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**PEMBA AND THE REGION NORTH TO THE RIO ROVUMA AND TANZANIA,
AND WEST TO LAGO NIASSA AND MALAWI.**

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Landmines: Strangely enough, during all off the years (and tens of thousands of kilometres of travels on foot, by bicycle, boat, barge and battered mobile) I have moved throughout Mozambique, landmines have rarely been an issue and I have never had any personal experiences relating to landmines or other unexploded ordnance. Nevertheless parts of northern Mozambique were heavily mined during the 2nd World War and obviously far more were laid (the *mines* I mean) during the more recent liberation war. Stick to well-used tracks and roads; don't wander off the road for a call of nature or to bush camp before consulting with the local people. Niassa was recently declared to be the first of Mozambique's nine provinces to be mine-free. For an overview of the situation in Cabo Delgado Province look up:

http://www.sac-na.org/pdf_text/mozambique/provincial%20overview/CaboDelgado.pdf

Climate: The coastal climate is humid tropical and the **average** annual temperatures range from 23°C in July to 30°C in December. Minimums rarely drop below 15°C in winter.

December to April is always hot and can be very wet with the rain coming in monsoon-like squalls sometimes lasting for two or three days. Due to the blocking and moderating effect of the island state of Madagascar, tropical cyclones affect this coastline only every three or four years.

The temperature of the seawater ranges from 25°C in July to 30°C in December.

For more on Mozambique's weather and climate go to: **Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia:** www.inam.gov.mz

1. Pemba: Papaya Paradise or Tourist Trap?

"Ab initio" ('from the start' – knew that the 'Legal Theory I & II' would come in handy, sometime...) allow me to **clear up the confusion** that many folk experience when differentiating between Tanzania's Pemba Island which is off Tanzania north of Zanzibar, and Mozambique's Vila da Pemba (Pemba Town) which, with a population of just 54 000, is the capital of the Province of Cabo Delgado, and is a port located on the Mozambican mainland adjacent to the world's 3rd largest inland bay. In 1904 the *Compania do Niassa* founded **Porto Amelia** (former queen of Portugal) as an outlet for its wild animal, wood and agricultural produce. In 1975 it was renamed Pemba (after a Swahili Chief) by the new Frelimo government at the end of Portuguese rule.

My grand infatuation with Pemba goes back to 1992 when, through circumstances described elsewhere on **mozguide**, I piloted a small smugglers' launch into the bay and anchored near Wimbe beach in front of the **Complexo Nautilus** that was then the only place in Pemba with beds at the seaside. All I had to my name were a few kikoyis, a small tent, a battered pot and a mountain bike. In those days money did not matter much as in 6 weeks I met just 2 other backpackers and so my friends were the locals and I quickly learned Portuguese.

Strange Things Happen(ed) in Pemba.

There was the convoy of trucks owned by an Aid Organization called 'German Agro Action' that had been standing at the roadside for a couple of years as the roads to anywhere were then considered to be too dangerous due to the 'possibility' of Renamo attacks. Once a month the fuel tanker ship from Beira was meant to dock at Pemba to re-supply the town's diesel generator. When the word came that it was about to arrive the blessed generator operators would sell whatever fuel they had on the black market in anticipation of imminent replenishment, only to discover that the tanker had turned round at Nacala leaving all of Pemba without power for a month or more. I met a Danish physiotherapist making prosthetics for landmine victims – she was called Tina Carlson and many folk remarked that we could have been brother and sister. Not really a coincidence perhaps when I was reminded later that my grandfather had been born a Carlson but had been adopted by the Slaters in Choma, Zambia (then Northern Rhodesia).

This was before the '**Rome Agreement**' installed a ceasefire between Renamo and Frelimo and precipitated the end of the 17-year civil war in Mozambique, and due to the continual

ambushes and the presence of landmines on the roads everyone had to fly if needing to go anywhere. Luckily most of the pilots were South Africans like me and so I could pose as 'co pilot' and got to fly all over northern Mozambique and stay at government guesthouses for free. This was how I first saw places such as the Quirimba and Ibo islands, Montepuez, Mueda, Mocímboa da Praia, Nampula, Nacala and Lichinga.

Tourists may not have been plentiful in Pemba fifteen years ago, but quirky characters certainly were. There was 'Senhor Okkie', a huge South African (with his even larger wife) who took a daily strut down Wimbe beach wearing a **Lycra Thong**. Okkie had his own '*projecto*' on one of the islands up north but seemed to have run out of money long ago and so passed the days loudly fending off the various government officials who were trying to get money out of him. I think Okkie had traumatized the local policeman to such a degree that he (the policeman) requested a transfer to Lichinga which was then one of the most desolate places on Earth. There was Mussa, a lad of about 10 years who became my self-appointed guardian, looking after my tent when I was away in town on my bicycle and warning me whenever '*oleo di Cobra*' or 'Snake Eyes' the immigration man was on his way to, yet again, try and look at my passport. I knew that this could prove to be VERY expensive as I had already over-stayed my visa by two months and it was Mussa who woke me up before dawn on yet another perfect African morning to tell me that if I didn't leave that day, I would surely be arrested.

I have visited Pemba on a handful of occasions since those wondrous times, but for not more than a few days on each occasion, the most recent of which was for just 11 hours in July 2006. Perhaps it is because I prefer to remember Pemba as it was in 1992 when I (almost) had it all to myself, or because I go to Mozambique to get away from tourists and Pemba has become the tourist 'Mecca' of Mozambique, but these days Pemba is way down on my list of 'must sees' in Mozambique. Sure Russell's Place is something like 'Apocalypse Now' meets 'Crocodile Dundee', the Pemba Beach Resort is, well let's just say, incongruous - and those real trophy animal heads in the Pemba Bar are a real 'retro' touch. Wimbe Beach is about as 'deserted' as a Moroccan Souk, the Complexo Nautilus Casino is about as appropriate as a delicatessen in Darfur, and the beach 'pads' are bigger than in Beverly Hills, but the *bairros* of Paquite-Quete (pakitty -ket, the original settlement at Pemba), Ingonane and Natite, Jardim Nacole and Kaskazini do at least have some redeeming qualities. Note too that there are several of **Mozambique's best beaches** and islands just an hour or five out of town by car or minutes in a light aircraft away.

Ah yes, you will either love or hate Pemba, but so it goes concerning many of this word's most worthwhile offerings.

All About Pemba Town. (Vila de Pemba).

Note that, in addition to all of the other public holidays (*dias ferias*) that Mozambique has, **Pemba's very own public holiday** (*dia do Cidade*) is 18 October and all banks and many shops and businesses are closed on this day. Wimbe beach is packed most weekends and on all public holidays.

Getting to Pemba.

Note that, other than by using the pontoon near its mouth, even during very low water it is not possible to cross the Rio Rovuma with any vehicle anywhere along its entire length where it forms the border between Tanzania and Mozambique. There is presently a bridge under construction by Chinese contractors between Negomano (accessed via Mueda) in Mozambique and Mtambaswala (accessed via Masasi and Masuguru) on the Tanzanian side. This route makes the trip about 350km longer from Mtwara to Mocímboa da Praia than the direct south ferry option and so I think that the ferry will remain in use even once the 'Unity Bridge' is completed. During July of 2006 I drove to Negomano and the road is being extensively upgraded and should be passable with a 4x4 even in the rainy season. Presently there is no Tanzania via Lichinga, Cobuè and Lupilichi or to Mozambique from Tanzania via Songea, Muhukuru and Mitomoni.

IS THE FERRY AT THE ROVUMA (RUVUMA) MOUTH OPERATING?

OK, OK you don't have to shout!!! I first crossed into Tanzania on this little barge (capacity 12 tonne – two, perhaps three small 4x4's) in 2001. It was June and we got lost in **Quionga** (S 10°35,411' E 40°30,156') before sleeping at the **Namoto border post** (S 10°34,121' E 40°22,468) and driving the following day to the river about 3km further on where we found the *batelhão* firmly beached on the north bank (Tanzania). Taking a little boat across we asked whether the ferry would run that day and were told that **Captain Philip Mtupa** (his father runs the **Tinga-Tinga guesthouse in Lindi**) was in **Mtwara** but that he would be back later when the tide was in. **Philip's Mtwara, Tanzania number is: + 255 - 232 333 911**. Sure enough right on high tide the boat slid into the current and shouldered its way upstream to the Mozambique side and within twenty minutes we were on our way to **Kilambo** – the Tanzanian border town. And no we didn't pay the ferryman until he got us to that 'other side'. If you are the only vehicle using the ferry **the standard charge is US\$100**, but this can be bargained down or even better, shared, if there are more vehicles doing the crossing.

NOTE THAT THE COMPULSORY MOZAMBIQUE 3RD PARTY VEHICLE INSURANCE (*SEGUROS*) IS NOT ISSUED AT NAMOTO, AND IF ASKED TO PRODUCE THIS BY THE TRANSIT POLICE, INDICATE THAT YOU ARE GOING TO BUY IT AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY IN PEMBA. **EMOSE** (*EMPRESA MOÇAMBICANA DE SEGUROS*) IS LOCATED ON AVENIDA EDUARDO MONDLANE (PEMBA'S MAIN ROAD) TEL: + 258 – (272) 20437.

Make sure that you do get it in Pemba from Emose or any other agent as after this the Police will not let you get away without a fine.

So that was then but what about tomorrow, or next week, or whenever you may happen to be planning on arriving? Well officially the ferry is supposed to run all year round BUT, in the dry season or when the Rovuma level is low, it can only operate at HIGH tide and then often only at SPRING high tides, and almost never at neap tides. Also as not many local vehicles actually cross here (most transport takes you to either side of the river and then you must cross and find a lift on the other bank), naturally **Philip the ferry Captain** often absconds home to Mtwara from where he must be summoned either from his home (S 10°15,613' E 40°10,262) - take a **dalla-dalla taxi** if coming from Moz) or enquire by phone: Tel: Philip in Mtwara, Tanzania: + 255 - 232 333911. If coming from the south, remember to phone Philip from **Mocímboa da Praia** where there are public phones and cell phone signal (MCel only).

John will sometimes only come if he thinks the water is right for a crossing or if someone he knows wants to get a truck over to or back from Mozambique. Note too that access for vehicles and embarking/disembarking on the Mozambique side can become very interesting during rain due to the slimy black cotton soils that become something like the consistency of Brent Light Crude when wet.

And this from the mozguide forum: "I have crossed the Rovuma half a dozen times, 3 by dugout and 3 on the ferry. There is quite a lot of misinformation regarding the ferry, especially with regard to its reliability. Certainly there are times when the Captain is at home in Mtwara, and somebody has to be sent by bicycle to Kilambo to phone him (if coming from Tanz in a car take this somebody yourself), but this is usually at times when the ferry cannot run due to the water being shallow.

The bottom line is that the ferry does run throughout the year, but NOT every day. If thinking of the ferry, plan your arrival for high tide and even better, spring tide, and daylight hours only! Avoid neap tides and of course low tide. During the rains, so long as the Rovuma is not flooding, but is full, the ferry can run more regularly, but then the access roads, particularly on the Moz side can be come pretty much impassable.

Another hindrance is that, as this is not a busy route, the customs and immigration officials on both sides often abscond and have to be gathered from various points before you can be dealt with.

To summarize: The ferry should run all year round (this does not mean every day) but during the dry season (more or less July to December) and when the summer rains have failed, it only runs at high tide and only when tidal variation is above 4m. Basically that means that it runs 3 out of every 4 weeks.

The week that it doesn't run is the week around neap tide – tidal variance is least then. In the wet season it (should) run every day (flooding can affect this) when the need arises, and the tide usually does not effect it due to the large amount of water in the river.

The cost is US\$25 per vehicle but you can get it for US\$20 plus a soccer ball for the captain, but he may have too many of these soon so maybe take something else instead!

For tide tables for the area, look at:

<http://www.mobilegeographics.com:81/locations/3949.html>

See too: <http://caross.blogspot.com/2005/06/into-tanzania.html>

Have fun
Mike"

Public Transport to Pemba from the south

(Nampula, Nacala and Ilha).

Buses and chapas leave regularly (starting 04h00) from near Nampula station to Namialo, where you may have to connect to Pemba if your transport is heading for Nacala or *Ilha da Moçambique*. The trip should take around 4 to 5 hours and cost MTN350. Grupo Mecula buses are better than most others. From Nacala get to the 'Terminus' near where the road splits down to 'Nacala Porto' from where there is transport from around 0500. The first long-distance 'chapas' leave from the mainland side of the Ilha da Moçambique bridge at 0530. You may not find transport on the island and as the bridge is 3,5km long you should start walking from the island at 04h30 and then wave down anyone going your way across the bridge.

Public Transport to Pemba from the north

(Tanzania via the Kilambo / Namoto border and Rovuma River ferry).

Are Mozambique visas issued at Namoto?

Not yet (perhaps), but when I last looked a new house was being built to house Immigration Officials at Namoto and I was told that Mozambique visas would be issued at Namoto on arrival from sometime in 2007 when the computers and electricity arrive. Watch the mozguide forum for updates. The issue is apparently computers. Without a proper building with a reliable supply of electricity, no computers can be supplied and therefore (?) no visas issued.

If coming in from Tanzania and the tide is high enough for the ferry to negotiate the crossing, you may find vehicles doing the crossing and going all the way to Mocimboa da Praia or beyond. Usually however you will have to hitch a ride or walk from Kilambo to the Rovuma (4km) and from the river to Namoto (3km) where hopefully you will get a ride to Quionga (15km) or even Mocimboa da Praia. There is usually at least on '*chapa*' (shuppa) pick-up or truck from Namoto or Quionga to Mocimboa da Praia per day. Ask the locals to accompany you to Namoto as there are lion and elephant in this area. Ask too what the fare to Mocimboa da Praia should be and be prepared (carry a lot of water) for a long, exposed and bumpy ride, with a good possibility of breaking down.

To Pemba by Road (own vehicle).

Road conditions have improved immensely in this part of Mozambique over the last few years, and apart from the section between Mocuba and Alto Ligonha, where road works will continue until mid 2007 and the deviations can be long and difficult requiring 4x4 in wet weather, it is now possible to drive all the way from Beira, or Harare or even Johannesburg to Pemba on tarmac all-weather roads. While most service stations do already have the 'Sem Chumbo' (Unleaded) Petrol (Gasolina) pumps, the intended change-over to unleaded was slow in arriving but from September 2006 no leaded petrol has been imported into Mozambique and so all petrol should (by now) be of the unleaded variety. If driving an older vehicle that is accustomed to leaded petrol, your engine may need a small adjustment to the timing to cope with unleaded but it will suffer no damage. Fuel is available 24hrs at Nampula, Namialo and at Pemba.

The sometimes drunk and arrogant (but usually quite friendly) Transit Police (*Transitos*) do have checkpoints outside of Nampula, near Namialo, and as you approach Pemba - there is a permanent stopping point 5km before Pemba just after the turn-off to Jardim Nacole - and pedestrians and livestock are a real hazard on stretches. Stick to speed limits and be prepared for the unexpected.

Pemba by Road in Your Own vehicle from the North

(via Dar Es Salaam and Mtwara, Tanzania).

For a great travel story from southern Tanzania look up: www.lowdown.co.zm/2005/2005-08/neighbour.htm For accommodation options between Dar and Mtwara look up: www.baobabvillage.com and <http://www.kilwa-safari.com> In Mtwara (capital of southern Tanzania) you could stay at 'The Old Boma' www.mikindani.com tel: + 255 (0)756 455978 (duty manager), tel: +255 (0) 756 788279 (hotel manager) or tel: +255 (0) 756 455978 (Vodacom) e-mail: oldboma@mikindani.com or at Ten Degrees South Lodge where there is a guarded enclosure for **camping**: Tel. Tanzania + 255 (0)23-233 32 06, (0) 741-506 047. Tel. Sweden +46 (0)503-31200. Email: petra@msemo.com

For information on the Rovuma Ferry see '**IS THE FERRY AT THE ROVUMA (RUVUMA) MOUTH OPERATING?**' above.

Pemba by Road from the South and from the West.

From South Africa.

