

Re-Wilding in Mozambique *with Dolphins and Pangolins*



A deep dive into conservation and meaningful wildlife encounters

Immerse yourself into the heartfelt restoration story of one the last remaining great wildernesses in Africa and explore the turquoise blue waters of a marine sanctuary dedicated to protecting wild dolphins along **Mozambique's** sacred southern shores.

DESTINATION: GORONGOSA NATIONAL PARK AND PONTO DO OURO MARINE RESERVE MOZAMBIQUE

DURATION: 9 NIGHTS | 10 DAYS

GROUP SIZE: 6 - 12 TRAVELERS

DATES: 22-31 AUGUST 2026 | 16-25 APRIL 2027

COST: USD 8,600 PER PERSON | SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT USD 1,600

Overview

This journey weaves together immersive experiences on land and sea, from wildlife drives and guided walks in incredibly biodiverse landscapes to connecting with conservation through a visit to a pangolin rescue centre and cycling through villages visiting community projects. Enjoy time for quiet reflection on golden beaches and blue ocean excursions to encounter wild dolphin pods. Moments of ocean stillness, the light and deep connection bring a return to self with the ancient rhythms of land and wildlife guiding the way.



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Conserve. Community. Joy

WHY YOU'LL LOVE THIS JOURNEY:

- Explore **Gorongosa National Park**, one of Africa's last great wildernesses and an inspiring conservation success story
- Stay inside the park at **Chicari Camp**, surrounded by birdsong and wildlife gathering at the water pan
- Experience **game drives and guided nature walks** through savannah, floodplains, fever tree forests, and rainforest
- Visit the **pangolin rescue and rehabilitation centre**, joining a guided foraging walk with a pangolin custodian (subject to availability)
- Connect meaningfully with local communities through **slow village cycling and visits to grassroots projects**
- Transition from wilderness to ocean on **Mozambique's golden beaches and turquoise waters**
- Stay in a **private beachside villa** set within coastal forest, with sweeping ocean views and direct beach access
- Join **ethical ocean excursions to meet wild dolphin pods**, with opportunities to swim, observe, and connect
- **Snorkel colourful coral reefs** in warm Indian Ocean waters, with chances to encounter turtles, rays, and seasonal whales
- Travel with a **small, like-minded group**, gently hosted by Adele of Retreat to Africa and Courtney Ward of Halo Gaia



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OUR DESTINATIONS:

Gorongosa National Park:

One of Africa's last great wild places stretching across a million acres of the Great Rift Valley. Gorongosa's vast size, varied topography, nutrient-rich soils, and copious rainfall nurture an unparalleled abundance of wildlife and biodiversity.



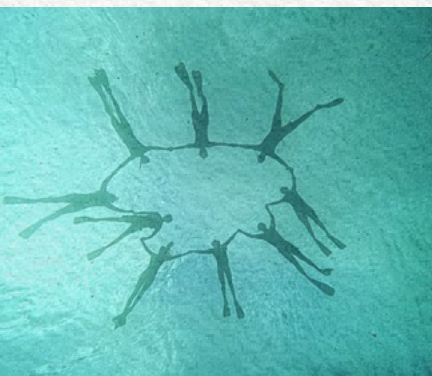
Ponta Do Oura Marine Sanctuary:

This protected marine reserve is recognised for its rich biodiversity, warm Indian Ocean waters and extensive coral reef systems providing critical habitat for dolphins, turtles, reef fish, rays and seasonal humpback whales. The sanctuary is internationally known for responsible dolphin encounters and marine research.



Ponta Malongane:

Part of the Maputo National Park, Ponta Malongane is a recognized UNESCO World Heritage Site. A small, laid-back coastal community set between dune forests and turquoise ocean, life here moves at an unhurried pace, closely connected to the rhythms of the ocean, with conservation, local livelihoods and low-impact tourism woven into everyday village life.



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ITINERARY DAYS 1 - 5:

DAY 1:

Meet in Beira Airport by 2pm for our group small plane charter flight into Gorongosa National Park. "Bem Vindos" - a warm welcome - to Gorongosa and your home for the next 5 nights in Chicari Camp, set inside 400 000 hectares of pure wilderness overlooking a pan filled with birds.

