

MOZAMBIQUE: SOME TIPS TO GUIDE YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY

You do not need to take everything with you, as you can get most supplies there. All towns have basic supplies and the bigger towns such as Maputo, Xai-Xai, Inhambane and Vilanculos have just about everything you need. Red meat and dairy related products are obtainable, but they are more expensive than in SA. As I have never bought meat in Moz I am not sure what the quality of meat is like. Our advice is to take some of these items with you, but don't overdo it.

NB: Electricity supply in Mozambique is not reliable. Always take **lights/lantern/torch (rechargeable or other) with**. Emergency rechargeable lanterns work well.

Travel time

It is possible to drive from Johannesburg to Xai-Xai during day time, but then you must leave the Komatipoort Border Post by no later than 13:00. If you want to drive to the north (Inhambane) you will need another 3 hours. I do not recommend driving from Komatipoort to Inhambane in one go— with the delays at the border post, the pedestrians in Maputo, the speed limit of 60km in towns (and there are many) radar speed traps etc. will put a lot of strain on the driver (fatigue) and you are also likely to end up driving at night..

Look out for speed traps when travelling back to SA (5km before the Border Post on the downhill) it is a 60 km/h zone and you will be fined R300. Carry copies of your passport and driver's license

Requirements

1. A **passport** which must be valid for 06 months after your return. SA Passport holders do not require a visa to enter Mozambique.
2. **Driver's licence & ID Books** – VERY IMPORTANT
3. **Vehicle Registration papers** – VERY IMPORTANT
 - If you are not the registered owner of the vehicle: Please carry an affidavit from the police giving you authorisation from the owner to take the vehicle abroad
 - If the vehicle is still being financed by the bank: persons should carry a letter of authorisation issued by the bank. It should be signed by a Commissioner of Oaths from the bank.
4. **Registration papers for trailer / quad bike/ motor bike**
5. **Proof of insurance** - Your insurance company confirming by letter (fax) that your vehicle is insured and for which countries.
6. **Reflective Jacket.** If more than two people are travelling in the car, then two jackets will be required (to be used when changing a tyre, at an accident scene, or if loading)



7. **Two red warning triangles** with reflectors. Inside your vehicle, although this doesn't seem to apply to locals that use tree branches in the road if their vehicles break down!



8. **ZA sticker** - It is compulsory for any SA vehicle, caravan or trailer to have a ZA sign displayed when it crosses any of the borders. The ZA sign must be placed on the rear of the vehicle, caravan and trailer in a visible position and may not be within 150mm of the rear number plate. Available at Makro, Outdoor Warehouse and Midas.



9. If you tow a trailer, a **yellow warning triangle** on square blue background sticker must be displayed on the front right bumper of your vehicle as well as the rear of the trailer. The small sticker must be displayed on the right hand side of the vehicle bumper and the big sticker at the back of the trailer. Available at Makro, Outdoor Warehouse and Midas



10. **Fire Extinguisher** – Although this is not compulsory (but you may be fined if you do not have one!) we advise that you should have a fire extinguisher in your car. It is a good thing to have and costs about R130 to R160 at Makro.



11. **First aid kit** – Latest scam is to check if you have a 1st aid box. Get one and keep it in the car – close by for inspection.



12. **Temporary Import Permit for vehicle:** Compulsory - approximately R15 payable in Meticals (obtainable on the border)

13. **Third-Party Insurance:** Compulsory - available at the border or any AA Accredited Sales Agent store; R160 (valid for 30 days)

14. Rules for travelling with children into and out of South Africa

- Where BOTH parents are travelling with a child, parents must produce an unabridged birth certificate of the child reflecting the particulars of the parents of the child.
- In the case of ONE parent travelling with a child, he or she must produce an unabridged birth certificate and:
 - (i) Consent in the form of an affidavit from the other parent registered as a parent on the birth certificate of the child authorizing him or her to enter into or depart from South Africa with the child he or she is travelling with;
 - (ii) A court order granting full parental responsibilities and rights or legal guardianship in respect of the child, if he or she is the parent or legal guardian of the child; or
 - (iii) Where applicable, a death certificate of the other parent registered as a parent of the child on the birth certificate,

- Where a person is travelling with a child who is NOT his or her biological child, he or she must produce:
 - (i) A copy of the unabridged birth certificate of the child;
 - (ii) An affidavit from the parents or legal guardian of the child confirming that he or she has permission to travel with the child;
 - (iii) Copies of the identity documents or passports of the parents or legal guardian of the child; and
 - (iv) The contact details of the parents or legal guardian of the child, (Note: Where the parents of the child are both deceased and the child is travelling with a relative or another person related to the child or the child's parents, the South African authorities have the discretion to approve such a person to enter or depart South Africa with the child.)

