

KISAWA

MOZAMBIQUE



LOCATION

Kisawa is a 300-hectare sanctuary of coastal forest, beach and sand dunes, located on the southern tip of Benguerra Island, Mozambique. Situated 14 kilometres off the mainland, Kisawa rests within the remote Bazaruto Archipelago, part of a National Marine Park (BANP).

The nearest airport is Vilankulo (VNX) welcoming direct commercial flights from Johannesburg (1hr30), Maputo (1hr15) and Kruger Mpumalanga (1hr12).

DESCRIPTION

Kisawa Sanctuary is a new concept in luxury hospitality, celebrating the unbreakable bond between people and land. Sitting on 5km of pristine tropical coastline, Kisawa has been created to ensure maximum privacy, with minimum impact on the natural environment, showcasing a rich design culture that celebrates craft and heritage.

SERVICES

- Dedicated Service Team
- Private Dining
- On Location Dining
- Dedicated Electric Mini Moke
- Personal Infinity Pool + Beachfront Outlook
- 3 Restaurants
- 2 Bars
- 1 Wine Cellar
- 1 Garden Nursery
- 1 Pizza Tuk Tuk
- Natural Wellness Center (NWC) & Gym
- 1 private yoga space
- 25m central Lagoon Pool
- Sports Locker
- Activities Programme
- Little Explorers Family Programme
- Kiosk Gift Shop
- Resort Clinic
- Helipad
- Available for Exclusive Use Bookings



DESIGN

The design, by studio NJF is a crucial part of Kisawa's DNA, whereby careful decisions have been taken to protect the surrounding nature by blending in, rather than interrupting.

Kisawa believes in inclusive design and has worked with skilled artisans from Benguerra Island and neighbouring provinces, providing a unique platform for craftsmanship. The design of the Residences proudly utilises traditional art forms and techniques such as weaving, thatching and carpentry, celebrating national heritage within a modern hospitality setting.

With biophilic mimicry guiding the shape of the exteriors, the Residence interiors have been individually furnished, with a bespoke colour palette featuring predominantly custom designed and African made furniture and commissioned art.

ACCOMODATION

14 spacious bungalows comprising 8 Residences invite guests to utilise the vast space and intuitive hospitality to 'discover their own rhythm'. Positioned across the calm cove side, each Residence sits within a secluded plot of at least one acre.

Each of the 14 Bungalows hosts a generous living room, a king bedroom, two dressing rooms and a joint bathroom. Plus a private day area, an infinity pool, open air deck and outdoor shower. Ranging from one to three bedroom 'configurations', each sleeps two people. Some stand alone, while others are connected in groups, so family or friends can enjoy a balance of privacy and togetherness.

Sizes range from 370m2 interior space for a one bungalow Residence (sleeping 2), through to 840m2 interior space for a three Bungalow Residence (sleeping 6).



Kisawa Sanctuary, Benguerra Island, Mozambique

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CULINARY

Kisawa hosts three culinary experiences: The Main Terrace, Cove Mussassa and Baracca. Plus the Pizza Tuk Tuk.

Throughout the mixed venues, the ethos remains the same; to bring the best of Africa in fresh and modern ways. Led by culinary director Jean-Piere Nunez, Kisawa uses, where possible, fresh, natural produce from farmers and fisherman from within the Inhambane province - ideally grown, cooked, smoked, grilled and baked in the Kisawa Kitchen.

NWC

The stand-alone Natural Wellness Center (NWC) specialises in integrative holistic healing, providing a range of wellness modalities that include Ayurveda, meditation, yoga, energy healing, sound healing, TCM, acupressure, infrared Iyashi Dome therapy, fitness and nutrition with the intention to achieve wellbeing through unity of mind, body and soul.

The NWC is composed of three treatment rooms, a gym featuring Technogym equipment, a private yoga space and a 25 meter lap pool. All treatments are carefully brought together to allow guests to reconnect to the natural environment through whole body healing.

BAZARUTO CENTER FOR SCIENTIFIC STUDIES (BCSS)

BCSS opened before Kisawa in 2017 and has a strong track record of research achievements. It is an innovative platform, hosting the first permanent ocean observatory focused on multi-ecosystem, time series research in Africa. The facility's purpose is to use its strategic location and data to support environmental management at a community level, facilitating regional collaboration and contributing to international scientific programs – through its 'open data' sharing policy.

BCSS-gathered data is being used to help answer questions globally on 'the impacts of climate change', 'ocean acidification', 'carbon transfer', 'plastic impact on marine ecosystems' and 'large scale changes in marine population dynamics'. The facility publishes regularly in academic journals, including but not limited to 'Nature,' 'PNAS', 'Frontiers in Marine Science' and the 'British Ecological Society', while working with partners including the Hemholtz Centre of Ocean Research Kiel, the Ocean University of China, the Mozambican Oceanographic Institute, Nelson Mandela University and the Mammal Research Institute - University of St Andrews, Scotland.

7.3 km / 20 minute by car



RESORT TO RESEARCH

The 'Resort to Research' initiative is a symbiotic relationship between Kisawa and BCSS, with a straightforward purpose: hospitality contributing directly to marine science and conservation. Inversely, the research output informs sanctuary decisions, bridging seascape and landscape experiences of Bengueria Island for our guests to partake in critical science.

Kisawa guests are invited to actively partake in BCSS research, joining the science team to monitor marine life, gather data, explore the seabed, and go on scientific diving expeditions. The resort-to-research relationship has also allowed for the creation of a novel Dive Center concept, whereby visiting Kisawa guests benefit from scientific knowledge, dive spots detailed in 3D mapping, and curated experiences based on scientific exploration, and thousands of hours at sea.

THE COMMUNITY OF BENGUERRA ISLAND

Bengueria, the second largest of the five islands in the archipelago, comprises three villages – Chirringhome, Bavene, and Chizungune – with a total population of 2013 spread across 425 families. Portuguese is the official language, complemented by over 60 different Bantu dialects.

The establishment of Kisawa has allowed for a unique position in the Bengueria community, nurturing its culture and in turn valuing and protecting the surrounding natural assets of bio-diverse ecosystems and wildlife.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BENGUERRA ISLAND

The Bazaruto Archipelago, declared a Hope Spot by Dr Sylvia Earle from UN's Mission Blue NGO, is characterised by its sublime natural beauty and diverse ecosystems. Home to over 200 bird species, 2000 fish species and boasting expansive beaches, rolling sand dunes and towering palm trees, the archipelago surrounding Kisawa plays an important role through the commitment to protect 30% of its marine diversity by 2030.

From July to October, the area experiences a magical Humpback whale season, with peak sightings of pods containing up to 100 mothers and calves in a single day. The rich marine life of the region makes diving and snorkelling a thrilling experience, with Kisawa's Big Ocean Five concept focusing on humpback whales, pelagic sharks, and the largest population of dugongs in the West Indian Region.

The nearby portside hub of Vilankulos offers a vibrant cultural scene, featuring crafts, music, art and produce.

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