led to the lounge where it will be required that you fill in a registration form and sign an indemnity. Your passport will be needed but banking details are not required. Banking details may be asked only in exceptional cases, where payment of the accommodation could not be arranged prior to arrival. • At this point Azura staff will discuss all activities that are included in your stay and give a brief walk around the salient common use areas. There are several additional activities that are listed in our guest information brochures but they are not discussed at this time. We recommend the island hop as it is our signature activity and we believe it is the type of experience that will never be forgotten. <p><i>Check-out at Azura:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check-out is at 10.30 am on the day of departure. Please ensure your bill is settled in good time as communication links to banking systems can be intermittent.
<p>MARINE LIFE/ FLORA & FAUNA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benguerra is a sand island which has spectacular moving dunes and a diverse range of habitats for exotic and endemic wildlife. • On the land there are fresh water lakes; home to crocodiles, fish and migrant wading birds, the beautiful 'greater Flamingo', remnant forests along the dunes and grasslands and swamps which house a variety of bird life and mammals. • In the surrounding ocean there are near pristine offshore coral reefs; inshore sea grass beds, upon which the Dugong (the legendary mermaid) and turtles feed; good stocks of pelagic fishes and long stretches of sandy beaches ideal for swimming, walking or just relaxing. <p><i>Animal sightings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dugongs – year round, although very scarce • Turtle season – year round • Whales – humpback – mid June to mid October • Dolphins – year round • Whale sharks/Manta rays – Dec to March • We are in a marine national park, and as such wish to enhance the peace and tranquility of the park. Towards this end we offer limited motorized activities. • A park fee of 10 USD will automatically be charged, per person, on your departure bill, which is the government's entrance levy for accessing the park and gets paid on to them on a monthly basis. • A portion of this goes to Kane Kwedo, which is an initiative along with the other 2 hotels on the island to further the needs of the community.
<p>CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMUNITY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vision behind Azura Retreats is to harness the power of responsible tourism for the benefit of the local people whilst conserving the unique cultural and biological diversity of Benguerra Island. • It is one of only a handful of resorts where the community are major stakeholders and contribute to every aspect of the project. • The local communities have been educated and encouraged not to hunt rare species or over-fish certain areas and a No Fishing Zone has

	<p>been established in front of the resort's shores to encourage a resurgence of dolphins.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Besides employing local islanders wherever possible Azura has also helped in rebuilding the village after the area was devastated by cyclone Favio in March 2007. Guests are encouraged to get involved with the projects as much or as little as they would like to during their stay. The Rainbow Fund, a registered charity, has been set up to support these social and environmental projects, and guests are invited to contribute \$10 per night at the end of their stay. This will be automatically added to their bill on check-out, but is discretionary and can be removed.
<p>CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMUNITY</p>	<p>Many of our departing guests have commented that they wish we had told them to bring something for the impoverished island community. Should you care to do so, kindly find some suggestions below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School supplies: pens, pencils, crayons, sharpeners, erasers, exercise books and coloring books. Aspirin and plasters Toys Sweets or non perishable foodstuffs Soccer boots, clothing or balls Second hand clothing for babies and children Sunglasses Unwanted clothing <p>We also have people with albinism living on the island that benefit from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good sunscreen for body, face and lips After sun Light, long sleeved clothing Hats and sunglasses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We respectfully ask that you DO NOT hand money or objects to any person or child that may solicit donations from you. We do not wish to perpetuate a culture of dependence, nor create a culture of begging that could be detrimental to future visitors to the area. To assist the community in a considered, wholesome and productive manner Azura runs a registered charity (the first hotel in Mozambique to have an officially registered charity) called the Rainbow Fund. The registration certificate may be viewed at reception, as well as a list of projects undertaken. The Rainbow Fund supports a variety of social and environmental projects, which can be discussed with our residential environmental guide. Azura is very proud of having built the island school and of supplying the ongoing needs of the children and the community.
