

MOZAMBIQUE

COUNTRY PHONE CODE FOR MOZAMBIQUE IS (+258)

All telephone numbers are provided as if phoning from within the country.
The international dialling code is +258.

Check the overland section for trips into Mozambique

Mozambique is the yammy-jammy jewel of Southern Africa where every passing tribe from Arab slave traders to Portuguese explorers has left its mark.

Today, after 25 years of civil war and massive floods, it's still relatively untouched by tourism and well on the road to recovery.

The country is perhaps best known for its magnificent beaches, abundant seafood and spectacular diving. The dugong (once known as a mermaid) lives in the warm waters of the Indian Ocean and whale sharks, manta rays and dolphins are just some of the other marine life encountered.

Psst. Watch out for strong currents where there are no reefs.

Lekker local markets beat to the tune of Africa and selling anything and everything from cashew nuts to fresh fish, beadwork to wood carving, jewellery to pottery and food, wonderful food!

The coastline of Mozambique is one of the most beautiful in all of Africa with some of the finest deep-sea game fishing found. The haunt of big game fishermen from all over the world, sport fishing is big business.

Malaria.

There's only one rule.

Protect yourself.

Cover up, use repellent and sleep under a net. Local hospitals are experts on this tropical disease, so if you do start wobbling, see a doctor straightaway.

Cash is king.

Commission on travellers' cheques in Mozambique is way high, so cash them in before arriving. Credit cards are accepted in cities and can be used to withdraw cash at ATM's*. Amex works in cities only, Visa is universal (BIM Bank) and Mastercards work at any Austral Bank.

Transport.

Daily buses run along the coast in both directions. They are cheap and get you to your destination. Minibus taxis are best used for short hops. Car rental is very expensive.

Safety

People are poor and so petty theft is rife. Be sensible, take care in crowded places and don't leave valuables in your car.

Getting into Mozambique.

Tricky stuff.

If you're driving, check the rules and regs before you get to the border and have a fat wad of metacais 'cos they won't take any other currency at the border post.

Hired cars must have a letter of authorisation and pay a fee of R2000.

If it's your own or a friend's car, you need the registration papers and/or a letter of authority from the owner.

All cars pay a compulsory insurance fee of R120, a toll fee of R50, must have an 80km/h sticker and a ZAR sticker and blah blah blah.

You can get a visa at the border for R185.

Independence from Portugal was granted in 1976. Since then the country has experienced a turbulent transformation with faction fighting accompanied by a long drawn out bush war. Fortunately this is now history and thanks to substantial international finance, infrastructural redevelopment is forging ahead.

Blue Chilli Adventures

126 Prospect Street, Hatfield, Pretoria, 0083

SA Tel: 012 362 6252 Moz Cell: (+258) 84 853 5994

SA Cell: 0827195100 or 0764614310 (24 hours)

bluechilliadventures@yahoo.com

www.bluechillisa.com

Make your dreams of discovering a tropical paradise in Africa come true on one of Blue Chilli's Mozambique trips. Weave your way across rolling hills dressed in coconut trees (the hills, not you silly!), through savannah and forests, down rural roads straddled by villages, bamboo huts, smiling faces, and watch crafts being made by hand. Experience the faded glory of cities with a vibrant and colourful street life, and visit incredible markets. Oh yeah, don't forget miles of pristine beaches, warm sunshine, perfect palm trees, delish water and astonishing marine life. This is paradise after all...

Blue Chilli Adventures' guides know the country well, are master adventure organisers and pros at not letting your dream turn into a nightmare.

8 day Whale Shark Tour (guaranteed departures every Thursday).

8 day Mozambique Dive Safari (guaranteed departures every Thursday).

8 day Mozambique Dive Course and Tour (guaranteed departures every Thursday).

12 day Tropical Chilli

12 day Beach Tour

12 day Kruger National Park and Mozambique

11 day Kruger National Park and Mozambique

An ocean safari is included in all these tours. Check their website for more details and updates.

Moz Tours

5 Knoll Place, Westville, 3630

SA Cell: 083 779 7989

info@moztours.com

www.moztours.com

Hop aboard a luxury mini bus in Durban or Swaziland and get ready to say 'hello Mozambique'.