DAY 2:

Today is a Nature immersive day inside Gorongosa, a biological hotspot spanning a mosaic of savannah grasslands, palm lined flood plains and magical green hued fever tree forests. It is said that the landscapes encompass the Masai Mara, Okavango and Congo Rainforest all in one! Our guide will take us on a story telling game drive and a nature walk where every tree, animal and bird has a message to share.

DAY 3:

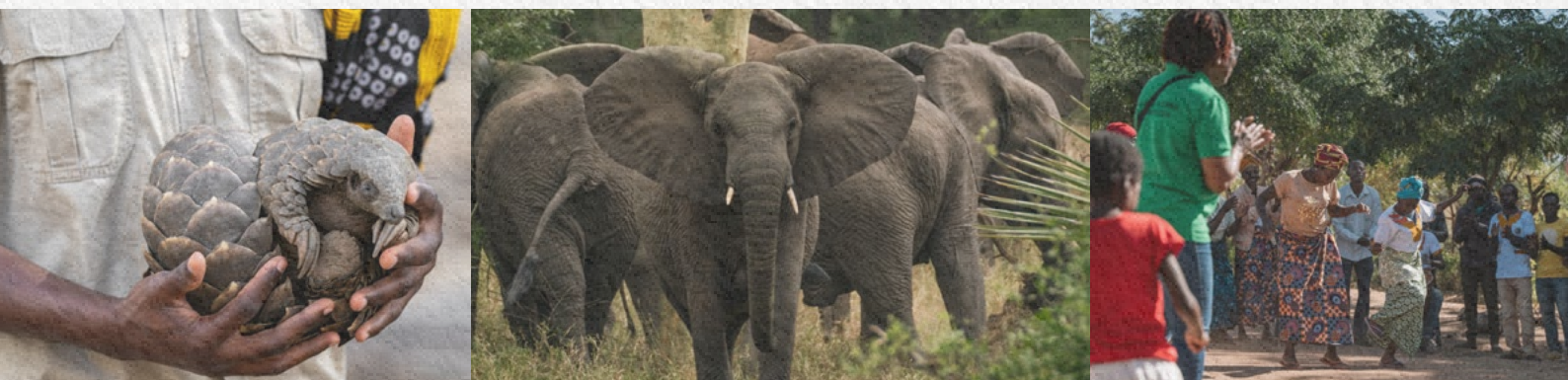
Conservation and community go hand in hand in Gorongosa. With no fences and a buffer zone of over 200 thousand people surrounding the park the success story unfolds in the many fascinating and innovative projects in progress in the local communities. We will hop on bicycles (optional) and take a slow ride through some of the villages, meeting the people and visiting some of the projects including our chosen donation project Gorongosa Girls Clubs. End of the afternoon there is an optional game drive or just enjoy the flow of animals and birds in front of your tent.

DAY 4:

The highly endangered pangolin is one of the most vulnerable trafficked animals in the world. We are privileged this morning to have a behind the scenes visit to the pangolin rescue center and to join one of the rehabilitation guides on a daily foraging walk providing an intimate and in depth opportunity to observe this endearing animal (subject to availability). In the afternoon there is an optional game drive or just enjoy the flow of animals and birds in front of your tent.

DAY 5:

Today soak up Nature on your doorstep in Gorongosa with a nature walk in the morning and a game drive in the afternoon. There is plenty time between activities to just be still, listen to the birdsong and watch the flow of animals coming to drink at the waterpan in front of the camp.



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ITINERARY DAYS 6 - 10:

DAY 6:

We say goodbye to Gorongosa and take a 1,5 hour road transfer to Chimoio and then flight from the interior of Mozambique to its capital Maputo, where our host will meet us for the 1,5 hour road transfer to the golden beaches of Ponta Malongane. Settle in to our private villa located amongst the coastal forest with spectacular views over the ocean.

