



POLANA SERENA
HOTEL

MOZAMBIQUE

Fact Sheet



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Situated in the heart of Maputo, on one of the city's most desirable avenues, the famous Polana Serena Hotel – the Grand Dame of Maputo is a cool and gracious haven that recalls the elegance and splendor of bygone colonial times. The recently refurbished Polana Mar exudes an African scent and provides for spectacular views over the sea standing out as the place for both business and leisure.



GUEST ROOM INFORMATION

Total number of rooms and suites – 153



- ◆ 19 Studio Rooms
- ◆ 47 Deluxe Rooms
- ◆ 9 Executive Suite
- ◆ 1 Presidential Suite
- ◆ 57 Prime Rooms Sea-Facing
- ◆ 20 Executive Rooms
- ◆ Long Stay Villas



SPECIAL FEATURES

- ◆ Art gallery
- ◆ Concierge services
- ◆ Heated swimming pool

CHECK-IN FACILITIES

- ◆ Check in 14:00h and check out 11:00h
- ◆ Cold towel and welcome drink

DINNING AND BEVERAGES

- ◆ Polana Bar
- ◆ Varanda Restaurant
- ◆ Aquarius Bar & Restaurant
- ◆ Delagoa Resident's Lounge
- ◆ Delagoa Fine-Dining Restaurant



ACTIVITIES & EXPERIENCES



- ◆ Juice bar
- ◆ 5 Treatment rooms
- ◆ Jacuzzi
- ◆ Sauna and steam room
- ◆ Full equipped gym & aerobic/ yoga studio

CHILD FRIENDLY

- ◆ Babysitting
- ◆ Babysitting
- ◆ Family rooms
- ◆ Family rooms
- ◆ Children's menu
- ◆ A shallow pool area

HOW TO GET THERE



- ◆ 15 min drive from Mavalane International Airport
- ◆ 15 min drive from the City Centre
- ◆ Shuttle service available*
- ◆ Private and VIP transport services*

ROOM AMENITIES

- ◆ Wi-Fi
- ◆ Hair dryers
- ◆ Electronic private safe
- ◆ Mini bar
- ◆ Private safe
- ◆ Power supply 220V/50Hz
- ◆ In-room satellite television
- ◆ Tea/coffee-making facilities
- ◆ Air conditioning in all rooms
- ◆ Room for physically challenged
- ◆ Universal non-switch plug sockets
- ◆ Direct-dial phone with multiple lines and voicemail

CONFERENCE & BANQUETING FACILITIES

- ◆ Conference audio-visual equipment
- ◆ 4 meeting rooms with a capacity of 14 to 50 people
- ◆ Video conferencing & Interactive Television

PLACES OF INTEREST

- ◆ Maputo City Tour*
- ◆ Macaneta Beach - 50km*
- ◆ Bilene Beach - 2 hours*
- ◆ The Maputo Elephant Reserve*
- ◆ Inhaca Island 30km off the coast*

GUEST SERVICES

- ◆ Travel desk
- ◆ Multichannel TV
- ◆ 24-hour room service*
- ◆ Same day laundry & dry-cleaning services*

