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Inside my fabulous life as a Hello! editor



The 19 healthiest foods you should eat more of

'Progress, but no deal'

● Trump says Alaska talks 'extremely productive' ● Putin claims meeting could pave path to peace ● Any pact 'up to Zelensky'

David Charter Anchorage

President Trump said that he and President Putin had made "great progress" towards peace in Ukraine in their "extremely productive" talks, but any deal would depend on agreement from President Zelensky.

Despite their best efforts to sound positive in a brief joint press conference after their highly anticipated Alaska summit, it quickly became clear that no ceasefire had been agreed and major stumbling blocks remained. The war in Ukraine continues.

"There's no deal until there's a deal. I will call up Nato in a while ... and of course President Zelensky, it's ultimately up to them," Trump said in a press conference alongside Putin, after which they did not take any questions.

Trump said a few points remained to be agreed after more than three hours of talks. He said one was "very significant" but he did not expand further. "We're going to stop five, six, seven thousand a week being killed ... thank you very much Vladimir," he added.

Putin talked of a new stage in relations with the US and said their talks should "pave the path to peace in Ukraine". He also talked up the "tremendous potential" of trade and space exploration and co-operation in the Arctic.

"It is important for our two countries to turn the page," Putin said. "Sooner or later we have to amend the situation ... a meeting of the two heads of state [of America and Russia] has been long overdue. President Trump and I have had very good contact multiple times."

Putin said he had "always talked about Ukraine as a brotherly nation, however strange it may sound in this situation ... therefore we are sincerely committed to putting an end to it. Nevertheless to put a long-term end to it we must eliminate all the long-term causes."

Putin said that he greeted Trump as a neighbour when they met, saying: "Good afternoon dear neighbour, very



President Putin and President Trump shake hands at a press conference after their talks in Anchorage, Alaska, yesterday

good to see you in good health and alive. I think that is very neighbourly."

Trump smiled and nodded. Putin said he agreed with Trump that if Trump had been president in 2022 there would have been no war in Ukraine.

As Trump wrapped up the press conference, saying that there should be more meetings soon, Putin surprised the gathered crowd with a rare few words in English. "Next time in Moscow," he said, to which Trump

responded that he would get some heat over such a move.

Earlier, the two presidents had shared a handshake, warm smiles and an animated private conversation as they rode alone together in the US presidential limousine after a co-ordinated red carpet arrival.

Trump, who said he would "not be happy" if the day did not conclude with a ceasefire in Ukraine, descended the steps of his aircraft first and clapped briefly when the Russian leader walked

towards him. Putin gave a quick double thumbs-up before the first handshake between American and Russian leaders on US soil for a decade. The backdrop on a chilly Alaskan summer day was dramatic: two presidential jets on the tarmac and low clouds hanging over the Chugach mountains surrounding Anchorage.

Before they got into the Beast armoured vehicle, shunning the Russian leader's nearby limousine so they could share private words without

aides or translators, the two men posed briefly for photos and another handshake, Trump patting Putin's hand as he shook it. When a journalist shouted at Putin, "Will you stop killing civilians?" the Russian leader pointed to his right ear as if he could not hear the question, as four F-35 jet fighters and a B-2 Spirit bomber flew in formation overhead.

He also ignored questions about whether he would commit to a ceasefire and how he could be trusted.

Putin had been treated as a pariah by President Biden after the 2022 Ukraine invasion but another photo opportunity confirmed his re-emergence on to the world stage as he sat with Trump and their closest aides in front of a blue backdrop displaying the words "Pursuing peace".

The US president had given off very mixed signals before the summit as he kept his options open.

He talked of walking away from the dialogue with Putin and the Ukraine war if the talks did not go well but also said he would call a rapid follow-up involving Zelensky, who was excluded from yesterday's discussions, to hammer out the details of a peace deal.

