

# Directory

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## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation in Mozambique ranges from the most basic rooms to five-star luxury and upmarket island lodges. There's a wide choice in major cities and tourist destinations. Elsewhere, selection is more limited. Throughout the country, accommodation tends to be more expensive than elsewhere in the southern Africa region, though a few good deals are available.

Accommodation along the coast, and especially in the south, fills up around Christmas and during the South African school holidays (see p173); book in advance if you'll be travelling at that time. Discounts

are often available during the low season, and sometimes also midweek – always ask. Almost all places offer children's discounts, and extra beds can usually be arranged for about Mtc300 to Mtc500. When quoting prices, many establishments distinguish between a *duplo* (a room with two twin beds) and a *casal* (double bed). Half-board rates include breakfast and dinner.

Sleeping listings in this book are divided into budget, midrange and top-end categories. See the inside front cover for approximate price ranges. Many places quote their rates in US dollars or South African rand, and payment can almost always be made in meticaís, US dollars or rand.

## Backpackers Lodges

There are several backpacker lodges ('backpackers') in Mozambique, especially in the south. Most offer a choice of dorm beds or private rooms, plus cooking facilities and sometimes campsites. They're always worth hunting down and are usually the best-value budget accommodation. The price of a dorm bed averages Mtc300.

## Camping

There are plenty of camping grounds along the southern coast, plus enough others scattered around the country that it's well worth carrying a tent if you're trying to save money (and essential if you're cycling or spending significant time in rural areas). Per person prices range from Mtc100 to Mtc250 per night. Camping avoids grubby *pensões* (cheap, local hotels), and some of the beachside camping grounds are wonderful, with the surf just over the dunes.

### BOOK YOUR STAY ONLINE

For more accommodation reviews and recommendations by Lonely Planet authors, check out the online booking service at [www.lonelyplanet.com/hotels](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/hotels). You'll find the true, insider low-down on the best places to stay. Reviews are thorough and independent. Best of all, you can book online.

## PRACTICALITIES

- Electricity is 220V to 240V AC, 50Hz, usually accessed with South African-style three-round-pin plugs or two-round-pin plugs; adaptors are easily found in major cities. Surges, troughs and power cuts are common.
- Mozambique's lively press includes *Notícias* (daily), *Diário de Moçambique* (daily) and *Savanna* (weekly). For English-language news, try the Mozambique News Agency (AIM) website ([www.poptel.org.uk/mozambique-news](http://www.poptel.org.uk/mozambique-news)).
- Radio Mozambique is state run, with programming in Portuguese, English and local languages.
- TV stations include TVM ([www.tvm.co.mz](http://www.tvm.co.mz); state run), RTK (commercial) and RTPI (Portuguese TV).
- Weights, measures and road distances use the metric system.

Officially, camping is permitted only in designated areas. Free camping isn't wise due to wildlife and general security risks. In rural parts of the country, or wherever there is no established campsite, ask the local *régulo* (chief) for permission; you'll invariably be welcomed and well taken care of, and should reciprocate with a modest token of thanks. (Generally what you would pay at an official camping ground or a bit less should be fine.)

## Hotels & Pensões

The cheapest hotels (*pensão*, singular, or *pensões*, plural) are about Mtc300 per room. For this price you can expect a tiny, non-ventilated box of a room with a communal toilet and bucket bath. There may or may not be electricity.

For midrange, with a private bathroom, hot running water, electricity, air-conditioning (sometimes) and a restaurant on the premises, expect to pay from about Mtc1500 per room.

Top-end hotels offer all the amenities you would expect from around Mtc3000 per room.

## Self-Catering & Rentals

Along the coast, many places offer self-catering options – with sleeping facilities plus a kitchenette or braai (barbecue) area – and there are a number of places geared exclusively to self-caterers (ie they don't offer meals or other hotel services, so you'll need to bring all your food with you, although most places at least have a bar). Most self-catering places have kitchen utensils and plug points. Some supply bed linens, mosquito nets and towels,

while for others you'll need to bring these yourself. It's also possible in some coastal areas to rent private beach houses.

## ACTIVITIES Birdwatching

Mozambique is an excellent birdwatching destination. Prime birdwatching areas include the Bazaruto Archipelago, Gorongosa National Park and nearby Mt Gorongosa, the Chimanmani Mountains, Mt Namúli, the southern coastal wetlands, the Maputo Special Reserve and the area around Catapu, near Caia.

Over a decade ago, the Mozambique Bird Atlas Project was initiated – a massive undertaking aimed at charting the distribution and abundance of all bird species in the country, beginning in the south and moving northwards. For the final report and associated publications, see the website of the South Africa-based **Avian Demography Unit** ([http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu/p\\_mozat.htm](http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu/p_mozat.htm)).

Other recommended contacts for bird lists and birdwatching trips include the Pretoria-based **Indicator Birding** ([www.birding.co.za](http://www.birding.co.za)), **Southern African Birding** ([www.sabirding.co.za](http://www.sabirding.co.za)) and the **African Bird Club** ([www.africanbirdclub.org](http://www.africanbirdclub.org)). A free, downloadable field guide to the birds of Gorongosa National Park is available from **Images du Mozambique** ([www.imagesdumozambique.com](http://www.imagesdumozambique.com), click on Books).

## Dhow Safaris, Boating & Kayaking

The best places for arranging dhow safaris are Ibo (for sailing around the Quirimbas Islands, see p157) and Vilankulo (to the islands of the Bazaruto Archipelago, see p93).