

Mozambique



Known as one of the poorest countries in the world, Mozambique has a colossal challenge ahead to provide stability, food and prosperity to its people after a 17 year long crippling civil war. After decades of strife following their bid for independence from Portugal, Mozambique is once again in a period of rebuilding and is today considered one of Africa's most successful rising stars.

The former Portuguese colony is still a beautiful country with some of the best beaches, coral reefs and turquoise waters in the whole of Africa, and although it is at this very moment still being redeveloped, tourism is starting to increase again.



Located on the south eastern coast, Mozambique offers holiday travels one of the friendliest welcomes in all of Africa, as well as a variety of stunning natural attractions including world famous national parks and beautiful beach resorts along the coast.

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Geography: Mozambique extends for 2500 km along the east coast of Africa. It is bordered by the Indian Ocean to the east, and by South Africa to the south. The north of the country is bisected by Malawi, which forms the eastern border of Niassa and Zambezia provinces and the western border of Tete Province. The northern border east of Malawi is shared with Tanzania, while the northwestern border (west of Malawi) is shared by Zambia. The eastern border south of Malawi and Zambia is shared with Zimbabwe, South Africa and Swaziland. Mozambique is divided into ten provinces. Zambezia and Nampula provinces in the northern half of the country contain the richest agricultural land and 40% of the population, whereas the three southern provinces of Gaza, Inhambane and Maputo are mostly arid and previously served as labour reserves for Mozambique's industries and for mines and farms in South Africa.

Climate: The best times to visit are between May and November, when both rainfall and temperatures are at their lowest. It's also possible to travel during the early part of the warmer, rainy season from November to January (though be prepared for high temperatures, especially in January). If possible, avoid the height of the rains - from about February to March/April - as many roads become impassable and flooding is common in the south and centre. The climate in most of Mozambique is tropical and warm with a dry cooler season from April until September and a wet hot season with temperatures of around 28°C at the coasts from October until April. The rainy season in the south runs from October to March, while north of the Zambezi tends to start and end a month or two later. The hottest and most humid parts of the country are the coasts and Zambezi Valley, while the coolest areas are those at higher altitudes , such as the highlands of Niassa and Nampula Provinces. The coastal regions of Mozambique are best visited in the dry winter months of May through to October, when daytime temperatures are generally around 20-25°C.

Currency: Credit cards are accepted by some tourist class hotels and in many shops and restaurants in the capital. Outside of major cities, credit cards are near to useless. It is advisable to carry all your hard currency as well as your passport and other important documentation in a money belt. If you want to take advantage of the better rate for cash, you should be aware that only US dollar and (in the south) South Africa rands are widely accepted.

Banking: Government offices and banks are open from 8.00am until 3.00pm. They do not close for lunch but service is very slow between 12 noon and 2.00pm.

Money :

Current Exchange Rate: Today's Exchange Rate (<http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic>)

Electricity : Electricity is 220V AC at 50 cycles. Two-pin plugs are in use. Stabilisers are required for sensitive devices and adaptors for appliances using 110V. Batteries are useful during power cuts.

Passport and Visa: Visas are required by all visitors. You can normally purchase a single entry tourist visas at major border crossings and international airports (\$25, valid for 30 days, none renewable). Some travellers have reported problems with this service (none availability of visas, length of time to issue) and it is subject to change, often with no notice. Travellers have faced problems in purchasing consecutive tourist visas at the border where they have not spent at least 4 days out of the country. If in doubt, you should contact the Mozambican immigration authorities.

They must be bought in advance at a Mozambican embassy. You do occasionally hear of people managing to buy a visa at an overland border, but this is not normal procedure and the changes are that you'll simply be refused entry if you arrive at a border or at the airport without a visa.

Health: The travelers should visit either their personal physician or a travel health clinic 4-8 weeks before departure.

Malaria: Prophylaxis with Lariam, Malarone, or doxycycline is recommended for all areas.
Vaccinations:

Hepatitis A	Recommended for all travelers
Typhoid	Recommended for all travelers
Yellow fever	Required for all travelers arriving from a yellow-fever-infected area in Africa or the Americas
Polio	One-time booster recommended for any adult traveler who completed the childhood series but never had polio vaccine as an adult
Hepatitis B	For travelers who may have intimate contact with local residents, especially if visiting for more than 6 months
Rabies	For travelers who may have direct contact with animals and may not have access to medical care
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)	Two doses recommended for all travelers born after 1956, if not previously given
Tetanus-diphtheria	Revaccination recommended every 10 years

National Parks & Game Reserves

- [Banhine National Park](#)
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During Mozambique's civil upheaval, large-scale organized poaching systematically removed almost all big game from the bush.

