<u>Tofo Beach – Inhambane</u> <u>Mozambique</u>



Tofo Beach, Inhambane. One of the best diving spots on the Mozambican coastline. Maybe the best one! The small fishing village gained worldwide popularity over the past few years, especially amongst the international dive community.

The main draw cards for divers to visit Tofo Beach are whale sharks and manta rays. Both species can be seen all year round and are a dream for ocean lovers. There are not many places on our planet where these two ocean giants can be spotted on a year round basis, but Tofo Beach is one of them and therefore a hot spot for mega fauna.

Humpback whales can be seen along the Inhambane coastline from early July and stay until end of October. These migrating giants can be seen from the land, while breaching and fin slapping. Out on the ocean they are spotted on almost every boat ride and their songs can be heard on almost every dive! On special occasions, one can snorkel with humpback whales – an incredibly unique experience.

The underwater world around Tofo Beach carries large amounts of nutritious plankton, attracting these giant filter feeders from great distances.

Whale sharks are best spotted on "ocean safaris", a 2 hour snorkel trip with the focus to spot whale sharks, mantas, as well as dolphins and humpback whales in season. Sharks are also spotted regularly and we call them the Tofo Beach "Oceans Big Five" experience.

Once a whale shark is spotted, snorkelers move smoothly into the water and can swim up to 45 minutes with the harmless ocean giants. A beautiful experience!

This two-hour adventure can be done by any visitor and you don't need a diving licence, or any special ocean experience. Safety is the highest priority for the dive shops in Tofo and informative briefings are a helpful introduction for every snorkelers.

Another beautiful species hosted in the waters off Tofo Beach, are the manta rays, which are mainly spotted on the "Cleaning Stations". Diving the reefs around Tofo Beach varies in depths between 20 to 30 metres and the largest ray species of our oceans come to these colourful soft coral formations in order to get cleaned. Divers can observe Manta Rays on the cleaning stations, while different species of smaller cleaner fish eat pesticides from their skin and protect them from infections and others.

The reefs off the coastline of Tofo are not only well known for megafauna. There is also an impressive selection of other marine life, including tiny leaf fish, frog fish, moray eels and impressive groupers to name a few.

A visitors first perspective of Tofo might be that it is an ordinary fishing village, somewhere on a remote beach of Mozambique, but it has much more to offer.

The tourism infrastructure has grown tremendously over the past few years and several quality accommodations, as well as bars and restaurants make Tofo a cosmopolitan and unique beach village.

Different activities are offered, for example horse riding along the beach, a city tour through the colonial city of Inhambane, or a dhow trip in the bay of Inhambane. Mangrove walks and kayak tours, quad bike safaris as well as community visits.

Two international biologists hold weekly talks about their whale shark and manta ray research and every visitor is more than welcome.

Tofos atmosphere is unique and most visitors will soon fall in love with the mixture of a Mozambican fishing village and an international diving hot spot.

If you would like to know more about the diving, the accommodation and the activities off Tofo Beach, please contact us at <u>contact@travel2mozambique.com</u>