NB: *CHARGEABLE

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South Africa

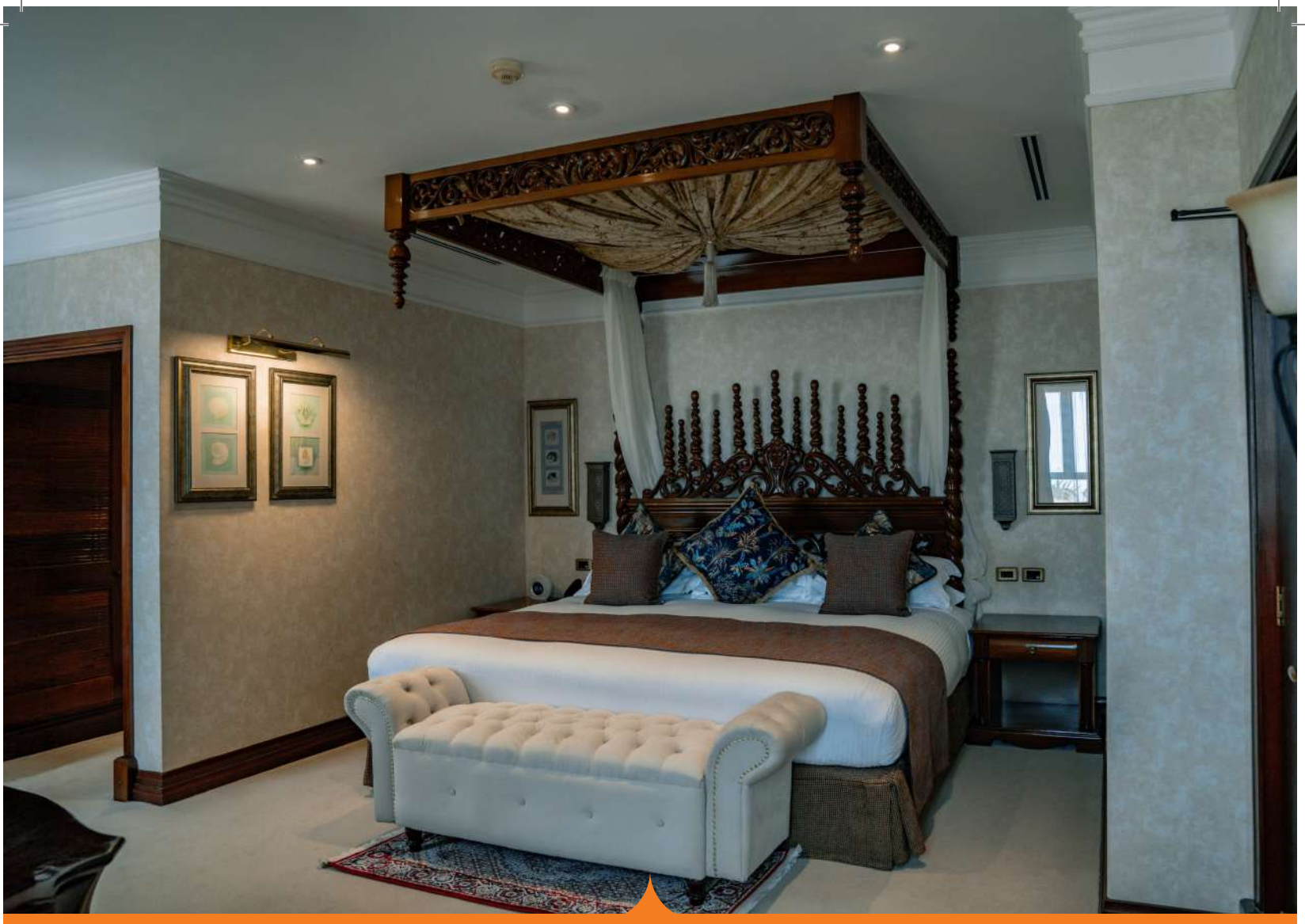
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Rooms Description

Room Types	Number of Rooms
Studio	19
Standard	61
Deluxe Rooms	47
Executive Rooms	16
Suite Executive Rooms	9
Presidential Suite	1
Total	153



Detailed Description

Room Types	Nr of Rooms	Description Details	Wing
Studio	19	All City View	Main Building
Standard Rooms	56	Sea View	Polana Mar
Standard Rooms	5	No View	Polana Mar
Deluxe Rooms	31	City View	Main Building
Deluxe Rooms	16	Sea View	Main Building
Executive Rooms	5	Sea View	Polana Mar
Executive Rooms	6	Sea View	Main Building
Executive Rooms	5	City View	Main Building
Suite Executive Rooms	9	All Sea View	Main Building
Presidential Suite	1	Sea View	Main Building
Total	153		

Polana Serena

A Grand Dame of Africa Since 1922



Perched along Maputo's Indian Ocean coast, Polana Serena Hotel is a landmark of heritage and quiet elegance. Built in 1922 in the grand palace style, the hotel has long welcomed dignitaries, diplomats, and travellers drawn by its calm grandeur and attentive service.

Today, Polana Serena Hotel remains a symbol of world-class hospitality, meticulously restored to blend early 20th-century architecture with contemporary refinement. Its rooms and suites, particularly in the newly refreshed Polana Mar Wing, offer sweeping sea views, subtle African touches, and an enduring sense of place.