The easiest (if you can stomach the Beit Bridge border chaos, the R55 bridge toll, the R70 road tax, R120 carbon tax and R300 3rd Party Insurance fees) route is through Zimbabwe via Masvingo to Mutare, then Inchope, Caia, Mocuba, Nampula and Pemba. If you want to do this 'non-stop' then overnight in Mutare, then Nampula. Note that the Beitbridge border is open 24hrs while Forbes Post/Machipanda near Mutare is 0600 – 2000.

From Zimbabwe.

See 'from South Africa' or if you are in the Harare area and are in a 4x4 then head down to Nyamapanda/Cuchamano and go via Tete through Malawi to Nayuchi/Entre Lagos (turn off at Liwonde), then to Cuamba, Nampula etc. Another route from Harare (definitely 4x4 only) is Nyamapanda – Tete – Moatize - Mutarara – Shire ferry – Morrumbala – Zero – Nicoadala – Mocuba etc.

From Malawi.

There are four options, via Mulanje/ Milange, Nayuchi/Entre Lagos, Namwera/Cuchamano or from Lago Niassa (Lake Malawi) via Likoma Island (Mbamba bay) and Cobué.

Via Mulanje / Milange: Border hours are 06:00 – 17:30. If you do not have a 4x4 vehicle the only (dry season only) option is to enter Mozambique at Milange and to carry on via Mocuba. Count on (solid driving) 5 hours Blantyre to Mocuba, 8 hours Mocuba to Nampula and another 5 hours Nampula to Pemba.

Via Nayuchi / Entre Lagos: After Blantyre take the turn off at Liwonde to Liwonde National Park, Ntila and Nayuchi. The road is initially tar then becomes gravel and the turn off to Nayuchi is just after the police check point – ask here to confirm the way. As you approach

Nayuchi the track becomes increasingly difficult making a 4x4 a very comforting vehicle to be in. Nayuchi/Entre Lagos border is open 0800 – 1700 and from there to Mocuba is fairly good gravel.

Via Chiponde / Mandimba: Open 0600 – 1730. The road from Mangoche to Namwera and Chiponde is now excellent tarmac but from Mandimba to Cuamba and from Cuamba to Nampula the way is still gravel which seasonally can become very hard going although a 4x4 is not a necessity during the dry season but a vehicle with high ground clearance is highly recommended.

Via Likoma / Cobuè:

Likoma and Chizumulu.

Note that there is mobile or cell phone (GSM 900) communication on Likoma and reception from Likoma at Cobuè (from Likoma) but there is no bank or bureau de change anywhere on the Likoma Islands or in Cobuè (nearest is in Lichinga). Mungo Drift and Kaya Mawa do accept Travellers' Cheques but they charge some 200 MKW commission per cheque. In Mbamba Village ask about an Indian shopkeeper who will sometimes change money at a reasonable rate. Accommodation options on the Likoma Islands go from top dollar to scum budget so for the richer (US\$150 per night) I recommend Kaya Mawa (maybe tomorrow): www.kayamawa.com and for those on a slimmer budget the Rest House in Mbamba is clean with a friendly management or do the backpacker number and get to Mungo Drift (\$4 per person) a 45 minute walk or ask about the 'Rasta Boat'. On Chizumulu Island, 10km from Likoma there is Kubira Lodge which is laid back and does great food. Reservations can be made by the Chizumulu post office Tel. + (265) 357268.

Cobuè.

In town there is a basic '*Pensão*' and a beach 'restaurant' owned by one James Bondo (he will look after your vehicle for MtN50 per day if you want to park and take a boat) but I would perhaps spend a night in Cobuè and then go to either up market and unique Nkwichi Lodge www.mandawilderness.org or to a wonderful 'backpackers' at Mbueca village called Mchenga Wede – means 'nice sand' (contact Douglas via Nkwichi). Both are about 15km south of Cobuè – a 3 hour walk or wait for dhow. As there is about a car a week from Cobuè to Lichinga, better to get a dhow down to Metangula from where there is daily (well maybe) transport to Lichinga. Plenty of transport opportunities Lichinga to Cuamba from where you can take the train to Nampula.

Pemba by road from the West

(Lichinga – Marrupa – Balama - Montepuez – Pemba).

Note that, apart from (perhaps – very unreliable) that sold by the yellow 20 litre cooking oil drum from *barracas* in Marrupa, there is no reliable vendor of fuel between Lichinga and Montepuez. Oh and the road from Mandimba (Malawi border) is still fairly good gravel – average speed 60kph. Lichinga – Marrupa has just been upgraded to tarmac and will take 2½ hours easy driving. From Marrupa the first 30km or so is under road works with deviations – 40kph average. Then to Balama the track is sometimes almost overgrown – 20kph average. Note that due to the lack of a bridge over the Balama River, this is as far as you will get from December to May as it is a long muddy crossing in the dry season and completely flooded in the wet. Anticipate at least 7 or 8 hours Marrupa to Montepuez. Balama to Montepuez is good gravel/sand/mud, average speeds of 70kph, and then good tarmac all the way from Montepuez to Pemba.

By road between Nacala and Pemba.

Fuel is available 24hrs at Nacala, Namialo and Pemba but you may have to wake the attendant or even send a kid to find him. The coast is quite spectacular but singularly difficult to access as the Nacala – Memba coastal track has not been reopened. The stunning mouth of the Lúrio River is accessible from the north and the '*Quedas do Lúrio*' or Lúrio Falls, 30km off the main road, are really well worth a visit. No formal tourist facilities in this area but you can ask permission from the 'Chefe' of a village to camp next to the school or church. A gratuity of MTN100 would be appropriated – pay the headman or '*chefe*' (it will be a man).

To Pemba by Air.

FROM EUROPE: You can fly from Lisbon to Maputo on Air Portugal or Linhas Aéreas de Moçambique (LAM) and then on LAM to Pemba. You can also catch a flight to Nairobi or Dar es Salaam from where there are connections to Pemba, Maputo and elsewhere in Mozambique.

FROM MALAWI: There are presently no scheduled flights to Pemba or anywhere else in Mozambique from Malawi.

FROM SOUTH AFRICA:

LAM flies from Johannesburg direct to Pemba on Wednesdays and Fridays but if you get to Maputo there are flights to Pemba every day except for Thursdays.

SA Airlink: www.flyairlink.co.za has announced that from March 24, 2007 they will be flying from Johannesburg to Pemba direct.

FROM TANZANIA AND KENYA. LAM: www.lam.co.mz now fly from Nairobi and from Dar es Salaam to Pemba and onward to Maputo and other large towns in Mozambique. Precision Air in Tanzania is now flying Dar es Salaam to Pemba twice a week: www.precisionairtz.com

LAM FLIGHTS:

Johannesburg to Pemba (via Maputo):

Courtesy of www.kaskazini.com

Day of the week	Depart Johannesburg	Arrive Pemba
Wednesday	08hrs40	13hrs10
Friday	08hrs40	13hrs10
Sunday	08hrs40	14hrs05

Pemba to Johannesburg (via Maputo):

Day of the week	Depart Pemba	Arrive Johannesburg
Monday	12hrs20 17hrs30	15hrs40 18hrs30
Wednesday	13hrs50	18hrs30
Friday	12hrs45	18hrs30
Sunday	14hrs45	19hrs15

Dar es Salaam to Pemba:

Day of the week	Depart Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania time)	Arrive Pemba (Mozambique time)
Tuesday	16hrs15	16hrs25
Thursday	16hrs00	16hrs45
Saturday	15hrs50	19hrs10

Pemba to Dar es Salaam:

Day of the week	Depart Pemba (Mozambique time)	Arrive Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania time)
Tuesday	09hrs55	15hrs15
Thursday	12hrs00	14hrs45
Saturday	12hrs55	14hrs35

PRECISION AIR FLIGHTS:**Nairobi to Dar es Salaam:**

Day of the week	Depart Nairobi	Arrive Dar es Salaam
Monday	07hrs20 13hrs15 19hrs20	08hrs35 14hrs30 21hrs40
Tuesday	07hrs20 13hrs15 19hrs20	08hrs35 14hrs30 21hrs40
Wednesday	07hrs20 13hrs15 19hrs20	08hrs35 14hrs30 21hrs40
Thursday	07hrs20 13hrs15 19hrs20	08hrs35 14hrs30 21hrs40
Friday	07hrs20 13hrs15 19hrs20	08hrs35 14hrs30 21hrs40
Saturday	07hrs20 13hrs15 19hrs20	08hrs35 14hrs30 21hrs40
Sunday	07hrs20 13hrs15 19hrs20	08hrs35 14hrs30 21hrs40

Dar es Salaam to Nairobi:

Day of the week	Depart Dar es Salaam	Arrive Nairobi
Monday	09hrs00 15hrs15 18hrs00	10hrs20 16hrs30 20hrs30
Tuesday	09hrs00 15hrs15 18hrs00	10hrs20 16hrs30 20hrs30
Wednesday	09hrs00 15hrs15 18hrs00	10hrs20 16hrs30 20hrs30
Thursday	09hrs00 15hrs15 18hrs00	10hrs20 16hrs30 20hrs30
Friday	09hrs00 15hrs15 18hrs00	10hrs20 16hrs30 20hrs30
Saturday	09hrs00 15hrs15 18hrs00	10hrs20 16hrs30 20hrs30
Sunday	09hrs00 15hrs15 18hrs00	10hrs20 16hrs30 20hrs30

Dar es Salaam to Pemba:

Day of the week	Leave Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania time)	Arrive Pemba (Mozambique time)
Tuesday	09hrs15	10hrs40
Friday	09hrs15	10hrs40

Pemba to Dar es Salaam:

Day of the week	Leave Pemba (Mozambique time)	Arrive Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania time)
Tuesday	11h10	14h35
Friday	11h10	14h35

AIRLINK FLIGHTS TO PEMBA:

Flight Schedules (direct flights effective 24 March 2007)

Day	From/To	Departure	Arrival	Flight #
Tuesday	Johannesburg/Pemba	09h50	12h40	SA8552
Tuesday	Pemba/Johanneburg	13h30	16h30	SA8551
Saturday	Johannesburg/Pemba	10h00	12h50	SA8550
Saturday	Pemba/Johanneburg	13h30	16h30	SA8551

From Pemba...

By Air to:

Nampula, Quelimane, Beira, Maputo, Johannesburg, Dar es Salaam and Nairobi:

Book and pay for you ticket at one of the following - all located on the main avenue Eduardo Mondlane up from the **MCel** stall or *quiosque* (left if coming into and right if going out of town on Avenida 25 de Setembro):

LAM, www.lam.co.mz tel. + 2721251, Fax: 00+258+2+7220434.

Viatur Viagens e Turismo: Tel. + 272 21230 or + 272 21431 or + 272 20548. Fax: + 258 272 20548 – Mobile: + 82 796403. E-mail: viatur@teledata.mz or vippemba@teledata.mz

Agência de Viagens Nautilus Lda: + 272 2 08 26

Air Corridor is next door to BCI Bank on 24 De Setembro (main road into or out of town).

By Sea

Although Pemba's inland bay is big and deep enough to accommodate most of the world's merchant fleet with elbow-room to spare, it is not a busy harbour and no passenger boats visit or berth here on a regular or scheduled basis.

Manica Freight Services Pemba could help in this regard: Tel: (272) 21 443, Fax: (272) 20 858, Email: manica@teledata.mz Contact Branch Manager, Cleide Gonzaga: Mobile: 82 317 1110, Email: cgonzaga@manica.co.mz

Leme Agência De Navegação Lda (Liner Services – Containers) are based at 11 Rua Do Comercio and you could try phoning them: + 258 272-2949, fax: + 258 272-3354.

Or Grindrod www.grindrod.co.za based in Durban, do operate commercial cargo coasters that service Pemba, but no passenger cabins are on offer. However quite a number of dhows (*lanchas*) and small boat boats (*Barcos a motor*) do still commute from Pemba up north to Ibo and Quirimba Islands, which are in turn served by dhows from Mocimboa da Praia, Pangane and Quissanga.

You can also hire dhow or 10m Catamaran called **Kiraku** from **Kaskazini** www.kaskazini.com and dhow ski-boats from Pemba Beach Hotel or Nautilus Beach Resort. I'm sure that C.I Dive and Pemba Divers will also take you up or down the coast in their boats if you can pay.

To And From Madagascar:

Everywhere I have gone along the coast of Mozambique and Tanzania I have constantly asked whether there are any dhows or other boats that still cross the Mozambique Channel either to the Comoros or to Madagascar, but unfortunately the best I can report is that there are still vessels big enough to do the trip but none has crossed for at least a decade. Many *marinheiros* when asked about long-distance voyages mentioned Kingsley Holgate's monster *Jahazi dhow* called '**Spirit of Adventure**', but right now that boat is anchored off **Bay Diving Lodge** www.fimdomundosafaris.com near Nacala until King or someone else dreams up another outing for it. Look up www.africanrainbowexpedition.co.za

Services And Goods In Pemba.

Toilets (casas do banho).

Finding usable toilets is ever a problem everywhere in Mozambique. Try the service stations – the ones at new Galp near to the Airport are very nice right now. Most restaurants have adequate ablution facilities and some of the bigger hotels have bathrooms off the reception area. There are public toilets on Wimbe beach but I have not gathered enough courage to check them out recently.

Cell (mobile) phone and Internet.

Cell phone:

Four bar signals on both Vodacom and MCell. MCell signals also from Quissanga (including Ibo), Macomia, Mocimboa da Praia, Mueda and Montepuez.

Internet (ALL DIAL-UP AND VERY SLOW):

Pemba Beach Hotel Business Centre: Expensive at US\$5 per 30 minutes but air conditioned and well equipped.

TDM: Cheapest connection in Pemba, 4 US cents per minute, open 7am to 10pm, located next to MCell by the roundabout at the bottom of the main avenue in town.

Super Wimbe: internet and email facilities next to Hotel Caracol, on Wimbe beach.

Skynet: close to the Cabo Delgado Hotel and Samar restaurant, \$2 for ½ hour.

Money and banking.

Note that the **US\$ cash** is the best currency to carry and that the older series US\$ notes (presidents head is smaller) will be of no use to you as no-one will accept or change them.

ATM'S: Cirrus and Maestro linked Visa/Visa Electron (best) and MasterCard cards can be used at the ATM's as long as you have a PIN loaded.

Travellers' Cheques: Can be cashed at some of the banks but a whopping service fee of US\$30 – 50 is charged. Not accepted elsewhere.

Credit cards: VISA Cirrus and Maestro is the most widely accepted (**MasterCard** also accepted but less widely) but only really useful at Pemba Beach and Nautilus hotels.

Diving and Snorkelling.

There is great snorkelling just a few hundred metres swim from Wimbe beach. For all the diving and snorkelling info you could ask for look up www.cidivers.com or contact Brenda Frank of Pemba Dive: Contact Brenda: + 258 826611530) or Rudi: + 258 826697050 or look up: www.kaskazini.com . There are dive operators on Quilalea, Ibo, Matemo and Medjumbi islands.

Kinahu Charters, now based at Pemba Beach Resort, has a catamaran equipped for fishing and diving available for charter in the archipelago and to St Lazarus Bank. The cat is fully equipped for SCUBA diving and sport fishing. All-inclusive rates start from R1 825 a person a day (minimum four, maximum eight guests). Tel Pretoria South Africa + 12-996-0844, Email info@kinahu.com Website: <http://www.kinahu.com>

Safe Anchorage and Pedro Cruz's Boatyard (*Construtores do barco*).

'Yachties' usually anchor off Wimbe beach where the chances of being robbed are less but the swells provide quite a lot of roll. Another option is to anchor off Nacole Jardim inside the bay, but consult with Brenda first, tel: + 258 82 661 1530. Next to the Pemba docks Pedro Cruz runs and excellent boatyard where quite difficult repairs and maintenance can be done quite expertly.

Sport Fishing.

Look up www.clubpemba.com **and** www.kaskazini.com

Goods and Services.

Pemba has Supermarkets (no Shoprite yet) where you will find imported goods (mainly from South Africa) at up to three times the price that it is reasonable to be expected to pay. **Pemba is a damned expensive place**, but you can live well if you ignore anything imported and buy fish from the beach and veggies from the *bairros*. So get to the *bairros* and the *bazars* where you will find almost anything you want at a negotiable price. I like *bazar* Mbangui in Bairro Natite reached by taking the road (25 de Setembro) away from the military garrison (right if coming from airport, left if coming from town) a few hundred metres down towards the *Praça dos Heróis* on the way to Wimbe and turning left at the Cooperativo Makonde. **Pick pocketing** and theft is a big worry in these crowded places so carry only the cash you need for the day's purchases.