DAY 7:

Wake up to a new landscape in shades of dreamy blue and hear the story of how this jewel like stretch of coastline became a marine sanctuary for the abundant reef creatures, dolphins, rays, turtles and whales that call these waters their home. We will have an introduction to snorkelling and potential first boat excursion to meet the wild dolphins (weather dependant). This evening you are free to walk into the small village of Ponta Malongane to have dinner at one of the local restaurants.

DAY 8:

We move with the rhythms of the day where life moves at an unhurried pace, closely connected to the rhythms of the ocean. Weather dependant we will take a boat excursion and snorkel in the warm Indian Ocean waters hoping to meet the pod of resident wild bottlenose dolphins. Our ethical approach prioritises respect, consent, and non-invasive interaction—allowing you to experience a life-changing connection with these sentient beings. In the evening our host Courtney will facilitate a beautiful sound journey harkening us back to the time of our ancestors when we lived in harmony with the Earth.

DAY 9:

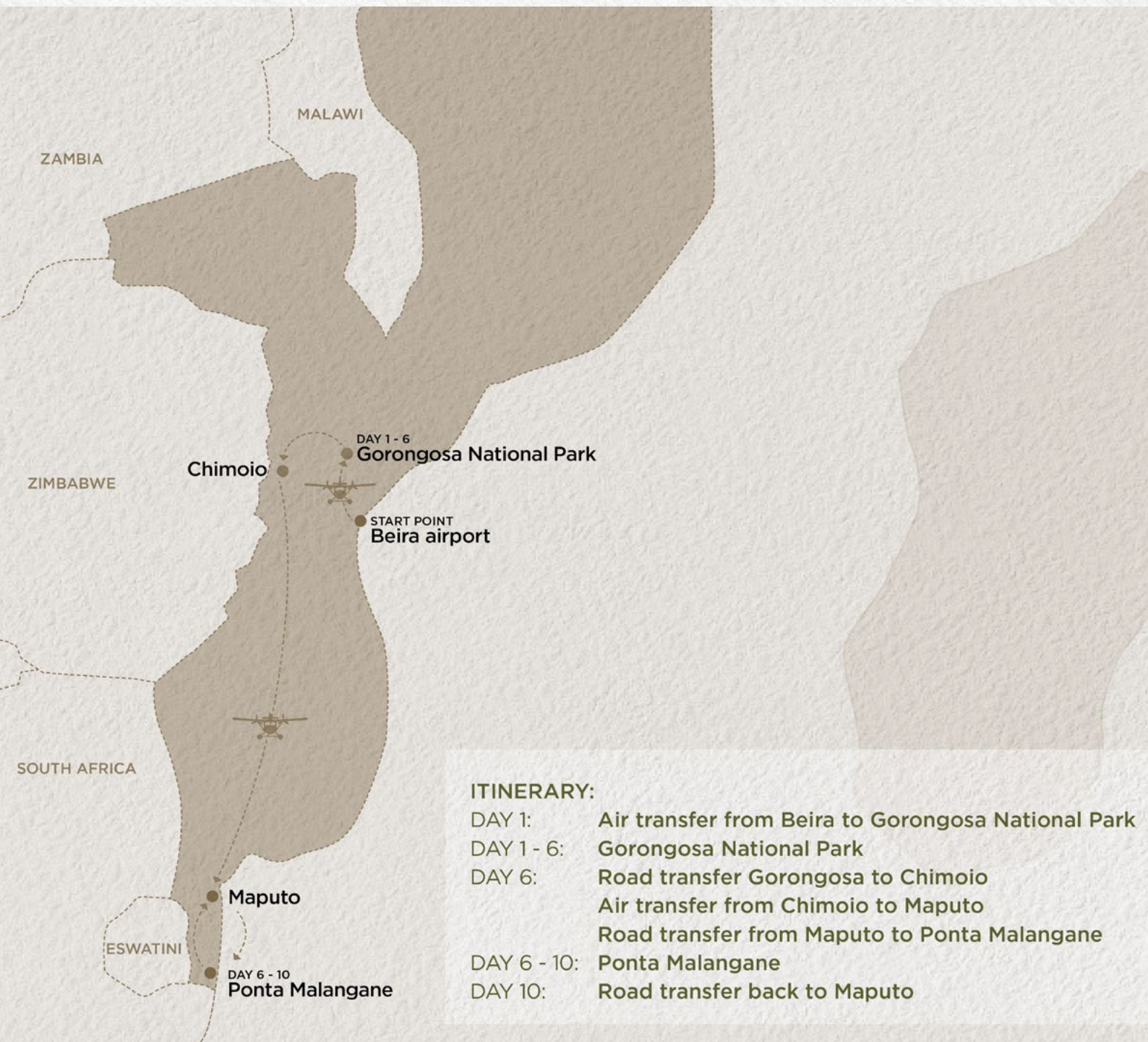
Today is another opportunity (weather permitting) to venture by boat into the ocean and swim with the wild dolphins. This encounter is one of the most profound experiences on the African coastline. We may also encounter Humpback Whales if we are lucky as they travel from Antarctica to the warm Mozambican coast at this time of the year to birth their calves. Back on land we will have lots of time to relax and enjoy beach time with a visit to the local community school our host Halo Gaia is supporting.