Accommodation

Polana Serena Hotel embodies the essence of early 20th century elegance and timeless charm. Each of the 87 rooms in the historic main building and the 66 Polana Mar guestrooms is thoughtfully designed with furnishings and artwork that honour the hotel's 1922 heritage.

Rooms in the main wing reflect Maputo's Indo-Portuguese legacy, featuring hand-carved wood details and plush fabrics in soft ivory and cream tones. The newly refreshed Polana Mar Wing offers three room categories: Prime, Executive and Family. Each room features interiors inspired by local culture, art and natural beauty, with expansive views of Maputo Bay.

All rooms and suites are tailored to meet the needs of both leisure and business travellers, offering complimentary high-speed internet, minibars, generous workspaces and private balconies for added comfort.



Villa Mar

Tucked along the Indian Ocean coastline, Villa Mar comprises eight beautifully designed one- and two-bedroom standalone villas, each offering uninterrupted sea views and complete privacy. Inspired by contemporary architecture, the villas are styled with earth-toned interiors, refined finishes, and plush furnishings to evoke a warm, home-like atmosphere.

Each villa features a welcoming entrance, an open-plan living and dining area, and a fully equipped kitchenette. The master bedrooms include elegant en-suite bathrooms and generous dressing spaces, designed with both comfort and functionality in mind.

Deluxe Room

Located in the hotel's early 20th-century main wing, Deluxe Rooms offer either sea or city views and come with the option of a king-size bed or twin beds. Interiors are elegantly appointed with rich, handcrafted wood furnishings and timeless detailing.

Each bathroom features a separate bathtub and walk-in shower, with the toilet discreetly enclosed in its own cubicle—balancing comfort with classic design.

Prime Room

Located in the recently refurbished Polana Mar Wing, Prime Rooms feature a king-size bed or twin beds and a private balcony with generous views of Maputo Bay. Interiors are bright and contemporary, with polished wooden floors, subtle ethnic-inspired wallpaper, and clean-lined wooden furniture that evoke a refined yet local aesthetic.

Each room includes a spacious bathroom with a separate bathtub, walk-in shower, and a private toilet cubicle for added comfort.

Executive Room

Spacious and versatile, Executive Rooms combine all the features of our Deluxe Rooms with the added comfort of a dedicated lounge area furnished with a sofa and coffee table.

Ideal for families or longer stays, these rooms can be adapted to accommodate up to two additional single beds. Each includes a separate bathtub, walk-in shower, and a private toilet for added convenience.

Executive Suite

Elegant and generously proportioned, the Executive Suite offers a private lounge with a sofa and coffee table, ideal for relaxation or informal meetings.

Enjoy magnificent views of the Indian Ocean from interiors adorned with subtle ethnic-inspired wallpaper and refined furnishings. The spacious bathroom includes a separate bathtub, walk-in shower, and private toilet for maximum comfort.

Kitchenette Suite

Thoughtfully designed for longer stays and added convenience, the Kitchenette Suite features a fully equipped modern kitchenette—perfect for everything from early breakfasts to late-night snacks.

