



FISHING CHARTERS

St Lazarus Banks & the Quirimbas Archipelago

Ever had that dream? The one where just about every cast you make puts you into a knuckle bruising, adrenaline charged fight with a trophy sized fish, where after two or three days of intense activity you are left wondering where all those tired and sore muscles came from? Here's the good news – such a place does still exist on this planet and we would like you experience a once in a lifetime fishing adventure at this very special location.

Rising from ocean depths varying from 1 500m to over 2 000m the St Lazarus Bank off Mozambique's northern coast covers an area of over 50 square miles with depths in the shallows ranging from 60 to just 9 meters. Washed by the warm Mozambique current this remote location becomes a cauldron of mayhem from August to February each year as large shoals of pelagic gamefish cash in on the annual appearance of Mantis Shrimp.

Yellowfin and Dogtooth Tuna, Wahoo, Dorado and Sailfish. Giant Trevally's that really are giants – fish in the 40kg plus range being common. All the usual suspects, all on a feeding frenzy that will leave you with post adrenaline shakes, sore muscles and memories that will last a lifetime.

Belella and Moreta are two 52 foot Lagoon sailing catamarans that offer a level of comfort and luxury that is unrivalled anywhere on the East African coast. Offering four en suite cabins that can accommodate 8 anglers, both vessels are fully air conditioned throughout. Our vessels are manned by professional captains and crews that all have extensive blue water sailing experience. Also onboard is a dedicated professional chef to look after all your culinary needs.

Any boat going out to the banks will be accompanied by a 16 foot centre console fully rigged fishing catamaran – a welcome addition to the fly fishing aficionados who are looking to set personal best catches. Both vessels are fully supplied with Shimano trolling, jigging and spinning/popping tackle with a comprehensive selection of terminal tackle and lures. Those anglers that wish to bring their own personal gear are welcome to do so.



Our vessels are based at Ibo Island in the southern end of the Quirimbas Archipelago and the banks are situated approximately 50nm slightly north of east, making it a 7 to 8 hour run on average, depending on the prevailing weather conditions. A typical charter has anglers arriving at Pemba airport and then transferring to Ibo Island via the island hopper charter plane. The first night is spent at the award winning Ibo Island Lodge where anglers will meet with the crew for sundowners and dinner.

An early start (very early, sorry but the fishing really is that good) will generally see the vessel arrive at the banks around lunchtime*. Then depending on the length of charter the vessel will remain on the banks and cruising within the islands of the Quirimbas Archipelago creating memories until the last day before departure whereupon it will return to Ibo Island where guest will spend the last night on board before departing the following morning back to Pemba and then onwards.

Fishing East Africa Remote Islands

We are anglers so we understand what anglers expect from an adventure of this nature. In order to give our clients the best possible chance of having the trip of a lifetime we have gone to extraordinary lengths to provide the best possible service available on the East African coast. We have state of the art vessels with every conceivable luxury as standard. Our fishing gear is new and all rods and reels are from Shimano. Our Tiagra trolling reels are spooled with Ande premium grade monofilament line, our Shimano Stella

popping and jigging reels are spooled with Suffix braid. Our selection of lures, jigs and poppers is very comprehensive. Our engines and generators are new and are fastidiously maintained and we carry a wide range of critical spare parts. Our crew are enthusiastic professionals whose main objective is to make your trip memorable for all the right reasons.

However, despite all the steps we have taken to provide the best possible experience there are some things that are beyond our control. We cannot control the weather, Mother Nature cannot be dictated to. We will keep the boats out as long as the captain feels it is safe to do so, but the safety of you the client takes precedent over any other consideration.

Mechanical items are known to break despite the best maintenance programs, and the very nature of the destination precludes the convenience of a marina in the next bay to pull into for repairs. You will be travelling to a very remote part of Africa; the vast majority of the islands in the archipelago are uninhabited. However, our crews all have multiple ocean crossing experience and are very adept at solving the various problems and glitches that can occur at sea.

We have the best boats on offer anywhere in East Africa, crewed by experienced sailors and complimented with very talented chefs whose sole objectives are to ensure your safety and to give you the adventure of a lifetime.



Fishing Details

Based on charters to the area dating back ten years, the best time to fish St Lazarus bank is from of August through to late January, it is during these months that the annual appearance of vast shoals of Mantis Shrimp occur which attract huge schools of baitfish like Rainbow Runners and the like. These in turn attract the usual top water predators; Giant Yellowfin Tuna up to 100 Kg, Dogtooth Tuna of up to 75Kg's, GT's of up to 60 Kg's, Wahoo of up to 40 Kg's, Barracuda of up to 38 Kg's and Sailfish up to 50kg's – these are the weights of fish that have been landed on various expeditions. Are there bigger fish out there? Probably, as the ones that smashed the same tackle were never sighted.

Historically charters to St Lazarus Bank are averaging catches up to 70 fish in a day with the toughest days yielding not less than 20 fish on any given day (average of 5 anglers fishing). Sailfish, Yellowfin Tuna, Dogtooth Tuna, Kingfish, Barracuda, Wahoo, Grouper, Jobfish (Rosy and Green) and a wide variety of decent sized reef fish make up the bulk of the catches. These fish are caught using a variety of fishing methods; trolling Rapala type lures, casting plugs and spoons, running live baits and vertical Jigging.

And if you are a fly fisherman and believe in heaven we will take you there.

It has been said that the time a man spends fishing shall not be deducted from his allotted time on earth.





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