Seventeen years of civil war in Mozambique have drastically reduced the once prolific herds of wildlife in its national parks and reserves. However one area that was little affected is the Bazaruto Archipelago.

The Bazaruto Archipelago evokes images of idyllic tropical beaches and a translucent blue-green sea, memories of the melancholy song of a fisherman punting his dhow in the shallows and dreams of enjoying another picnic at Benguerra Island's South Point. But there are many other reasons why the Bazaruto Archipelago is so special. For snorkellers, the Aquarium at Two Mile Reef, off Benguerra Island, is an underwater fantasy world where brilliant yellow, powder blue and orange tropical fish and exquisite coral reefs become reality.



Banhine National Park

It is situated in the district of Chigubo, northern Gaza province. Banhine is a national park approximately 700,000ha in extent and situated in central southern Mozambique midway between Pafuri in the west and Vilanculos in the east. Banhine was established in 1973 with the express purpose of conserving the giraffe and ostrich populations found there. Although Banhine is situated midway between Pafuri and the coast, it is an arid environment with an annual rainfall of approximately 430mm.

Banhine, together with Zinave and Limpopo National Parks in Mozambique and Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe and the Kruger NP and the associated protected areas to the west of the Kruger NP form the backbone of the Transfrontier Conservation Area aimed at linking the Drakensberg Mountains in the west to the Save River Estuary in the east, an area in excess of 95 624km².



AWF (the African Wildlife Foundation) has already developed an international research camp in Banhine consisting of four luxury two-bedded tents and a main "building" which includes a simple kitchen. This camp is available to scientists and institutions studying crucial aspects required to understand the ecosystems of Banhine with the intention of gaining as much insight into the complexities of these systems in order to be able to manage them more effectively.

Getting there :

By road from Gaza

Bazaruto reserve

- The Endangered Wildlife Trust and the South African Nature Foundation support the Bazaruto Archipelago NP, 25km off Mozambique's mainland.
- Bazaruto Island is about 40km x 5km (at its widest), edged with sandy, white, palm-lined beaches. Behind are massive sand dunes, light forest, scrubland, marshy grassland and a few freshwater lakes.
- A unique and complex ecosystem. Contains about 80% (1200 species) of the Indo-Pacific marine fish families. Whales, three types of dolphin, five kinds of turtle, endangered dugongs and a host of reef fish. Big game fish include marlin, barracuda and sailfish. On land, small antelope, samango monkeys, freshwater crocodile and various rodents, lizards and snakes. Several endemic butterflies. Nearly 150 different birds, including Madagascar squacco heron, Nyasa seedcracker and Green coucal. Lesser flamingoes visit.
- Most beach activities catered for, below and on water. Walking and hiking trails, dhow day trips and boat cruises round the islands.
- The main lodge caters for the fly-in package tourist but there are other lodges (some mid-range) and camping sites on nearby island.



Getting there :

By road

Vilankulo is situated 720km north of the capital, Maputo, and is connected via the main EN1 highway. The road is currently in a fairly good state and driving time between Maputo and Vilankulo is about 11 hours. One can break the journey and overnight in a number of coastal towns, such as Inhambane, the provincial capital.

By air

There are direct flights from Johannesburg, Durban and Maputo. Direct flights from Johannesburg can be booked through Pelican Air (www.pelicanair.co.za or Tel: +27 11 973 3649). Flights from Johannesburg via Maputo can be booked through LAM Mozambique Airlines (Tel: +27 11 622 4889).



South Africans no longer need to pay for a visa, and may obtain visas at border posts. For non-South African tourists, visas can be obtained at Mozambican embassies, the border posts, or on arrival at the airport in Vilankulo.