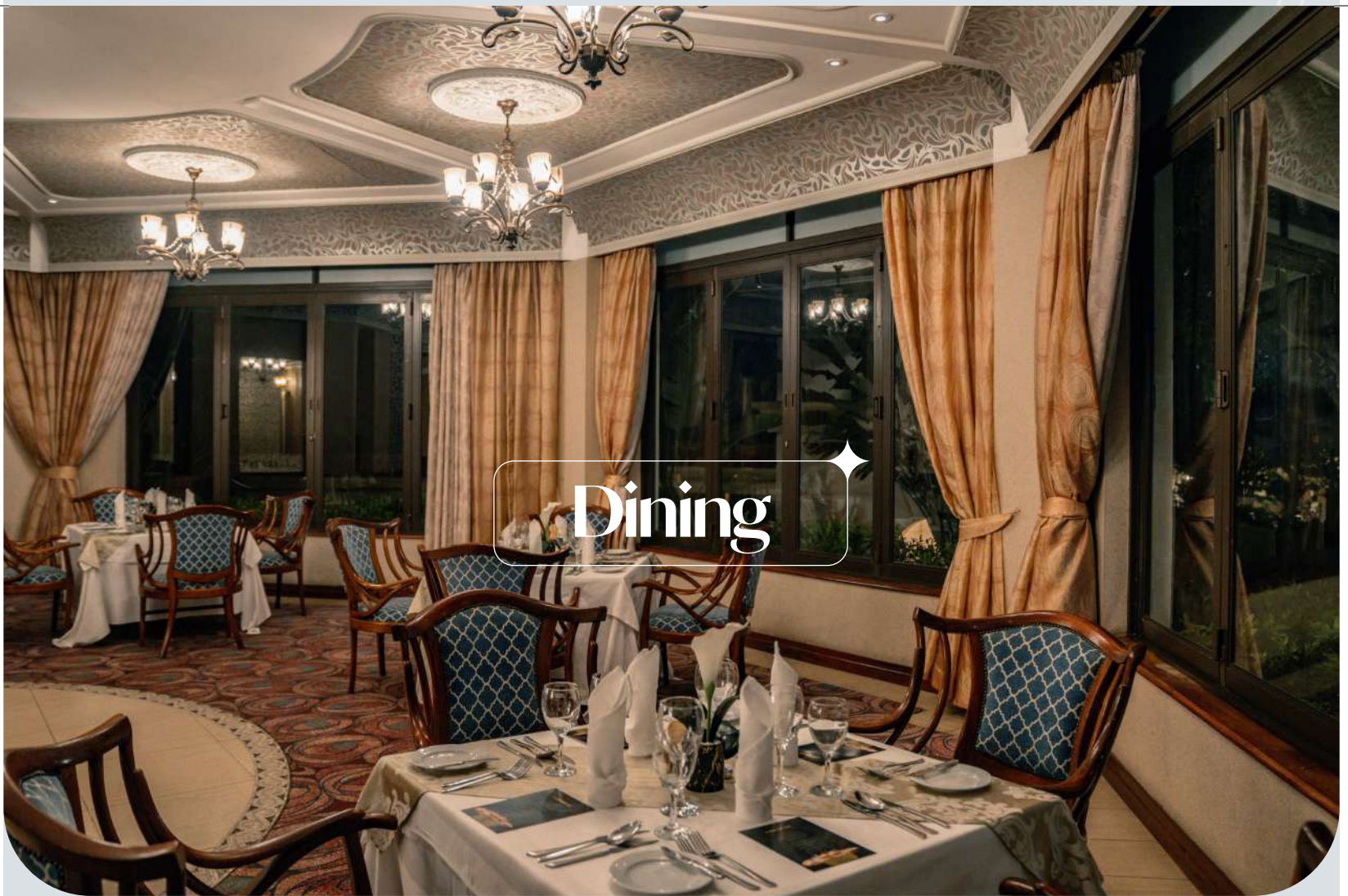
Spacious and elegant, each suite offers a warm, home-like atmosphere complemented by views overlooking the Bay of Maputo. Ideal for guests seeking the comfort of self-catering within one of the city's most prestigious addresses. Presidential Suite.

Presidential Suite

Centrally located on the first floor, the Presidential Suite offers sweeping views of the pool and the Indian Ocean. Designed for privacy and prestige, it features a stately four-poster bed, a spacious dressing area, and a private office. The suite includes a formal dining room for eight, an adjacent kitchenette, a private bar, a guest restroom, and a generous lounge that opens onto a grand balcony, ideal for intimate receptions or cocktail gatherings of up to 50 guests.

A connecting door to a Deluxe Room offers added convenience for guests travelling with family, security personnel, or personal staff.





Dining

Best Restaurants in Maputo

Polana Serena Hotel offers some of the best dining experiences in Maputo, combining refined cuisine, elegant settings, and sweeping Indian Ocean views.

Delagoa, the signature restaurant, presents classic French dishes with a Mozambican twist. Varanda serves international buffets and à la carte favourites throughout the day in a relaxed, garden-view setting. Aquarius offers light bites, sushi, and cocktails by the pool.

