



TOPICS

MOZAMBIQUE



Mozambique is a country on the Indian Ocean coast of Southern Africa. It is bordered by South Africa to the south, Tanzania to the north and has inland borders with Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Swaziland. Mozambique's eastern coastline along the Indian Ocean is more than 1,000 km long, a fantastic draw for scuba divers, fishermen, sailors and beach lovers.

**ACCESS**

Mozambique is best accessed from South Africa by air via Maputo Airport, Vilanculos Airport or Pemba Airport. Best road access from South Africa is via the border at Komatipoort. You can drive into Mozambique to Maputo from South Africa and the roads, while not exactly pristine, are passable in a two-wheel drive vehicle. Access to Mozambique, especially to the island lodges, has improved in recent years. Travelling to these lodges however remain expensive due to flight cost (both scheduled flights and the charter hops to the islands).

## **AIR TRANSFERS**

To get from Johannesburg to Mozambique, you have the following flight options:

- Johannesburg to Maputo – daily flights on South African Airways or Air Mozambique
- Johannesburg to Vilanculos – daily flights on Federal Air or Air Mozambique
- Nelspruit to Vilanculos – 6 flights a week on Federal Air or Air Mozambique. This is a perfect Beach and Bush combination option
- Johannesburg to Pemba – 5 flights a week on SA Airlink or Air Mozambique as well as some flights via Maputo

There is the option of further island hops from Pemba or Maputo with CFA Air charters.

## **PLACES OF INTEREST**

### **MAPUTO**

In the capital city of Maputo, formerly Lourenço Marques, you are never far from the coast and visitors to the city can enjoy the refreshing sea breeze at the many restaurants serving locally caught seafood. Along the coast is the fish market, where you will find fresh fish for the barbeque without all the effort of catching it. Only a day trip away are the beaches of Macaneta and Inhaca Island which is a popular spot for diving and snorkelling.

### **INHAMBANE**

This sleepy historic town is 485 km north of Maputo. It has some great colonial architecture (in a low-key sort of way) and is considered by many to be one of the prettiest towns in Mozambique. It is situated on a peninsula overlooking a bay, and also serves as a springboard to the coastal resorts around Tofo beach.

### **VILANCULOS**

Vilanculos is the Mozambican capital of water sports. It's a popular beach resort area and is the gateway to the Bazaruto Archipelago, Mozambique's only underwater national park.

### **THE BAZARUTO ARCHIPELAGO**

The Bazaruto Archipelago consists of five idyllic islands: Bazaruto, Benguerra, Magaruque, Santa Carolina and Bangué. The Archipelago is truly one of the most beautiful destinations on the African continent. The area, including the coral reefs surrounding the islands, is now protected as a conservation area and national park making it the only official marine reserve in the country. The park is one of the largest in the Indian Ocean and a crucial achievement in global marine conservation. A nearly untouched paradise on earth, the archipelago has earned its reputation as the Pearl of the Indian Ocean.

### **PEMBA**

Pemba is one of the most important centers in Northern Mozambique, with banks, supermarkets and restaurants. The town was built over rolling hills and most people live in wooden huts set amongst the numerous thick baobab trees. Pemba is renowned for its Portuguese colonial architecture and is a prime destination for water sports and diving enthusiasts as a coral reef lies close to the shore. International flights and new facilities are emerging steadily. Along the northern Mozambican coastline, from the historic port of Pemba in the south to the town of Palma in the north, lies the idyllic islands of the Quirimbas Archipelago. With its' 27 islands virtually untouched and unexplored, the Quirimba archipelago represents one of the few tropical island destinations in the world still untainted by man's influence. The Quirimbas National Park is a 1500km<sup>2</sup> sanctuary for the remarkable flora and fauna residing in this marine area.

## VISA INFORMATION

All visitors (except citizens of Swaziland, South Africa, Tanzania, Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Zambia and Zimbabwe) need a visa which can be obtained on arrival at some airports (Maputo, Vilankulo and Pemba), at some land borders or at Mozambican (and some British) embassies/high commissions/consulates. Visas on entry can be purchased in Meticais, US dollars, Euros or alternatively South African Rands, although be prepared with currency that has been issued within the past five years as they will not accept older currency due to the possibility of counterfeiting. Not all borders and airports issue visas, contact our office to ensure that the border you intend to use does, otherwise you should apply for a visa before travelling to Mozambique. Also note that not all nationalities can obtain visas at border points which issue visas, so please check if this option is available for your clients.

## BEST TIME TO TRAVEL

Almost all of Mozambique falls within the tropics and as such Mozambique features a mostly tropical climate. Along the coast Mozambique has a warm, tropical climate. Evenings are rarely cold, except for a few nights in June and July and the rainfall isn't too high. In the summer months temperatures can soar and the humidity levels rise. Temperatures are typically higher in the north, around Pemba, and around the Zambezi. The dry season is from March to November with temperatures around 15 to 23 degrees. The "rainy season" can be hot with temperatures ranging between 23 and 34 degrees.

Climate	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Daily highs (°C)	30	30	30	29	27	25	25	26	27	28	29	30
Nightly lows (°C)	22	22	21	19	16	14	14	15	16	18	20	21
Precipitation (mm)	130	124	97	64	28	27	13	13	38	46	86	103

**Please note** that the coastal areas of central Mozambique have a risk of cyclones during the rainy season, which normally runs from November to April.

## SUGGESTED PROPERTIES

**Beach Lodges ex Pemba:** Medjumbe Island Resort, Matema Island Resort, Pemba Beach Hotel and Spa, Ibo Island Lodge, Azura at Quilalea

**Beach Lodges ex Vilanculos:** Azura, Indigo Bay Island Resort and Spa, Marlin Lodge, Pestana Bazaruto, Benguerra Island Lodge

**Beach Lodges ex Maputo:** Ponta Mamoli, Pestana Inhaca

**City Hotels in Maputo** (not beach stay): Pestana Rovuma, Southern Sun Maputo, Polana Serena Hotel, Hotel Tivoli and Hotel Avenida

