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> **Diving**

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Mozambique's coral reefs are home to innumerable species of fish while Lake Niassa, Known as 'God's Aquarium', is renowned for its spectacular cichlids famous with collectors all over the world.

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Diving in the warm, crystal clear ocean Indian Ocean waters of Mozambique and its islands, is a thrilling and rewarding experience. Mozambique is one of the finest diving destinations in the world, with remarkably unspoilt coral reefs and an abundant variety of marine life that all levels of divers can enjoy all year round.

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Sea temperatures vary between 30°C in summer to 21°C in winter and the structure of the reefs offer pinnacles, overhangs, coral arches and much more. Reef depths vary from 10m to 40m and offer good visibility and fantastic photo opportunities. Not only of the incredibly range of coral but of over 6,000 species of fish. The reefs attract a variety of game fish while the coral is home to myriads of brightly coloured smaller fish including schooling banner fish, Moorish idols, butterfly fish, blue striped snappers, barred sweetlips, goldies, and tiger fish.

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Diving is excellent all year-round and a variety of exciting diving itineraries can be organised.

Dolphins, eels, manta rays, sharks, turtles, huge schools of kingfish, giant lobsters and numerous species of reef fish are commonly seen. The whale shark, the largest fish in the world which can reach lengths of up to 14 m and weigh up to 15 tons, can be spotted between December and April while the lucky few get to marvel at the sight of the rare dugong.

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## Where to dive?

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Spectacular diving starts near South Africa, at the calm bay and town of Ponta d'Ouro, known as the bay that houses many spinner and common dolphins. Slightly up north you can visit subtropical Inhaca Island. Inhambane is the province that sees the most tourists. Especially the Manta Coast with popular dive resort towns such as Guinjata Bay and Praia do Tofo, are well known for its excellent scuba diving, white beaches, wicked snorkeling and numerous manta rays. The mainland town of Vilanculos offers scuba trips to the Bazaruto Archipelago, an unexplored paradise with superb dive sites. Pemba and the Quirimbas Archipelago are separated from Tanzania by the Rovuma River and offer remote diving at its best. Other popular destinations include Pomene, Xai-Xai and Bilene.

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Most lodges are pleased to welcome all levels of divers and lessons can be arranged for both beginners and intermediates.

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