

# Press Release



## Anantara Bazaruto Island in Mozambique Becomes the Brand's First Property in Africa

**Bangkok, December 5<sup>th</sup> 2013:** Thirty kilometres east of mainland Mozambique on Africa's east coast, the Bazaruto Archipelago of protected national park islands lie scattered across the turquoise Indian Ocean. On the largest of these tropical islands, covering 12,000 hectares, Anantara Bazaruto Island Resort & Spa has just become the brand's first property in Africa and Mozambique Anantara's eighth country. The resort formerly operated as the award-winning Indigo Bay Resort & Spa, which Minor Hotel Group, Anantara's owning company, took over management of earlier this year, with the intention to rebrand to Anantara.

Anantara Bazaruto Island is located a 15 minute flight from Vilanculos Airport on the mainland, which connects to Johannesburg with a direct two hour flight. This short flight provides Anantara guests with their first glimpse of the breathtaking scenery that awaits.

Designed in natural harmony with surroundings of lush vegetation and translucent ocean, the resort offers a boutique collection of 44 villas, ranging in size from 90 to 330 sqm, with a choice of garden and shoreline panoramas. Made from indigenous reed, soft fringed thatch and wood, the rustic appeal is balanced by understated luxury and seamlessly integrated modern amenities.

Four poster beds are dressed with white mosquito drapes, luxurious bathrooms feature sunken tubs and exotic outdoor showers, and living spaces offer comfy elegance. Outside, some villas offer a living sala complete with hammock to relax in, along with a plunge pool and a veranda where guests can enjoy the sunshine or dine alfresco. Offering the pinnacle of island indulgence, the Anantara Pool Villa affords exclusive seclusion and unrivalled ocean views, and is the perfect sanctuary for families and friends to share, thanks to a private driveway and entrance, two generously sized en-suite bedrooms, spacious lounge and dining areas both inside and out, as well as a pool and Jacuzzi.

Six restaurants and bars ensure that guests have a choice to suit their mood throughout each day. *Golfinho* serves breakfast and dinner on the outdoor terrace with a pool and bay vista, or in the dining room which features original walls dating back to the early Portuguese traders. At *Clube Naval* light lunches lead into sundowner cocktails. *The Beach Deck* grills seafood plucked fresh from the ocean and succulent meats to perfection, and offers the opportunity to dine beside or on the beach. In-villa dining delivers a world of gourmet tastes, and Anantara's signature *Dining by Design* promises the ultimate in tailor made romance, with a choice of dream settings and fine dining menus, as well as a private chef and butler ensuring a flawless occasion. For guests wishing to step behind the local culinary scenes, professional cooking classes include a guided tour of the resort's huge vegetable garden and orchard.

Days at Anantara Bazaruto Island Resort & Spa can be lazy and relaxing or adventurous. With a dedicated family pool, younger guests may splash about to their heart's content, and couples seeking peace and tranquillity can retreat to the adults-only pool. A children's entertainment room, fitness centre, tennis, volleyball and golf course extend the leisure possibilities. The 1,300 square metre Anantara Spa features five treatment rooms, relaxation areas and a health bar, as well as specialist hydro facilities including a wet room, hydrotherapy pool and rhassoul chamber. The diverse menu offers western treatments and ancient rituals from across Africa and Asia, as well as extended spa journeys, all performed by expert therapists.



Beyond the resort, guests can tour the island by 4x4 to discover other pristine bays, exotic flora and fauna, local life and a 19<sup>th</sup> century lighthouse. Soft powdery white sands can be cantered along on horseback and riders can even take their steed into the sea for a swim. Towering dunes offer boarding escapades, as well as a unique spot for sunset drinks. Ornithologists can go bird watching with knowledgeable local guides to find over 180 species, including huge flocks of pelicans and flamingos which frequent the coastal lakes and tidal pools.

Renowned as one of the world's top snorkelling, diving and fishing destinations, the Bazaruto Archipelago boasts year round warm waters, soft coral ridges and thousands of tropical fish species. A playground for water sports enthusiasts, guests can enjoy windsurfing, water skiing, wake boarding and sailing, along with sunset cruises aboard a traditional dhow and cruises in search of dolphins, whales, turtles and the largest population of the rare dugong on the African east coast.

Naturally secluded and exclusive, Anantara Bazaruto Island Resort & Spa creates inspired proposal, wedding, honeymoon and anniversary celebrations. Couples can tie the knot on top of a sand dune or a deserted sand bank out at sea, while cruising on a dhow in the Indian Ocean, on the deck of a gorgeous villa, and couples who opt for a beach wedding have the option to arrive at their ceremony on horseback.

Corporate retreats enjoy the art of a perfect meeting in the conference room, which offers state-of-the-art equipment and flexible seating for up to 60 guests. Adding to the possibilities, a distinctive range of team building activities and business partner bonding experiences can be followed by impressive dining, with the added allure of no interruptions from the outside world.

Dillip Rajakarier, CEO of Minor Hotel Group, commented, *"The addition of Anantara Bazaruto Island as our first Anantara in Africa is a significant milestone for the brand and one that we are very excited about. We are currently exploring other opportunities in Africa, both with our partners and independently, and for sure we are looking to further develop the Anantara brand on the continent."*

**-Ends-**

### **Editor's Notes**

For hundreds of years throughout Thailand, people would leave a jar of water outside their house to provide refreshment and extend a welcome to the passing traveller. Anantara is taken from an ancient Sanskrit word that means 'without end', symbolising this sharing of water and the heartfelt hospitality that lies at the core of every Anantara experience.

From lush jungles to pristine beaches and legendary deserts to cosmopolitan cities, Anantara currently boasts 27 stunning properties located in Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, China, the Maldives, the United Arab Emirates and Mozambique; with future properties to open in Thailand, China, Laos, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, UAE, Oman and Qatar.

For more information on Anantara Hotels, Resorts & Spas, please visit [www.anantara.com](http://www.anantara.com). Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/anantara](https://www.facebook.com/anantara) and Twitter: Anantara\_Hotels



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