From Maputo, wander northwards along the coastline spending glorious days falling in love with new places, white beaches and smiling faces.

The tour includes all breakfasts, some lunches and some dinners.

BOX: They tailor-make tours for 6 or more.

- Visit the Cradle of Humankind, the Drakensberg and St Lucia Wetlands.
- See the best of Mpumalanga's Panorama Route and the Kruger Park.
- Explore KwaZulu Natal.

or

- Dive with dolphins at Sodwana Bay and Ponta Malagane.

TOWN HEADER: MAPUTO

The capital of Mozambique, Maputo has grown up with contrasting cultural influences which have all contributed to her fascination.

Charming old world hotels, fine beaches, the best food ever with prawns and peri-peri chicken a hot favourite, coupled with a vibrant nightlife and some serious sport fishing combine to tempt every Tom, Dick and Harriet.

The friendly locals have selected the best of preceding Portuguese traditions and given them their own African twist.

The Base Backpackers

545 Avenue Patrice Lumumba, Maputo

Tel: (21) 302 723 Fax: (21) 313 750

Cell: 82 820 7673 thebasebp@tvcabo.co.mz

www.thebasebp.com

Centrally located, The Base is a 5 minute walk from the Intercap and Translux bus terminals and as close to restaurants, banks and shops. On arrival you get a custom-made city map with detailed info and all Maputo's Do's and Don'ts. Take a stroll, check out the museums, markets and sights and then end the day chilling out on the terrace watching the sun set over Maputo Bay.

Join them for trips to the fish market, Maputo's nightlife and live music.

Dorms from R70; Doubles from R180.

Free pick up from bus terminals (when available). Travel desk. Internet. Laundry.

Fatima's Place

1317 Avenue Mao Tse Tung, Maputo

Tel: (21) 302 994 / 303 345 Fax: (21) 300 305

Cell: 82 414 5730 / 82 307 0870 fatimas@tvcabo.co.mz

www.mozambiquebackpackers.com

Centrally located, Fatima's is a few minutes stroll from the city centre, clubs, banks and restaurants that serve superb seafood.

A living legend, Fatima's has been around for yonks* so the staff have the low-down on nightlife, arts, culture, diving, snorkelling, surf (stay at Fatima's Nest), ocean safaris, dhow trips and more...

Dorms R70; Doubles R150 - R175; En suite doubles R200 - R250; Camping R40 - R50.

Phone/e-mail for free pick up. Daily shuttle Maputo - Tofo Beach - Maputo.

Secure parking. 24 hour security. Internet. Traditional meals. Mozzie nets. Fans.

Maputo Backpackers

Casa 98 - 95, Barra de Triunfo, Costa Do Sol, Maputo

Tel: (21) 451 213

Cell: 82 467 2230 / 84 398 9335

sobantu@swaziplace.com

843989335@vodamail.co.mz

En route to Costa del Sol, off Marginal. 1,5km past the fish market.

Just 50m from the beach, Maputo Backpackers' recently renovated breezy rooms have fans, air-conditioners and balconies. Relax at the bar, play (free) pool or ask them to cook you a divinely fresh seafood meal. Lying in the thick of Triunfo's action, they can organise trips to the city, Inhaca Island, Xai-Xai, Tofo, Vilanculos and Ponta da Ouro. Diving and snorkelling can also be arranged.

BOX: Visit Sobantu, their farm in Swaziland too. Call or sms (+268) 605 3954.

Spend R300pp and your Maputo pick up is free.

INHAMBANE AND TOFO

Situated on a peninsula protecting a spacious bay, Inhambane was the most southern point visited by Arab traders whose visits left behind a strong Muslim influence. Since then, the Portuguese have added a second architectural layer to the melting pot, thus creating a fascinating mix of contrasting styles.

Tofo beach, about 30 km out of town (catch a chapas to get there), has great scuba diving and is one of Mozambique's few surf destinations.

Bamboozi Backpackers

Praia do Tofo, Inhambane

Tel/Fax: (293) 29 040

Cell: 82 704 3670

infobamboozi@tdm.co.mz

www.bamboozibeachlodge.com

1,5km north of Tofo, or 15 minutes walk on the beach.