Health and Medicines.

Malaria is very common in Pemba but the main resorts have a spraying campaigns and air conditioning which is also a big deterrent to mosquitoes. Nevertheless I would still ALWAYS take those preventative measures and drink the tablets according to your doctor's advice.

HOSPITALS.

There are no private clinics or doctors in Pemba and while Pemba's **Provincial hospital** on Rua Base Moçambique, tel: + (272) 20348 or 20539, and **Clínica Cabo Delgado** 10 Rua Forças Armadas, tel: + (272) 2 14 47 may have a few 'good' doctors and offer malaria tests, for any emergency you must immediately activate your emergency med-evac insurance. For medical evacuation and roadside vehicle assistance look up www.mozhelp.co.za and for evacuation insurance try www.tic.co.za or consult your own insurance broker.

PHARMACIES.

Pemba has a few pharmacies and I have been served well by the old EE (Empresa Estatal or State Pharmacy) now called **Farmacia Pemba** on *Rua do Comercio* one street up from the port. There is also **Farmacia Nova** (private) tel: + (272) 2 02 27 located on the main avenue in town (Eduardo Mondlane), the **Farmacia Carlos Lwanga** (private) on the road behind **Supermercado Osman Yacob**, on the RHS as you go into town. You will be able to get a range of antibiotics, malaria medications and other scheduled drugs over the counter without a prescription.

DENTISTS.

The clinic (*Centro da Saude*) near Mbangui market in Bairro Natite offers dentistry services and the dentist appears to run a sterile practice and gave the assurance that he does have a good stock of anaesthetic on hand. Failing this, a bottle of 'best' *Rhum Moçambicano* usually does the job – it leaves you with a headache worse than the toothache.

CRIME.

Petty crime (usually non-violent but this is now starting to occur), especially theft and pick pocketing, is very common in town especially in crowded areas such as the bus and taxi stops and the bazaars (markets). Carry only a notarized (at a *Notário Público* in Mozambique) copy of your passport, or some other form of identity such as an I.D book displaying your photo and enough money for the day. Don't leave anything unattended on the beach while you swim but rather ask the folks Pemba Dive and Pemba Dolphin or at one of the *quiosques* or bars to keep your stuff. Cars are sometimes robbed in town but are now often broken into on the more remote beaches with tourist 4x4's being a particularly tempting target due to the pile of goodies loaded into the back.

Pemba: Some Useful Services & Telephone Numbers.

NOTE THAT THE MOZAMBIQUE COUNTRY CODE IS + 258 AND THE PEMBA AREA CODE IS 272.

EMERGENCY:

Police: Polícia da República de Moçambique, Rua 1º (Primeira) de Maio: Tel + 272 20829
Rua XII: Tel: + 272 21236.

Fire Department (*Bombeiros Municipais*).

Av 25 de Setembro – Tel: + (272) 20223.

Hospital Provincial de Cabo Delgado. Rua Base Moçambique. Tel: + 272 20348 or 20539.

State Pharmacy: Farmácia E.E. Rua Comércio.

Electricity Department: Electricidade de Moçambique, Av 25 de Setembro tel: + 272 20533 or 20525, fax: + 272 20253.

MOSE (*EMPRESA MOÇAMBICANA DE SEGUROS*) where motorists can purchase 3rd Party liability and other insurance is located on Avenida Eduardo Mondlane (Pemba's main road) tel: + 258 – (272) 20437.

BANKS, EXCHANGE BUREAUX AND INVESTING:

BCI – Fomento. Avenida 25 Setembro. Tel: + (272) 2 02 11.

Banco Internacional de Moçambique – BIM. Rua Comércio. Tel: + (272) 2 14 39.

Banco Austral SARL. Av Eduardo Mondlane. Tel: + (272) 2 02 45.

Austral Consultoria e Projectos Lda (Investment Consultants and Project Management). 444 Rua Forças Armadas. Tel: + (272) 2 19 56. Website: www.austral.co.mz

Standard Bank. 14 Av Eduardo Mondlane. Fax: + (272) 2 05 24. Tel: (272) 21643. Email: agencia.303@standardbank.co.mz Website: www.standardbank.co.mz

Somali Traders. Informal money-changers in shops at the bottom of Avenida Eduardo Mondlane where it meets Avenida 25 de Setembro. Look for the bright MCell *quiosque* (kiosk).

AIRLINES:

LAM – *Linhas Aéreas de Moçambique*: Terminal, tel: + 272 – 21251, fax: +272 20434.

Air Viatur (Air Charters): Tel: Aeroporto: + 272 - 20076, Cidade (Town): + 272 - 21230, fax: + 272 – 20249.

Aeroportos de Moçambique (Pemba Airport Management): Tel: + 272 20312. Director: + 272 20641, Fax: + 272 20699.

Air Corridor, Bairro Alto Gingone. Tel: + (272) 2 80 12.

LAM - Linhas Aéreas de Moçambique, Av Eduardo Mondlane. Tel + (272) 2 12 51. Website: www.lam.co.mz

Aeroportos de Moçambique. Bairro Alto Gingone. Tel: + (272) 2 03 12. Website: www.ine.gov.mz/sectorias_dir/transp_e_comunic/transporte_areo

RENT A CAR:

MC (Moti Rent-a-car) Aluguer de Carros - Aeroporto de Pemba. Tel: + 272 21687/8, Nacala/Nampula: + 26 525070, 218687; Fax, + 26 526071, 218688. Email: motimoz@teledata.mz Sedans and 4x4 vehicles available.

Moti Taxi & Car Rental, Tel Tel +258-2722-1688; mobile +258-82-666-6800.

Mr Saleh, also offers taxi and sedan car rental services, as well as guided tours. Tel: mobile + 258 82 388 8929 or + 258 82 706 1330.

Vehicle Spares, Repairs And Fuel.

UNLEADED PETROL (*gasolina sem chumbo*) is now available in Pemba and throughout Mozambique. No leaded petrol has been imported or distributed in Mozambique since September 2006. The unleaded is simply being pumped into the old leaded tanks and so in outlying areas where only a small amount of petrol is sold, there could still be a fair amount of leaded mixed in with the unleaded.

Petrol (Service) stations: Petrol ("*gasolina*"), diesel ("*gasóleo*") and paraffin ("*petroleo*") are available at **Galp** on the RHS as you come into town (beer sold next to the pumps), **BP** and **Petromoc** also on the main road into town. **Galp** has small shops for luxury foodstuffs, a tyre repair shop with air compressor, and a shop selling lubricants.

Repairs: **Herculano Faria's** workshop on the main road into town is perhaps the best place for general repairs and maintenance. **SETEC**, behind Osman Yacob's supermarket specialises in Land Rover and Mazda, has a good tyre service.

Repairs and Spare Parts (peças). Many of the auto spares shops in Pemba may sell non-original parts at inflated prices (however for basics such as fuel filters and air filters I would still avoid the agents) so the better options may be **Toyota de Moçambique** and **Abu Bakar**, both on the main road into town, and Top Peças, behind Reol hardware shop on the road up from 'Praça dos Heróis' (where the wooden soldier monument stands). Also try **Trak Auto Lda** on Rua Josina Machel. Tel: + (272) 2 03 23. Email: trakpemba@teledata.mz and **Entrepósito** on Rua Cemiteiro, a distributor of vehicles throughout Mozambique.

Document Courier Services.

DHL Moçambique Lda. On Avenida Eduardo Mondlane. Tel + (272) 20 625.

Main Hotels

(In order of price – MUCH more info below under 'Pemba: Where to Stay'):

Beach Pemba Hotel: Where the wonderful *Meia-Via* (*halfway* to Wimbe beach) complex once stood. Tel: + 272 21770, 21275/7. www.pembabeach.com

Nautilus Beach Resort and Casino: At the north end of Praia do Wimbe. Tel: + 272 21520, fax: 21717. Email: nautiluscas@teledata.mz.

Complexo Turístico Caracol. On the Beach Drive. Tel: + 272 20147, fax: + 272 21717.

Hotel C. D. (Cabo Delgado): Corner Av. 25 de Setembro and Av Eduardo Mondlane. Tel: + 272 20558 or 20559. Fax: + 272 21552.

VIP PEMBA Hotel. Tel: + 272 21655 or 21458. Fax: + 272 21249.

Provincial Government And Ngo's.

Direcção Provincial dos Registos Notariado. Get official documents and copies of passport etc notarized here. Avenida 16 Junho. Tel: 2722 13 76.

Umokazi. 46 Rua Comércio. Tel + (272) 2 08 18. Fax: (272) 2 16 23. Rural and regional development association. You will see their signboards in the most remote locations.

Cruz Vermelha (Red Cross) de Moçambique: 2571 Av Eduardo Mondlane. Tel: + (272) 2 06 16.

Worldwide Fund for Nature. 202 Rua Comércio. Tel: + (272) 2 13 32. Website: www.wwf.org.mz

Port And Shipping Related.

Vicente Quana - Despachante Aduaneiro (Customs Clearing Agent). 431 Rua Comércio. Tel: + (272) 2 00 10.

Manica Freight Services Moçambique SARL. 245 Av Eduardo Mondlane. Tel: + (272) 2 08 58. Website: www.manica.co.mz

Leme - Agência de Navegação. Rua Porto. Tel: + (272) 2 19 27. Fax: + (272) 2 19 27.

ANFRENA - Agência Nacional de Frete e Navegação. Rua Comércio. Tel: + (272) 2 09 49.

Pemba: Where to Stay.

Backpackers, Overlanders and Campers – all self-catering.

Russell's Place (Caju Campismo).

Started up about seven years ago and has stayed much the same since then. 5 minutes walk to great beach. Russell is often in town partying with his mates so sometimes the place is not well supervised and theft from guests has been a problem. Very popular with the 'expert' crowd and most visitors love it. Unmissable.

Location: Get to Wimbe Beach and carry on down (east) 3km from where the tarmac ends.

Accommodation: Camping area, chalets and dorm.

Contact: **Tel: + 258 82 686 2730 or + 258 82 527 7048.**

Email: Russellbott@yahoo.com.au or pembamagic@yahoo.com

Website: www.pembamagic.com

Rates: MtN200 – 400 per person.

Nacole Jardim (Pemba Dive Bush Camp).

A wonderful new place in a 40Ha private reserve on Pemba bay's mangrove shores owned by Brenda of Pemba dive fame. Just 5km from Pemba centre but it feels amazingly remote.

Location: Turn left just before the permanent police checkpoint as you enter Pemba.

Accommodation: Shady, large campsites ideal for overlanders and self-catering chalets.

Contact: Tel +258-82-661-1530. Email to info@kaskazini.com

Rates: Camping MtN250 pp, chalets MtN350 per person.

Pensões (Inns).

Pensão Baia.

Stayed here a bit in the old days. Pretty threadbare with no pretensions to be aimed at anyone other than 'local' travellers. Great shady outside tables are a good place to sit and watch the real folk of Pemba passing by over a cold drink.

Location: 289 Avenida 1º de Maio opposite the *Telecommunicoës* (long distance calls) building.

Accommodation: Single and double rooms – communal bathroom. Restaurant.

Contact: +258 - 272 - 2 01 53.

Rates: MtN600 double.

Mid Range Hotels and Guesthouses.

Complexo Nautilus.

The original resort in Pemba – opened during the Portuguese times and was kept busy by all the Aid Workers and pilots during the war years. Has been extensively upgraded since Pemba Beach Resort opened and has a nice pool area, conference hall, casino and restaurant.

Location: Perfectly perched at the beginning of Wimbe beach. Nautilus was Pemba's first resort and they got the best spot.

Accommodation: Thatched two-bed roomed (sleep 4) air-conditioned seaside bungalows with kitchenette, living area and veranda.

Contact: Tel: +258-272 21520, Email nautiluscas@teledata.mz

Rates: Small bungalows from \$75. Large bungalows from \$94. Bungalows sleep 4.

Complexo Caracol.

Location: Over the road from Wimbe beach, can be quite noisy but very convenient to all restaurants and beach activities.

Accommodation: The double rooms have a fridge, TV, kettle, air-con and veranda with sea views.

Contact: Tel: + 272 20147 or + 272 20108. Email: sulemane@teledata.mz Website: www.centroturisticocaracol.com

Rates: 4 bed apartments from \$85 per day, 2-bed from \$40.

VIP Hotel Pemba.

Nice views over the bairros to the open sea.

Location: On Rua das Forças Armadas a few blocks up from Avenida 25 de Setembro (road coming into town).

Accommodation: Newly renovated and furnished – comfortable. Some rooms have air-con.

Contact: Tel: + 272-20548, fax: + 272-20249. Email: viatur@teledata.mz or vippemba@teledata.mz

Rates: \$35 single, \$40-45 double. Air-con rooms available at extra charge.

Residencial Lys.

Was popular in the 60's and during my stay in '92 and it still is. Possibly the best value in town, but 5km from Wimbe beach (not necessarily a bad thing).

Location: One block up to the left after turning right at the *praça* when coming into town. Friendly and an authentic local venue.

Accommodation: Basic clean rooms some with air-con.

Contact: Tel: + 272-20951.

Rates: From \$25 double.

Hotel Cabo Delgado.

From another age... Simple art-deco style – you could be on a '50's New York' mobster movie set. Popular with local business travellers and NGO's.

Location: At the bottom of Avenida Eduardo Mondlane opposite the Bank.

Accommodation: Classic old-style rooms and suites with air-con, some with balconies.

Contact: + 272-20558, fax: + 272-30552.

Rates: \$30 - \$40.

Complexo S.A.L. (Simples Aldeia, Lda.)

Self-catering – equipped with fridge, stove, cooking and eating utensils.

Location: 400 metres after Restaurante Wimbe.

Accommodation: Cabins with kitchen and living area.

Contact: Tel: + 258 - 272 20134, +258 82 7048310.

Rates: US\$60 – \$100 double.

Residencial Reggio Emilia.

A very nice southern-European ambience and architecture.

Location: Right on Wimbe Beach within walking distance of other beach facilities but still very secure and private.

Accommodation: A large self-catering house with two air-conditioned bedrooms, two bathrooms, a well-equipped kitchen and lounge area. Two single units (more being built) with air-conditioned bedroom, bathroom, and a shared equipped kitchen and spacious veranda.

Contact: Tel: + 258 (272) 21297, mobile: + 258 82 9285510 or Italy: + 39 (0) 45 8003221.

Email: c.forna@teledata.mz

Rates: \$60 per room per night, no meals included.

Upper Range Hotels.

Pemba Beach Resort and Villas.

Unashamedly aimed at the fly-in upmarket tourist or businessperson. Full facilities including excellent restaurant, business centre (Internet), travel agent, gym and infinity pool. Transfers arranged to the Quirimba Islands and Reserva do Niassa (Lugenda Bush Camp).

Location: Atop low rocky cliffs about halfway between 'praça dos Herois' and Wimbe Beach – where the old 'Meia Via' (Halfway) complex once stood

Accommodation: Standard to deluxe rooms and suites. The Villas are self-catering.

Contact: Johannesburg Central Reservations Office: Email: reservations@raniresorts.com
Tel: +27 11 465 6904. Fax: +27 11 465 9623.

Maputo Reservations Office: Tel: +258 1 301 618. Fax: +258 1 301 625

Email: reservas@rani.co.mz Website: www.pembabeachresort.com

Rates: US\$110 – \$300 pp sharing. Villas \$312 - \$430 for 4.

Londo Lodge.

Located on one of the nicest spots in Mozambique. Beach at the front and bush at the back.

Location: Just a 15 minute boat ride north of Pemba, on border of the Quirimbas National Park.

Accommodation: Six very spacious ocean-view villas on the edge of a 7 meter high cliff overlooking Pemba bay. A lot of attention to detail – very nice!

Contact: Tel: +258 82 6995070 Email: info@londolodge.com Website: www.londolodge.com

Rates: \$350 - \$450 pp.

