



Sailing into the Sunset



Danforth Yachting, Lake Malawi



A Madavoile catamaran, Madagascar



Seychelles beach

Madagascar's Archipelagos

Madagascar is famed for its wildlife and fauna, but this huge island also offers a beautiful Indian Ocean coastline waiting to be explored. On my last trip to Madagascar I was lucky enough to spend a few days aboard one of Madavoile's catamarans, exploring the stunning scenery of the Nosy Mitsio archipelago, it was a definite highlight of my trip. In the day we would drop anchor to dive, snorkel or explore a tiny island or simply lay back and relax while the crew did all the work. Each night we would enjoy our freshly caught fish under a clear starry sky. Certainly not a bad couple of days in the "office"! The calm waters of Nosy Be in north west Madagascar are well suited to even the novice sailor. We can organise private charters for anything from two days to a few weeks, all complete with your own dedicated private crew and chef. You can visit the nearby Nosy Mitsio archipelago, as I did, and explore its beautiful white sands and transparent waters, or travel further south to the more remote Radama Islands.

Aisha Battersby: 01993 838 521



Sailing on a yacht across calm turquoise waters, visiting deserted tropical beaches, relaxing on deck watching the African sun set over the horizon... this may sound like something for the super-rich only. However at Audley we have found a selection of fabulous private yachts to fit a range of budgets and make those ocean dreams a reality. Here our Africa Specialists share some of their favourites.

Lake Malawi

For something a little different, I would recommend Danforth's Yachting's Mufasa, a 38ft Maxim catamaran, which can be chartered for a sailing trip on the beautiful Lake Malawi. The lake is absolutely huge, it feels more like an inland sea, its crystal clear freshwaters perfect for diving, snorkelling and fishing, all of which can be enjoyed from Mufasa. An ideal itinerary is to sail from the marine reserve of Cape Maclear in the south to the beautiful Likoma Island, visiting the Mozambique shores of the lake along the way.

The Mufasa has four double cabins and comfortable cushioned seats on deck where you can relax and enjoy the lakeshore views, gin and tonic in hand. The owner and your skipper is the sociable Howard Massey-Hicks who has sailed over 50,000 kilometres on Lake Malawi and is a recognised authority on local waters. Howard will make you feel at home and is a qualified Yachtmaster if you want to learn more.

Jonathan Peach: 01993 838 518

The Spice Islands

Many people visit the famous spice island of Zanzibar but I would recommend escaping the crowds by taking to the seas. Midsummer is a 94-year-old schooner which sails along the East African coast calling in at the Spice Islands. When you step on its polished decks, six charming staff are waiting to welcome you aboard. Midsummer is a luxurious yacht and prices reflect this but it's certainly a wonderful choice for a special occasion. Inside you'll find three cosy luxury cabins and below decks there is a gleaming kitchen, dining table and an antique piano.

If you are feeling active there is plenty of opportunity to get involved in the challenges of controlling the 2200 square metres of sail. Swimming, snorkelling, waterskiing and throwing a line out to catch something tasty for dinner are some of the other options. Or you may just want to lie back, relax and enjoy your East African adventure!

Melissa Hillen: 01993 838 516

The Seychelles

I can't think of a better way to explore the beautiful islands of the Seychelles than the complete freedom of a yacht. The inner islands are a dream to navigate with perfect weather and sea conditions. The level of sailing difficulty in the Seychelles can depend on the time of year with our summer months offering the strongest winds and most challenging conditions. We can advise on what would be the best boat for your party, and can organise this for you with or without a crew, depending on your preference and sailing ability. Days can be spent lazing on the deck as you sail through the beautiful Indian Ocean waters. You may want to drop anchor to snorkel or cool off with a refreshing swim or perhaps cast out a line for a spot of fishing. Having your own yacht also gives you the freedom to find your own deserted beach: the dream of having your own private island and enjoying a picnic lunch on your own beach can become a reality, for a few hours at least!

Russell Pilkington: 01993 838 506

FACT FILE

A 12 night tailor-made itinerary to Madagascar including three nights on Madavoile and economy flights from the UK costs from £3,500 per person. Please contact our Africa specialists for more information on any of these yacht charters on 01993 838 500.