Accommodation :

-Indigo Bay Island Resort and Spa www.indigobayresort.com

-Azura Retreat <http://azura-retreats.com/>

-Marlin Lodge <http://africanadrenalin.co.za/Marlin/>

-Bazaruto Lodge Island Resort

-Benguerra Lodge www.benguerra.co.za



Gorongosa

- Established 1921, proclaimed 1960. Once possibly the most diverse NP in Africa, its wildlife population was devastated by 1980s' hostilities. The 5300km² park is currently being rehabilitated.
- Dry plains dropping from the Gorongosa mountain range at the southern end of the Great Rift Valley. Bisected by the Midsikadzi River. Grasslands, tall miombo woodlands, Afro-montane forests, valley thickets and seasonally inundated flood plains.
- Mammal populations small. All rhino gone; antelope and zebra widely dispersed and under threat from poaching. Large flocks of flamingoes and waterfowl among the 500 bird species. Many endemics and rarities to be seen.
- Birding enthusiasts are now benefiting from the improving road network.
- Currently one operator offers trips out of Beira. Those using Chitengo camp need to be self-sufficient.



The Limpopo National Park

Mozambique's Limpopo National Park is a pristine wildlife area which has been open to visitors since 2005.

Civil war in Mozambique during the 1970's and 1980's resulted in a complete breakdown in the management of these wildlife sanctuaries and near-complete destruction of large mammals. The habitat remains in good condition however, so that re-establishment of game from Kruger National Park and other source-areas would be a viable and desirable exercise. A three-year translocation programme was therefore started in 2002, whereby 6 000 animals will be translocated from Kruger National Park to Limpopo National Park.



The establishment of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park as one of the biggest conservation areas in the world is a dream come true with South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe opening their borders to create the 35 000 km² mega-conservation-area. The Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park is just one of the many cross-border initiatives currently unfolding in southern Africa -- the development of transfrontier parks.

The Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park includes South Africa's world-famous Kruger National Park, with its extraordinary abundance of wildlife, established infrastructure and tourism base, Zimbabwe's Gonarezhou National Park, renowned for its geological splendour, and the newly developed Limpopo National Park in Mozambique.

While the total surface area of the transfrontier park is approximately 35 000 km² -- about the size of Israel -- the park is seen as the first phase in the eventual establishment of a transfrontier conservation area measuring a staggering 100 000 km².

The GLTP comprises a vast area of the lowland savannah ecosystem, bisected by the Lebombo Mountains running along the border between South Africa and Mozambique. Five major river systems cross this region in a generally west-east flow.



The region has excellent potential for a "big five" conservation area. Viable populations of lion, leopard, cheetah and spotted hyena still occur. In addition, the population of over 900 elephant in Botswana's Northern Tuli Game Reserve is the largest population protected on private land in Africa. Ungulates already present in the area include eland, duiker, impala, zebra, Sharpe's grysbok, steenbok and blue wildebeest. The habitat is suitable for both white and black rhinoceros and in July 2004, four white rhinos from Kruger National Park were released into the Mapungubwe National Park. The permanent pools in the Limpopo offer

refuge to crocodiles as well as a variety of indigenous fish species. The De Beers Consolidated Mines Company, who owns large tracts of land on the South African side of the TFCA, have recently reintroduced wild dogs, roan, tsessebe and elephant into the Venetia Limpopo Nature Reserve, which could potentially be one of the linked contractual buffer areas. This area also has a great diversity of bird life and over 350 species have been recorded to date.



The Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park , website www.GreatLimpopoPark.com, is made up of three core national constituents:

- Limpopo National Park in Mozambique, website www.limpopopn.gov.mz
- Kruger National Park in South Africa, website www.krugerpark.co.za
- Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe

Accommodation in the Park :

Kruger National Park

Skukuza Reservations Office
[Kruger National Park, South Africa](http://www.krugerpark.co.za)
Phone: +27 (0)13 735 4030
Fax: +27 (0)13 735 4060

Kruger National Park

Pretoria Reservations Office
Pretoria, South Africa
Phone: +27 (0)12 428 9111

Fax: +27 (0)12 343 4605
reservations@sanparks.org

Limpopo National Park

Machampane Wilderness Trail and Massingir Hiking Trail
Bridget Bagley, SA National Parks

Phone: +27 (0)12 426 5111
bridgetb@sanparks.org

Gonarezhou National Park

Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management
Head Office, Harare, Zimbabwe
Phone: +263 (0)4 792 786