Adel Aujan:

The man behind much of the top-end developments on the Bazaruto and Quirimba Archipelagos and at Pemba in Mozambique is **Saudi Sheikh Adel Aujan**, head of a family business founded in 1905 which produces some of the world's best-known brands, including Vimto, Barbican, and Canada Dry. The company has also successfully launched several high profile brands of its own, including **Rani** fruit drink and the children's drink Hani, simultaneously pioneering the introduction of advanced packaging technology to Saudi Arabia. Aujan is also the sole distributor of Cadbury's chocolate and Wrigley's chewing gum to the Saudi Kingdom.

Main Restaurants In Pemba

(Pemba Beach Hotel and Complexo Nautilus also have good restaurants):

There are many friendly little restaurants in town such as downtown (*baixa*) **Restaurante Bar o Encontro** on Rua Comércio, tel: (272) 2 12 53 and at **barracas and bancas** in and around the bazars in the *bairros* such as **Restaurante Arco Iris de Júlio Fenias** in Bairro **Cariaco**, tel: (272) 2 02 63 that do very good basic food far more cheaply than most other restaurants. Get to Paquite-Quete, Cariaco, Natite or Ingonane and ask for '*comida preparada a Nacional*'. (Food prepared in the local manner, you will have to wait while the send out for the ingredients needed so order a cold drink and enjoy the moment).

Eating In Pemba Town.

A Tasca at *prédio* Cunha Alegre. In town – vibey at night with regular discos. Tel: + 272 – 21253.

Restaurante "556" (formerly Pólo-Sul) at the top of the *Rampa* going down to the docks – look for the huge deco 'Cinema Pemba'. Known as the South African restaurant due to the Nationality of its owner, and of its excellent steaks, and the majority of its patrons. Tel: + 272 – 21487.

Gastronómia. Only place for a cappuccino outside of Pemba Beach Resort. A delicatessen on the main Avenida Eduardo Mondlane.

Pastelária Flor D'Avenida: Been going for years and is a personal favourite. Portuguese serving cakes, coffee, cold drinks and light meals all day and evenings. Nice views of town life from the outside tables.

Samar: Porto-Bican (my own term) restaurant near Hotel Cabo Delgado, with a good range of traditional dishes, seafood and daily specials. Good food and value for money.

Eating at Wimbe Beach and Beyond.

Restaurante Wimbe and Disco (formerly *Aero Clube*) at the south end of Praia do Wimbe. Best view of the beach and very popular with the local crowds. Tel: + 272 – 20100.

Aquila Romana: Italian restaurant at the end of the beach with a cosy atmosphere and excellent pizza and pasta.

JPS: Specializes in local standards such as grilled chicken and seafood, but order an hour in advance (at least).

Restaurante Mar e Sol (formerly *Bar da Tininha*) at the heart of *Praia* (beach) *do Wimbe*. Best fish and chips in the north. Tel: + 272 – 20136.

Pemba Dolphin: My choice for a mid-day drink and meal on Wimbe beach. Good base from which to swim as it rents out changing rooms for secure storage.

Super Wimbe: Small restaurant offering traditional Mozambican food, and bar, across the road from Wimbe disco.

Russell's Place: Best prawn pizza this side of Lago Niassa. See the great white hunter nesting in the thatch canopy above the notorious 'Blackfoot bar' (named due to the colour the sand makes your feet).

Eating on Pemba's Outskirts.

Murrebué: ***Complexo Turístico de Upeponi.*** Stunning unspoilt beach with amazing shells and tranquil location away from the Wimbe crowds. Good seafood and basic rooms to rent if you want to stay.

Mecúfi: A basic and breezy bar/restaurant, but order at least an hour in advance.

2. From Pemba Town North to Tanzania.

The coastal road to Quissanga and Tandanhague is in very poor condition and is certainly a 4x4 route with average speeds of 30kph in the dry season and often impassable during the January to April rains. The inland road from Pemba to Mocímboa da Praia via Sunate and Macomia is all good tarmac (90kph), with a 30km incongruous stretch of gravel starting at Macomia if going north.

The Inland (tarmac) Route.

Sunate.

Permanent Transit-Police check here. No fuel here, but it's only 80km to (from) Pemba. Carry on straight if going to Montepuez (good tarmac all the way) or turn right if going north.

Turn-off (cruxamento) to Bilibiza and Mahate.

This is the route to get to Quissanga, Tandanhague and Ibo during the rainy season. Bilibiza is a friendly little village which is the focus of a GAIA/ADPP development initiative, see: www.gaia-movement.org

Macomia (cell-phone signal on MCell).

A fairly large town with fuel (often diesel only), a large open air market, a restaurant bar and guesthouse (*Pensão*) called Bar Chung (owned by Chun Sique or *Senhor Sookee* who has a house at Pangane) a large open air market and a trading store at the junction owned by a friendly English speaking Arab from Dubai. Turn right here towards Mucojo if heading for Pangane or Guludo.

Mucojo.

Accessed only via Macomia - Mucojo is a small town close to the coast with shops and cell phone reception on the hill a few km's before it. Note that due to a lack of bridges over rivers, there is no coastal road open between Quissanga and Mucojo, and between Mucojo and Mocímboa da Praia.

Guludo Beach Lodge and Mipande Bush Lodge.

The correct pronunciation is 'Guloodoo'. If you turn right (south) at Mucojo, instead of carrying straight on to Pangane, and drive south for about 10km you will get to Guludo. No electricity, motorized water sports or flush toilets here, but elephants sometime walk right through the camp. This is the genuine 'eco-friendly' item and the spacious and airy tents are designed to make air-conditioning unnecessary. Don't take my word for it, look up: <http://bethejam.squarespace.com/mozambique>

Location. In the *Parque Nacional das Quirimbas* about 20km south of Mucojo. Transfers from Pemba by road and by helicopter.

Accommodation. Award-winning architect designed tents which are very luxuriously and tastefully furnished. Shared ablutions of the 'long-drop' variety.

Contact. Tel: + 44 (0)1323 766655.

Email: contact@bespokeexperience.com

Website: www.guludo.com

Rates. Standard: \$205 per person. Peak: \$255 per person.

3. Pangane and Praia do Pangane.

Certainly unique and when a very well travelled Kiwi called Roger told me about Pangane in 1992, he described it as having "The world's most beautiful beach". Seems for many folk an attractive beach must be 'deserted' so if you fit into this category, Pangane is not for you. Pangane village is 'Tales of the South Seas' (Michener) made manifest. It is perfect in a 'harsh, beautiful reality' kind of way. I first visited Pangane by boat from Ibo in 1992 and became the guest of probably it's most well-known resident (was then, *Hashimi* is probably the one now), *Chun Sique* or Senhor Sookee to the villagers. The war had forced him from Macomia where he had run a bar, guesthouse and trading store, to the coast where he could carry on trading by boat. Times were hard and on a number of occasions he and the villagers had been forced to flee into the bush by Renamo bandits who then pillaged his shop and freezer rooms.

My latest pilgrimage to Pangane was in July 2006 and thankfully it is not much changed and we were the only guests at '*Complexo Hashimi*' where Senhor Hashimi and his delightful family will show what real hospitality is all about. Certainly if any of the clinical, flavourless, 'upmarket' beach lodges could manage to even vaguely approximate this kind of experience, the World would build an International Airport next door and the management would then be able to auction rooms to the highest bidder. Sort of '*they paved paradise to put up a parking lot*' acknowledgement to the marvellous Joni Mitchell.

Getting to Pangane.

Public transport:

From Pemba there are daily chapas to Macomia where you will have to wait for a vehicle going to Mucojo (on the northern edge of the *Parque Nacional das Quirimbas*). Mucojo to Pangane is 15km of sand some stretches best negotiated in a 4x4 but the locals get through with ordinary pick-up trucks. No regular transport Mucojo to Pangane but there are a few cars going through per day.

Own 4x4:

You cannot get through along the coast from Quissanga or from Mocímboa da Praia (even though some maps show a road), but to Macomia is good tar then good gravel (some wash-aways and 4x4 very comforting in rain) to Mucojo and loose sand to Pangane. Drive through the village parallel to the coast eventually passing a small fishing operation with a container and on to where the track ends at a neat stockade –From the sea: Dhows do Mocímboa da Praia and Ibo to Pangane whenever they can get a full load of cargo or passengers. If joining one such down expect to pay around MtN200 – 300, but to charter a dhow to do the trip especially for you costs upwards of MtN1200. If staying at one of the expensive lodges you can use one of their boats to get to Pangane (at extra charge of course).

Where to Stay in Pangane.

Complexo Hashimi.

Hashim or Hashimi or Ashim (he doesn't mind which) works at a small commercial fishing camp near *Ponta do Pangane* and his family live in his nearby house. Next to this tidy little compound you will find Complexo Hashimi which, with its bamboo and palm frond cabins, no electricity and family staff fits perfectly into the ambience and soul of Pangane. Long may this remain the only place to stay around here, but at my feet do hear development's winged chariot (the mighty dollar) hurrying near? Thanks Dylan Thomas.

Senhor Sukee (Casa Suk):

Chun Sique, a trader of Chinese descent, has a compound (the only concrete building in Pangane?) a few hundred metres before Hashimis place (follow the tyre tracks) with guestrooms, food if you order well in advance and where you can usually get cold drinks. Sukee is usually only in Pangane weekends as he needs to run his Bar/Pousada Chung in Macomia.

4. The Coastal '4x4 Only' Route from Pemba to Quissanga and To Ibo.

About 25km out of Pemba turn right to Metuge after which it is about 30km to the entrance gate to the *Parque Nacional da Quirimbas* where you will pay an entrance fee of MtN200 per person and per vehicle, and 100km to Quissanga on a very rough road that becomes a slimy mud bath during the rainy season. Note that when you get to Mahate at the junction to Bilibiza, just carry on straight to Quissanga immediately after which you turn left to Tandanhague, or straight on to Quissanga Praia. No fuel or any formal facilities anywhere along this route but there is cell phone reception in and near to Quissanga.

Namau (Namave) Casa dos Hospedes (Guest House).

The guesthouse was the home of the owner of the sisal plantation that used to be there, and has been renovated to offer 3 bedrooms, a bathroom, living room and shady veranda, and in the future a kitchen for self-catering. In the meantime, traditional meals will be available. In front of the guesthouse a wooden walkway leads you through the mangrove trees to a deck for sunbathing and swimming in the river mouth. The village of Namau will offer activities including village walks, dhow trips, canoe safaris in the mangroves, bush walks and traditional dance. All revenues from the community tourism projects remain in the local communities, 30% is donated to a community fund for development projects as decided by the community itself.

Location: At the mouth of the Rio Tari 100kms by road in a 4x4 (you have to go right around Pemba bay, which is the third-largest in the world), maybe 20km as the crow flies, from Pemba, inside the Quirimbas National Park (QNP).

Rates: Around Mtn250 (\$10) per person.

Contact: Meco Chiquito + (258) 82 8232750 or Rebecca Phillips Marques
Coordenadora, Eco-turismo Comunitario / Community Ecotourism Officer
Parque Nacional das Quirimbas, tel: +258 827095400. Website:
<http://blogzambique.blogspot.com/2006/10/how-i-make-living.html>

The Mareja Project.

About 8 years ago a private investor in the guise of Mareja Management Lda got together with the local community in this southern area of the Quirimbas Park to form an eco-tourism project. At Mareja there is a ten-bed dormitory in an old villa, a two bed roomed guesthouse with en-suite bathroom. A Camping and overlander area with communal facilities is available. Charges range from US\$10 pp camping to \$20 pp for an en-suite room. Meals are available but are best arranged at least 5 hours in advance.

Activities: Include Game Viewing, Photo Safaris, Bird Watching, Mountain climbing, Bush Walks and Trails, Batuke (local dances), Visits to Historical and Cultural Sites, Freshwater Fishing, Local 'curio' shopping.

Access: The project area has two main access routes, one via the coast (75km – turn left at Tora Tora) and one through via the interior (140km – turn right to Namduli). Four wheel- drive vehicles are necessary during the rainy season or when taking the coastal road as there are a number of seasonal river to crossings. On less frequented routes elephant damage can be a problem in terms of broken trees across the road. There are some 80km of internal roads at Mareja.

Contact: Mozambique: 208 Rua Base Beira, Pemba.

Tel Mozambique: + 258.272.20684 or + 258.272.21099.

Email: info@mareja.com

Italy: Sonja Cappello, tel: + 39.0471.262298. Email: sonja@mareja.com

Germany: Dominik Beissel, tel: + 49.2447.8150 or + 49.2447.8150. Email:

beissel@mareja.com

Website: www.mareja.com

5. Arquipelago das Quirimbas. (Quirimba Archipelago).

Depending on who you believe there are somewhere between 25 and 32 islands. On my 1:50 000 sheets I can count 33 in this group that extend almost like huge stepping-stones between Pemba and the Rovuma River mouth. I managed to visit around a dozen during 1992 and none had any tourist facilities on offer while a few (such as Ibo, Quirimba, Matemo and Medjumbi) did have quite a number of permanent residents. Although the *Parque Nacional das Quirimbas* which encompasses most of the islands was launched with great fanfare last year, many (ten or more) of the islands that are patently not suitable for anything else than providing refuge to the odd passing subsistence fishermen have already been, or are now being, claimed by developers. Certainly the sustainable viability of these very expensive hideaways in a market already dripping with big dollar destinations remains to be tested, but presently my impression is that occupancy rates are generally quite low. And if anyone plants another coconut palm (actually NOT indigenous to this region) in the National Park I think I am going to call foul!

Camping on the Quirimbas.

While camping is not a part of the Tourism Management Plan for the islands enclosed in the National Park, you could hire a dhow to any of the other islands not already occupied by a lodge and camp there. Note that you would have to bring all food and drinking water along with you and it will be quite difficult to convince any dhow captain to leave you there for a few days and then to (reliably) collect you. Dhows obviously only sail on the whims of the winds and so you could be marooned indefinitely. Of course those with their own sea-kayaks would be in an ideal position but should also bear in mind that no formal sea rescue possibilities are available anywhere along the coast of Mozambique.

Land-use Zones in the Parque Nacional das Quirimbas (Quirimbas National Park).

Quirimbas National Park covers some 6,000 km² of land and 1,500 km² of marine, inter-tidal and island habitat. The zoning scheme has to take into account the large area, varied depth ranges, large human population (about 55,000 people depend on the Park's resources), diversity of habitats and species and a range of uses including fishing and tourism. The zoning is prescribed as follows under the Mozambican MPA (Marine Protected Areas) legislation:

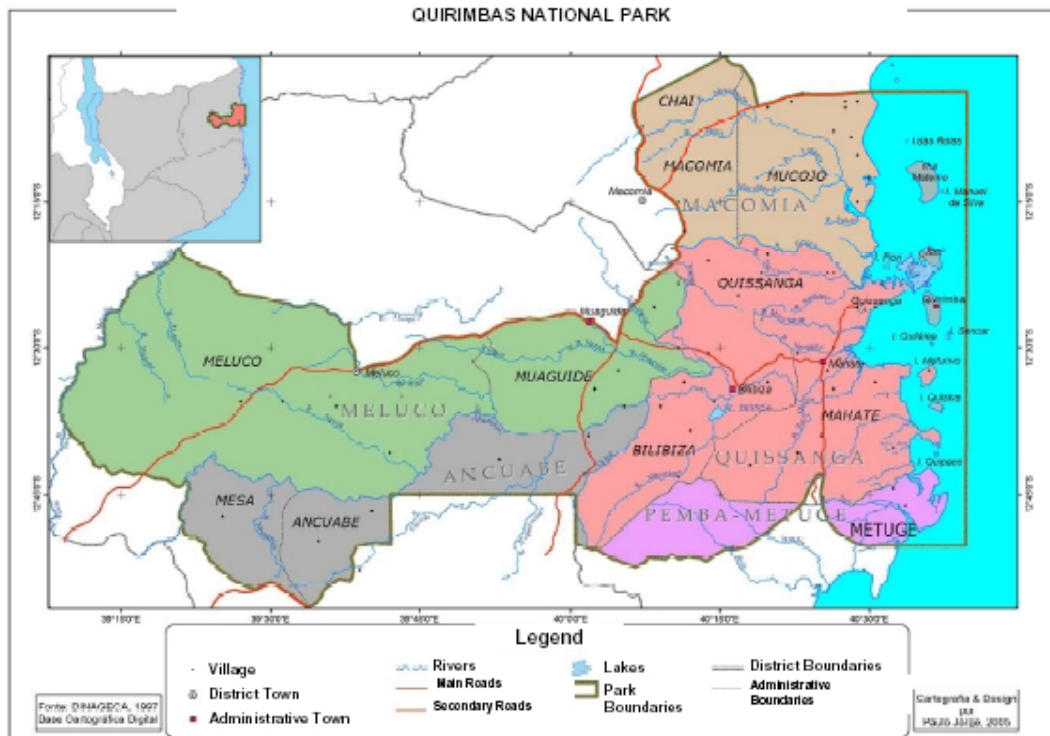
Total Protection Zones - All exploitation is prohibited but regulated tourism and scientific research are permitted. These zones are being established in collaboration with local communities and tourist operators, who may be responsible for their management. Four have been defined to date:

the islands of **Quilalea** and **Sencar** with their surrounding waters - to be managed by the tourism company operating on the islands, in collaboration with the communities;
a 20km² stand of mangroves adjacent to **Ibo Island**;
sea grass beds adjacent to **Matemo** Island;
Rôlas Island and **Zala Bank** - an exposed, and little used, reef and associated small island.