Whether for a business lunch or a romantic dinner, each restaurant pairs exceptional food with warm, attentive service.

Varanda Restaurant

Fresh and vibrant, Varanda is ideal for business breakfasts, casual lunches, or relaxed dinners. Overlooking landscaped gardens, the pool, and Maputo Bay, it offers both indoor and alfresco seating with sweeping views.

The lunch buffet presents global flavours with a creative use of spices, while dinner features à la carte options and themed buffet nights. Prior reservations are recommended.

Delagoa Restaurant

Delagoa blends classic French culinary techniques with the rich flavours of Mozambique. Dine in the elegant interior, on the terrace overlooking Maputo Bay, or at open-air tables in the Rose Garden.

The contemporary menu features refined European dishes reimagined with locally sourced Mozambican ingredients, all beautifully presented. Live piano music enhances the dinner experience from Monday to Friday. Advance booking is recommended.

Resident's Lounge

Located within Delagoa Restaurant, the Resident's Lounge offers a relaxed, exclusive space for pre-dinner drinks, fine teas, coffees, and light bites.

Renowned for its global wine selection and recipient of the Wine Spectator Award, the lounge is ideal for unwinding before your meal—whether indoors or on the scenic terrace overlooking the gardens.

Polana Bar

A timeless social hub in Maputo, Polana Bar blends early 20th-century elegance with relaxed sophistication. Known as one of the city's iconic gathering spots, it offers both indoor and outdoor seating.

Enjoy expertly crafted classic cocktails, fine cognacs, premium wines, and a curated cigar selection. On the terrace overlooking the pool, guests can unwind with evening high tea, featuring delicate pastries and savoury bites.

Aquarius Bar & Restaurant

Overlooking the Bay of Maputo, Aquarius offers a breezy open-air setting perfect for sunset drinks and relaxed dining.

Enjoy tropical cocktails, fine whiskies, wines, and fresh brews alongside sushi, sashimi, crisp salads, and gourmet sandwiches. A popular escape from the city's buzz. Reservations are recommended for Jazz Night and Sunday Brunch.



THINGS TO DO | MAPUTO TRAVEL GUIDE; BEYOND THE STAY

City Tour

Discover Maputo's charm on a guided City Centre Tour that explores the city's vibrant identity and architectural highlights. This curated route introduces key cultural landmarks while offering fascinating insights into local heritage and daily life.

Cultural Tour to the Outskirts of Maputo

Step beyond the city centre and experience Maputo through a local lens. This immersive tour explores suburban neighbourhoods, offering a deeper understanding of daily life, traditions, and the resilience of the communities that shape the city's soul.

Architectural Tours of Maputo

Discover Maputo's rich design legacy on a guided Art Deco tour. Explore iconic buildings, colonial-era ruins, and striking modernist landmarks, while uncovering the stories and cultural influences behind the city's most captivating architecture.

Sunset Cruise on Maputo Bay

Set sail during golden hour and enjoy panoramic views of Maputo from the water. As the sun dips below the horizon, watch the city glow to life from a unique vantage point. This relaxing two-hour cruise runs from 16:30 to 18:30.

Inhaca Island Boat Tour

Just 90 minutes by boat from Maputo, Inhaca Island is a coastal paradise of coral reefs, white-sand beaches, and lush mangrove forests. Escape the city and explore this serene island haven, perfect for a day of adventure and discovery.

Macaneta Beach Tour

Just an hour from Maputo, Macaneta Beach offers a white-sand escape with a touch of adventure. Cross the Limpopo River and, with a bit of luck, spot West African hippos in their natural habitat. A perfect blend of beach relaxation and wildlife discovery.

Kruger Park Safari

Located just an hour from Maputo, Kruger Park offers an unforgettable African safari experience. Encounter iconic wildlife including elephants, lions, rhinos, and leopards in their natural habitat, a thrilling escape into the heart of the wild.



THINGS TO DO TO ENRICH YOUR STAY

Classic Film Night on the Pool Deck

Every Wednesday evening, relax under the stars with a complimentary screening of a classic film by the Polana Serena pool. Open to both guests and the public, it's a serene midweek escape for friends and families alike.