DAY 10:

A slow morning at your own pace with time for reflection before our last communal brunch together. Transfer back to Maputo where we say our goodbyes and “tschau” until our paths next join.



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WHERE WE STAY:

Chicari Camp:

Nestled around a natural pan surrounded by birdsong and wildlife, Chicari Camp is a place to slow down, attune to the rhythms of the land, and experience the inspiring revival of a wilderness once lost to time.



Private Villa:

Set within a coastal forest and overlooking golden beaches with a turquoise blue ocean backdrop, the private luxury villa offers a combination of elegant en-suite accommodation with sweeping sea or tranquil forest views. Expansive wooden decks and inviting relaxation spaces are thoughtfully designed to blend effortlessly into the natural surroundings, while a timber boardwalk leads directly from the villa onto the beach.



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Meet your Journey Host

Adele, founder of Retreat to Africa

Born in Cape Town and with an unquenchable love for travelling in Africa, Adele brings positive and calm energy into everything she does and to everyone she connects with. Her favourite pastime is sitting under a big tree writing stories in her journal or listening to the dawn chorus of birdsong in wild places. A lifelong student, she believes Nature is her greatest teacher.



Meet your Dolphin Host & Facilitator

Courtney Ward, founder of Halo Gaia

Ocean lover. Sound healer. Creative entrepreneur. More than two decades ago, Courtney pioneered and now subsequently works alongside Complexo Turístico da Ponta Malongane to facilitate ethical wild dolphin encounters and transformational retreats, sharing the joy, simplicity, and deep belonging that arise when humans meet nature with respect.



Partner for this journey

Gorongosa Safaris and Halo Gaia



Who we are supporting:

Gorongosa Girls Clubs aim is to keep young girls in school and avoid early pregnancy and marriages. Girls meet every weekday in a safe and nurturing environment to study and learn life skills, go on excursions / summer camps and receive academic scholarships. <https://gorongosa.org/girls-clubs/>



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Need to know

PRICE INCLUSIONS

- private charter flight Beira - Gorongosa Park
 - local flight Chimoio - Maputo
 - airport meet and greet
- all road transfers Gorongosa - Chimoio, Maputo - Ponta Malongane - Maputo
 - accommodation in exclusive luxury tent and beachside villa room
 - all meals (except 1 free night in the village at Ponta Malongane)
 - local beverages
 - donation to our chosen project
 - a personal travel journal
- safari activities in Gorongosa including 4x4 safari drives, walks
- conservation visit to the Pangolin Rescue Center and walk with a pangolin custodian
 - visit to community projects
 - conservation and community levy fees
- ethical snorkelling with dolphins boat excursions
- an ancient sound journey with host Courtney
- live Q&A before the trip to ask your questions
- professional & knowledgeable safari and community guides
 - English-speaking journey hosts

PRICE EXCLUSIONS

- transportation to the start point at Beira Airport and from end point at Maputo
 - medical travel insurance (mandatory)
- tips for guides/drivers or to lodge staff (at your discretion)

HOW TO BOOK

A 25% non-refundable deposit secures your place.

