

Mozambique

Mozambique has regained its position at the forefront of the international tourism scene and is now, once again, one of the most attractive and intriguing tourist destinations in Southern Africa, with stunning beaches, excellent diving and magical offshore islands. Snorkelling around the Bazaruto Archipelago, sailing on a dhow through mangrove channels and lazing under the palms in the Quirimbas Archipelago, are some of the attractive and recommendable options available on your holiday.

Mozambique provides an interesting contrast to other countries in Southern Africa, with its rare blend of African, Arab and Portuguese influences. The Mediterranean charm lives on within a fun-loving African setting, creating an atmosphere that is unique within the region.



Climate

Visitors can expect sunny blue skies and warm to hot days for most of the year.

Winter (October to April) is the dry season with daytime maximums averaging 24° to 27° C on the coast and cooler inland.

Summer (November to March) is the rainy season with average temperatures ranging from 27° C to a high of 31° C.

Distances & Driving

Cars, minibuses and 4x4 vehicles can be hired at all major towns. All main roads are tarred and usually in reasonable condition. Many secondary and park roads are dirt tracks, often requiring 4x4, especially in the rainy season. Therefore it may take longer than expected to cover important distances. Drivers in Mozambique need an international or South African driver's license.

Safety belts must be used at all times and the use of hand-held cell phones when driving is prohibited.

Expect police and veterinary roadblocks on the roads and we recommend you keep your driver's license and vehicle papers to hand. Vehicles are driven on the left and signposts are printed in English.

	Maputo	Inhambane	Vilanculos	Pemba
Maputo		490	750	2100
Inhambane	490		260	1610
Vilanculos	750	260		1350
Pemba	2100	1610	1350	

Currency

The local currency is the Metical (Mt), plural Meticais (pronounced 'Meticash'). Notes are issued in 100,000, 50,000, 10,000, 5,000, 1,000, and 500. ([Click here](#) for current exchange rates.)

Foreign currency travellers cheques can be exchanged at most banks. Major credit cards are accepted in most lodges, hotels, restaurants, shops and airlines.

The US\$ is widely used by hotels, lodges and other tourism related services.

VAT

VAT is charged at 10% on many goods and commodities, but non-residents exporting goods can reclaim VAT on departure at the international airports.

Health

Much of Mozambique is a malaria area, especially during the rainy season; we therefore strongly recommend you seek medical advice before visiting these areas. Bilharzia is also endemic and swimming in untreated water is dangerous. Tick bite fever can be a problem when walking in grass and travellers should be aware that the incidence of AIDS is high throughout Southern Africa.

Medical services in Mozambique are of a reasonable standard. However the availability of services is restricted to the main towns and emergency evacuation from remote areas may attract high costs. An insurance service for tourists is available from rescue companies providing coverage for emergency transport.

Water

It is generally safe to drink tap water in urban areas but boil or sterilize all drinking water elsewhere, or drink bottled water with a serrated lid.

Electricity

220/240 volts 50HZ.

Three point plugs are used. You will also find plugs with two round pins and rarely three square pins. Adaptors are available in Maputo.

Visas

Visas are required for all visitors and must be arranged in advance. It is important that visitors travel with passports with at least a six month validity period and ample space for stamps.

Local Time

GMT + 2 hours

Communications

Mozambique's telephone system is fairly efficient. For international calls, most towns have Telecom offices, which are open daily. Mozambique's international dialling code is +258. Email is used extensively and there are Internet cafés in all major towns.

Official Languages

Portuguese is the official language. English is spoken in some areas but rarely fluently.

Bazaruto Archipelago

One of Mozambique's most popular holiday destinations, Vilanculos is the gateway to the beautiful azure waters, sandy beaches and corral reefs of the Bazaruto Archipelago.

Highlights

Scuba diving and snorkelling, marlin and other deep sea fishing, water sports, swimming and relaxing on the pristine beaches, luxurious lodges located on isolated, palm lined, desert islands.

Best time to visit

April to November

Accommodation

Click on this link to view our handpicked selection of [lodges, hotels and guesthouses](#) in this region.

Tailor-made Holidays

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Querimbas Archipelago

Offering more of an east African flavour, the Querimbas Archipelago is an idyllic collection of desert islands located off the northern coast of Mozambique. Access is via the city of Pemba.

Highlights

Uninhabited, malaria free islands and coral reefs – ideal for a honeymoon or other romantic getaway, scuba diving, snorkelling, deep sea fishing, canoeing and sailing, luxurious beach lodges, isolation and privacy as well as rich local history and culture on Ibo Island.

Best time to visit

May to November

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