Yoga at Maisha Spa

Rebalance mind and body with a guided yoga session at the Maisha Spa. Whether to start your day or unwind after exploring the city, each session offers a calming space to stretch, breathe, and reset.

Spinning at Maisha Spa

Stay energised while away with high-intensity spinning classes at Maisha Spa. These invigorating sessions are designed to keep you on track and fuel your day with strength and stamina.



MEETINGS

Memorable Meetings in Maputo

A landmark of elegance since 1922, Polana Serena Hotel has long welcomed heads of state, diplomats, and business leaders. Today, it remains one of Africa's most iconic venues for high-level meetings and special events.

Blending historic charm with modern capability, the hotel offers refined spaces, personalised service, and professional planning support. From executive boardrooms to grand receptions, every detail is tailored to ensure your event is both seamless and memorable.

Meetings at a Glance

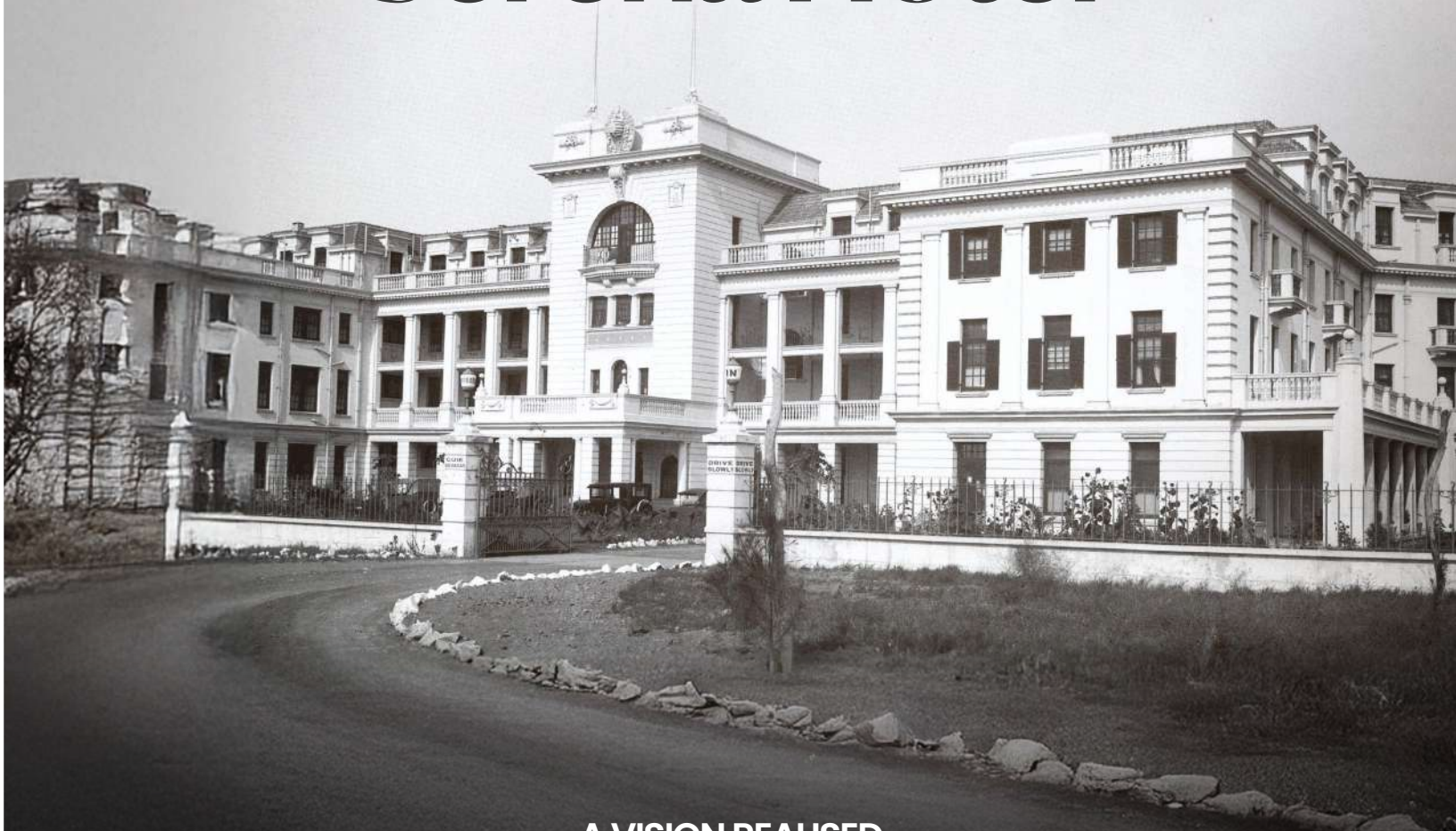
- Classic Grand Ballroom accommodating up to 350 guests | Banquet services for up to 600 guests
- Four meeting rooms with capacities from 14 to 50 people | Dedicated meeting specialists to support planning and execution | Full-day and half-day conference packages available.

