

Mozambique

Mozambique offers pristine beaches, adventure activities and diverse culture. You are completely spoiled for choice in terms of world-class accommodation and surroundings. Benguerra and Bazaruto Islands are very exclusive and the entire archipelago boasts perfect diving, snorkelling and fishing conditions with brilliant bird life.

Encompassing 800 000km², Mozambique is an enormous country with a coastline extending roughly 2 500km along the Indian Ocean in south-east Africa. The country has been known for its fine gold and ivory, and for having been active in the slave trade. Today Mozambique is a safe travel destination and despite its regained popularity, this warm-hearted country remains for the most part un-commercialised, and gives an open-armed welcome to those willing to explore its treasures.

Maputo, the capital, is in southern Mozambique. Formerly known as Lorenzo Marques this thriving, bustling city never seems to sleep. From markets, promenades and bistros, this is a city worth exploring and enjoying. Just minutes away by boat is the Catembe Peninsula, with breathtaking views over the city and

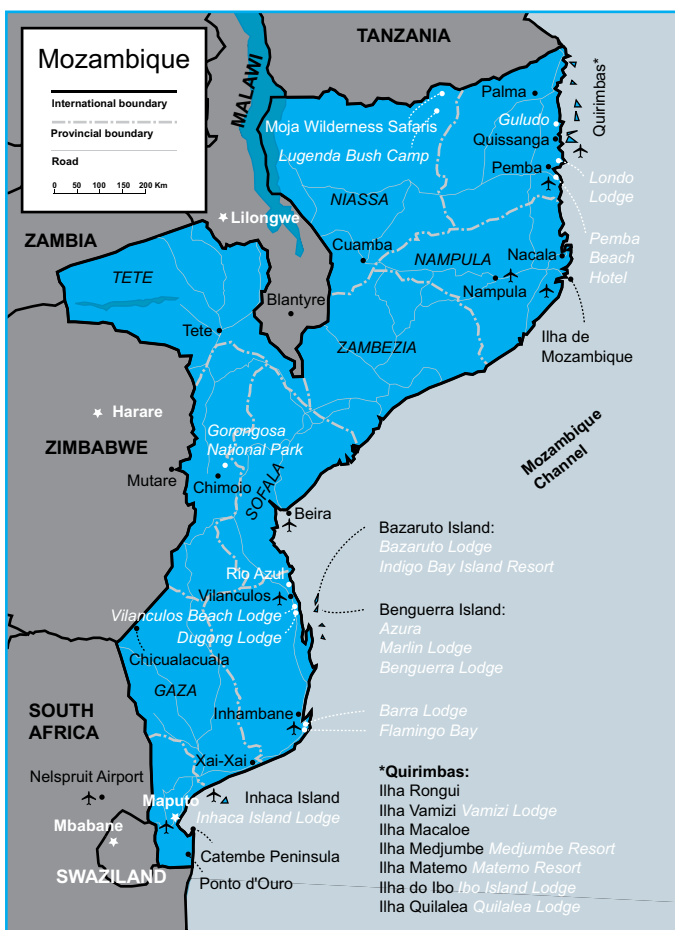


a delightful boutique hotel. Excursions to the nearby Elephant Park Reserve are also possible.

In the north is the Cabo Delgado province and the Quirimbas Archipelago. The National Park (Cabo Delgado Biodiversity Project) offers visitors diverse environments to explore. With world class fishing, diving and bird watching this is a remote piece of paradise perfect for those wanting to combine solitude with an experience of a lifetime.

Travel further south to Ilha de Mozambique (Nampula Province) and you will be transported back in time. This part of the coastline has been declared a World Heritage Site and is an architect's dream, with buildings made of coral dating back to the 16th century. The Bazaruto Archipelago is one of the best known beach destinations in Mozambique.

Regular flights from various South African airports to Vilanculos, Maputo and Pemba make Mozambique a convenient and accessible destination, with the added bonus of visas being available on arrival for all nationalities. What are you waiting for?



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Travel Tips

Getting There: LAM (Mozambique Airlines) and SAA have daily flights between Johannesburg and Maputo. Flight duration is one hour.

