



## Dhow Sailing in Mozambique



The Around the Islands dhow race is a unique fundraiser event in Mozambique. The race involves approximately 30 local island dhows. Organiser Michael Hales is encouraging SA Sailors to get involved in the 2022 race. He gave us the low-down on what makes the event so special...

Our desire is to not change the dhows in any way with the race but to rather preserve the traditional working dhow as it is found in our local waters. With the race we are also providing a platform for the hardworking local dhow sailors to

have a bit of fun and possibly bring home to their families a prize or two, in the process.

Our desire is for the event to be part of the fabric of the local dhow community. We welcome our fellow SA sailors to get a taste of authentic raw dhowmanship and sail an ancient traditional dhow.

### Visiting Sailors

We have extended an invitation to our fellow South African sailors who would love to experience sailing a traditional wooden dhow in Mozambique and be part of our wonderful race.

SA sailors can join an existing Mozambican dhow crew or hire their own dhow and enter as a team.

The SA teams are to be a minimum of 5 crew + one Mozambican sailor (not permitted to man the tiller).

Dhow hire 2000mt (R500)

It goes without saying that juniors and ladies are most welcome to join an existing local crew, or SA team.

Please bring your own lifejackets and a pair of water shoes is advised.

### Race course

The course will be marked by 6 buoys. The buoys will be deployed the morning of the race by the race committee and volunteers. The race will take approximate three hours to complete in moderate winds.

The marine authority will be on hand in their own vessel to assist. (Maritimó)

### **Pansy island start**

The dhow race begins on Pansy Island (well known for its Pansy shells).

The race followers tend to gather together and braai and generally have a good time before the race.

Dhow christening ceremony.

Pre-race briefing.

### **Survivor island finish**

The finish will be demarcated into three areas:

1. Race competitors
2. Race followers
3. Islanders

Race competitors will receive a meal.

Prize giving.

First dhow to reach the beach wins.

### **Race times**

The race competitors will gather at the start at 10am. The race will begin around 12 noon.

The course will be adapted slightly depending on wind speed and direction to allow for a 4pm finish.

### **Tides**

We are on full moon spring tide, high tide between 5 and 6.

### **Race followers**

There is ample opportunity to join a number of local craft.

A fee of approximately 500mts pp can be expected. A percentage of the proceeds will go to the race.

Departure and drop off are at White Sands on the mainland.

The 60 seated, island dance, does provide pregos etc, other craft provide a lunch pack if needed.

### **Funds to be raised**

1st 8 000mt

2nd 5 000mt

3rd 3 000mt

4th 2 000mt

Feeding race participants 20 000mt

Marine authority 5 800mt

### **Race prizes**

We are hoping for as many prizes to be donated as possible for last dhow etc etc.

### **Dhow build**

The 2022 fundraising initiative is to build a dhow to transport the children of the island's primary school. The initiative is a self-sustaining initiative (please check Sail and Leisure magazine link below for details)

The dhow build is almost fully funded and construction will begin in approximately two weeks.

The dhow will be constructed on the island and we will issue updates on the build as it takes shape. We are extremely excited!!

The costs are as follows in metical:

30 000mt Master builder

80 000mt Dhow materials

12 000mt Life jackets and safety equipment

8 000mt Sail construction and materials

8 000mt Paint

5 500mt Dhow inspection and registration

2 500mt Anchor

2 500 Ropes and riggings

1 500mt Dhow oars

300mt Bottle of champagne (christen dhow)

150 300mt

We believe very much in assisting the local economy, in particular the dhow community and intend buying all the materials locally. Please, wherever possible bring your Rands into Mozambique and spend them, the economy needs it.

### **Donations**

We would greatly appreciate it if all participants would do something to encourage giving to the event in some shape or form. The bottom line is the islanders are in great need. Let's band together as fellow sailors and help them out.

### **Accommodation**

One can expect to pay between R400 (1600mt) to R500 (2000mt) pp per day for decent accommodation, children under 12 generally half price.

Example of the beach accommodation.

Beach villa. Sleeps 14 people. R7 500 per night.

## Camping

There is an option to camp at White Sand, or on the island for far less.

## Prior race preparation

### Sailing

It's best for visiting sailors get a bit of sailing time (and bamboo poling time) on a dhow before the race. This can be done on my dhow (Pequeno Bebe) without cost.

### Repairs

The islanders spend the two days before the race busily repairing and painting their dhows. It's interesting to witness their corking techniques amongst other things, the atmosphere great.

## Race Links

### Sail and Leisure article

<https://www.sailandleisure.co.za/around-the-islands-dhow-race-mozambique/>

### Fundraising platform

<https://www.backabuddy.co.za/champion/project/michael-hales2021>

### Dhow race 2021 videos

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/90pdz6d104snxw4/AACAj7HqAPCKUGpF2rmcEBGDd?dl=0>

### Dhow race 2021 winners photos

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nql04ddww3y6oi1/AAAFNrI00IP-4yt2IQV7\\_S9a?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nql04ddww3y6oi1/AAAFNrI00IP-4yt2IQV7_S9a?dl=0)

### Dhow race 2021 photos

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/s5hxvipwtn5rjar/AABdM\\_c5OxG23p-FlkrZqKFXa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/s5hxvipwtn5rjar/AABdM_c5OxG23p-FlkrZqKFXa?dl=0)

### Facebook

<https://m.facebook.com/Around-the-islands-dhow-race-Mozambique-104101808346477/?ref=bookmarks>

### WhatsApp group

Follow this link to join our WhatsApp group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/F1QYN80SJVEJXq8lNVuZqn>

The SA Sailing Ambassador for this event is Marc Hammick, who can be contacted for more information on:  
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