Specified Use Zones - Areas that warrant full protection but where this is not possible. The only marine example is the **Banco São Lázaro**, a seamount that is to be managed for sport fishing and SCUBA diving. Lying 80km from shore the bank is not used by artisanal fishers.

Community Development and Use Zones - The remaining areas of the Park are designated to allow for sustainable use exclusively by local residents. Regulations are to be developed with the communities.

Buffer Zone - A 10km wide strip all round the Park within which all developments must receive Park approval and be subject to the same environmental considerations as those within the Park.



PARQUE NACIONAL DAS QUIRIMBAS (QUIRIMBAS NATIONAL PARK)
 Note that Pemba Bay and Pemba Town are just south of Metuge.

***The Islands (most of them) of The Arquipelago das Quirimbas (Quirimba Archipelago).
 From South to North.***

Iha Quipaco (Quipaco Island).

Offers a cosy little bay with good anchorage. There is also a small inland 'lagoon' that can be entered at spring high tides. There are basic self-catering shacks used by the South African owners as a base for deep-sea fishing. Fresh water is very scarce and has to be brought in from the mainland. You can stay over for a small fee if they are not there. There is an equipped kitchen with a large fridge, generator and radio to keep in touch with Pemba. No contacts but access can be arranged through Kaskazini.

Iha Quisiva (Quisiva Island).

At low tide there is a beautiful sandy spit extending about 500m away from island. The anchorage is protected from the usual swells. The 'chefe' of Quisiva is Chief Tanjua and the villagers catch parrot and butterfly fish, snapper and stingrays that they take by dhow to Pemba to trade. There are also the ruins of a fort which apparently date from the days of Vasco da Gama, who sailed around Africa in the fifteenth century.

Iha M'funvo (Mefunvo Island).

This is one of the Quirimbas that has a permanent local population. Apparently some Italians are planning to develop the island along the lines of a sustainable enviro-friendly project.

Ilha Quilálea ou Quilaluia (*Quilálea Island*) and Quilálea Marine Sanctuary.

Leased by a South African, Quilaluia has a luxurious resort which opened in 2002 and it's own marine sanctuary, dive centre and 'Yachties' note that anchorage off the island will cost you US\$80 per day. No children under 16 allowed unless a group books the entire island.

Location: In the southern sector of the Quirimbas Archipelago: (S: 12.30'.00 E: 40.35'.00).

Accommodation: 9 luxury and very spacious two-person "island villas" built with local hardwoods in the 'Muani' style and each with ceiling fan, wide veranda and sea-views.

Rates: From \$375 to \$425 (season dependant) per person per night.

Contact: Tel/fax: + 258 (272) 21808, island mobile: + 258 82 326 3900. Email: info@quilalea.com Website: www.quilalea.com

Ilha Sengar / Sencar (*Sengar Island*).

This Mangrove and sandbank island and the surrounding seas are also part of the Quilálea Marine Sanctuary.

Ilha Quirimba (*Quirimba Island*).

In 1992 I walked from Ibo to Quirimba and met Mrs. Lieglind Gessner and the late Mr. Joachim Gessner at their comfortable house set amongst Bouganvillea, Indian almond and Flame trees at the edge of their coconut plantation that produces over 3 million coconuts per year – watch your head! There are also about 3500 Muani villagers on Quirimba. The Gessner family have been living on Quirimba since the 1920's but sadly their name may soon be broken from the Island as Joachim died in October of 2006 and their Coconut plantation now is up for sale. If you are interested in purchasing the Quirimba residence and coconut plantation e-mail mike@mozguide.com

Ilhéu Quiramba (*Quiramba's Island*).

A small sandbank and mangrove island that almost disappears at high tide. A nice beach is visible from Ibo.

Ilha/Vila do Ibo (*Ibo Island and Town*).

Due to a very gently sloping seabed and the 3-4 metre tides, Ibo's yacht anchorage is 3km from the island in a very exposed position relative to the strong NE winds. A great resource for information on Ibo (in Portuguese) and the Quirimbas is: <http://br.geocities.com/quirimbaspemba/>

Ilha do Ibo (Ibo Island).

The Island of the Ibo is just 10km in length and only 5km wide. During the 1600's due largely due to its relative proximity to the Portuguese Province of Goa, Ibo was effectively the capital of a huge region stretching north to Kilwa, south to Sofala and west to Tete. Ibo was also strategically situated to allow control of Arab and Indian commerce in the region. Dutch and French fleets and *Betsimisiraka* Pirates from Madagascar tried unsuccessfully to dislodge the Portuguese on many occasions and the construction of the great Fortress (*São Joao Batista*) was completed in 1791 to house the population during times of threat. This military and commercial passage brought people from all parts of the world to this tiny island in the Indian Ocean – the enigmatic *Sea of Zanj*. If this place doesn't fit Umberto Eco's '*Island of the Day Before*' then nowhere does. Traders, slavers, explorers and pirates have fought over and occupied Ibo for hundreds of years, mainly due its good supply of freshwater and wood from the extensive mangrove forests.

In 1992 Ibo was like one of those phantom places, populated by **miserable lost souls**, which comes and goes with the morning mists. More recently (in 2006) I found it almost pleasant and certainly one of the most intriguing places on this planet. Folk talk of a 'ghost town' and

certainly the village is dilapidated but it still has some charming inhabitants (one *João Batista* comes to mind) who, while quite old, are not yet ghosts. Also many of the old villas have now been acquired by outsiders and are fast being turned into spanking new dwellings sometimes sadly devoid of the charm that was lent by their previous authentic state of disrepair (man I should have been an economist).

Getting to Ibo (12°20'S - 40°35'E).

From the south (Pemba):

If you are hardy and adventurous can get a sail boat (dhow) '*lancha or barco a vela*' from *Bairro Paquite-Quete* in Pemba or the less rugged could arrange a ski-boat transfer through Kaskazini. There are also air transfers available on arrangement with one of the island lodges and certainly if you have booked to stay, your hosts will have arranged this for you.

If using public transport note that the 'chapas' depart from Pemba town for Macomia and possibly Quissanga at around 0430 and you could go either via the rough coastal road or via Macomia (ask for Cruxamento Bilibiza or Mahate). Both routes will take from 5 to 7 hours depending on the condition of the roads. Whether arriving by chapa or in your own 4x4 remember to head for *Tandanhangue* rather than *Quissanga Praia* as dhows can sail more easily (an hour either side of high tide only) from Tandanhangue.

From the north: You can hire or take a dhow taxi from Mocimboa da Praia or from Pangane to Ibo. Hiring a dhow from Pangane to Ibo will cost you about MtN1200 (US\$60) but you could get a lift on a boat going that way for about MtN350.

Ibo by Car.

Get to Quissanga either along the coastal 4x4 track through the Quirimbas National Park (entrance fee of MtN200 per person and per vehicle payable) or go on the main tarred road and then via Bilibiza, Mahate and Quissanga and ask for *Tandanhangue*. There is also *Quissanga Praia* visible down the hill from Quissanga but this is not a good approach as it is longer and there is a sand bar blocking the route that is only navigable at the highest point in the tides. For Ibo's daily, weekly and monthly tide-table look up: <http://www.mobilegeographics.com:81/locations/2713.html>

Carry on through **Tandanhangue** village (fresh *pão* or bread rolls available here) and then after a few hundred metres on a track raised above the Mangrove flats you will reach a little island (at high tide) dominated by a huge baobab. Here there is a stockade run by a man called Bakar where you can safely park your vehicle for MtN50 per day (arrange the price in advance).

If staying at Ibo Island Lodge they will have made arrangements for you to be transferred in their motorboat to Ibo, a 20-minute trip. If travelling independently note that locals pay around MtN25 if they are hitching a ride on a dhow, but I doubt any *mazungu* (White person) could get those rates unless they could negotiate in Portuguese. Travellers should expect to pay from MtN50 -75 if they are joining a boat with other local travellers. To hire your own dhow could cost from Mtn400 – 700 (return) depending on your negotiation skills and then the captain will probably want to take extra paying passengers along anyway. In the rare event of there being a motorboat available the rent will be from a thousand new "Mets" plus (return).

Remember that boats can only negotiate the shallow channels between the Mangroves close to and at high tide and it is always best to arrive 2 hours before high tide as then there is often a selection of boats waiting to cross to Ibo. If you miss the high tide and then insist on crossing on an outgoing tide, the price and chances of spending an extended stop on a desolate sandbank increase.

No point in trying to cross to Ibo from *Quissanga Praia* (beach), as journey time increases dramatically and there is a nasty sandbank that you can only navigate close to high tide. Best to use Tandanhangue and leave vehicles with Bakar in the stockade under the baobab on the beach. Expect to pay MtN50 per day per vehicle for the guard, but negotiate this before departure.

Where to Stay and to Eat on Ibo.

Ibo Island Lodge.

Note that the minimum stay is for 3 nights. When you see what has been done here you will know why folks like me who first wandered around Ibo 14 years ago and didn't snap up one of the old mansions should be kicking oneself. The lodge consists of 3 of the islands most gracious buildings (including the original 'Hotel Paraíso' each with huge patios where I could just sit and watch the tide turning and sun setting every day. I chatted then at length with **Joachim Gessner** who lived for a while in Ibo fifty years ago and I must admit to having a very soft spot for this large lump of coral rock.

Location: If you approach Ibo from the West (i.e. from Tandanhangue), you won't miss these three majestic mansions facing some of the finest seaside sunsets around.

Accommodation: Huge rooms with ceilings high enough to fly a kite in. All furniture and fittings are authentic period pieces.

Contact: Tel: Cape Town, South Africa +27 (0)21 702 0643. Fax: +27 (0)21 702 0644. After Hours Telephone: Mobile: (South Africa) +27 (0)82 780 3931 / 3932 / 3935

Email: info@iboisland.com **Website:** www.iboisland.com

Rates: Per Person: \$280 (low season). \$310 (high season).

Ibo Homestays.

As part of the community eco-tourism initiative in the Parque Nacional das Quirimbas, Rebecca Phillips Marques who is the Community Ecotourism Officer (*Coordenadora, Ecoturismo Comunitário*), tel: + 258 82 709 5400 for the Park, has identified local residents who are able to take visitors into their own homes. I can't tell you how to find them but there is cell phone contact on Ibo so phone.

Contact: Ibraimo Assane (speaks English, Kimwani and Portuguese), + (258) 82 5511919.

Rates: 250 MTn (\$10) a night, 1 or 2 people, including a simple breakfast.

Vila Ruben (Casa Joanina).

Years ago an Italian Aid Worker named Joanina married a local man and started a 'backpackers' guesthouse in the house closest to the fortress. Very nice sea-side breezy location, plenty of shade, double rooms and space for pitching a tent too. Excellent meals are served in the airy dining halls, around the pool, on the patio or on the roof.

Location: On the western sea-board of Ibo next to the Fortaleza.

Accommodation: Inside the house there are rooms with single and double beds. Outside there are various annexes for two to four people and space to pitch a tent.

Contact: Mobile: + 258 82 629 7950.

Rates: Camping MtN150 pp, beds from MtN300 – 400.

TDM (Telecomunicações de Moçambique) Casa de Hospedes (Guest House).

Location: On the East side of Ibo town.

Accommodation: In a gracious, airy building with a columned veranda and Zanzibar-style carved front door. The rooms are vast but the ablutions usually have no running water while the generator will only be fired up for electricity if you are willing to pay extra for diesel for the generator.

Contact: Not known.

Rates: MtN450 per person sharing.

Cinco Portas

Although this charming guesthouse, named after the five identical doors that face onto the porch and Avenue, was not open when I visited, I hope that a Swiss called Honegger get's it all together and prospers, and begins to answer emails too.

Location: On Ibo's main Avenida parallel to the waterfront.

Accommodation: Separate rooms each with own entrance from back veranda. Sea view from the front.

Contact: Tel: +258 82 8074520. Email: juho@xs4all.nl

Rates: Not known.

Ibo's Forts.

Fortaleza São Joao Baptista. Smaller than its counterpart on *Ilha de Moçambique*, it nevertheless used to house the entire population of Ibo town during the raids by the Dutch, French and various pirates, and during the dark days of the Frelimo struggle against colonialism up to 700 prisoners were kept there at a time.

Forte S. Antonio. A smaller fort guarding the East side of Ibo village. Closed to the public due to structural instability.

Fortim S. José. A small blockhouse overlooking the docks.

Ilha Fion. (Fion Island).

Just East of Tandanangue, you pass it (LHS) on the way to Ibo. There are plans to develop it.

Ilhéu Manuel da Silva. (Manuel da Silva's Island).

No information

Ilha do Matemo (Matemo Island)

The magnificent beach now has a top-end lodge overlooking it and some of the dunes have been levelled for the airstrip. Matemo is probably the largest of all the Quirimbas and has a substantial permanent population.

Matemo Island Resort.

Location. **North of Ibo Island.**

Accommodation. 24 thatched air conditioned chalets with en-suite bathrooms fitted with indoor shower and separate bath as well as a private outdoor shower. Outdoor hammock, ceiling fans, fully mosquito-screened, hair dryer, mini bar, personal electronic safe, satellite TV and tea/coffee making facilities.

Contact. Johannesburg Central Reservations Office: Tel: Johannesburg, South Africa + 27 11 465 6904, Fax: + 27 11 465 9623. Email: reservations@raniresorts.com Website: www.matemoresort.com

Rates: From \$300 to \$470 per person sharing.

Ilha das Rolas. (Rolas Island).

Good snorkelling with excellent corals and reef fish on the south and eastern side of the reef. Good diving and snorkelling on **Baixo Zala** a few kilometres to the north. Plenty of pigeons, hence the name, also one of the only places in the area host to the rare coconut or robber crab, the world's largest terrestrial (it cannot swim) arthropod.

Ilha Mogundula (Mogundula Island).

Mogundula Island lies within the Quirimbas National Park and the Lodge is due to open 2007: See: www.divewild.com The surrounding corals are reputed to be some of the least damaged in the entire region.

Ilha Quifula (Quifula Island).

Also a part of the Quirimbas Park.

Ilha Macaloe (Macaloe Island).

Macaloe Island Lodge

This 24-room lodge is situated on Macaloe Island and is the closest resort to the legendary *Banco San Lazarus* or Saint Lazarus Bank. The Maluane Wildlife Reserve is a short distance away on the mainland and Macaloe is an ideal choice for those wanting to combine a safari with some time relaxing on the beach. **Macaloe Island Lodge** is scheduled to open in late 2006, but it is likely this could end up being early 2007. There are ruins of an Arab or Swahili built fort on the island as well as a collapsing abandoned colonial mansion with a commanding view. Look up **The Maluane Project**. www.maluane.com

Ilha Quissanga (Quissanga Island).

One of the archipelago's inhabited islands.

Ilha Dejumbe / Medjumbe (Medjumbe Island).

The *Farol* (lighthouse) *do Medjumbe* is planted on the eastern point of the island and it is 85ft high with a focal plane of 105. It has two white flashes every 15 seconds, was built in 1934 and is still operational. At just 800m by 350m, Medjumbe is tiny and intimate and offers what some call the Quirimba's best diving within a few strokes of the shore. Ask about Laura's Leap!

Medjumbe Island Resort.

Location: Medjumbe lies off Quiterajo, a pretty coastal town accessible by road from the south via Mucojo, but not from the north due to un-bridged rivers.

