



## NEWS 2011

### Greetings from Rio Azul...

Being in the fortunate position to spend a lot of time at the lodge, Rio Azul has proved to me that it always has something new and exciting to offer.

These are some of the highlights for me over the last 6 months.

Saw a whale shark on the way to BD Island

Watched our Guide Matt swimming with a Black Marlin.

Caught the elusive 'Big Snapper' on popper in the estuary (eventually after losing it about 4 times)

Became an accomplished 'Honeycomb Ray fisherman' in the estuary.

Re-learnt how to windsurf.

Snorkelled 'Carapao' reef on the way to BD Island.

Taught my 15 year old son to drive on the beach.

Rio Azul has a way of waking that spirit of adventure that lies hidden in all of us.

Thanks to all of you for your support and the good times I have shared with you.

John van der Bijl  
(Owner)



# CURRENT NEWS

## *Hello Readers...*

Winters in Mozambique are a peach. The mornings are crisp, cool, the days balmy and calm, the evenings comfortable. T shirts and shorts, sunrise to sunset, is the recommended dress at Rio Azul.

Offshore Fishing has been good, with shoals of Queen Fish (*Scomberorus purilineatus*) very active on the reefs and around BD Point. All in the 3 to 5 kg range. The Tri Annual CADSA fishing competition was held last week in Inhassoro with resounding success. 5 Sailfish were landed ( 25 to 35 kg range ) along with Amberjack , Yellow-fin tuna , King Mackerel , and a 50 kg Black Marlin (a little out of season it must be noted!!)

The estuary continues to fish well. Recently a 6kg Pickhandle Barracuda was caught by a guest trawling a lure across the sandbanks. Fair size Grunter (2 to 4 kg's), have been landed, with monster Snapper continuing to test the most skilled fisherman in the root structures of the mangrove swamps. A day out on the estuary on our aluminium 'tinnies', is a must do. The Govoru estuary on Rio Azul's doorstep has to be the most pristine eco-system anywhere in Mozambique. The bird life is sublime, the scenery breathtaking.

Inhassoro continues to grow at a steady pace and the imminent rebuilding of the hotel on Paradise Island will add impetus to that growth. A new bakery and butchery have opened recently, with a new petrol station and pharmacy nearing completion. Closer to Rio Azul , Seta BD Beach Bar has opened, a great "half way" stop for a cold beer whilst doing the beach walk from Rio Azul towards the point. If beach walking is not your cup of tea, you can always take a 'tinnie', or one of the two recently acquired windsurfing rigs as a mode of transport.

If the self-drive option is your thing, the new road from Maputo to Inhassoro continues to get rave reviews. It's hard to believe that five to six years ago, Inhassoro from Maputo was a long, arduous road of challenging potholes with few patches of tarred road. Today the main arterial route running along the coastline of Mozambique is as good as it gets. The road from Pafuri (the top of Kruger National Park is currently under construction. Once completed (it is estimated to take 18 months) it will mean a four to five hour drive from Kruger to Inhassoro.

Exciting developments on the cards!



*Patrick Koenig  
Lodge Manager*

*This is fishing... @ Rio Azul*

*Guide Matt takes a swim with a curious juvenile Black Marlin*

### The Marlin Swim

We were driving full speed about 30km's out to sea... When all of a sudden all of our guests on board started shouting "Sailfish, sailfish!" and started pointing wildly out over the bow of our fishing boat 'Fazer'.

I didn't see it initially and barely missed the big fish by about 15m or so. I hurriedly turned the boat around as fast as I could, because I thought the fish was fining for bait and would disappear soon.

As we got closer I couldn't believe my eyes as I recognised it as a juvenile Marlin! But what was even more astounding was the fact that it started circling the boat as if to check us out, almost as if completely tame!

Everyone on board ran over to the gunwales of the boat to get a better look, and without thinking I stripped down to my shorts and dived in behind the fish. After doing a quick scan for any sharks, I swam over to meet my new friend – a young Black marlin of probably 80-100kg's. After sussing him out, I took a hold of his bill and fins, and incredibly he took me for a swim around the boat! Definitely a very humbling experience, which I will never forget as long as I live!

→ Check out Matt's Marlin Swim @ [www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLXTNgralg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLXTNgralg)

### The Fishing

It was good to get out to "25 Mile" (50km offshore) as we don't go there very often. I took some very serious jiggging gear, but whatever was on the bottom was monstrous and had no problem teaching me a lesson or two by biting through everything I chucked at it! It may have been sharks or big Cuta (King Mackerel) but sadly I never got to find out.

Closer to shore, at "Allsorts" (23km offshore) the fishing was exceptional, pulling out everything from big Queenfish on plugs, to the Yellowspots on flukes. Minnows and Golden Kingy's, big Blood Snappers on bait and buck-tail jigs. We even managed to reel in a couple of beautiful Threadfin Kingfish (aka the indo-pacific mirrorfish)!

All the guests had a wonderful time and made some spectacular catches!

*Matthew Espen*  
*Lodge Fishing Guide*



## GUEST REVIEW

Clinton, Raymond and Family,

Thanks once again for your hospitality at Rjo Azul, it was a blast! Patrick you really are one of a kind - you're a star. Matt, I really learnt a lot from you and now know more about deep-sea fishing and the beauty of the different species!

John you are a patient man and for that you will always have clients returning, including me!

Please go to my website [www.actiongallery.co.za](http://www.actiongallery.co.za) to view the angling section (icon on top of homepage)

Thanks once again guys - I miss you all!

*Enjoying all of the exciting  
Activities Rjo Azul has to  
offer!*

CLINTON'S MIRRORFISH



CLINTON & RAYMOND WITH A CUTA



FINE DINING, FISHING AND JUST UNWINDING



## **EXCLUSIVE GUEST SPECIAL**

### **WINTER SPECIAL**

Until August 31<sup>st</sup>

#### **Fly in special:**

**Per person**

4 Night – R 10 900 pps

7 Night – R 13 900 pps

**Groups (Min 4)**

4 Night – R 9 900

7 Night – R 12 600

**Fishermans Special (4 persons)**

(inc flights, boats, fishing and drinks)

5 Nights – R 13 950

#### **Accommodation Only:**

**Villa Special (up to 6 adults)**

Min 7 Nights – R 6 000 per night

See Attached Winter Special and 2012 Rack Rates.

Flights from R 3 600 return (ex Jhb. Int.)

Please Enquire.

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Booking Office: 011 467 2853 (Bev)

*Breakfasts on the Villa deck*



*Snorkelling for Pansy Shells*