Exchanging money

Mozambique Currency: Mozambique Metical (MT).

Banks and foreign exchange bureaus in Mozambique will change all major currencies into Metical the local currency.

South African Rand are widely accepted, but you will get change in Metical. ATM's are spreading across the popular locations. In Xai-Xai you can draw money (Metical) at the Standard Bank ATM or the First National Bank ATM which accepts all major bank cards. Traveller's cheques are difficult and expensive to exchange.

Be careful of road side money traders—they will rip you off if you don't know the exchange rates! The locals fold the money and when they count it out to you they do it in such a way that some notes are counted twice. Insist on them counting the money one by one and not in a pack.

It is better to exchange at the BP Garage just before the border as your rates are better and the agents are more reputable.

Border crossings must be paid in Meticals/Rands/US\$ (cash only) and varies between R20 to R40 per vehicle permit tax. There is an ATM at the border where you can get metical.

Crossing the border from South Africa

Lebombo Border Post (Komatipoort) to Mozambique – Ressano Garcia Border Post

At South African Border:

SAPS & Customs

- At the entrance gate: Enter the gate and collect a vehicle gate pass with: car registration and number of people in vehicle
- Park your vehicle and disembark

Immigration Office

- Proceed to the Vehicle Registration desk (You should have all your vehicle registration documents) and collect the DA341 form
- Complete the DA341 form and have it stamped with your gate pass by the official
- Ask for Customs form. Complete and declare all goods in your vehicles such as cameras, laptops, camping equipment etc.

- Proceed to Immigration desk along with your passport and gate pass and have your passport stamped. **Make sure your passports are stamped and correctly dated before leaving the customs offices**
 - Return to your vehicle and drive towards Mozambique border
- The South African SAPS, Customs or Immigration might want to check items in your vehicle – subject to search.

Check point (leaving SA side)

- At checkpoint give your gate pass to the official at the gate
- Proceed to the Mozambique frontier.

Mozambique side (Ressano Garcia) –

Mozambique check point – entering Moz

- Enter the gate and collect your gate pass with: car registration and number of people in vehicle
- Subject to search by “Alfandega”
- Proceed to the Immigration Office
- Park your vehicle and disembark.
- If you do not have a Visa, report to the second Migração desk and apply for a Visa (Note: Non South Africans only).

Immigration counter

- Report to the first Migração desk with your passport
- Individuals are required to complete a form which you will receive from the immigration official
- Immigration will validate and process the travelling documents and stamp the passport.
Approximately R17.50 to be paid per person (request a receipt)
- **Make sure your passports are stamped and correctly dated before leaving the customs offices**

Customs counter

- A “temporary import permit” must be completed at the border declaring all vehicles AND things like fridges, cameras, etc (remember to declare them otherwise you can be made to pay import duty on them). Remember to keep this document with you in case you are stopped at road blocks.

Compulsory 3rd Party Insurance

- Purchase Holland compulsory 3rd party Insurance at the Border (between R150 and R300). This insurance covers you should you have an accident involving a Mozambique vehicle or should you accidentally knock over a pedestrian. Vehicle Third party costs R150 and if you have a Trailer this will cost you R80.00. If you are caught by the Mozambique Police officials without the Third Party Insurance you will be fined up to One million metical’s. Should you have an accident and NOT have the Insurance you are placed in jail and fined excessively.
- The driver of the vehicle must then go to the Vehicle Registration desk and present the DA341 form (You should have all your vehicle registration documents) and have it stamped with your gate pass by the official. You need to also pay MTn 26.50 (+- R7.00) at the Vehicle Registration desk.
- Return to your vehicle and proceed to the gate (Mozambique check point)

- The Mozambique Border Police, Customs or Immigration might want to check items in your vehicle – subject to search.

Mozambique check point

- Hand in your gate pass to an official at the gate.
- Note: You may be stopped for a control inspection along the N4.

Keep ALL receipts/documents in a file as you can be required to return them when leaving a country. The Maputo corridor is complete, making it a good highway all the way from Gauteng. The road going north from Maputo (EN 1 – National Road #1) to Inhambane is generally a good tar road.