Fax: +263 (0)4 724 914
tfca@africaonline.co.zw

Limpopo National Park

Limpopo National Park Office
Phone: +27 (0)31 752 3314
limpopo@wol.co.za

Accommodation details :

- Machampane tented camp, which is situated in the solitude of a pristine wilderness area in the Lebombo Mountains. Accommodation consists of luxury en-suite tents on raised decks, set into the river bank and overlooking the Machampane River.
- The Machampane wilderness trail, which offers a 3 night/4 day experience with daily walking trails in the company of experienced armed game rangers. The trail meanders through open bushveld, descends into river gorges and winds its way through dense riverine and mopani forest.
- The Shingwedzi 4x4 eco-trail, which is aimed at true bush lovers and is a guided, self-drive, 4 night/5 day 4x4 trail which offers a unique pioneering opportunity to no more than six participant 4x4 vehicles to explore the tracks and wilderness of the park. Three 4x4 camps with ablution facilities have been built along the trail.
- The Aguia Pesqueira (Fish Eagle) campsite, which is situated halfway between Giriyondo and Massingir and provides the opportunity to camp on a plateau with a spectacular view of the Massingir Dam, measuring 103 km² and featuring an abundance of bird life.
- The Massingir hiking trail offers a 4 night/5 day wilderness adventure hiking experience.

For reservations at the Aguia Pesqueira campsite, contact the Limpopo National Park Office at +27 (0)13 752-3314 or e-mail limpopo@wol.co.za

For reservations for both Machampane Trails Camp and the Massingir Hiking Trail, contact Bridget Bagley at SANParks in Pretoria on Tel. +27 (0)12 426 5111 or e-mail bridgetb@sanparks.org

or visit <http://www.dolimpopo.com>

For details of accommodation in Gonarezhou National Park, kindly contact the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management Head Office in Harare, Zimbabwe at Phone: +263 (0)4 792 786

Fax: +263 (0)4 724 914

e-mail: tfca@africaonline.co.zw

For details on the very wide variety of accommodation that exists in Kruger National Park, kindly visit www.sanparks.org

Zinave National Park

This park was proclaimed by Decree n^o. 47/73 of 26 June. It is situated in the district of Mambone near the Save river in Inhambane province and occupies an area of 400,000 km².



Getting There

By road from Inhambane

Protected Species

ostrich (*struthio camelis*).

The sea :

In the North the beaches are mainly rocky, whereas in the Centre, situated near the river mouths, we find what can be described as dry riverbed beaches bordered by extensive mangroves. The sandy beaches are to be found in the South, with high dunes covered with low rough vegetation.

The best known beaches along the coast noted for their visitor orientated infra-structures are: Pemba, Bazaruto, Bilene, Inhaca, Inhambane Marracuene, Morrungulo, Ponta de Ouro, Ponta de Malongane, Tofo, Xai-Xai, Zongoene, Ilha de Moçambique, Fernão Veloso em Nacala, Chocas em Mossuril, Vilanculos e Inhassoro.



The quirimbas archipelago :

The stunning Quirimba Islands (Archipelago das Quirimbas) have recently been incorporated into the new **Quirimbas National Park**, along with a large stretch of the coastline. The archipelago is already becoming known as the "**African Caribbean**", so come soon to enjoy it before everyone else catches on! Several of the islands have been set up for tourism, with accommodation ranging from the exclusive and luxurious chalets on uninhabited Quilálea Island, to a simple camp on Quipaco (the closest island to Pemba, self-catering and good fishing facilities). Other islands are currently being developed, and will soon be offering comfortable off-shore accommodation almost all the way to the Tanzanian border. Diving, snorkelling and fishing (outside the protected areas) are the main attractions, alongside the evocative ruins on Ibo island. There is an entry fee to the Park (payable once only on entry, so keep your receipt with you at all times to avoid paying over and over again) which costs in the region of US\$8 per person depending on the exchange rate. There are different rates applicable to vehicles and boats so please check beforehand. This fee goes towards protection and responsible development within the Park.



Quilálea Island

Quilálea marine sanctuary provides a malaria-free haven of luxury and beauty on an entirely private and uninhabited tropical island.