Accommodation: 13 thatched chalets with en-suite bathrooms fitted with indoor shower and separate bath as well as a private outdoor shower.

Rates: From \$345 - \$534 pp sharing, season dependant.

Contact: Johannesburg Central Reservations Office.

Email: reservations@raniresorts.com.

Tel: + 27 11 465 6904

Fax: + 27 11 465 9623

Website: www.medjumberesort.com

Ilha Karo Nu / Kero Niuni (Kero Niuni Island)

No information.

Ilha Mionge. (Mionge Island).

No information.

Mshanga / Ilha Tecomaji (Tecomaji Island)

Located in the northern Baia de Tungwe, *Tecomaji Deep* off this island has been investigated as a possible breeding site for the primeval Coelacanth fish.

ISLANDS IN THE QUIRIMBAS NORTH OF MOCIMBOA DA PRAIA.

Ilha Tambuzi (Tambuzi Island)

Has a Lighthouse.

Ilha Lipulula / Muluri.

A small somewhat non-descript island just a few hundred metres off Mocímboa da Praia.

Ilha Congo (Congo Island)

No information.

Ilha Suna (Suna Island).

No information.

Ilha Quifuqui (Quifuqui Island).

Has a very scenic and protected yacht anchorage close to the shore. There is excellent snorkelling over unspoiled coral gardens around the nearby islet. This island is about 40 Nautical miles south of the Mozambique border with Tanzania.

Ilha Metundo (Metundo Island).

No information.

Ilha Quissungura (Quissungura Island).

No information.

Ilha Vumba (Vumba Island).

No information.

Ilha Vamizi / Amisa (Vamizi Island).

Vamizi Island Lodge

Vamizi Island Lodge opened the doors onto its 14km long beach for business in December. Reputed to have the 'best wall dive ever' and endless coral gardens.

The lodge comprises ten separate beach houses, each with its own large living room, spectacular bathroom and breezy veranda; two houses can accommodate four guests, the rest of the houses take just two guests. The houses are all secluded from each other and look out to sea from the shade of the forest that forms the centre of the island. Samango monkeys play in the trees and prowl the glades, hunting the land crabs that live there. The décor of the Vamizi lodge incorporates as much of the traditional design of the region as possible.

Rates: \$560 - \$740 (Season dependent).

Contact: **Email:** reservations@maluane.com **Website:** www.vamizi.com

Ilha Queramimbi / Keramimbi (Keramimbi Island).

No information.

Ilha Rongui (Rongui Island)

Rongui Island Lodge

Situated on its own island approximately 10 kilometres north of Vamizi, **Rongui Island Lodge** enjoys what is perhaps the most idyllic location in the archipelago. Positioned at the head of a shallow crescent shaped lagoon, the sand is sugar soft and the water a translucent and inviting turquoise. You can expect dolphins to surf the wake of your boat in welcome as you arrive.

The Maluane Project is one of the last unspoilt and unexploited wilderness areas along the east African coast. Comprising three Indian Ocean islands, a coastal strip and a 33,000 hectare wildlife reserve, this vast conservation area has coral reefs, mangrove forests, powder beaches and islands, together with large areas of forest and savannah inland.

Situated in northern Mozambique, Maluane is unique in being both a scientifically based conservation project and a sustainable low-impact tourism initiative. Conservation and environmental impact work at Maluane began in 1999 and found that the area had a large elephant population and significant numbers of predators and an incomparable marine life containing many endangered and rare species.

Work has since begun on three island lodges and two luxury safari camps on the mainland. These will be complete at various times from late 2005 to the end of 2006 and will mean that Maluane Project guests will be able to witness a lion kill in the morning, have lunch on the ramparts of an ancient fort before rounding off the day with a dive around the coral ringed islands of Vamizi, Rongui and Macaloe. The beach and safari lodges at Maluane will offer all the luxuries you could want for, whilst holiday guests wishing to learn more about the environmental and community aspects of the Maluane Project will be able to do so. Website: www.maluane.com

Ilha Tecomaji

Ilha Tecomagi - this is the northern-most island in Mozambique, just off the Cabo Delgado lighthouse. It has a large, sheltered bay lined with Casuarinas, bush and some mangroves.

General Comment Regarding Diving Amongst the Quirimbas. There is no doubt that the further north from Pemba Town you go, the less human impact there has been on the reefs and the more fish and soft corals are seen.

“Nothing is trivial here”. Impressions of Pemba and the Quirimbas.

“The *lancha* (dhow) rocked gently as it rose with the tide (*maji mwinji*) from a sandbank on which it had come to rest a few long, quiet hours previously. I had left in the dark from *Paquite-Quete* (pa kitty-kat); a palm-shaded little *Bairro* that lounges along the shores of Pemba’s huge inland bay on the east coast of Africa in Mozambique, and now the glow of a gathering dawn was beginning to compete with the streaks of luminescence in the sea.

Perhaps it was the exotic, almost oriental appearance of the captain and crew who had contentedly chatted in *Swahili* and smoked *mbanji* (cannabis) through the night, or perchance the puffs of cloud on the horizon which may have resembled in my imagination the sails of ghostly pirate ships, but an image began to swirl around my mind, becoming a word - ***Betsimisiraka***.

Now what do ***Ibn Battuta***, ***Betsimisaraka*** (The Inseparable Multitude), ***Tufo*** dancers, ***Pero da Covilha***, and ***Sindbad the Sailor*** have in common? I have encountered all in name or in the flesh during my journeys in around Mozambique’s ***Ilhas das Quirimbas*** – an enchanting (and enchanted?) string of islands which, like uneven giant stepping-stones, emerge a little north of Pemba town and disappear a little south of the mouth of the ***Rio Rovuma*** and the frontier with Tanzania.

Ibn Battuta? A geographer and historian, who lived during the 12th century, he is the Moroccan equivalent of Marco Polo, who would have lived amongst the Swahili of East Africa, long before the arrival of the Portuguese. The ***Betsimisiraka*** (a Malgash word for ‘Inseparable Multitude’) were drawn from the disparate tribes of north-eastern Madagascar and united by the half-caste son of an English rogue. ***Betsimisiraka*** were feared pirates and laid siege to Ibo Island on a number of occasions, even sinking several Portuguese vessels at sea.

The sensual, and (some say) diabolical ***Tufo*** dance of the Islanders has mesmerised, aroused and deeply disturbed me. Not the sanitised version presented to tourists by cultural groups such as the ***‘Estrelas Vermelhas’*** on ***Ilha de Mocambique*** (Mozambique Island), but a ceremony that you know is beginning when the deep beat of the drums commences their call to primordial memories some would rather remain firmly forgotten.

Pero da Covilha was not only the first European (disguised as a Muslim) to visit Mecca, but was, during the late 15th Century, probably the first Portuguese to visit these islands of the coast of what became Mozambique. And of course, ***Sindbad the Sailor*** needs no introduction, but could it be that this legendary adventurer was in fact a Chinese prince who visited these shores in a giant trading junk during the 12th Century?

The *gaff* of the dhow, swinging across with the sudden breeze, jerked my back to the present and our *Capitão* pointed to a silhouette shaped like a reclining mermaid: ***Medjumbi Island*** with a beach so perfect, I put my camera down in anguish. Often a photograph is no recorder of anything real.

The pirates may no longer pillage and plunder these islands, but traders and adventurers of varying pedigree still seek something intangible between and within these shores of solitude. And I have visited again since that first fascination, and it has grown and become an obsession.

Care for a little enchantment? The magic words are Pemba and the Quirimbas.”

In honour of my late father, George
Who was most at ease with a fishing rod in his hands,
the surf-spray in his face and the wind at his back.
And also in honour of a famous fishing friend called Charles Norman (who also died recently).
Ponder on this perceptive piece written by Charles:
www.sportfishafrica.co.za/ViewArticle.asp?VI=23

6. Mocímboa da Praia and Surrounding Area.

Mocímboa da Praia is a fascinating almost forgotten little port which is 130km (by road) from the Rovuma River and Tanzania and 360km (by road) north of Pemba. As it lies at the head of a deep bay this is one of Mozambique's major dhow harbours and there are boats sailing daily for Tanzania or south to Pangane and Ibo. It is at the mouth of an estuary surrounded by very extensive mangroves (excellent birding), it is certainly not a beach destination (there are amazing beaches nearby to Palma) and it does not get those cooling sea breezes making it very hot and humid during the summer months.

Although relatively distant from the Tanzania border, there is a real frontier atmosphere and attitude in this town and it is in fact the first port of call for smugglers from Tanzania, Kenya, Somalia and the Comoros. In recent times Mocímboa da Praia has developed a reputation for being somewhat crime ridden but incidents usually involve theft out of rooms and cars are also common targets, but little violence involved thus far. Fortunately Chez Natalie, the town's only tourist guesthouse has excellent security and has been crime free.

Facilities and services available include cell phone coverage (MCel only), Internet at TDM and at Chez Natalie, a Petromoc service station with irregular supplies and often only diesel, banks with ATM's and a district hospital where malaria can be treated adequately, but general standards of assistance are very poor. Mocímboa Da Praia Airport: FQMP – MZB, is just 2km from the centre of town and it has a paved runway some 6500 ft in length. There are no regular scheduled flights to Mocímboa da Praia.

Getting Mocímboa da Praia from Pemba.

By Road:

Public Transport:

The same advice applies as getting to Quissanga and Ibo via the inland tarred (paved) road route – see above. There is usually at least a bus per day departing for Mocímboa da Praia from the main Avenida in Pemba leading out of town.

Self-drive:

Most of this route is presently remarkably good tarmac suitable for all vehicles, however immediately after Macomia there is a 30km long rough gravel (mud during rain) stretch that would best be driven in a 4x4 during the wet season (November to April). Make sure that you take along a few extra cans of fuel, especially if your vehicle uses petrol (*gasolina*), as the pumps at Macomia and Mocímboa da Praia usually only have diesel (*gasóleo*) and they regularly run dry. Be aware that there are permanent transit police checkpoints as you leave Pemba, at Sunate, Macomia, Diaca (left to Mueda, right to Mocímboa da Praia) and on the outskirts of Mocímboa da Praia.

By Air:

From Pemba **charter flights can be arranged in Pemba through www.kaskazini.com or through Viatur.**

Getting to Mocímboa da Praia from Tanzania.

Public Transport.

No regular buses or *chapas* but usually at least one private car per day doing the trip offering lifts for around MTn 200 per person.

By Road. See the extensive info (above) on crossing the Rovuma, and note that this is definitely a 4x4 only route and can become very difficult during the December to April rains.

By Air. From Dar es Salaam charter flights can be booked through Coastal Aviation: Dar es Salaam: Head Office, Tel: +255 222 117 959 or +255 222 117 960. Fax: +255 222 118 647. Cell: +255 744 324 044. Website: www.coastal.cc Email: safari@coastal.cc

Vamizi and Rongui Island Lodges: www.maluane.com do sometimes use Coastal Aviation to get their guests to Mocímboa da Praia from where they are transferred to the islands.

Where to Stay and to Eat in Mocímboa da Praia.

Chez Natalie

This is the northernmost tourist lodge on the mainland of Mozambique and after the long, dusty, or muddy, or both trip south from Tanzania, it is a truly welcome oasis of comfort, security, service and good food. Mocímboa da Praia may be crumbling (the Sporting Clube certainly recalls a long gone era of prosperity), but just 2km from the centre, Chez Natalie's very nice architect-designed chalets and stilted bar area are perched on a cliff overlooking a beautiful lagoon. Meals can be ordered by guests (no restaurant) and these are prepared in the traditional manner by a local lady. Boat trips to the islands can also be organized through Chez Natalie. Natalie speaks French, Portuguese and English.

Location: Turn into town and carry on down the main Avenida past the Sporting Clube on the LHS then turn left to Cemitério through the *bairros*. Signposted but could be difficult to find in the dark so phone ahead and arrange to be met at Petromoc.

Accommodation: Large, airy, very well constructed en-suite chalets with very upmarket comforts - some with a double and a single bed, some with twin beds. Each chalet has a table and chairs, internet connection and a deck overlooking the lagoon.

Rates: MTn 1700 (\$70) per chalet for a maximum of 3 occupants.

Contact:

Pensão Leeta.

A 3-story building on the RHS as you enter town on Avenida Samora Machel almost opposite the Petromoc Service Station. Pretty grubby, no mosquito nets but convenient for transport in and out of town and there is a reasonable restaurant next door. Tel: + (272) 8 11 47

Pensão Mahometana Majid.

On the LHS as you enter town on the main Avenida. Cheaper than Leeta but use only if other options are all full. MTn 300 per person. Tel: + (272) 8 10 99.

Pensão Carlos.

Natalie's comment: "mosquitoes and noise". MTn 300 – 400 per person.

Pensão Dona Bebe.

At least it is on the beach so cooler perhaps than the other Pensões, but very dodgy bathrooms.

Pensão Miramar.

Also on the beach, perhaps the pick of a bad bunch.

Also ask about **Complexo Natasha**, although I have no information about this place.

Note that none of the above *Pensões* have running water.

Useful Telephone Numbers in Mocímboa da Praia.

Banco Austral. Avenida 7 Março. Tel: + (272) 8 11 54. ATM and money exchange available here.

PETROMOC - Petróleos de Moçambique SARL. Avenida Samora Machel. Tel: + (272) 8 11 46.

Hospital Rural de Mocímboa da Praia **on Avenida Eduardo Mondlane. Tel: + (272) 8 11 53.**

Direcção Distrital da Agricultura e Pescas. **Avenida Eduardo Mondlane. Tel: + (272) 8 11 61.**

Neptune Shipping Ltd Ship-Chandlers. **54 Avenida 7 Março. Tel: + (272) 8 10 23.**

Telecomunicações de Moçambique (TDM). Public phones (landline) and Internet access available here. Avenida 7 Março. Tel: + (272) 8 11 23.

Aeroporto de Mocímboa da Praia. Rua Aeroportos. Tel: + (272) 8 11 93.

Around Mocímboa da Praia.

The islands of the Archipelago das Quirimbas are well covered above.

Lake Macungue Safari Lodge.

Lake Macungue Safari Lodge will be located inland within the Maluane Wildlife Reserve. 24 chalets are planned and work will begin in late 2006, with the first visitors expected in the first half of 2007.

The topography, flora and fauna of this part of Mozambique is similar to the Selous game reserve in southern Tanzania - and the intervening period leading up to its opening date in 2007 should see a good increase in wildlife populations. See: www.maluane.com

Palma.

Palma is a tiny port town of about 20 000 people 85km north of Mocímboa da Praia by road, renowned for its skilful reed-mat (*esteira*) weaving and possibly the nastiest *Pensão* in all of Mozambique. There are absolutely no facilities here, no electricity, phones or fuel. As the anchorage is quite exposed and there are few trade opportunities, few trading dhows visit and it is far better to go to Mocímboa da Praia if coming from Tanzania, or intending to sail up to Tanzania.

The road between Mocímboa da Praia and Palma is being upgraded but as has long stretches of deep sand, and mud when wet, it is a 4x4 only route at present. From Namoto (Tanzania border) to Palma, the

Quionga.

Although most maps show Quionga as being located right at the border with Tanzania, on the banks of the Rio Rovuma (Ruvuma River), it is actually about 20km south of the river on a very fine powder sand (winter) or clay mud (summer) track. Quionga is really just a big traditional village with a few concrete buildings and shops where the basics can be bought. While Quionga is located on a mangrove estuary (very hot and humid and full of mosquitoes in summer), there is a stunning beach nearby and the drive to the Cabo Delgado Lighthouse (*Farol*) is very worthwhile.

If significant oil reserves are discovered in the area, the **Kionga (or Quionga) Triangle**, an area south of the Rovuma River, may yet again become the subject of a dispute between Mozambique and Tanzania. This is because when Germany controlled Tanganyika (now Tanzania), their southernmost outpost was Kionga, but in 1916, during World War I, the Portuguese occupied it, and after the war the Treaty of Versailles defined the border as running along the Rovuma, thus allotting the triangle to Mozambique. Tanzania have unofficially never been comfortable with this state of affairs and perhaps this is one of the reasons why there is still no road link between Mozambique and Tanzania – a somewhat bizarre situation with no formal explanation offered by either government.

Contact Quionga.