Vilanculos, Bazaruto and Benguerra: Daily charter flights to Vilanculos from Johannesburg, and regular LAM flights to Inhambane, Beira, Chimoio, Nampula and Pemba. Airlink flies direct to Pemba.

Visas: South African passport holders do not need visas. All other visitors must have a visa. Visas can be arranged on arrival in Maputo, Vilanculos and Pemba airport or the border post. We recommend arranging visas prior to departure.

Currency: US\$ and S.A. Rand (except in the north) are widely accepted. The local currency is the Metical. Take cash and traveller's cheques, as few places accept credit cards.

When to go: April to November is the best time. December to February is hot and humid (but still pleasant on the beaches)

Power supply: 220v with square 3 pin plugs.

Health: Malaria is rife, so take anti-Malaria tablets. Drink only purified/bottled water. Visitors from countries known to be at risk of yellow fever are required to present vaccination certificates.

What to pack: Take light comfortable clothing and protective wear for the tropical sun and rain. Also take insecticides and all personal medication and toiletries.

Customs and luggage allowance: 200 cigarettes and 1 litre of alcohol. 20 kg on international flights and 10kgs for charter flights to the islands.

Read on: *Mozambique* by Philip Briggs and Danny Edmunds (Bradt Travel Guides).

Top Attractions

Cabo Delgado Province: Shares a border with Tanzania. This is the birthplace of the Maconde, a people rich in traditions and culture.

Pemba: The main city of Cabo Delgado, a traditional Mozambique fishing port offering scuba diving and world-class blue water fishing.

Quirimbas Archipelago: One of the most biodiverse marine areas in the world: Dugongs (marine mammal) graze in seagrass meadows,



fish eagles perch in mangroves, turtles nest on the beaches, and humpback whales shelter their young in the deep channel.

Quilálea Island: 12km from the mainland town of Quissanga and 55km north of Pemba City by sea (120km by road). Quilálea Island resort lies in a marine sanctuary. Matemo and Medjumbe island resorts are alternative destinations for a memorable island holiday.

Inhambane Province: A main centre of tourism today due to the existence of the biggest archipelago, Bazaruto. Inhambane is a fascinating town and worth a visit if you are staying at a nearby hotel.

Praya de Barra: Stay at Barra Lodge or Flamingo Bay, where you will find unspoilt beaches bordered by the Inhambane estuary.

Bazaruto and Benguerra Islands: The two largest islands off the Mozambican coast with magnificent high sand dunes, green lakes inhabited by crocodiles, and lush coastal bush teeming with indigenous birdlife. Specials include Blue-throated Sunbird and Rudd's Apalis. World-class scuba diving and snorkelling. Excellent accommodation on Bazaruto Island (Azura, Bazaruto Lodge, Indigo Bay) and on Benguerra Island (Marlin Lodge, Benguerra Lodge).

Vilanculos: Gateway to the Bazaruto Archipelago 700km north of Maputo, directly opposite the islands of the Bazaruto Archipelago in the tropical Inhambane province. The area is full of incredible bird life.

Vilanculos Coastal Wildlife Sanctuary: The first privately managed National Park in Mozambique. Covering 74 132 acres of pristine marine and wildlife territory, this diverse eco-system is host to a magnificent array of fish, dolphin and the nearly extinct dugong.

Maputo Province: With its upbeat tempo incorporating old and modern cultures the city of Maputo is fascinating. Visit the National Art museum, the colourful artisans market and at the end of the day enjoy a cold local beer and a plate of peri-peri prawns.

Inhaca Island: A densely wooded island off Maputo, 10 minutes by light aircraft. Excellent diving and snorkelling. Birding is rewarding with sightings including Green Malkoha and Narina's Trogon.

Sofala Province: Gorongosa National Park (3 770km²) is in the lower Pungue River catchment area on the floor of the Great East African Rift Valley. Habitats include lowland miombo woodland, mopane woodland, extensive palm/grasslands, thickets and swamps. Currently there is not much wildlife (so to sell the park as a wildlife destination is not an option). However it is a good destination for

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Top Attractions

birders, especially in conjunction with Gorongosa Mountain. There are lion, elephant, impala, waterbuck, oribi, common reedbuck and warthog, and plans to restock the park with buffalo, wildebeest and zebra. The road network is limited to a small section of the park, and during the rainy season (January to April) the park is closed.