The Law

Common traffic offences:

It is not uncommon to be stopped at one of the police checkpoints. If you follow these basic guidelines, you should not have any problems. (see www.acisofala.com)

- Always have your drivers licence on hand
- Wear seat belts all the time. Seatbelts mandatory for passengers
- All motor vehicles should be equipped with a reflective jacket. Reflective jacket must hang on drivers seat
- Stick to the speed limit – This is usually 50 / 60 kph in towns and 100 kph on the open road
- Non-roadworthy vehicle (lights/brakes etc not working)
- Not having two emergency triangles
- Not having an insurance policy
- Drunk driving. Blood alcohol level limited to 0.6g/l blood
- Use of cell phone while driving
- Not having a blue and yellow towing sticker on the front of your vehicle when towing
- Not stopping at a stop signal or red light, or for a traffic officer.
- Driving on or over a continuous line separating traffic
- Canoes or loads on top of vehicles must not obstruct any view of the windscreen (canoes must face up so curved end does not obstruct view)

What to do if stopped by the traffic police

If you do get stopped, be patient and polite. They will normally want to see your driver's license, 3rd party insurance and road tax (purchased at the border). Start a conversation and be friendly and humorous. Some useful words are Bon Dia (Good morning); Boa Tarde (Good afternoon); Boa Noite (Good evening / night); Faz Favor (Please); Obrigado (Thank you). Don't be nervous and flustered – there is nothing to be afraid of!

Traffic police are dressed in a white shirt and blue trousers – police in grey or green are not allowed to fine you for any traffic offenses.

- Put on your indicator and pull over
- Remove your sun-glasses and turn the music down (a sign of respect and trust)
- Greet the officer politely, never be rude
- Wait for him to ask what he wants and check he is wearing his badge before handing over your identification (no badge then no questions or fine)
- Go through the motions of showing your license etc (you do not have to hand it over)
- If you are guilty of an offense first apologise
- If he does not 'forgive' you then insist on a receipt – the actual fine is always cheaper than the bribe
- Keep the receipt

No firearms are to be brought into Mozambique – Besides the fact that you will not need a gun, if the authorities find you with one, expect to be in deep trouble.

Emergencies

- Medical problems – Most major towns have a hospital or clinic. These places are fine to use for minor problems, for example if you need stitches. They are excellent for things like Malaria tests – the equipment is sterile and you get the result in 15 minutes – Unlike in South Africa, where it can take up to 12 hours!
- There are pharmacies in Xai Xai – but they are not stocked like the SA pharmacies. Make sure you have a well thought through emergency kit to suit your family's particular requirements (adults and kids alike).

What can I buy in Mozambique?

Just about anything...

There are Shoprite and other stores where groceries can be bought (more expensive than in SA) There is a fresh market in Xai-Xai and Inhambane, which sells a selection of fruits & salads and fish (veggies are hard to find).

Fresh Portuguese bread (pao)– baked daily...Yummy!

Spirits of all sorts & sodas

Malaria

- The mosquito that transmits malaria (female Anopheles) is not born with malaria – she has to feed on someone with malaria before she is infected
- She feeds from evening till morning
- Be very strict about applying repellents during this period
- If you are infected - and have not taken any prophylactics – symptoms will appear around 10 days (aching body, sore joints, headache, vomiting, diarrhoea)
- If you have taken prophylactics, symptoms can take up to 3 months to appear. Remember to tell your doctor you have been in a malaria area.
- If you are still in Mozambique, go to the clinic/hospital for a test and take the medication supplied (normally a 3 to 4 day course)
- Do not delay if you suspect you have malaria – it is fatal if not treated.

What to bring

Clothing

Shorts, T-shirts, Sarongs, summer dresses etc - the dress code in Mozambique is very relaxed. Sandals and shoes. Long sleeved shirts and long pants (light) for the evenings

Hat and sunglasses.

Swimming costume and towel.

Light jacket / Sweatshirt - the evenings can occasionally be slightly chilly.

Other items

- Mosquito repellent (Tabard, Peaceful Sleep, citronella etc.)
- Mosquito coils to burn in your chalet or tent
- Snorkel, mask and fins if you have – most places that have a scuba operation offer these for hire
- Camera and film
- Decent toilet paper
- Two point plugs
- Torch or rechargeable light – electricity supply in Mozambique tend to go off sometimes
- Small medical kit with basic items - Hydrogen peroxide is very effective for insect bites and scratches. Also an ointment for insect bites and other basic supplies

Road side toilets

Road side toilet facilities (i.e. at garages) are very poor and most of the time not very clean. However, if you go to the bigger garages it is much better. Remember your own toilet paper for the whole trip as the toilets often have no toilet paper!

