



The famous Polana Serena Hotel – the Grand Dame of Maputo is a cool and gracious haven that recalls the elegance and splendour of bygone times. Built in 1922 the Polana belongs to an elite class of world-famous luxury hotels, which includes such timeless legends as Raffles Hotel, Singapore; The Dorchester, London and The Ritz in Paris.

Location

The hotel stands at the very heart of Maputo on one of the city’s most prestigious avenues and within easy reach of the international embassies, government buildings, presidential complex, shops, restaurants and sidewalk cafés. Maputo International Airport is a 15 minute drive from the hotel.

Accommodation

Divided between the Main Colonial Building and the recently refurbished Polana Mar Wing the hotel has a total of **153 rooms and suites**:

- **19 Studio rooms** – Main Building: city view
- **57 Prime rooms** – Polana Mar Wing: sea facing or courtyard view
- **47 Deluxe rooms** – Main Building: sea facing or city view
- **20 Executive & Family rooms** – Polana Mar Wing & Main Building: sea facing or city view
- **9 Executive suites** – Main Building: sea facing
- **1 Presidential suite** – Main Building: sea facing

Room Amenities

- Air-conditioning
- 24-hour WI-FI and in-room modem hook-up
- International direct-dialling
- Voice-mail
- Tea and coffee-making facilities
- IP TV and Video on Demand
- iPod Docking stations - suites only
- Espresso coffee machine - suites only
- Alarm
- In-room satellite TV
- Mini bar
- Private safe
- Hair driers
- Bathrobe and slippers

Guest Services & Facilities

- 24 hour Room service
- Same day Laundry services
- Limousine services
- Gift shop/News Stand
- Porter service
- Hair and Beauty salon
- Maisha Health Club & Spa
- State of the art gymnasium
- Sauna and steam rooms
- Swimming pool
- Tennis courts
- Extensive gardens
- Residents Lounge
- Babysitting
- Kids Club at Polana Mar Wing

Dining

The Polana Serena Hotel offers a number of dining experiences (all halal) and a selection of bars:

The Delagoa Restaurant: French Fine Dining Restaurant

Varanda: All day Dining Restaurant

Aquarius: Sushi Bar

Polana Bar: Main Bar

Nearby Places of Interest

- Maputo city tour Circuits
- Maputo night life spots
- Inhaca Island 30 km off the coast
- Macaneta Beach 50 km
- Bilene Beach - 2 hours
- The Maputo Elephant Reserve
- FEIMA Maputo craft market
- Maputo central market



Heritage

The English architect, Sir Herbert Baker (1862-1946), elected to build it in the (then) fashionable 'Palace Style', which he had already used to great effect on a number of famous African, European and Australian buildings. A world-famous architect, who was the dominant force in South African architecture for two decades (1892-1912), Sir Herbert designed numerous gracious buildings in Africa, amongst the best-known of which are; the Union Buildings of Pretoria, Pretoria Station, the Rhodes Memorial and the Boshendal, Franschoek and Stellenbosch wine estates, to name but a few.

Building of the hotel began in the early 1920s by the Delagoa Bay Engineering Works, under the management of Hugh Le May, who estimated that the new hotel would cost £200,000 (including an elevator and complete interior design). By July 1922, the hotel was completed at a total cost of £300,000 and was hailed as 'one of the best and most modern hotels in the World, with no rival in any southern port, and with very few hotels in Europe to equal its conditions'.

It was in the war years that the Hotel Polana achieved perhaps its greatest fame. As part of the Portuguese empire, the hotel made the ideal neutral meeting place and was renowned as a place where spies from South Africa, Britain, America, Germany and Italy were so relaxed as to be able to 'exchange courteous greetings' when meeting in the corridors and bars of what came to be known as the 'Grande Dame' of Africa.

Sold in 1963 to the government of Mozambique, the hotel was managed first by the Hotel Estoril Sol, and later by the South African Karos Company. In 2002, the hotel's management devolved into the careful hands of the Aga Khan Foundation for Economic Development, which began a detailed and sensitive renovation of the hotel, using only the finest local artisans, craftsmen and traditional style. Now fully renovated, the hotel is managed by the Serena Group, East Africa's leading hotel chain.

Highlight of a Stay

Enjoying a delicious fresh seafood lunch whilst soaking up the ambience of the Grand Dame of Maputo. Then taking a short five minute stroll to the FEIMA craft market to buy souvenirs.

Maisha Health Club & Spa

Maisha Health Club and Spa offers four luxurious treatment rooms, a VIP suite especially designed for couples, all with shower and en-suite bathrooms, a lounge for relaxation and a Health Bar with selected natural fruit juices and teas.

A wide range of treatments are offered, each of which can be specifically tailored to your needs. Some utilize the renowned ELEMIS range of scientific skin therapy treatments, others are handmade by the therapy team using local fruits, flower oils, medicinal herbs and fruits of the sea.

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