On the Air Force One flight of nearly seven hours from Washington to Anchorage, Trump criticised Russia's deadly campaign of drone attacks, saying that it "hurts" Putin's negotiating position rather than strengthening it. He said he was prepared to talk business with the Russian leader, noting he was bringing an entourage including finance strategists as well as diplomats, but only once "we get the war settled".

Russia launched missile strikes on four Ukrainian regions as Putin travelled to Alaska, according to **Continued on page 2**



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Travel

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'Its sands and seas are the colours of the Maldives but without the crowds'

Lisa Grainger reviews Mozambique's new beach hotels



Zori Timeless Hotel, Hvar

25 coolest hotels in Croatia

Late summer is the ideal time to visit, with more pleasant temperatures, fewer crowds and great bargains to be had, says **James Stewart**

Here's a tip you can have free: late summer to early autumn is when Croatia is at its best. Temperatures ease, resorts relax and the sea is its warmest. That's not an observation based solely on my 20 years of visiting. Last month the European Travel Commission noted that about 9 per cent of European travellers had switched to holidaying in so-called shoulder seasons. Why? Friendly temperatures and prices reduced by half from peak season.

Ah yes, the prices. You can spend big on Croatia, dropping more than a grand a night on premium stays during high season. The question is — do you need

to? Sure, luxury hotels feel like a treat, but if there's one thing I've learnt about Croatia it's that a memorable stay can be found anywhere. You won't find a place with a warmer welcome, and the seas are some of the cleanest in Europe.

That's why we've compiled this list of hotels for September and October breaks. It includes a few expensive stays for a splurge, but most are priced for affordable holidays, especially if you look beyond poster destinations such as Dubrovnik and Split. Given our term-time dates, we've skipped family hotels for adult stays: wellness specialists in quiet areas, such as Maslina Resort on Hvar and



Tara's Lodge, Korcula

rural wine hotels including San Rocco in Istria; chic city stays in Dalmatia and rustic bolt holes on island backwaters. All are places to remember how to relax, to discover what Croatsians call *pomalo*, which translates roughly as living free from schedules. You'll know it better as the holiday jackpot.

Zori Timeless Hotel Hvar

Exclusivity on Croatia's glossiest island doesn't come cheap. Ultimately it's up to you whether the

Great hotels next page

Luxury Africa

Why the jet set are returning to Mozambique

New boutique stays along its 1,700-mile coastline are attracting a smart crowd, says **Lisa Granger**

You've picked a beauty of a day to fly, the helicopter pilot says with a grin, as it spirals over the five-star on an aerial tour of the world-famous islands of Vilanculos, on Mozambique's southern African coast. "I think you're going to like Bequena Island as a little more than seven minutes away, so right?"

It's right. Within seconds of an taking off, soaring over shallow fishermen's houses and a pale tropical ocean beach, a jaw-dropping expanse of blue stretches out below you. In the pale aquamarine shallows, creamy sandbars swirl and lace beds of coral. In the distance, they frame the white of a private resort, the only other structure on the island. As you swoop down on the tongue-shaped island of Bequena, there's nothing beyond the resort gates but sparkling sea and cloudless sky.

Thirty years ago, the early settlers that overtook Mozambique were weary ones. From 1975, when the South for the liberation of Mozambique party declared independence from the country's Portuguese overlords, through to the end of the ensuing civil war in 1992, the country was a no-man's-land for holidaymakers. City walls were reconstructed with bullet holes. The mainstay was flour and kumari that filled thousands of tin cans and tins.

Then, infrastructure is still basic, the roads potholed and 500 miles away of the gas-rich far north, 24th offshore oil rigs have been the Cabo Delgado and Nampepe areas a large zone, including these islands and killing hundreds in the north. Though it feels like a different Africa, around the world-famous islands of Vilanculos and in the nearby Bequena, to Antiplegia, confidence is growing as the government tries to lure tourists back.