Facilities & Amenities

- Complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi | Projection screen and multimedia projector
- Television and video equipment | Lectern, microphone, and flipchart
- Notepads, pencils, pens, mineral water, and candies | Morning coffee and tea service
- Lunch available on request | 24-hour secure onsite parking



The History of The Polana Serena Hotel



A VISION REALISED

"If Lourenço Marques gains a beautiful hotel, the city owes it to me."

– Colonel Alexandre Lopes Galvão, 1917

The dream of a grand hotel in Maputo began in 1917, when city leaders envisioned a landmark that would celebrate Portuguese culture and Latin architecture. Intended to be a national symbol of pride and patriotism, the project sparked both enthusiasm and debate—taking five years to move from idea to groundbreaking.

Among its earliest and most passionate champions was Colonel Alexandre Lopes Galvão. Returning to the city and frustrated by the lack of suitable accommodation for visiting dignitaries, he lobbied tirelessly for a world-class hotel. With the Governor General's support, and offers from investors in the Transvaal, momentum slowly built.

By 1918, seven construction companies had submitted tenders and multiple designs were under review. While it remains unclear how pivotal Galvão's role truly was, his vision set the wheels in motion for what would become the Polana Serena Hotel—opened in 1922 and standing to this day as a testament to timeless elegance.

Designed by Sir Herbert Baker in the Palace Style

The Polana Serena Hotel was designed by renowned English architect Sir Herbert Baker (1862–1946), whose winning proposal embraced the elegant “Palace Style” popular in the early 20th century. Already celebrated for his work across Africa, Europe, and Australia, Baker brought a grand architectural vision to life in Maputo.

A dominant figure in South African architecture from 1892 to 1912, Sir Herbert Baker is best known for iconic landmarks such as the Union Buildings in Pretoria, Rhodes Memorial, and the Cape Winelands estates of Boschendal and Franschhoek. His work on the Polana remains a hallmark of classical elegance, blending imperial formality with tropical grace.

One of Africa’s Most Modern Hotels in 1922

Construction of the Polana Serena Hotel began in the early 1920s under the Delagoa Bay Engineering Works, led by Hugh Le May. Initially budgeted at £200,000—including features such as an elevator and full interior design—the project was completed in July 1922 at a final cost of £300,000.

Upon opening, the hotel was hailed as “*one of the best and most modern hotels in Africa, with no rival in any southern port, and with very few hotels in the world to equal its standards.*”

A Mozambican Cultural Treasure, Restored

In 1963, the Polana Hotel was acquired by the Mozambican government and later managed by Hotel Estoril Sol and the South African Karos Company. In 2002, the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development took stewardship of the hotel, initiating a meticulous restoration that honoured its heritage while enhancing its comforts.

Working with skilled local artisans and craftsmen, the restoration preserved the hotel’s iconic architecture and cultural significance. Today, Polana Serena Hotel stands fully restored and proudly managed by the Serena Group, East Africa’s leading collection of premium hotels and resorts.

Location & Contact

Polana Serena Hotel, Maputo

Set along a tree-lined boulevard in one of Maputo’s most exclusive neighbourhoods, Polana Serena Hotel offers a prestigious and secure location just 15 minutes from Mavalane International Airport. The hotel is within close proximity to international embassies, government offices, the presidential complex, and a range of shops, restaurants, and cafés.

For enquiries, please contact us directly or fill out the form below, and our team will respond promptly.

Polana Serena Hotel

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