An angling paradise awaits you at

**BOM BOM**

These islands, almost on the equator, are living proof that nature — given time and opportunity — can take back that which was wrested from her by man. They must be the closest thing to an unspoiled paradise, covered in luxuriant tropical growth and surrounded by clear equatorial waters, and perhaps one of the last remaining virgin fishing grounds worldwide.

For centuries, the local Creoles have relied on the warm tropical waters as a major source of protein, and it is not uncommon for huge sailfish to be caught on a single line from rough, sand-bottomed mangroves.

Observing this, German entrepreneur Chris Hellinger — a keen angler himself — made an exploratory trip to test the waters and in so doing discovered an untapped fisherman's dream.

In an effort to avoid the islands' embryonic tourist industry, Chris has built an exclusive fishing resort on the tip of the larger of the two islands, Principe.

Bom Bom Island Resort, named after a minute island at the tip, is truly amazing. Hellinger is responsible for the design and layout which boasts a new 200-metre wooden bridge or walkway that connects the Bom Bom lodge to the main house. On Bom Bom is the restaurant, complete with international chefs, a full-size lounge and bar, and a swimming pool.

The exclusive island resort — on the northern coast of Principe — has 25 day-class airconditioned bungalows, each with a bedroom, sitting room, and en suite bathroom.

**Bom Bom Island Resort Fishing Tournaments**

It's all new again and a whole new fishing game! Bom Bom Island Resort is shipped on the tip of Principe in the Gulf of Guinea. This untapped paradise is located just north of the equator and 520 km off the West Coast of Africa. The game fishing tournaments cover the next three months providing anglers an unforgettable experience.

**Tourism Dates**

- October 1-4, 1992: Bottom Fishing Tournament. US $5,000.00
- October 11-14, 1992: Fly Fishing Tournament. US $7,000.00
- December 13-16, 1992: Fly Fishing Tournament. US $6,500.00
- January 10-13, 1993: International Black Sea Bass. US $5,000.00

The above prices include five 74-square accommodation per person sharing on the Bom Bom Island Resort, all meals, all beverages, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, four 10 days fishing award for fully equipped game fishing boat, transport from Sao Tome to Bom Bom Island Resort, transfers, and Gala Dinner / prize giving on the last night of the tournament. Includes transfers to and from Sao Tome.

For further information and reservations contact:

**South Africa**

Konzoden Tours Pty Ltd
Tel: (011) 394 3290
Fax: (011) 394 3306

**USA**

Sportfishing International, Inc.
Tel: (001) 203 247 0053
Fax: (001) 203 247 0054
Alison Pearce with her world record 17kg cubera snapper caught off Bom Bom.

all with satellite television, are scattered in sweeping curves along the fabulous coconut-palmed beaches on the mainland.

Access to the resort is by Unimog via an earth road from the airstrip — a hair-raising trip in itself. International visitors transfer from Libraville in Gabon in West Africa in the resort's private Gulfstream, clearing customs on Sao Tome and then onto Principe.

Bom Bom Resort owns four fully-equipped strike craft which consist of two American Blackfinns of ten and nine metres, a nine metre American Bertram and an eleven metre South African T-Craft, as well as a reserve seven metre Accret. There are no other strike craft on the entire island.

Knowing the waters to be untested, Chris Hellinger first called on the services of ace Miami, Florida, fishmaster, Mark “The Shark” Quaratn, in December 1991, to fully investigate the fishing potential, with a return trip in May 1992, prior to opening the resort in August this year.

As no-one, as far as Chris knew, had ever fished these waters with modern tackle, there was no information available to Mark and he literally had to research the waters from scratch. Before going in, he studied maps illustrating the elevation of the seabed platform formed by centuries-old volcanic action.

He then spoke to some of the local Creole fishermen about their general catch and marvelled at the skill and bravery of these islanders. Their traditional Santomean boat, called a "dongo", is essentially a canoe made from a single hardwood tree trunk, the average length being 15 to 20 feet.

They fish with both handline and net, and even have provision for a live bait well in the bottom of the canoe.

Their catch seemed to be mainly barracuda, bonito, wahoo and sailfish, and they appeared to fish the same region all year round. Surmising that the marine life did not migrate, as the food chain appeared undisturbed, Mark set out to fish for himself.

And catch he did!

Within a few days, Mark-the-Shark was able to say unequivocally that he rated the Bom Bom Island Resort waters "a ten, as far as sailfish are concerned."

A short while later, Mark’s findings were backed up when a small group of fishing enthusiasts flew in to test the sportfishing potential of the area. During the couple of days that the four teams fished in the mini "virgin" tournament, they boated 43 sailfish and one marlin, with many wahoo, barracuda and other gamefish. The average weight of the sailfish was around 46 to 54 kilograms, and the blue marlin weighed in at 200kg. Not bad going for a couple of days’ fishing in uncharted waters, with skippers literally groping in the dark, only able to go on the speculations of Mark-the-Shark.

On a subsequent trip in May 1992, world fishing records were shattered. This included two women's records for cubera snappers (of 17kg and 10kg), both by inexperienced anglers and both skipped by Mark-the-Shark.

Further investigation has led to Mark discovering many superb gamefishing grounds within easy reach of the resort, giving rise to him stating that, in his opinion, "There definitely are world record fish here — this could be the last place in the world to find them."

Bom Bom Island Resort in the warm waters of the Gulf of Guinea, will shortly be known as having a respected place on the world gamefishing circuit.

In line with the opening of the Bom Bom Island Resort, there are four fishing tournaments scheduled for the rest of this year: the first Bom Bom Island Resort Bottom Fishing Tournament, from 1st to 4th October; the Pelagic/Tuna Fishing Tournament, from 29th October to 1st November; the Billfish Tournament, from 10th to 13th December; and the International Billfish Shootout from 31st December to 3rd January 1993 — what a way to spend New Year!

For further information, contact Equator Travel in Johannesburg (011) 394-2691, fax (011) 975-5506, or Sporting International, Inc., in the United States, (800) 231-6352 (toll free USA) or (713) 744-5222.

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