On the mainland, smart, semi-private houses and boutique hotels have been built on the palm-lined beaches. On the Sun Sebastian Peninsula a 34,000-sq-

metre sanctuary is dotted with mansions owned by wealthy families, including the Chipembeses. And on the five islands that make up the Bequena Archipelago smart hotels are springing up, including Kinawa, where the helicopter is dropping me, and the British-owned Anna Maria Beach, which opened in May.

The reason? The coastline, stretching over 1,700 miles, is not only the longest around the Indian Ocean but one of the most beautiful on earth. Beaches and sea are the crown of the Maldives but here they discovered, its waters strong with marine life. Its first farm or fished locally.

When I check into my suite at Kinawa, I can see why Nima Fiala, the daughter of the Swiss Vitalek hilltop villa, Thomas Fiala, and her husband Philippe, Prince of Greece and Denmark, fell in love with the 2.5 sq km island. They spent six years on its southern tip building Mozambique's most luxurious resort.

The 70-acre estate was, when they bought it, home only to a few fishing boats and a school. Today it's still pretty private. Other than the 100 staff who service the estate's villa private resort, the only other structure is an imposing fishermen and a fishing boat.

The exclusivity, says Zined Maranga, the Kampala-based who managed to lock out all other guests to become guests — European nobles, Hollywood stars, jet-setters — want total privacy; many don't have their own beach homes, all work, reside within 25 acres of dunes, coral, exquisite

African modernist 546 sq m villa has its own tiddler-oval living room, outdoor bedroom and capacious bathroom, as well as a cottage-style open-sided side with a private pool for lounging and dining.

As you might expect for 1,000 per person night, every centimeter of this island has been carefully considered by Fiala. The built-in bar, terrace, outdoor dining area, and a private pool are all designed to be used in a variety of ways. There are built-in outdoor furniture, from French champagne to Italian leather sofas, and a private pool.

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A pool at Kinawa

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Susanna's pool

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More places to stay in Mozambique

António
Tucked into beautiful, undergrowth, we found a quiet side-long bay. Simple five-bedroom lodge overlooks the turquoise Mozambique channels and islands. Accommodation comprises two cottages, six circular-walled rooms and a new multi-level structure, wooden floors, thickened and simply furnished, with a private pool. The Italian owners, Ulrica and Fabio Ratti, are known for their fresh Mozambique-style food, Italian wines and inventive cocktails. Activities can be arranged, including fishing, whale watching, market trips and cooking lessons. (Booking: P&O Ocean Outlets from £440 (includes car))

Vila Paula
A private self-catering villa 300 miles north of Vilanculos, this rustic-chic and wood-bone sits on a point overlooking a quiet side-long bay. Sleeping eight in four air-conditioned bedrooms, it has built-in family holiday home 30 years on. This is a place to hang out in a hammock, lie by the pool, fire up the barbecue, watch shows, and perhaps go for a walk or swim. Interiors are the rustic-entire staff who will help to organise or culture or hire a chef. (Booking: One night's self-catering for eight from £142 (includes car))

Susanna's Mozambique
A Greek-inspired hotel might seem odd in Mozambique, until you look at the colors around it: white benches and blue seats and tables. Set on the cliffs on Kinawala Bay, Susanna's has five villas, and in the five-bedroom villa house, rooms around a pool with spa tubs can be booked individually. Meals and cocktails can be served on the beach, the rooftop or even in the quiet garden. (Booking: 10 nights' standard from £1,939 (includes car and breakfast))

Beleza Blue Club
The Belle Blue Club is a charmingly rustic beach house, built out on a dune, overlooking an unspoiled bay. A local environmental organization (conserving protective threatened creatures. Like other Mozambique I met on all three properties, Susanna's staff are a delight: helpful and determined to see their extraordinarily beautiful coastline improve the welfare of their people. I've been to their country for years. If their staff inspire, we don't mind being driven there from Zimbalwa, as my parents did when I was a child. Bob Dylan sings about Mozambique: "Hanging from the tape machine."