There are limited single rooms available so booking well in advance is advised.

WHERE THE JOURNEY STARTS AND ENDS

The start point is at Beira Airport and end point at Maputo.

SOLO TRAVELLERS

Solo travellers are most welcome. You will need to pay the single room supplement which we have kept as low as possible. There are a limited number of single rooms so book yours as soon as possible.

SAFETY

We will be staying in a wilderness reserve surrounded by wildlife; however the camp is very safe and there are professional game rangers and staff who will be looking after you at all times.

Ponta Malongane is a peaceful haven with small vibrant village.

WEATHER

August is dry season with warm days and cooler evenings. Average daytime temperatures: 24-28 °C (75-82 °F). Water temperatures are comfortable for swimming (around 23-25 °C / 73-77 °F).

This is an ideal time for wildlife viewing, beach time, ocean activities and whale watching.

April is the end of the rainy season with some residual showers still possible.

Expect humidity and hot temperatures. Average daytime temperatures: 26-31 °C (79-88 °F).

Water temperatures are very warm (around 27-29 °C / 81-84 °F).

The landscape is lush and green. A good time for snorkelling and marine life encounters.

FITNESS LEVEL

This is a moderate activity journey with leisurely paced walks in the wilderness and snorkelling in the ocean.

For those who prefer you may stay on board the boat and observe the marine life from above.

All wilderness walks are optional.

WHAT TO PACK

We will be sending you a suggested packing list several weeks before departure.

INTERNET ACCESS

There is internet access in the main lodge at Chicari Camp and in your villa on the South Coast.

AGE LIMITS

16 years and older. If you are a family with younger children, we can arrange a private journey just for you.



Need to know

FLIGHTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS:

FLIGHTS

You are in charge of your own flights to and from Mozambique.
We ask that you arrive as early as possible on the first day, as we will be departing for Gorongosa by 2.30pm.
We suggest you consider arriving one day prior to the group departure.
Chat to us to arrange a recommended hotel.

VISAS

For most citizens of European and western countries
(USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, etc), no visas are necessary.
For other nationalities, please check evisa.gov.mz to make sure what you need to enter Mozambique.

VACCINATIONS

There are no mandatory vaccinations required for Mozambique;
however yellow fever vaccinations are required if you are arriving from a country with risk of yellow fever.
Please inquire directly with your doctor.
Mozambique is a malaria risk area, and you may choose to take anti-malaria medication.
Once again, please consult your doctor in this regard.

INSURANCE

Medical insurance including repatriation is mandatory on all our journeys. You will need to send us your policy details and emergency contact number before the departure date. Insurance for cancellation, lost baggage etc is highly recommended but not compulsory.

ONWARD TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

We can arrange any of your further travels with pleasure and have included some special offer 'Add On Trips' which combine well with this journey. Please chat to us.

PAYMENT TERMS AND CANCELLATION POLICY

PAYMENT

A 25% non-refundable deposit secures your place with a 2nd non-refundable 25% deposit payable upon confirmation of the journey departure (which is subject to a min. number of 6 travellers booked by 90 days prior to departure date). The final balance is due 60 days before departure.

Please be advised that payments must be made without incurring any bank charges to Retreat to Africa. We accept payment by electronic bank transfer (EFT) or Mastercard/Visa. If you are paying by credit card there is a 3% extra charge added on the total cost. You are welcome to contact us to arrange a payment plan if you prefer to pay in more than 3 instalments.

CANCELLATION

Your 25% sign up deposit payment is non-refundable together with your 2nd 25% instalment due upon confirmation of the journey departure. From 1 - 60 days prior to the departure date of your trip your balance of payment cannot be refunded as at this stage we will have paid all our suppliers. We therefore highly recommend you take out travel insurance cover in case you need to cancel your trip.

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RETREAT TO AFRICA

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