



DIVING INFORMATION

REEF INFORMATION

Pemba is fast becoming one of Mozambique's premier tourist destinations, with many undiscovered areas now opening up to the intrepid diver who dares to explore. Our waters are abundant with:

An extensive variety of hard and soft coral

A vast array of marine plants

Countless different types of crustacea

A legion of fish species

A great variety of nudibranchs and marine invertebrates

4 species of dolphin

4 species of marine turtle

Occasional Sunfish sightings (known as "Moonfish" in Europe)

Whales, etc....

WATER TEMPERATURE

Water temperature is 30°C in summer and 26°C during winter.

THE DIVE BOAT

We use a 31ft fiberglass Gulf-Craft for our dive excursions. Powered by two 115hp Yamaha outboards we travel quickly and comfortably with ample cushioned seating in the front and rear. The vessel is fitted with GPS, Depth Sounder and Marine VHF. Safety equipment and Oxygen is carried on all journeys, as is a small first-aid kit. A bimini-top provides shade during travel and surface intervals but please plan for sun protection.

We have also got a 30ft Rigid Inflatable Boat (rubber duck) for dives at our closer reefs.

PADI DISCOVER SCUBA DIVING

Duration: 1/2 Day, Min age: 10yrs, Max depth: 10m

An exciting introduction to the underwater world! Includes basic instruction followed by a pool session and one open water dive. All equipment is provided and no prior experience required. This course can count towards a dive certification.

PADI SCUBA DIVER

Duration: 2-3 Days, Min age: 10yrs, Max depth: 12m

A pre-entry level course with a PADI certification. With academic study sessions and video, fun pool exercises on scuba and two open water dives to a depth of 12m, you will have a basic understanding of diving and earn a certification enabling you to dive under professional supervision. All study materials, dive equipment, logbook and certification included. No previous experience required.

PADI OPENWATER DIVER— REFERRALS ONLY

Duration: 2-3 Days, Min age: 10yrs, Max depth: 18m

Open water certification is offered to referral divers only. All academic study and Confined water sessions must be completed prior to arrival at Pemba Beach Resort Hotel and the appropriate paperwork presented for enrollment. With all the study and pool work completed before you arrive, you can focus on enjoying the underwater world with just four open water dives required to complete your course! All dive equipment and a certification card included.

ADDITIONAL COURSES

Additional Courses are available on request. This must be by prior arrangement, as we do not stock all of the relevant course material as a rule.

BOOKING YOUR DIVES

Pre-booking your dives with the Activities Manager is essential – especially over peak periods. Of course, pre-booked dives cannot be guaranteed if the weather conditions are not favourable.

At the resort, our Activities Manager will be available to personalise your schedule with regard to experience level and preferred dive sites. Please provide Certification Cards and Logbooks, and complete our Indemnity Form before the first dive.

DIVE PLANNING

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 Instructor. Groups are limited to 6 divers. Single and Double-tank dive trips are available and packages can be arranged to suit individual needs.

EQUIPMENT

Our diving equipment is of the highest quality. Fit your equipment at the Activity Centre - Personal Dive Gear will gladly be stored for you. Our staff will set up and rinse all dive equipment. We provide full-length wetsuits and closed heel fins. Cylinders are 10l steel and are filled to 200bar. Dive computers are not supplied.

BEACH TO BOAT

The Activities Manager will show you how to get to the Marina. All your equipment will be set up on board. Limited space is available for dry storage. We cannot accept responsibility for personal items.

ON THE BOAT

Boat Briefing will be given on board. Lifejackets are available and all vessels are non-smoking.

DIVING

You will be assisted to kit up. 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.

BACK ON THE BEACH

Please take care of your personal effects - we will do the rest. The dives will be logged at the activity centre with your guide and the following days' dives will be scheduled and posted.

FLYING

PADI recommends a surface interval of 12 hours between diving and flying for a single dive, and a surface interval of 18 hours for multiple dives. It is generally recommended that 24 hours is a safe surface interval between diving and flying.

SAFETY

No diving equipment or resources can be provided to any person who does not produce valid certification from a recognised diving organization / establishment.

MEDICATION

Please note that you are not allowed to dive on certain malaria medications. Lariam (Mefloquine) is not cleared for diving, as it causes psychological & neurological problems.

Malarone and Doxycycline are the only two malaria medications that are safe to use while diving.

DIVE SITES

The Gap 15min 12 - 16m

Situated in the area south of the hotel, two-thirds the way out to Ponta Maunhane (the farthest visible point to the right, looking out to sea), where the continental shelf is 600m from the shore. The reef is on the edge of an 80-120m deep drop-off. This area is the feeding ground for big game fish.

Pyro Banks 15min 5 - 15m

Situated in the same area as the Gap. Huge selections of coral razor fish are often found on the grassy patches in the beginning of the reef. GUARANTEED paperfish sightings, or visit our underwater boutique and have your nails cleaned by a station of hinge beaked shrimps.

Farrol Ledge 25min 6 - 16m

Located off the lighthouse on Ponta Maunhane. This reef is a ledge packed with coral, and a variety of coral fish. The ledge starts at 6m- 8m, and drops down to 16m, containing many small underwater bays in the rock ledge. The reef is reasonably long, and offers 2 different dives.

Playground 20min 4 - 12m

Opposite side on the northern peninsula of Pemba Bay, (left point visible looking out to sea), a shallow wall dive. Overhangs all over, stuffed full of dusky sweepers, shrimps, firefish and scorpionfish. A cave with more than 20 crayfish packed inside and sightings of dwarf zebra lionfish. A resident pod of dolphin is frequently spotted while kitting up. Diving this reef requires good weather conditions due to its proximity to cliffs.

Ponta Saide Ali 20min 2 - 21m

Around the corner from Playground is a reef with a huge bank of clubhorn and contoured coral, which slopes from 2m down to about 21m. Sightings of flying gurnards and Rinopius scorpionfish. A preferred area is the valley of a thousand anemones, where we are sure 'Nemo' is still hiding.

River Mouth 60min 3 - 24m

Situated on the northern peninsula in the mouth of the Tari River. Huge boulders the size of a houses strewn everywhere, huge potatobass and massive Napoleon wrass hide underneath and shoals of gamefish pass overhead. Access only during high tide due to the flow of the river, affecting visibility.

Willy's Reef 15min 10 - 16m

Just off the northern peninsula, about a quarter of the way between playground and the river mouth. The reef is flat, with a 2-3m high ridge on the one side. Big orbicular batfish, small blue spotted rays, and floral morays have been spotted here. Frequent dolphin spotting on the way to the reef.

Baobab Rocks 25min 5 - 18m

Further into Pemba Bay from Ponta Saide Ali. This reef is a string of boulders and rocks lying on a sandy slope, with abundant life around them. Crocodile fish have been found here.

Whipcoral Garden 30min 5 - 15m

A cluster of underwater hills rising from about 15m to about 5m. These hills are covered in whip coral, various soft corals and barrel sponges. An excellent alternative for when the weather batters the outside of the bay.

Penguin Shoal 30min 8 - 18m

Almost at the center of the bay, this reef consists of big banks of club horn, contoured and brain coral. A spectacular whip coral forest and some of the biggest crayfish in the area.

Beach Reef 20min 7 - 17m

Up the coast from Willy's Reef, best described as a gentle slope. Huge assortment of coral and little creatures living in and amongst it.