Need to know

Lisa Granger was a guest of Kinawa, Susanna's, António and António. Her rights are reserved. © 2024 B&B Media from £243 (includes car and breakfast). For all of the above, fly to Vilanculos via Johannesburg. Lisa Granger

I can't help but wonder whether the hipster-ness is very Mozambique. But on a tour of the island, I'm not so sure. In the 20 miles of our last two months of Vilanculos, we've seen a beachfront with fishermen pulling in their nets, others sorting their catch on roofs, others sorting their catch into lightbulbs with incandescent bulbs.

Alongside the wide Barbotemosa Dias ligier, Susanna is property owner. It's owned by the Zimbabwean couple Adam and Susanna, and Susanna's father had bought a stretch of coastal land more than 30 years ago. When first first came to Mozambique's best view but the island is one of the most beautiful places I've ever seen. "I know we could create proper African beach resort together," she said. "I've been thinking about it since I was in London for 10 years, reading for Alexander McQueen and Stella McCartney from making a collection at the London College of Fashion, and he had helped to sustain it in Tanzania. The first five years were 'hoped' Robert admits. They had a stepped-out Toyota truck, and had to drive 20 miles to get fresh water and a phone signal. But with the help of their community, Susanna's beach house is now also home to their two toddlers and a pair of dachshunds.

If all else fails, it's a beautiful, romantic, which is why it's become popular among honeymooners. Villas are purchased by wooden leaves that fence the sea breeze and filter the sun. The simple, five-bedroom lodge overlooks the turquoise Mozambique channels and islands. Everything is built the market way: cheap and simple, with a private pool. The chairs are covered with natural designs and the pool is giant. The hotel overlooks the village over Susanna.

Activities include plenty of remote beaches, day and night, and the hotel is in a great spot for sunset, and the hotel is in a great spot for sunset, and the hotel is in a great spot for sunset.

After this remote wilderness, driving back into Vilanculos feels like a real job back into civilization. This hotel is the best. It's a drive through with windows setting pieces of fresh fruit and vegetables and bowls of live fish, but from the hotel home of the South African Mike and Sarah van Housen 23 years. When, eight years ago, the plot alongside their own villa in a 14-acre beach came up for sale, they stepped it up and built a night and a day villa they named Susanna. The February they founded it as a five-bedroom beach lodge (you can also rent the whole thing).

That Sarah had designed homes and gardens all her life is immediately clear. Susanna's a beauty, an Axel Vermeulen-

in 2024, their choice, the flow of most of Mozambique's 400 islands (including 40 per cent of them) are under 100m. The south has been most famous for a while. Founded on the 20 miles of our last two months of Vilanculos, we've seen a beachfront with fishermen pulling in their nets, others sorting their catch on roofs, others sorting their catch into lightbulbs with incandescent bulbs.

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Susanna's pool

African modernist 546 sq m villa has its own tiddler-oval living room, outdoor bedroom and capacious bathroom, as well as a cottage-style open-sided side with a private pool for lounging and dining.

As you might expect for 1,000 per person night, every centimeter of this island has been carefully considered by Fiala. The built-in bar, terrace, outdoor dining area, and a private pool are all designed to be used in a variety of ways. There are built-in outdoor furniture, from French champagne to Italian leather sofas, and a private pool.

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Villa Ponta

A private self-catering villa four miles north of Vilanculos, this rustic thatch and wood house sits on a point overlooking a quiet mile-long bay. Sleeping eight in four en suite bedrooms, it was built as a family holiday house 20 years ago. This is a place to hang out in a hammock, lie by the pool, fire up the barbecue, watch dhows, and perhaps go for a walk or swim. Interiors are the rustic end of shabby chic, but it has two attentive staff who will help to organise activities or hire a chef.

Details One night's self-catering for eight from £342
(perfecthideaways.co.za)



Villa Ponta