



Mozambique

POP 25.3 MILLION

Includes →

Maputo.....	835
Inhambane.....	842
Tofo.....	843
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Quelimane.....	847
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Best Places to Eat

- Cinco Portas (p852)
- Rickshaws Cafe (p849)
- Restaurante Maúa (p847)
- Restaurante Costa do Sol (p840)
- Karibu (p850)

Best Places to Sleep

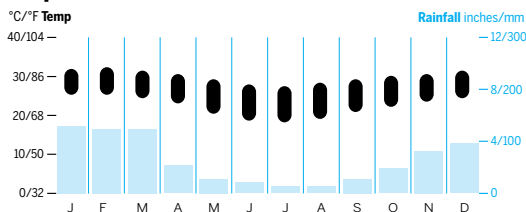
- Ibo Island Lodge (p852)
- &Beyond Bengueria (p845)
- Montebelo Gorongosa Lodge & Safari (p846)
- Jardim dos Aloés (p849)

Why Go?

Mozambique beckons with its coastline and swaying palms, its traditions, its cultures, its vibe and its opportunities for 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 and graceful dhows with billowing sails. Add to this colonial-style architecture, pulsating nightlife, a fascinating cultural mix and vast tracts of bush. Discovering these attractions is not always easy, but it is unfailingly rewarding. Bring along patience, a tolerance for long bus rides, some travel savvy and a sense of adventure, and jump in for the journey of a lifetime.

When to Go

Maputo



May–Nov Cooler, dry weather makes this the ideal time to visit.

Dec–Apr Rainy season can bring washed-out roads and occasional flooding in the south and centre.

Holidays During Christmas, Easter and August holidays southern resorts fill up; advance booking suggested.

MAPUTO

With its Mediterranean-style architecture, waterside setting and wide avenues lined with jacaranda and flame trees, Maputo is easily one of Africa's most attractive capitals. It's also the most developed place in Mozambique, with a wide selection of hotels and restaurants, well-stocked supermarkets, shady sidewalk cafes and a lively cultural scene. Getting to know the city is a highlight of visiting Mozambique and essential to understanding the country. Don't miss spending time here before heading north.

Sights

National Art Museum MUSEUM
(Museu Nacional de Arte; ☎ 21-320264; artemus@tv cabo.co.mz; 1233 Avenida Ho Chi Minh; Mtc20, Sun free; ☉ 11am-6pm Tue-Fri, 2-6pm Sat & Sun) Half a block west of Avenida Karl Marx, the National Art Museum has an excellent collection of paintings and sculptures by Mozambique's finest contemporary artists, including Malangatana and Alberto Chissano.

Fort FORTRESS
(Fortaleza; Praça 25 de Junho; Mtc20; ☉ 9.30am-4pm) The old fort was built by the Portuguese in the mid-19th century near the site of an earlier fort. Inside is a garden and a small museum with remnants from the era of early Portuguese forays to the area. The sealed, carved wooden coffin of Ngungunhane – final ruler of the famed kingdom of Gaza – is on display in one of the side rooms.

Praça da Independência PLAZA
This wide and imposing plaza is the gateway from the upper part of town to the *baixa* (downtown area). It's rimmed by several notable buildings and well worth a stroll.

Tours

★ Bairro Mafalala Walking Tour CULTURAL
(☎ 82 415 1580, 82 418 0314; www.iverca.org; ☉ 3hr tour per person Mtc1000-1500) This excellent walking tour through Mafalala *bairro* (region) focuses on exploring the area's rich historical and cultural roots. It includes a stop at a local *curandeiro* (healer) and a traditional dance performance. The per-person price varies depending on group size; tours depart off Avenida Marien N'gouabi. Highly recommended.

Festivals & Events

Marrabenta Festival CULTURAL
(http://ccfmz.com; ☉ Feb) To hear *marrabenta* – Mozambique's national music – at its best, don't miss the annual Marrabenta Festival. It's held mostly in Maputo but also takes place in Beira, Inhambane and several other locations. The timing is set to coincide with Marracuene's **Gwaza Muthini** (Commemoration of the Battle of Marracuene; ☉ Feb) commemorations.

Festival Azgo CULTURAL
(www.azgofestival.com; ☉ May) This Maputo-based extravaganza has become Mozambique's largest arts and culture festival, featuring artists from Mozambique as well as elsewhere in the region.

Sleeping

Maputo Backpackers HOSTEL \$
(☎ 21-451213, 82 467 2230; maputobp@gmail.com; 95 Quarta Avenida (Rua das Palmeiras), Bairro Triunfo; dm/d Mtc750/3200, s/d without bathroom Mtc2100/2500) A small, quiet place well away from the centre and near Costa do Sol, with a handful of rooms (including eight- and 10-bed dorms) with fans but no nets. *Chapas* to/from town (Mtc7) stop nearby: ask the driver to let you off at 'Escola,' which is on Quinta Avenida; walk back one block to Maputo Backpackers. Taxis charge from Mtc300.

Base Backpackers HOSTEL \$
(☎ 21-302723, 82 452 6860; thebasebackpackers@gmail.com; 545 Avenida Patrice Lumumba; dm/d Mtc500/1500; @) This scruffy but friendly backpackers is small, but justifiably popular and often full, with a convenient, quiet location on the edge of the *baixa*. It has a kitchen, backyard bar, terrace and braai (barbecue) area with views to the port. Via public transport from Junta, take a 'Museu' *chapa* (minivan) to the final Museu stop, from where it's a short walk.

Residencial Palmeiras BOUTIQUE HOTEL \$\$
(☎ 21-300199, 82 306 9200; www.palmeiras-guesthouse.com; 948 Avenida Patrice Lumumba; s/tw/d Mtc3950/4850/4850; ☎ ☉) This popular place has bright decor, comfortable and good-value rooms (all but one with private bathroom) and a tiny garden. It's near the British High Commission on a quiet but central street, and just a short walk from the *baixa*.