Nampula Province: Some of the most beautiful landscapes in the country. Among the places of interest are the Port of Nacala, the Island of Mozambique, guardian of the most expressive pages of cultural encounters throughout the country's history. Visit the magnificent beaches Praia de Fernao Veloso, Praia Chocas, Farol and Goa.

Niassa Province: Lugenda Wildlife Reserve is an untouched 45 000km² expanse of land teeming with wildlife, including the endemic Johnston's Impala, Niassa Wildebeest and Boehm's Zebra.

Niassa Reserve: One of the world's largest protected areas of Miombo woodland. The reserve has a wild dog population of global significance and the prolific birdlife includes more than 400 species. Four species are classified as globally threatened. There are significant populations of Taita Falcon, Southern Banded Snake-Eagle, African Skimmer and Sterling's Woodpecker. The rare African Pitta is also present.



North-East: Pemba

Londo Lodge



This luxury hotel is on a peninsula just south of the Quirimbas National Park, overlooking Pemba Bay. There are 6 private villas, each with a king-size bed and mosquito net, luxurious bathroom with outdoor shower, air-con, and private deck. Two villas have a bath and shower. Amenities include a library, cigar bar and cliff edge swimming pool. Londo Lodge has an eclectic restaurant that offers the best food in the area.



Pemba Beach Hotel and Spa



Close to the Tanzanian border Pemba Hotel has unique Arabian-influenced architecture. There are 60 rooms (double, twin, suites and inter-leading rooms) and 8 self-catering villas. Enjoy a cocktail and the magnificent view from the infinity edge salt-water swimming pool.



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North-East: Quirimbas Archipelago

Guludo Beach Lodge



Guludo Beach Lodge overlooks one of the best beaches in Mozambique. Accommodation comprises tents and eco-bandas. The spacious tents provide breathtaking panoramic views through their netted screens. They have raised bedrooms which lie below an expansive palm-thatched roof, opening upwards and outwards to make the most of cooling sea breeze. Each tent has either a king-sized bed or two generous twin beds, and hot water is delivered twice a day. Eco-bandas are also en-suite and have raised bedrooms. Activities include: Beach archery, sunset cruise, elephant lookout, excursions to Guludo village, Rolas and Ibo Islands.



Ibo Island Lodge



Ibo Island is just north of the mainland city of Pemba in northern Mozambique, just one of a string of 27 tropical islands that make up the breathtaking Quirimbas Archipelago. Ibo Island Lodge is stylish and unique. With only 12 rooms guests are assured exceptional service. The large, en-suite, air conditioned luxury rooms are individually designed. The wide verandas are adorned with mahogany and teak day beds, carved by some of the islands most skilled artists. No credit cards. Children under 12 by prior arrangement only.



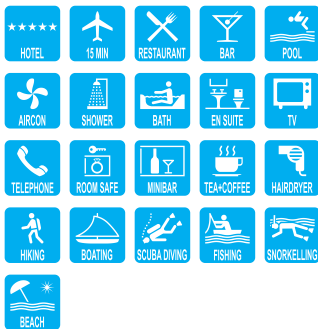
Matemo Island Resort



Matemo Island Resort lies in a marine sanctuary off the Northern Mozambican coast. There are 24 thatched chalets 10 metres from the beach. The beach is wave-free and children can spend many hours playing safely in the waters. Enjoy a sunset cruise, hike through the baobabs and palm groves, and take a cultural tour to nearby historical Ibo Island.



Medjumbe Island Resort



Another quaint island to be discovered is Medjumbe. The resort has 12 secluded chalets no more than 20 metres from the beach. Each chalet has a private plunge pool and all are beautifully furnished. For the energetic take a hike around the island stopping to explore the lighthouse. Dolphin sightings are not uncommon and for the very lucky, there is the rare chance seeing a dugong. Children under 12 not allowed.