Surrounded by rural villages, sheltered by coconut palms and sand dunes, Bamboози lies next to a beautiful stretch of beach. Their dune-top restaurant has an awesome view over the bay and serves a seafood buffet on Friday nights.

Snorkel with whale sharks in the warm Indian Ocean, go on an island kayak tour, surf, horse ride or go scuba diving.

Liquid Adventures.

Dive Manta Reef with their on-site PADI Dive Centre.

Tel: (293) 29 046 Cell: 82 536 3636

www.liquidadventures.co.za

Dorms, huts, chalets, camping.

Fatima's Nest

Tofo Beach, Inhambane

Tel: (21) 302 994 / 303 345

Fax: (21) 300 305

Cell: 82 414 5730 / 82 307 0870

fatimas@tvcabo.co.mz

www.mozambiquebackpackers.com

Built on top of the sand dunes, Fatima's looks out over turquoise seas. Slip into Tofo time and live to the rhythm of the waves, punctuating your days with ocean sunrises and palm-studded sunsets. Get lost in paradise, diving, snorkelling, surfing and ocean safari-ing.

Pop down to the market for a chat, gather around the bonfire, claim a hammock, or challenge the gang to pool or darts.

They serve sweetly priced seafood buffet dinners.

Dorms, doubles and camping at backpacker rates. Phone or e-mail for pick up. Daily shuttle Maputo - Tofo Beach - Maputo.

PEMBA

Renowned for its Portuguese colonial architecture, Pemba is a seaside port town and the commercial centre of Northern Mozambique. It has banks, patisseries, supermarkets and restaurants and a huge market. The town is

built on rolling hills, and most people live in wooden huts set amongst numerous baobab trees.

This is a prime destination for water sports and diving enthusiasts, with a coral reef lying close to the shore.

Spend some market time searching for the perfect carving or piece of art, very different to those found in the south, or stock up on the freshest fruit and veg you'll ever eat.

Russell's Place

Marginal Avenidia, Nanmbe Beach, POBox 146, Pemba

Cell: (+258) 82 686 2730

russellbott@yahoo.com.au

3km past Wimbe Beach, towards the lighthouse.

Hey intrepid traveller! Grab your pack and head to Russell's Place to experience life in Northern Mozambique to it's fullest. This is a snorkelling, diving, fishing and canoeing destination. The Quirimba Islands, which are home to the rare dugong and turtles, lie just north of here. There's a campsite for the hardcore and juicy doubles for those softer at heart. Their internet, TV, pool table, bar and restaurant will keep you smiling. To enquire about the best way to get there, e-mail or phone.

Dorms R70; Doubles R350; Camping R45.

MALAWI

Bordered by Zambia on the north-west, Tanzania on the north and Mozambique on the east, south and west, Malawi lies in the Great Rift Valley, which runs through the country from north to south.

One of sub-Saharan Africa's most densely populated countries, Malawi has 5 game reserves within its borders.

Lake Malawi, the third-largest lake in Africa, lies in the Great Rift Valley, while the highlands rise along its flanks, towering up to 3000m above sea level. The fresh water diving is amazing, with neon coloured fish keeping you company. The beaches are lazy and there's plenty of nothing to do except relax. Actually, its just like the seaside, bar the odd freshwater frog surfing its blue waves.

The Mushroom Farm Campsite

Livingstonia, POBox 101, Chitimba, Northern Malawi

Tel: (+265) 045 91 564 Cell: (+265) 09 652 485.

mick@themushroomfarmmalawi.com

www.themushroomfarmmalawi.com

From Chitimba, turn onto Livingstonia Road. 10km.

It's halfway between Mzuzu and Tanzania. Or call for a pickup.

Awesome is an overused word, but feel free to use it to describe the views of Lake Malawi 650m below this cliff-top lodge set in the middle of a forest.

They don't actually farm anything here, although chef Mick admits that most of what he cooks is home-grown. Whatever, we suggest you eat *after* trying his massive, free-falling rope swing, rap jumping or abseiling off the edge of the Manchewe Falls.

Singles R70; Doubles R140; Camping R35.