<p>TIDES</p>	<p>There is a large tidal difference (nearly 6 meters at its most extreme), and this effects most of island life. Some activities are only possible at low tide, and access to the ocean for swimming is much closer and deeper at high tide. The shoreline moves as much as 800meters back at its most extreme, making for incredibly beautiful and changing landscapes, and ideal for keen photographers. Each villa has a pool so swimming is always possible.</p>
<p>FRESH WATER</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fresh water is a scarce resource and should be consumed moderately, so linen is not changed daily but after two days of use. There are two fresh water lakes on the island, which have fresh water crocodiles. Most of the water used by islanders and other residents is extracted from wells that get sunk and the water is pumped to the surface for purification in tanks.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azura has a state of the art water system, and re-uses grey water for its landscaping.
SHOPPING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azura has a small boutique; however the opportunity for shopping beyond this is very limited. • Benguerra Island has no formal infrastructure such as roads, municipal power, shops etc. there is no postal service to the island, and it is best to come prepared with most of what you think you might need whilst on the island.
PRICING & COSTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistically, most of our supplies and beverages have to be trucked to us from South Africa • Import taxes for many goods can be as much as 140% and prices are therefore not comparative to South Africa's prices. Capital equipment and beverages are subject to particularly high duties. • Once goods have arrived in the area we have to boat them over to the island, incurring further fuel and staffing cost. • All goods and services sold at Azura are quoted at an exclusive rate, and a tax of 17% is levied on most items
CURRENCIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azura prices extras in US dollars but takes payment in Mozambique's local currency the metical in accordance with Mozambican law. The metical is sometimes subject to large short term swings, and the actual amount charged by your credit card company may therefore differ to our estimate once the transaction is processed through the banking system. We will always give our best estimate of the exchange rate at check-out. • We accept all credit cards except American Express and Diners, as they are not present in Mozambique. • South African rand, Euros or American Dollars cash are also accepted. • Traveler's cheques are not excepted as they cannot be cashed locally, only in Maputo.
TIPPING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We suggest 10 – 15 USD per villa per, per night for the host, matched by an equal amount towards the general staff tipping pool (gardeners, chefs, housekeepers, maintenance team and administrative staff) no gratuities are expected, and are entirely at the discretion of our guests. • Some staff are not included in the tipping pool and they are: guest service managers, spa therapists, activities managers and the head chef. Gratuities for these staff are entirely at your own discretion and certainly not an expectation. • All payment including tips may be made in cash or by credit card. Cash tips intended for specific recipients may be directly handed to them, and envelopes are available at reception.
RECOMMENDED LENGTH OF STAY	At least 5 days to fully appreciate all that Azura has to offer. Some guests have stayed for as long as 3 weeks!
WEDDINGS	Azura has arranged many wedding/blessing ceremonies for guests at Azura. We happily offer a blessing service by a local representative. If you require a legal wedding your own arrangements for the formalities will have to be made.
DRESS CODE	Informal/casual beach chic.
VISAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visas are required by all nationalities except South Africans • It is advisable to obtain the visa before travel, but they can also be issued on arrival

HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mozambique is a malarial area and suitable prophylactics are advised, along with normal precautions such as using mosquito repellent at dusk, and sleeping under your mosquito net. Bengueria Island is considered a low risk malaria area. • Azura has a Medical Evacuation policy with a Dr on call in South Africa. Should an emergency situation arise, a medically equipped plane is dispatched which then transports the patient to the closest hospital with First World Care (Johannesburg normally). Thankfully this service has never been required. • A state of the heart hospital is currently being constructed by the Swedish government in Vilanculos. It will be staffed by Swedish Doctors as well as by Swedish trained Mozambican Doctors. • Azura maintains a small medical supply with items that are frequently needed, as well as first aid trained staff. Please bring any medications you think you may need with you.
RESERVATIONS	Reservations – SA Tel: +27 (0) 11 465 3427. Email : bookings@mozcon.com Website: http://www.mozcon.com/Azura_Lodge.html