



islandsonly

Islands Only

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Email: info@islandsonly.com

Website: <http://www.islandsonly.com>



Mozambique fast facts



travel information

Passports & Visas:

- Valid passports are required for entry into Mozambique
- Ensure that your passport is valid for at least six (6) months after your departure from Mozambique.
- European passport holders do require visas.
- South African passport holders do require visas.
- A single entry 60 day visa (valid for 60 days from date of issue, for a maximum stay of 30 days) costs ZAR85.00 for collection the same day, and ZAR75.00 for collection the following day.

Diplomatic Representatives in Mozambique:

South Africa High Commission

Ave Eduardo Mondlane 41 Maputo, Mozambique

Tel: + 2581 49-0059 / 49-1614 Fax: + 2581 49-3029

Email: sahc@tropical.co.mz

Money:

- Travellers are advised to carry US Dollars (USD) or Euro in cash or travellers cheques. Most credit cards are accepted

Travel Insurance:

- When travelling internationally it is important to ensure that a Travel Insurance Policy appropriately covers you against any unforeseen eventualities.
- Your insurance broker or provider will offer the necessary advice on specific travel insurance policies.
- Travellers from South Africa can go to the IslandsOnly Travel Shop for more details of tailor made travel policies.

Health Considerations:

- Before undertaking any travel all clients are encouraged to consult with their GP and/or local travel clinic for the most up-to-date health information on the destinations they are travelling to.
- Visitors to Mozambique should take the necessary precautions against **Malaria** and are advised to consult a travel clinic on the most appropriate prophylactics.
- Visitors travelling from **Yellow Fever** infected areas (e.g. Tanzania or Kenya) will be required to provide proof of a Yellow Fever vaccination before entering Mozambique.
- **Travellers' diarrhoea** is common ailment among travellers in Africa. However, a good supply of **bottled water** will reduce this risk enormously. Most hotels, certainly those on the islands, will have bottled water available for guests.

Departure Taxes

- It is important to note that **Mozambique departure taxes are not included in the price of your airline tickets**. These taxes are to be paid to the appropriate tax officials on departure from the country.
- The following amounts should be paid in US Dollars to tax officials at the airports:
 - USD5.00 departure tax when **travelling by air** from Vilanculos to the islands and from the islands to Vilanculos. (No tax is levied for boat transfers.)
 - USD10.00 departure tax when travelling from Vilanculos to Johannesburg
 - USD5.00 departure tax when **travelling by air** from Maputo to Inhaca and Inhaca back to Maputo. (No tax is levied for boat transfers.)

Tip: Pay the exact amount. Any change will be paid in local currency and we're sure you not going to have much use for that when you get home!

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Getting Around:

- The **Bazaruto Archipelago** (Benguerra & Bazaruto Islands) is most easily reached by air from either Johannesburg or Durban. All commercial flights land at Vilanculos on the mainland where clients clear customs and then continue on to the islands by boat or air.
- **Inhaca Island** is located just off the coast of Maputo. Therefore the easiest route on to the island is via international flight to the capital and then by boat or air for the remainder of the trip.



destination overview

Location:

Although the focus of our attentions is the islands off the Mozambique coast, it is worth noting that the mainland extends for some 2,500km down the southeast coast of the African continent from Tanzania in the north to South Africa and Swaziland in the south. The country's western neighbours are Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia.

- **Inhaca Island** is located in the Gulf of Maputo just 24km off the coast and 35km from the capital city of Maputo.
- **Benguerra and Bazaruto Islands** form part of the **Bazaruto Archipelago**, which occupies a sea-area some 14 to 30km northeast of Vilanculos. Vilanculos is a small coastal town in Inhambane Province about 700km north of Maputo. Benguerra Island lies just 14km from Vilanculos while the larger of the two islands, Bazaruto, lies about 30km north of the town.

Geography:

The Bazaruto Archipelago was declared a National Park in 1971 and comprises five main islands, namely Bazaruto, Benguerra, Magaruque, Santa Carolina and Bangué. The tiny island of Pansy Shell lies just west of the southern tip of Bazaruto. The largest islands, Bazaruto and Benguerra, are sandy islands stretching north south along the mainland coast. Both have freshwater lakes and a spine of sand dunes that roughly separate the east and west coasts of the islands. Bazaruto is roughly 30km long and 6km wide while the smaller Benguerra Island is 11km long and 5½km wide.

History:

The three largest islands Bazaruto, Benguerra and Magaruque are thought to have been part of a peninsular that only recently (10,000 years ago!) separated from the mainland. The archipelago was declared a national park in 1971. Prior to the Portuguese occupation of what later became known as Mozambique, the Bazaruto Islands probably marked the southern boundary of the East African trading settlements. Once the Portuguese settlers had established themselves in the 16th century the area became known for the high quality pearls that it yielded. Today Bazaruto and Benguerra and the area around Vilanculos are at the forefront of initiatives to develop an already burgeoning tourism industry in Mozambique.

Population:

Estimates put the population at approximately 17,500,000 people, the vast majority of whom are African. The remainder are mostly Indians, Asians and Europeans.

Languages:

The official language is Portuguese. However, it is generally only those living in the cities and the educated minority, roughly 25% of the population, who can speak the language. Some 60 distinct indigenous Bantu languages and dialects are spoken among the populations of the various regions and provinces. These include Shangaan, Shona and Swahili. English is also commonly spoken.

Religion:

Most Mozambicans follow traditional African religions. There are large Christian and Muslim minorities however.

Economy:

The largest contributor to the country's GDP is agriculture at roughly 45%. The main export crops are shrimps, prawns, cotton, cashew nuts, sugar cane and copra.

Currency:

Local currency is the Mozambique Metical (MT) or Meticais. Travellers are advised to travel with USD or ZAR in cash or travellers cheques. All major credit cards are accepted in most locations. Please note that visitors are not allowed to export Metical notes and coins from Mozambique

Weights and measures:

The metric system is used

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Climate:

The Mozambique islands enjoy a subequatorial climate.

Hot summers – October to April – with average coastal temperatures of 30°C at midday

Warm winters – April to September – with average coastal temperatures of 20°C to 30°C and tempered by sea breezes.

Temperatures in the interior of the island are generally 3 to 5°C cooler than at the coast.

The rainy season is from October to March with the possibility of stray cyclones in January and February.

Time:

GMT +2

Electricity:

220 volts

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