Alcohol is also subject to normal border restrictions – these being 1 bottle of hard tack or 2 bottles of wine per person. The limit for cigarettes is 200 per person – if you're a smoker, try the local brands – it's cheaper than cigarettes are here and not bad at all.

LET'S TALK

Good morning	- Bom dia	House	- Casa
Good afternoon	- Boa Tarde	Do you have ...?	- Tem...?
Good evening	- Boa Noite	Dangerous	- Perigoso
How are you?	- Como esta?	Now	- Agora
I am fine	- Estou bem	Tomorrow	- Amanha
What is your name?	- Como e que the chamas?	Today	- Hoje
My name is	- Chamo me	Tonight	- Esta noite
Thank you	- Obrigado	Yesterday	- Ontem
No problem	- De Nada	In the morning	- De Amanha
You are welcome	- Nada	In the afternoon	- A tarde
Excuse me – Sorry	- Desculpa	In the evening	- A noite
Goodbye	Adeus / Chao	Fruit	Fruta
I do not understand	- Nao Compreendo	Vegetables	- Vegetais
Please	- Faz Favor	Fish	- Peixe
Where are you going?	- Para onde vals?	Beer	- Cereja
I am going to ...	- Vou para	Mineral Water	- Aqua mineral
Friend	- Amigo / Arniga	Bread	- Pao
Toilet	- Casa de Banho	Milk	- Leite
When?	- Quando?	Meat	- Carne
Where?	- Onde?	Rice	- Arroz
How much is ...	- Quanto custa?	Breakfast	- Pequenio almoco
Can I have some change?	- Peco troco?	Lunch	- Almoco
Too expensive	- Muito Caro	Supper	- Jantar
I want to buy ...	- Quero comprar	Bill	- Conta
Cheap	- Barato	Fried Potatoes	- Batata Frita
Can you help me?	- Pode ajudar me?	Soup	- Sopa
Go away!	- Va-se embora!	Steak	- Bife
I'm lost	- Estou perdido	Sugar	- Acucar
Please can you help me	- Por favor pado ajudar me	Tea	- Cha
Right	- Direita	Monday	- Segunda-feira
Left	- Esquerda	Tuesday	- Terca-feira
Front	- Em Frente	Wednesday	- Quarta-feira
Back	- A tras	Thursday	- Quanta-feira
Please come here	- Chega Aqui por favor	Friday	- Sexta-feira
Please bring me a....	- Por favor traga me a ...	Saturday	- Sabado
		Sunday	- Domingo

Public Holidays

- January 1** - **Universal Brotherhood day**
- February 3** - **Heroes Day** (In honor of Eduardo Mondlane)
- April 7** - **Womens Day** (In honor of Josina Machel)
- May 1** - **Workers Day**
- June 25** - **Independence Day** (proclamation of Independence – 1975)
- September 7** - **Victory Day** (In tribute to the signing of the Lusaka Agreement)
- September 25** - **Armed Forces Day** (In tribute to the start of the National Liberation Armed Fight)
- October 4** - **Day of Peace and Reconciliation** (In tribute of the Peace Agreement)
- December 25** - **Christmas Day**

TAKE CARE and ENJOY YOUR TRIP –

Crossing the border FROM Mozambique – Ressano Garcia Border Post to South Africa – Lebombo Border Post(Komatipoort)

At Mozambique Border:

- Drive through gate
- Park your vehicle and disembark
- Proceed to Migração desk
- Collect a form from the official, fill it in and hand to an official with your passport (Mozambicans are required to pay MTn 60.00 – Always ask for a receipt)
- Have your passport stamped and ask for a receipt.
- Complete Modelo10C and pay MTn26.50 for Mozambican registered vehicles.
- Declare all goods at the customs desk.
- Return to your vehicle and drive through to the South African frontier.

At South African Border:

Enter the gate and collect your gate pass with: car registration and number of people in vehicle

Park your vehicle.

All individuals go to The National Immigration Branch with their passports and the gate pass to have their passports stamped

Declare any goods at the Customs Assessment Office. An official will determine how much you should have in ZAR and

Payment is made at the cashier and travelers should always request a receipt.

Driver of the vehicle proceeds to the Car Registration Desk with the car vehicle registration form and the gate pass, which will be stamped (SA registered vehicles form DA341, Mozambican registered vehicles from DA308).

Embark from the vehicle and proceed to the gate

Present your stamped receipt received for any duties or VAT paid.

Hand in your gate pass and proceed through the gate