You can try the following number, but at best it will be relayed via a bad radio link and you will certainly have to be able to speak Portuguese.

Telecomunicações de Moçambique. Tel: + (272) 2 11 42.

Namoto.

This is the border outpost in a wonderful forest at the edge of the Rovuma floodplain. New buildings are being constructed for the immigration officials and once the computer and generator have been installed, perhaps Mozambique visas will finally be issued here. Until then make sure that you get your visa in Dar es Salaam (same day possible) if coming south to Mozambique from Tanzania. No facilities here but good flat and clear spots available to put up a tent. If entering Mozambique with a vehicle, you will have to show the registration papers and purchase a 30-day Temporary Import Permit (TIP) for about US\$1,50 or Mtn30. It is compulsory to obtain 3rd Party Insurance Motor insurance but as this is not on offer north of Pemba, assure any officials or police that may ask for it that you will purchase this from Emose in Pemba.

Mueda

Once the new 'Unity Bridge' over the Rovuma between Mtambaswala in Tanzania and Negomano in Mozambique is complete (perhaps by mid 2008), Mueda will be the first major town travellers will reach if using this new and very scenic route into Mozambique. Presently there are no bridges over the Rovuma River, and the only vehicle access is presently via the irregular motor barge (ferry) between Kilambo (Tanzania) and Namoto (Mozambique) at the Rovuma mouth.

Mueda is a surprisingly large and quite busy town with cell phone (MCel only) signal, ATM's, banks, supermarkets, district hospital (basic care only – malaria well treated) and Service Stations (often only diesel available). Due to its 900m altitude, Mueda's climate is moderated and is up to 5°C cooler than along the adjacent coastline – pretty cold during the winter months!

Mueda became important to the Portuguese Colonial regime when Frelimo began launching raids in Mozambique from Tanzania and a forward base for Portuguese soldiers was needed. Mueda became one of Mozambique's main military bases and a tarred road was built from Mocimboa da Praia to facilitate the movement of troops and armoured vehicles.

The Mueda Massacre.

In 1960, Tanzania declared itself a Marxist state and, as Mozambique's northern neighbour, began to provide bases for Makonde exiles who had crossed the Ruvuma River after being deprived of their land in Cabo Delgado Province by Portuguese commercial farmers. The initial half-hearted guerrilla incursions had little impact on the white settlers who responded by in the form of the Portuguese Governors' calling of a meeting with Makonde Chiefs that was held at Mueda in Cabo Delgado during 1960. There are conflicting reports, but confusion ensued when discussions became heated. Portuguese commandos opened fire, killing many of the Makonde leaders. Outrage fuelled internal resistance and prompted greater Soviet intervention in Mozambique.

Getting to Mueda.

By Road.

Other than via Namoto, Quionga and Mocimboa da Praia, there is presently no way to drive to Mueda from Tanzania. The road from Pemba is almost all tarmac, while the scenic track from Montepuez is being extensively upgraded but is still 4x4 - only territory. If using public transport from either Mocimboa da Praia or Pemba, you will probably have to change at Diaca.

By Air.

While there are certainly no scheduled flights from anywhere to Mueda, it has a good airport with a 2789 ft (900m) long runway at 11° 39' 0" S; 39° 33' 0" E.

Where to Stay in Mueda.

Pensão Ntima. Tel: + (272) 8 40 22. No information - could be better to bush-camp.

The Makonde.

Muidumbe village is considered to be the cultural and geographical heartland of the Makonde people. Muidumbeans have a reputation (probably undeserved) for being fierce, reclusive and aggressive but while many Makonde men are still prized for the abilities as night-watchmen as they can stealthily disable a man with their arrows from a distance 50metres, my encounters with the people of this plateau have always been relaxed and amicable.

Nevertheless the Makonde are a people who take their belief in 'witchcraft' extremely seriously as evidenced by this description of any incident that was documented by the local police in July 2002.

"In July 2002 lions killed several people in the lowlands of Ing'unde, close to the seat of the district. People there understood the killings as being directed by malevolent sorcerers (*curandeiros* or in this case, probably *feticeiros*) who apparently can transform themselves into lions by means of witchcraft, or through a disguise made of lion skins and paws. As a result the people accused of being sorcerers were attacked by an angry mob and severely assaulted.

The police and administration officially dismissed the people's beliefs as 'primitive superstition' but the 'lions' continued to attack, killing a further 46 people while suspected witches continued to be lynched to death. The provincial government finally intervened, sending hunters to kill the lions and arresting the leaders of what had become quite a local rebellion.

Here is a translation of a report sent by the district administrator to the Provincial Governor:
"I inform your Excellency that on the day 8/7/2002 a lion killed 3 people and wounded another. The people dead are two men and one woman, the injured is a man. They belong to the villages 24 de Março and Mwambula. The same lion, on the day of 10/7/2002, killed another person in the village Mwambula. Those people live dispersed in the lowlands of the river Ing'unde and *Li ndambwa* (fields). The injured is hospitalized in the Mwatide health post. Greetings. The administrator, Pedro Justino Seguro.

During the night between the 8th and the 9th of July of 2002, a lion killed three people and injured one in the lowlands of the river Ing'unde, some 15 km from Mwambula. In this area, people live in small huts (*likuta*, pl. *makuta*), built around the course of the river, about five hundred meters from each other. The killing pattern was repeated on four occasions. The lion killed, and then he was disturbed by someone living with the victim, which he left unconsumed. Then he set to kill again in the nearest household, down the stream of the river.

Three times the lion killed; three times he was disturbed, three times he left a body lying in the dust. The fourth time, his victim did not die, although he was severely injured."

The survivor told a most interesting story:

Hilario José Saide was a Makua from Chiure, who came to live in Muidumbe after having married a local woman. He settled there, and he made friends with a neighbour called Jonas Nshagwaju. Together they built a hut in the lowlands of Ing'unde, where they used to cut sugarcane and distil *nipa* (cane spirit). The night of the 8th, Saide and Nshagwaju were going to sleep after having brewed sugarcane that they drunk that evening. While Nshagwaju was putting away the bottles of liquor a lion attacked Saide. Seeing the moment of his death impending, Saide screamed out loud in his mother tongue, Emakhuwa: "I die, mother!" Suddenly, the lion left him, as if disinterested, and ran away.

Was it the same lion that had killed three people some hundred meters away?
Saide affirmed that the lion did not bite or claw him, but that the lion stabbed him four times with a piercing weapon. Then, when he screamed in his own mother

tongue, the lion left him right away. Saide heard the lion muttering: "He's not the one that we wanted". When Saide turned around, he did not see a lion, but a man disguised in lion skins and armed with knives. He immediately recognized him as Nshagwaju's younger brother.

Two weeks later, a man called Majongo Kumpuni came home from Ing'unde severely wounded. He told a story similar to Saide's. As he was distilling *nipa*, a cousin of his had dressed up as a lion and stabbed him in the area near his anus. Kumpuni's cousin was killed by an angry mob; his body disembowelled and left rotting in the same place where Likamaneka had been killed. A nun from the Consolata mission helped out by giving him a proper burial.

The war of the lions had erupted:

FROM AN OFFICIAL REPORT:

"N° 90/F/4/2 of 22/4/2003. I inform Your Excellency that on the day of 21/4/2003, a group of citizens of the village Mwambula, armed with arrows, machetes and knives went to the village of Namakande, seized a citizen accused of transforming into a lion and killed him, burning his body. As I have been reporting on the lion situation, the situation is dire with unforeseeable consequences. It is necessary that the provincial government help us to restore order and tranquillity in the district. "

The Mapico Dancers.

Like many other peoples who have managed to avoid the ravages of western materialism, the Makonde still consider their various 'rights of passage' to be central to their identity and existence. The most important of these practices relate to male and female initiation and the **Mapico** dance is one way the Makonde take their young men into adulthood. (What the women get up during their **Chiputo** remains shrouded in secrecy and is not open to male eyes anyway). During the Mapico, where masks with the same name (singular Lipico) are worn, a young boy (who's identity must remain unknown), places the hollow Lipico over his head and, wearing garish apparel which sometimes resembles Victorian underwear, dances frantically and often provocatively to the beat of the drummers.

The show is highly theatrical, amusing and enchanting and the images on the clay (or wood) and cloth lipico masks often mimic an enemy, or as was usual during the colonial era, parody the local administrator. The Mapico is at the centre of the traditional gatherings during which initiation ceremonies are carried out. Despite the havoc wrought by the partition of Africa, missionaries and urbanization, these traditions continue to have a profound impact on the life of the Makonde who are seemingly managing to keep a fairly balanced relationship between the traditional and the contemporary.

Where and When to See Mapico Dancing.

The Museum of Ethnology in Nampula has an excellent selection of Mapico masks (mascaras), but it's nicer to see the real thing so get out into the bush around Mueda, or Muidumbe or anywhere on the Makonde plateau and ask at one of the villages to be shown the Mapico. Usually within a few hours one can be arranged on the agreement of a payment of around MTn200-300 to the troupe leader.

Muidumbe 22 – 25 July.

The District of Muidumbe, an administrative post of the greater district of Mueda (the cradle of the war of independence) was created on the 25th of July 1986. Its inhabitants often refer with pride to Muidumbe as 'the heartland of Makonde people' (*ntima wavamakonde*), however they are often depicted by outsiders in the province (including Muedan Makonde) as uncivilised, rude, violent and reclusive.

Every year, Muidumbeans (*vamwidumbi*) celebrate the birth of their district through a government-sponsored, if highly informal, cultural festival. 'Traditional' dance groups gather in Mwambulato to compete for fame under the shade of mango trees, and to party and go on a bender with the villagers beginning two or three days **before** the anniversary and climaxing on July 25th.

Ask after groups such as *Nshindo*, *Najjale*, *Naupanga* and *Shuki Nwele*.

Montepuez.

This is a bustling and quite prosperous town that serves the surrounding farming community producing mainly cotton, maize and beans. Here you will find a crashed Dakota aircraft in a park, some nice art-deco churches and other buildings, ATM's, banks, internet connection at TDM, a district hospital, IT support services, cell phone signal, supermarkets and a great municipal market.

Eat at **Restaurante do João** located next to the PLEXUS cotton (*algodão*) factory. Great basic meals, but a (welcome) dip in the sparkling swimming pool will cost you MT15 per person.

Where to Stay in and around Montepuez.

Aurora.

A couple of kilometres before you arrive in Montepuez (if coming from Pemba), there is a turn-off left to a beautiful cathedral set against a brooding granite outcrop. Next door you will see Aurora which is in a renovated colonial mansion with wonderful views of the countryside. This is a great outing for a day or two (Aurora is just two hours away from Pemba in a normal sedan car) to escape the sweltering coastline or just to see that there is more to Mozambique than a 2500km-long beach. The focus is on eco-tourism and the community are involved in producing essential oils, mango products. The Restaurant is for guests only, and has great home made food. The daily menu varies according to fresh products available locally.

Location: 3km east of Montepuez on the Pemba road.

Accommodation: Large, high-ceilinged rooms with balconies and shared bathrooms.

Rates: From \$40 per person.

Contact: Tel: + (258) 84 78 13 820. Email: aurora-mozambique@hotmail.com

Website: www.auroramozambique.com

Useful Services and Contacts in Montepuez.

Police: Comando Distrital da PRM. Av Eduardo Mondlane. Tel: + (272) 5 10 61.

Banco Comercial de Moçambique. Rua Julius Nyerere. Tel: + (272) 5 10 90.

Banco Internacional de Moçambique. Av Eduardo Mondlane. Tel: + (272) 51038.

Plexus Cotton: Av 25 de Junho. Tel: + (272) 51285. www.plexus-cotton.com

Hospital Rural de Montepuez. Av Eduardo Mondlane. Tel + (272) 51027.

Telecomunicações de Moçambique. Internet Access. Avenida Eduardo Mondlane. Tel: + (272) 52000.

7. Reserva do Niassa (Niassa Reserve).

Note that this is Tsetse fly country.

The bite of the Tsetse is very painful as these critters don't just nip and go, they carry on chewing until forcefully removed by a good slap. To kill them you need to hit them with something hard, against something solid otherwise they will lie around for a while and then stealthily crawl up your shorts once again. They are attracted by dark colours (shadows too) that are moving so wear long, light coloured clothing and if in a moving vehicle keep the windows closed and put on the air-con. Otherwise be prepared for an epic battle. Tsetse disappear after dark and give their cousins the malaria-carrying anopheles mosquitoes a go.

Tripanosomiasis (Sleeping sickness).

Symptoms begin with fever, headaches, and joint pains then lymph nodes often swell up to tremendous sizes (Winterbottom's sign). If untreated, the disease slowly (could be over a period of years) overcomes the defences of the infected person, and symptoms spread to include anaemia, endocrine (glands), cardiac (heart), and kidney diseases and disorders. The disease then enters a neurological (brain) phase that gives the disease its name (Sleeping Sickness); besides confusion and reduced coordination, the sleep cycle is disturbed with bouts of fatigue punctuated with manic periods progressing to daytime slumber and night time insomnia (sounds pretty pedestrian to anyone who is a parent).

Without treatment, **the disease is fatal**, with progressive mental deterioration leading to coma and death. Damage caused in the neurological phase can be irreversible. OK so this means that we should **stay far away from the Reserva do Niassa** and places thereabouts? Certainly not, the **good news** is that the only cases of Tripanosomiasis reported from anywhere in Mozambique during recent times are **ONE** from Tete province in 2002 and **ONE** from Niassa province in 2004, so don't fret, rather worry about **malaria** which kills hundreds in this area each year – but not you if you take the usual precautions (see mozguide front page).

Meanwhile, back at the Reserva...

Throughout the troubled times (1976 – 1992) in Mozambique, this huge and remote reserve which clings to the middle-course of the *Rio Rovuma* (Ruvuma River) on Mozambique's northern border with Tanzania, quietly continued to provide sanctuary to thousands of elephant, a handful of rhino, prides of lion, and herds of Roan and Sable antelope (amongst many other things that run, jump, crawl, fly and generally prance about the bundu in gay abandon).

That Niassa still has the best game viewing opportunities in Mozambique, is really quite amazing when one considers that almost everywhere else in Mozambique had been denuded by desperate displaced people of anything offering even a few grams of protein from locusts and birds, to ants, rats and bats. During 1993 I travelled slowly through Mozambique's bush from Maputo to the Rovuma, and everywhere the place was eerily quiet – even the nights were not interrupted by the cries of wandering jackal or the haunting howls of hyena.

My most recent visit was in July 2006 and from a the point of view of a casual visitor there are still no facilities provided and I do not recommend that you expect to be able to camp at Mbatamila, the reserve HQ, as the amenities are very limited and are reserved for use by the research and management staff. This was my fourth visit and, as before, we were provided with one of the '*fiscais*' or game guards and drove about 100km from Mecula towards Gomba where we camped on the Jurege River and walked out from there each morning and evening – even in winter the days are very hot. The bush is quite dense with very few open patches and game viewing from a vehicle is not recommended as the animals still associate engine noise with poachers.

About the Niassa Reserve

The Niassa Reserve, established in 1964 basically to be a hunting reserve used mainly by the officers of the Portuguese army based in the area, protects one of the largest (dry) Miombo Woodland Ecosystems in Africa, is 42 000km² in extent and is Managed by the *Sociedade para a Gestão e Desenvolvimento da Reserva do Niassa* (SRN) who are tasked with formulating and implementing a management plan and attracting concessionaires. There are approximately 25 000 people living inside the Reserve, mostly in the towns of Mecula (14 000), Gomba, Matondavela and Erevuca and primarily from the Yao and Makua tribal groups with some Ngoni, Marave and Matambwe people.

The reserve extends over parts of Cabo Delgado Province and covers nearly one third of Niassa - Mozambique's least developed and most sparsely populated province. It is bordered by the Rio Rovuma (Rovuma River) in the north (Tanzania border); the Rio Lugenda to the southeast, the Rio Luatize in the southwest and the Rio Lussanhando is its western boundary. A buffer area of a further 20,000 km², divided into six management concessions has now been incorporated in the Reserve bringing the total area to twice the size of South Africa's Kruger park or about the size of Wales, Denmark, Massachusetts or Mugabe's 'confiscated' farms in Zimbabwe.

Rafting the Rio Rovuma.