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North-East: Quirimbas Archipelago

Quilálea



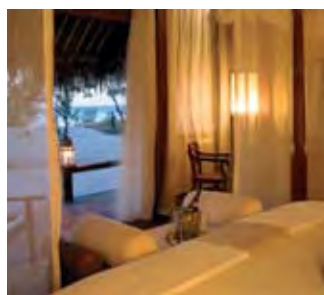
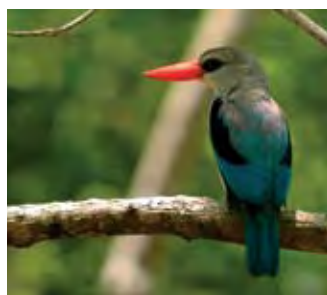
Quilálea is one of the most biodiverse marine areas in the world. Diving with wild dolphins is just one of the spectacular activities available. Ideal for honeymooners. Just 86 acres in size this island offers the ultimate in privacy. 18 guests can be accommodated in 9 luxury island villas (45m²). Each villa opens onto a private veranda with panoramic sea views, has large windows, and a king-size bed with mosquito netting. The island has its own marine pavilion, which is a fully equipped fishing and PADI dive centre.



Vamizi



There are 10 luxurious en-suite beach houses (175m²) all facing their own stretch of beach to allow for maximum privacy. Numbers 3 and 9 are family beach houses comprising two en-suite bedrooms with a shared sitting area. The rooms are 25m apart and connected by an elevated deck. The rooms are spacious and open plan; there is a large paddle fan above the bed and one in the lounge. No air-conditioning! A room safe, hair dryer and a selection of drinks are available in the rooms.



North: Niassa

Lugenda Bush Camp



Located in the Lugenda Wildlife Reserve (45 000km²) on the east bank of the Lugenda River in Niassa Province. The 8 luxury tents are discreetly situated on the banks of the river beneath towering fig trees, each with its own patio deck. The tents have a solid substructure and blend beautifully into the surroundings while offering every modern comfort. The area is well-suited to game drives and walks with qualified guides. It is a birders' paradise. Due to the rainy season, Lugenda is open annually from mid-May to the end of November. No children allowed.



Moja Safari Wilderness



Located in the Niassa Reserve in northern Mozambique, this luxury mobile tented safari invites you to explore an area often called one of the last remaining wilderness areas in Africa. Take a three or four night walking and river-based safari in the Lugenda Valley. Explore the banks of the Lugenda River, enjoying cultural excursions, game viewing and birding. Your expert guides will offer examples of biodiversity conservation through ecological management. Due to heavy rainfall in late summer the camp is open seasonally between April and December. High season is from 15 June to 31 October. Green season is dependent on the rain but usually runs from mid- or late April to mid-June and from the beginning of November to mid-December. Minimum 2 and maximum 6 guests per safari. Night drives are organised. Moja is due to open in November 2008.



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East: Benguerra Island

Azura



Built entirely by hand by the local community and operated in partnership with them, it has just 15 villas, each with their own infinity pool and designed for pampering. All villas have air-con, fans, king size bed and oversize mosquito net, indoor/outdoor his and hers showers, large bathroom with panoramic views and separate toilet, beachfront location and views, mini-bar and tea and coffee facilities, undercover deck with daybed and dining facilities. The view of the stars and Milky Way from Azura is quite spectacular! You'll have a dedicated Mozambican host to look after you during your stay — part of Azura's commitment to the community.



Benguerra Lodge



This small, intimate lodge is in the bay of Benguerra Island. The term "barefoot luxury" is not without good meaning at Benguerra. All chalets are on the beach and have pools (some pools are smaller than others). There are 2 bungalows, 2 cabanas, 10 casitas and 1 exclusive villa. Service at the hotel is outstanding and other activities include land-rover trips and catamaran day trips.



Marlin Lodge



Marlin Lodge offers 14 private luxury chalets and 3 executive beach suites with private walkways to the beach. Maximum 2 guests per chalet/suite. All are en-suite, have air-con, a four-poster bed with mosquito net, lounge area, and a private veranda with deck chairs. In addition to the above the chalets have a ceiling fan, indoor and outdoor showers, mini-bar and room safe. The beach suites have a king size four-poster bed, private outdoor shower and the veranda has deck chairs and a hammock. No children under 14.



