



# Mozambique

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## Why Go?

Mozambique beckons with its coastline and swaying palms, its traditions, its cultures, its vibe and – most of all – its adventure. This enigmatic southeast African country is well off most travellers' maps, but it has much to offer those who venture here: long, dune-fringed beaches, turquoise waters abounding in shoals of colourful fish, well-preserved corals, remote archipelagos in the north, pounding surf in the south, graceful dhows with billowing sails, colonial-style architecture, pulsating nightlife, vast tracts of bush populated with elephants, lions and birds galore, and an endlessly fascinating cultural mix. Discovering these attractions is not always easy, but it is unfailingly rewarding. Bring along some patience, a tolerance for long bus rides and a sense of adventure and jump in for the journey of a lifetime.

## Best of Nature

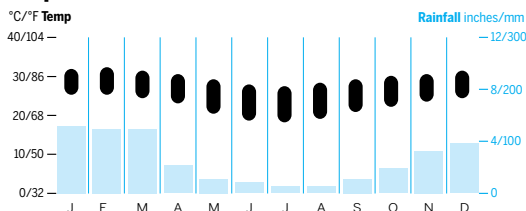
- Gorongosa National Park (p862)
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## Best of Culture

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## When to Go

### Maputo



**Dec–Apr** Heavy rains bring muddy roads and flooding, especially during Feb and March.

**May–Oct** Cooler, dry and an ideal time to visit. In August, book ahead for the southern coastal resorts.

**Nov** Mostly dry, with increasing temperatures, but without the holiday crowds.

# MAPUTO

📍 21 / POP 1.59 MILLION

With its Mediterranean-style architecture, flame-tree-lined avenues, sidewalk cafes and waterside setting, Maputo is easily one of Africa's most attractive capitals. *Galabiyya*-garbed men gather in doorways to chat, while colourfully clad women hawk seafood and spices at the massive Municipal Market and banana vendors loll on their carts in the shade. There are museums, shops and markets galore – don't miss spending time here before heading north.

## 👁 Sights & Activities

### National Art Museum

MUSEUM

(Museu Nacional de Arte; 📍 21-320264; artemus@tvocabo.co.mz; 1233 Avenida Ho Chi Minh; admission Mtc20, Sun free; ☀ 11am-6pm Tue-Fri, 2-6pm Sat & Sun) Don't miss this small but intriguing collection of paintings and sculptures by Mozambique's finest contemporary artists.

### Núcleo de Arte

ARTS CENTRE

(📍 21-492523, 21-499840; www.nucleodarte.com; 194 Rua da Argélia; ☀ 10am-8pm) This long-standing artists' cooperative features the work of up-and-coming artists. Watch the artists at work, or relax in the adjoining cafe.

### Train Station

HISTORIC BUILDING

(Caminho dos Ferros de Moçambique, CFM; Praça dos Trabalhadores) The landmark train station was designed by an associate of Gustav Eiffel (of Tower fame). A railway museum is opening 'soon' at the end of the platforms.

### National Money Museum

MUSEUM

(Museu Nacional da Moeda; Praça 25 de Junho; admission Mtc20; ☀ 11am-5pm Tue-Fri, 9am-3.30pm Sat, 2-5pm Sun) Housed in a restored 1860 building in the oldest part of town, with exhibits of local currency, ranging from early barter tokens to modern-day bills.

### Fort

FORTRESS

(Fortaleza; Praça 25 de Junho; ☀ 9am-5pm) **FREE** The 19th-century fort houses a small museum and Ngungunhane's carved wood coffin.

### Praça da Independência

PLAZA

On this wide plaza check out the spired **Cathedral of Nossa Senhora da Conceição**, neoclassical **City Hall** (Conselho Municipal) and the **Iron House** (Casa de Ferro).

## SET YOUR BUDGET

### Budget

- ➔ Double room <US\$50 per night
- ➔ Two-course dinner <US\$10
- ➔ Coffee US\$1.50

### Midrange

- ➔ Double room US\$50–150 per night
- ➔ Two-course dinner US\$10–20
- ➔ Beer US\$2

### Top End

- ➔ Hotel room >US\$150 per night
- ➔ Two-course dinner >US\$20
- ➔ Glass of wine US\$4

### Municipal Market

MARKET

(Mercado Municipal; Avenida 25 de Setembro; ☀ from about 8am) Here, stalls overflow with fruits, vegetables and spices.

## 🛏 Sleeping

Maputo's backpackers' hostels don't have signs, just house numbers.

### Base Backpackers

BACKPACKERS \$

(📍 21-302723, 82-452 6860; thebasebp@tvocabo.co.mz; 545 Avenida Patrice Lumumba; dm/d Mtc350/900; @) Small but popular and often full, with a central location, kitchen, backyard bar, terrace and *braai* (barbecue) area overlooking the port in the distance. Via public transport from Junta, take a 'Museu' *chapa* (minivan) to the final Museu stop, from where it's a short walk.

### Fatima's Place

BACKPACKERS \$

(📍 82-185 1577; www.mozambiquebackpackers.com; 1317 Avenida Mao Tse Tung; dm Mtc500, s/d without bathroom Mtc1000/1500, s/d Mtc1250/1800; ☺) In the upper part of town, this long-standing place has an outdoor kitchen-bar, small courtyard and a mix of rooms.

### Hoyo-Hoyo Residencial

HOTEL \$\$

(📍 21-490701, 82-300 9950; www.hoyohoyo.od-line.com; 837 Avenida Francisco Magumbwe; s/d Mtc2000/2400; ☺☺) In the upper part of town, with good-value, no-frills rooms, familial ambience and a good restaurant.

### Residencial Palmeiras

BOUTIQUE HOTEL \$\$

(📍 21-300199, 82-306 9200; www.palmeiras-guesthouse.com; 948 Avenida Patrice Lumumba;