Accommodation :

Quilálea Island resort : www.quilalea.com

Ibo Island

Easily one of the most unspoilt destinations on the planet, Ibo also falls within the newly created Quirimbas National Park. Ibo is an historical island which offers a total retreat from the modern world. The island was colonised by the Portuguese long before the mainland, due to its fresh water sources and its strategic position in the arquipelago. From there they controlled the Arab-African trade that was then taking place along the Mozambican coast. This valuable trade included gold, ivory and slaves coming from the interior of the African continent. The island was gradually transformed from a military outpost to the centre of the Portuguese administration. Its history can be read in the various forts, notably **Fortaleza São Sebastião**, where you can also visit the **silversmiths** and buy a typical souvenir. There are many pretty houses of the bourgeoisie and elegant administrative buildings, which are gently crumbling over time. The peace of the island is only broken by the goats bleating, and the occasional motorbike potting past.



Accommodation :

Luxury :

-Ibo Island Lodge www.iboisland.com

Basic accommodation can also be found at the TDM building from \$15 per night. There are a few local and foreign entrepreneurs opening guest houses which should be ready in 2007.

Getting there :

Currently **Ibo** is accessed by air direct from Pemba, a scenic 25 minute flight. The alternative is a rather long and bumpy drive to Tadanhangue, from where you can catch a dhow over to Ibo. Remember to check the tides before you leave as the boats can only cross at high tide.

Matemo Island



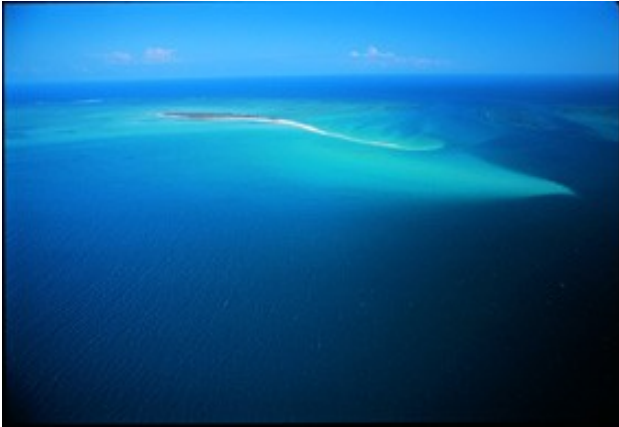
One of the most beautiful islands in the Quirimbas Archipelago. Matemo offers guests the quintessential tropical island experience, with beautiful white beaches and thousands of palm trees swaying in the breeze.

Accommodation :

Matemo Island Resort www.matemoresort.com

Medjumbe Island

Medjumbe is a small private Mozambique island only one km long and 500 metres wide. A perfect vista of endless white sand and translucent sea mesmerizes all who visit. The virtually undiscovered reefs of the surrounding marine sanctuary provide fantastic diving and snorkelling.



Accomodation :

Medjumbe Island Resort www.medjumberesort.com

Vamizi island :

The island of Vamizi, with its clear waters, abundant marine life and thik ,untouched coral reefs, is a tourist paradise. Uncultivated, Vamizi’s 12 km long , thickly forested narrow crescent is covered with acacia , hibiscus and casuarina trees, and is rich in birdlife.

Accomodation :

-Vamizi lodge www.vamizi.com

Car Hire :

North Mozambique Car Rental – Pick Up at Lilongwe - Pemba		
Car Model	Vehicle Type	Minimum Rate per Day
Toyota Hiace	Mini Bus Vehicle	US\$ 116
Toyota Corolla	Standard Saloon Car	US\$ 58
Toyota Land Cruiser	Standard 4WD Car	US\$ 175
Suzuki Vitara	Small 4WD Car	US\$ 116

Links:

Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park: www.greatlimpopopark.com

Accomodation : www.safarinow.com

Travel report : www.voyage.gc.ca

Weather : weather.yahoo.com/regional/MZXX.html

Information on Mozambique : www.afrika.no

Information on Mozambique: www.mozguide.com/index.asp

www.kanimambo.com/kanimambo.htm

www.turismomocambique.co.mz

Bazaruto ilhas www.sailaway.co.za

Quirimbas ilhas www.quilalea.com www.quirimbas-mozambique.com

Air Travel www.lam.co.mz www.pelicanair.co.za

Responsible Travel www.missionemozambico.org

www.dodiciceste.org

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