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East: Bazaruto Island

Bazaruto Lodge



Set amongst lush tropical gardens, there are 40 A-frame bungalows: 13 standard rooms (including 1 family room), 23 superior rooms (including 1 family room), and 4 suites (bedroom and separate lounge). All rooms have mosquito nets, private bathrooms and enclosed outdoor shower. Perfect spot for nature lovers, divers and sea-sport enthusiasts. Baby sitting service, library, and free shuttle to Dolphin Bay.



Indigo Bay Island Resort



Exquisite island resort (44 rooms) with exclusive accommodation. Perfect for families, honeymooners and incentives. Other activities: Dune boarding and golf (golf is an off-course golf game). The air-conditioned conference centre can hold up to 60 delegates.



East: Vilanculos

Dugong Beach Lodge



Dugong Beach Lodge is in the Vilanculos Wildlife Sanctuary. There are 10 luxury beach chalets and 4 villas. All are en-suite and have air-con. The generator is switched on from 8-11am and again at sunset. The restaurant specialises in seafood and Portuguese cuisine. Deep-sea game fishing of marlin and barracuda. Also see large flocks of flamingos and pelicans. Great Beach. The jetty with a gazebo at the end, is a perfect setting for sundowners.



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East: Vilanculos (Inhambane Province)

Rio Azul



Rio Azul is 35km north of the village of Inhassoro in Inhambane province, on the banks of the Govuro River. There are 6 thatched en-suite rooms with twin or three-quarter beds, mosquito nets, wooden deck overlooking the estuary, and a shower with hot and cold water. Each room also has its own boat for use in the estuary. The main lodge has a dining room, a bar area with a big wooden deck in front and a plunge pool. There is abundant birdlife in this mangrove region and beautiful, unspoilt beaches to be explored. Activities include: beach walks, kayaking, a sundowner cruise on a local dhow, and snorkelling.



South-East: Inhambane Province

Barra Lodge



Barra Lodge has spectacular ocean views. Accommodation is comfortable but basic. There are 16 casitas with twin beds, 4 family casitas and 20 self-catering cottages. There is also a luxurious live-aboard catamaran. Activities include quad bikes, DSTV, pool table, table tennis and darts. Excellent diving (PADI dive centre)! Explore the salt water mangrove behind the lodge and enjoy sight-seeing in Inhambane city.



Central

Gorongosa National Park, Chitengo Camp



The Park, in Sofala Province, is being restocked with buffalo, wildebeest and zebra. There are 6 old-style bungalows near the restaurant and pool, 5 bungalows further away (with air-con); and 1 presidential bungalow (with TV). The generator is switched off from 10pm to 6am. Good mobile phone and wireless connectivity. Excursions to Gorongosa Mountain (excellent birding). Farmers from the Vinho Sustainable Agriculture Association provide the restaurant with locally grown produce.



Flamingo Bay



Flamingo Bay water lodge is on the lagoon at Barra Point. Even though the water is tidal the setting is magnificent. The 20 chalets are constructed from beautiful local hardwoods. With high tide you can venture from your chalet by ladder into the ocean below for some swimming, snorkelling or boating. This eco-paradise is home to flocks of flamingos, tropical fish and the very rare dugong. Quad bikes and dhow trips also available. Please note: No children under 12.



South: Maputo

Polana in Maputo



Hotel Polana is a majestic building with a history stretching back many years. It has a state-of-the-art gym, stylish international and piquant local cuisine, a full range of sporting activities, vibrant entertainment schedule, casino, art gallery, and what must be one of the most luxuriant swimming pools in Africa. Close to Maputo's business centre.



South: Inhaca Island

Inhaca Lodge



Off the south-east coast, Inhaca is another delightful holiday island. Its proximity to Maputo, only a 15 minute flight, makes it a great weekend retreat. There are 20 standard and 20 family rooms. Snorkelling at places like Santa Maria is out of this world. Over 200 bird species have been recorded on the island.

