

DIVING & SNORKELLING AT AZURA BENGUERRA



The reefs within the Bazaruto archipelago offer some of the most sublime diving in Mozambique. Situated in a Marine National Park the coral life is especially healthy with a huge diversity of marine life including turtles, moray eels and rays, plus a wide variety of each fish species, always indicative of a healthy reef. For the small stuff, look for incredible nudibranchs and several species of shrimps. The topography of the reef is also stunning with a ridge running along for approximately a kilometre and scattered bommies, teeming with life, dotted along the edges.

It is all drift diving, with the dive leader carrying a reel attached to a surface buoy meaning the boat always knows where you are and comes to collect you at the end of the dive, which is nice and easy. Azura has a full range of high quality dive equipment. Our training pool at the Watersports Centre is perfect for refreshing your diving skills or taking the plunge for the first time. If you are interested in learning to dive and would like to try it out, contact our dive instructor. A PADI Discover Scuba course, which includes your first reef diving experience, can be completed in just a few hours. Children are welcome to learn to dive from the age of 10 upwards.

We highly recommend that you complete the theory portion of your course at home, before your holiday. That way, you're ready to start diving as soon as you arrive and will get to spend more time exploring the waters around the island.



DIVING AND SNORKELING INFORMATION

Azura Benguerra Island is a registered Five Star accredited PADI Resort, which ensures the highest standard of training safety, equipment maintenance and breathing air. The dive centre makes use of the internationally known Scubapro brand of equipment.

SCUBA COURSES

Courses range from those designed for children and beginners through to full certification up to Divemaster level of training.

BUBBLEMAKER

This is a fun course for children aged eight years and older. The children breathe SCUBA in shallow water and play games and perform tricks underwater.

DISCOVER SCUBA

This is the first stage to becoming a diver. Participants must be over ten years of age. A DVD on safety, skills and the environment is viewed. This is combined with instructor tuition. The pool session includes instructor led basic skill mastery, ensuring safety on the optional dive.

DISCOVER SCUBA DIVING

Participants who have completed the Discover Scuba Portion may elect to go on an open water dive. This dive is controlled by the instructor and conducted in shallow water.

SCUBA DIVER

This is the first of the certification courses. Divers with limited time may elect to complete this course. Divers will be certified and receive a PADI card indicating that they may dive worldwide. Certain restrictions apply.

OPEN WATER DIVER

Divers with a SCUBA DIVER certification may complete training and dives to become an Open Water Diver. Alternatively, the course may be taken as a standalone course. This qualification allows divers that are qualified to conduct dives independently. Time for this course is approximately five days.

ADVANCED OPEN WATER DIVER

A series of five dives, called Adventure Dives, are required to qualify as an Advanced Diver. Theory on each specific dive is evaluated and the dive is then conducted under instructor supervision. Each individual dive is logged and dives may be completed over a period of time and in different locations.

DIVE SITES

DIVING AND SNORKELLING ON TWO MILE REEF

The best diving months are from April to September. Please note that from September to November, the weather is mostly good but visibility can be reduced due to plankton.

If you are an avid diver, then April to August will give the best visibility. December to March is occasionally when tropical storms occur, usually around February and March.

The protected Bazaruto Marine National Park is a scuba diver's paradise, teeming with large schools of tropical fish, with crystal-clear waters and a range of dazzling soft coral ridges and reefs to explore. Water temperature is 28°C in summer and 21°C during winter.

Depths and dive times are planned according to experience levels. Maximum Depth for any dive is 30m. All dives are guided by a PADI certified Dive Master or Instructor. Groups are limited to 6 divers. Single and Double-tank dive trips are available and packages can be arranged to suit individual needs.

Our Scubapro diving equipment is of the highest quality. Equipment will be fitted at the Watersports Centre. Our staff will set up and rinse all dive equipment. We provide short and long 3mm wetsuits as well as 5mm long wetsuits, masks, snorkels, closed heel fins, BCDs, Regulators, Weights and Cylinders which are 10 litre steel at 200bar. Dive computers are available to hire. We will gladly store your Personal Dive Gear for you.

You will be assisted during kit up on the boat. The boat will follow a surface marker buoy carried throughout the dive by the guide, there are no fixed lines or anchor ropes to descend along. Back-roll entries are standard. Once all divers are comfortable, the group descends together. After the dive, the divers assemble on the float line at the stern of the boat. The deckhand will assist with equipment before you climb aboard.



DIVING SITES INFORMATION

TWO MILE REEF

Diving: Average depth: 14m / Maximum: 22m
Distance from Watersports Centre: 25min Boat ride
Snorkelling: Average depth: 1m / Maximum: 5m
Distance from Watersports Centre: 15min Boat ride
Co-ordinates: S21 48'14.7 / E035 30'20.1

A short barrier reef protecting a narrow channel between Bazaruto and Benguerra, Two Mile Reef is particularly well known for its excellent snorkelling sites inside the reef such as The Aquarium, as well as for a host of exciting dives on the outside. The north tip of the reef is mid-way between the islands and runs southwards, parallel to Benguerra Island, approximately 4.5 kilometres east of its shore. The top of the reef protrudes from the sea at low tide, and slopes gently towards the east.

The dive sites have alluring names such as The Arches, Shark Point, North Point, The Boulders, Surgeon Rock, The Drop-off, Cathedral and The Gap. The flat-topped reef is carved with exciting gullies, which curve out from the shallows towards the deeper areas and each bend in the gully gives the divers a feeling of anticipation of what's around the corner.

The reef has a colourful diversity of hard and soft corals, anemone fish hide in their swaying homes and there are numerous schools of brightly coloured reef fish such as coachman, fusilier, snapper and surgeon. Schools of large pelagic and reef fish also frequent the area and you may encounter potato bass; kingfish; barracuda; guitar fish; devil, manta and honeycomb rays. Large moray eels lurk in their rocky hideouts and black tip reef sharks often put in an appearance. The wonderful whale sharks and numerous turtles are a welcome site to all divers. Shy dugong are in the area and are sometimes seen from the boat, but count yourself extremely lucky to see one whilst diving.

Two Mile is an excellent dive site for all levels of divers. Snorkelling is on Two Mile Reef is best at low tide.

FIVE MILE REEF

Average depth: 12m / Maximum: 22m
Distance from Watersports Centre: 35min Boat ride
Co-ordinates: S21 48'14.7 E035 30'20.1

Located five miles from Benguerra Island, this reef provides divers with the opportunity to sight pelagic fish. Nurse sharks have also been spotted there.

Situated off the south-eastern beaches of Bazaruto, the protected inside areas have spectacular coral outcrops. Some divers have seen Zambezi sharks in the 10-metre shallows. Five Mile Reef has a very interesting bottom structure and the outside ledge is occasionally visited by large pelagics.