

# GO WITH NAT GEO MOZAMBIQUE



Guests can relax in their private pool or beach lounge.

## Wild Life in Paradise

Checking in to check out Mozambique's Bazaruto Archipelago

By Eric Rosen

**A** dark shape appears beneath your boat. Then it rolls over, revealing a silvery underbelly, as if beckoning you. Why resist? Slide on your mask and fins, and slip into the tranquil waters of the Mozambique Channel. Dipping below the surface, you see it: a dugong. Mozambique's Bazaruto Archipelago, a national park since 1971, offers a protected zone for this elusive animal (and many more). Your base is **andBeyond Benguerra Island**, a National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World, located on the archipelago's second largest island. The area is ideal for spotting whale sharks, manta rays, and humpback whales on their yearly migration (July through October), not to mention snorkeling among the reefs' many tropical fish species. After each excursion, guests are welcomed back by butlers with glasses of lemonade balanced on trays atop their heads. Enjoy these sips in the lodge's beachfront bar or during a sunset sail on a fisherman's dhow boat. When the Milky Way comes into view overhead, it's time to gather around the bonfire, sundowner in hand, to compare notes on the day before a lantern-lit dinner on the beach.

## BOOK IT

andBeyond Benguerra Island offers 13 thatched beachfront cottages, a dive center, and access to the archipelago's sand dunes. National Geographic guests are invited on an exclusive boat excursion with a naturalist to spot dugongs and learn about local efforts to protect them. To reserve your stay, call 888-701-5486 or visit [natgeolodges.com/explore](http://natgeolodges.com/explore).

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