In 1998 I lead a team from the Exploration Society of southern Africa (ESSA www.explorationsociety.org) which rafted the Rovuma from Chamba to Gomba which is the

stretch that borders the Reserva do Niassa. Conditions varied from wide braids, to gnarly narrow channels with razor-sharp rocks and nasty drops. We did quite a few big portages around 'unrunnable' falls and one boat was attacked by a large crocodile. Stunning scenery, some game (signs of elephant everywhere but poaching has turned them nocturnal). Locals were either suspicious (thought we were an anti-poaching team), but mostly friendly. Note that further downstream from Gomba another kayaking team from South Africa were (unsuccessfully) ambushed by poachers during the same year.

A good paddle, but I would take out at Gomba.

Accommodation in the Reserva do Niassa.

The process of granting concessions within the main part of the reserve (i.e. to the north and west of the Rio Lugenda) is progressing very slowly and it seems that the government is reluctant to encourage visits by overlanders and independent travellers by putting up camping facilities, so there basically are none. Apart from camping in the bush at places where the obligatory guide will lead you to, the only formal accommodation is the exclusive **Lugenda Bush Camp** (not in the Reserva, but in a concession to the east of the Lugenda river), which opened in September 2006, is across the Lugenda River in one of the Coutadas (Hunting Concessions) which is sometimes referred to as Luwire (Lugenda Wildlife Reserve). This camp caters to the top end of the tourism market and guests are flown in from Pemba. See: www.raniresorts.com/resorts/lugenda.php and please note that the Camp is closed from November 30 to May 01 during the summer rains.

Rock Paintings in the Niassa Reserve.

Keith and Colleen Begg are South African researchers studying honey-badgers in the Reserva and while tracking one of the radio collared lions in November 2005 they discovered what appeared to be paintings on the lower overhangs of a large boulder which forms the end slope of a granite inselberg called Nkopola. The lion regularly rests in this spot in the shade of the boulder. Once the lion moved off they were able to investigate further. The Beggs explored further in the immediate vicinity and found another site with paintings that appear to be two figures with additional lines and dots (red paint); there were also some fragments of pottery in the cave.

Getting to the Reserva do Niassa.

By Road

The only legal overland access route is via Marrupa over the Lugenda Bridge to Mecula where you must report to the management at Mbatamila and pay your Mtn200 entrance and Mtn200 daily park fee (per person). A German group have posted on the 'net a trip where they apparently exited the reserve at Mbamba over the Lugenda River and then carried on down to Negomano and Mueda. Note that this illegal and irresponsible manoeuvre has led to quite a few vehicles, trying to repeat their feat, becoming stuck in the Lugenda resulting in very hefty fines and recovery fees. The Lugenda is only very rarely low enough to be crossed by any vehicle and you cannot expect anyone to come to your aid. There is a western route into the reserve via Mavago, but this is not open for tourists, the road is not maintained and if you do get through you may be turned back.

From Pemba the tarred road is good to Montepuez from where it becomes a wide gravel road to Balama from where it deteriorates into an almost invisible track in places. The Balama River is not bridged and the wide drift is often not passable during the wet season. About 50km before Marrupa the road has been upgraded and is graded with numerous small bridges and culverts making the going much easier. Montepuez to Marrupa takes at least 11 hours during the dry season. The gravel track between Marrupa and Mecula has been improved considerably and takes 3 to 4 hours in a good 4x4 vehicle in the dry season. The tarring of the road between Montepuez to Marrupa has been put out to tender and should be complete by the end of 2008.

From Lichinga the road is now tarred (bitumen / paved) all the way to Marrupa. There is no reliable source of fuel in Marrupa yet.

From Cuamba the road to Marrupa is wide gravel on which average speeds of 60kph in an off-road vehicle are practical, but it can become very difficult during the rainy season when even the best 4x4 cars can get stuck.

Contacts for the Reserva do Niassa.

SRN Maputo (Management Company for the Reserve). Tel + 258 (21) 312084/5. Fax +258 (21) 426031 or contact Niassa Reserve e-mail: anarodmoz@hotmail.com Website: www.niassa.net

Book: Birds of the Niassa Reserve
<http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/stats/adu/books.htm>

Niassa Reserve Hunting Operators

Block A and C: Luwire (Lugenda Wildlife Reserve).

Area Manager: Jamie Wilson E-mail: np01@bushmail.net

Jamie Wilson: Tel. 011-258-2722-1770
Cell 011-258-82-326-4800

Derek Littleton: Fax. 011-258—27221767. Email: enquiries@luwire.com
www.luwire.com

Block B: Kambako Safaris

Johnnie Johnson: Tel/Fax: + 263.33-6693/6305. Stuart Taylor: Cell: + 258-82-300-0094.
George Hallomere: Tel: + 263-33-6244. Jumbo Moore: Tel: + 263-33-5241 Email: Kambako@teledata.mz. www.kambakosafaris.com

Block D1: Safaris Mozambique Bound. Tel: + 267-686-3055. Graham Pollock. Fax: + 267-686-4073. E-mail: saf.bots@info.bw

Block D2: Johan Calitz Safaris Tel: Tharia Unwin Fax: + 27-(0)56 212 1512 Email: jachunt@mweb.co.za The camp is situated on the banks of the Lugenda river. There is a good network of bush roads as well as a landing strip. The camp consists of four luxury en-suite Meru safari tents and a communal area consisting of a kitchen, dining room and deck. The tents are furnished with comfortable beds and linen, cupboards and chairs and the en-suite bathrooms are fitted with hot/cold showers and basins, flush toilets, towels and toiletries. A daily laundry service is provided.

Block E: Niassa Hunters Safaris Lda. Tel: + 258 82-471849 (cell).

Marrupa

About halfway between Montepuez and Lichinga, at the turn-off north to the Reserva do Niassa, the pleasant little town of Marrupa spreads itself out over a small plateau. Until recently Marrupa could be cut off by flooding during the summer rains, and was certainly only accessible after a tortuous journey in a good 4x4 from any direction whether via the south from Cuamba, the west from Lichinga or the East from Montepuez and Pemba. Now there is a fantastic new tarmac road all the way from Lichinga to Marrupa which is now being extended to Montepuez. I drove this route in July 2006 and saw only two other vehicles en-route making me wonder whether the prioritisation of this route by the Moz government is not related to the fact that President Armando Guebuza was born in Marrupa.

Accommodation and Services in Marrupa.

There is a somewhat run-down Pensão but I would rather bush-camp – also a few ‘barraca’ (shack) - style restaurants around the municipal market. There is no service station in Marrupa but fuel (usually diesel only) is sometimes sold from the roadside at the junction with the road to Mecula. In an emergency your best bet (apart from reporting to the police) could

be to go to the Catholic Sisters (Irmaos) compound which is along the main road close to where the road branches to Cuamba and Lichinga.

Marrupa Airport.

During the 'Liberation War' in Mozambique, Marrupa was an important airbase and this explains that its airport runway is asphalt (tarmac) and is 5660ft (1715m) long.

Contacting Marrupa.

There are as yet no cell phone masts in the area (closest are in Lichinga and Montepuez), but you could try calling (relayed by radio): *Telecomunicações de Moçambique*, Tel: + 258 (27) 12 00 10.

Lichinga and Lago Niassa (Mozambique's portion of Lake Malawi).

8. Lichinga.

Lichinga is three hours flying time and 2807km (at least 4 days) by road from Mozambique's capital Maputo. With generally poor road connections to the rest of the country as well as to neighbouring states (no roads to Tanzania), it still deserves that reputation for being at "the end of the world".

During the Portuguese occupation, Lichinga, the capital city of Niassa Province, was called Vila Cabral. During the winter of 1992 I visited Lichinga by plane and spent a week wandering around a very desolate and desperate place that was misty and cold by day, and dark and dreary by night.

However, partly due to the development of the area's huge agricultural potential in the form of Macadamia and cotton plantations, the reopening of the rail link (cargo only) to Cuamba and the improvement of the links from Malawi and from Pemba, Lichinga is experiencing something of a revival and has become a very pleasant place to visit or work in.

Note that while Lichinga's 1200m altitude is lofty enough to moderate the temperatures quite markedly, unfortunately it does not become cool enough to stop the anopheles mosquitoes from breeding and so malaria is quite prevalent in the area.

Lichinga central is small enough to walk around in a couple of hours, and most places in this guide are accessible along the main *Avenida*, or down one of its branches.

Getting to Lichinga

By Air

The only scheduled flights are with LAM: www.lam.co.mz ON Rua da LAM. Tel: + 258 (271) 20434 or 20847. Online bookings are problematic at best but try emailing reservas@lam.co.mz LAM's ageing 737's serve Lichinga from Maputo via some of Mozambique's provincial capitals on Saturdays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Mondays. Private 'planes can also be chartered to Lichinga from Nampula and from Pemba.

Lichinga Airport

Airport code: FQLC/ LCH S13 17.0 E035 15.0 Altitude: 4495 ft. Runway length: 2530 meters (8300 feet), width: 46 meters, surface: TAR; RL orientation: 08/26. Operating hours: AFIS Mon-Sat 0500-1500. Fuel available: Avgas/BP.

By Road (Own vehicle).

There are no road links between Tanzania and anywhere in Niassa Province. From the East, the road from Pemba via Montepuez and Marrupa to Lichinga is in good condition from Pemba to Montepuez and has now been tarred from Marrupa to Lichinga. Montepuez to Marrupa is now being prepared for tarring, but is still largely in very poor condition with access being cut at the Balama River crossing during the rainy season (Jan – April). The road from Cuamba via Mandimba to Lichinga is graded gravel which is good for 80kph during the dry season, but can become almost impassable, even in a good 4x4 during the Jan to April rains.

By Public Transport.

Plenty of buses and Chapas from Pemba to Montepuez, but after that you will have to hope for a ride on a private or state 4x4 vehicle. There are regular buses and chapas (often trucks) from Cuamba via Mandimba to Lichinga.

By Rail.

One of the railways that stopped operating during the protracted Mozambique civil war was the 262km branch from Cuamba to Lichinga. Repairs to the rundown track now (since September 2006) allow for limited service on the branch. Goods trains still take around 26 hours, a lot better than the previous minimum of a week. Trains (goods only) run very rarely.

Lichinga from Malawi.

By Air.

There are no regular direct flights from anywhere in Malawi to Mozambique. Lichinga's Airport is capable of handling 737's and customs and immigration are available by prior arrangement.

By Road (Own vehicle).

Good tar (a few patches of potholes) from Blantyre to the Chiponde / Mandimba entry point into Mozambique, and then gravel to Lichinga – difficult during the rainy season so a 4x4 a good idea.

By Public Transport.

It is difficult to find a bus or other transport going from Blantyre or other towns in Malawi directly to Lichinga. Enquire at the Wenela Bus Station off old Chileka road (behind which is **Doogles Backpackers**, email: doogles@africa-online.net) about buses to Mangochi or Namwera from where you should find transport to Lichinga. If heading for Monkey Bay, I recommend Venice Beach Backpackers: www.venicebeachbackpackers.com

By Boat.

What has the place where David Livingstone died, and getting to Mozambique's Lago Niassa Lakeshore (and hence to Lichinga) got to do with each other? The Malawi-based Malawi Lake Services (MLS) has a ferry named the **MV Illala**, and Illala is where Dr Dave died. MLS serves the following ports and places on Lago Niassa (Lake Malawi): Monkey Bay, Chipoka, Nkhata Bay, Chilumba, Chilinda, Makanjila, Nkhota-kota, Metangula in Moçambique, Cobúè in Moçambique, Likoma Island, Chizumulu Island, Mangwina, Usisya, Ruarwe, Charo, Mlowe, and anywhere else if demand arises (wonder if they do Charing Cross?).

Contact: e-mail: ilala@malawi.net Tel: + (265) 587 311 Fax: + (265) 587203.
www.inet.mw/mls-web

By the way I've been to Malawi a handful of times and it too is a great place.

Goods and Services in Lichinga.

Health.

Malaria is well-diagnosed and treated in Lichinga, unless it has reached the complicated stage where attention in an intensive care unit may be needed. The nearest properly staffed and adequately equipped hospitals are in Blantyre, Malawi, an hour's flight or five hour's drive away (excluding border delays).

Hospital Provincial de Lichinga -Av. do Trabalho - Tel. + (27) 12 1217, 12 0211, 12 0429.

Blantyre Adventist Hospital (Malawi).

P.O. Box 51 Blantyre.

Tel: + 265 620 488, 620 399, 620 475; 623 104

Fax: +265 623 293

Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital (Malawi).

P.O. Box 95, Blantyre

Tel: +265 674 333

Fax: +265 674 516

Mwayi Wathu Private Hospital (Malawi).

Tel: +265 634 989

Phones.

Lichinga has good landline connections and there are international public phones at the TDM (*Telecomunicações de Mocambique*) offices. Mobile phones have a good signal from MCell, www.mcel.co.mz but Vodacom www.vm.co.mz is not yet operating.

Internet.

There is a business centre opposite the reception desk inside the Hotel Girassol Lichinga where you can use the Internet at MT50 (USD2) per 30 minutes. Denmark is helping with a fibre-optic deployment in Mozambique, signing an agreement for a EUR15 million grant to help finance the second phase of the country's National Fibre-Optic Transmission Network. Mozambique's *Agencia de Informacao* (AIM) reports that the rollout will begin in April or May 2007 and will connect the northern cities of Cuamba, Lichinga, Nampula and Pemba, and will also include a link between the central cities of Chimoio, Tete and Caia. The deployment is being carried out by national PTO *Telecomunicações de Moçambique* (TDM).

Money.

There appears to be no informal way of exchanging foreign cash (US\$ only) other than at the Service Stations, and then only when they are flush with Meticaís and you will get a poor rate. So make sure that you exchange money at one of the banks below during the 0800 – 1500 banking hours. Note that some of the ATM's in Lichinga do not operate for 24hrs.

ATM's.

There are ATM's at the Banco Internacional de Mocambique (at the Hotel Girassol on Avenida Filipe Samuel Magaia), and at Banco Austral on Rua 7 Abril.

Banks.

Banco Austral SARL, Rua 7 Abril. Tel: + (271) 2 06 42 or 2 06 42.

Banco Internacional de Moçambique - BIM, Av Filipe Samuel Magaia. Tel: + (27) 12 02 51.

BCI – Fomento, Av Filipe S Magaia. Tel: + (271) 2 89 27.

Banco Comercial de Mocambique will be opening a branch in Lichinga during 2007.

BCI - Av Filipe S Magaia. Tel + (271) 2 89 27.

Rent-a-Car. It is wise to arrange this through the Hotel Girassol.

Chikhulupi Rent-A-Car e Serviços Lda: Rua 7 Abril-Lichinga. Tel: + (271) 2 15 21.

Lúrio Empreendimentos Rent-a-car. No contact known – enquire via Hotel Girassol.

Food.

Lichinga has one of the best and most interesting municipal markets in Mozambique where a feature is hundreds of bicycles on offer. The variety of soil types and microclimates in the area allow almost anything to be grown and produce on offer ranges from mangos and avocados, to lettuce and carrots. Some of the best bread I have tasted in Mozambique is produced in the bakeries that surround the market (Mercado). There are a handful of good little restaurants tucked away around town, and the **Hotel Girassol** produces meals of an international standard – see more under 'Accommodation in Lichinga' and 'Where to Eat in Lichinga' below.

Useful Contacts in Lichinga.

Health and Security.

Hospital Provincial de Lichinga: Av Trabalho. Fax: + (271) 2 12 17.

Farmácia Lichinga: Av Trabalho. Tel: + (271) 2 03 23.

NGO's and Aid Organizations.

Acord Mozambique. Tel: + 258 271 20626, + 258 82 303 947, Fax: +258 271 20626.

Email: acordmoz@teledata.mz

OPORTUN: Organization for the Promotion and Optimization of the Unique NIASSA Land Resources. Contact Marcos Jorge Assane (Coordinator). Tel: (+ 258) 271 20216 / 20957.

Fax: (+258) 271 20626. Email: acordmoz@teledata.mz or acordni@teledata.mz

Water Aid, Direcção Provincial de Habitação e Obras Públicas: Av. Julius Nyerere, Tel + (271) 20321. Email: wateraidmz@teledata.mz

Oxfam GB: Tel: + (271) 62526, Fax: + (271) 62537, Email: oxcuamba@teledata.mz or oxniassa@teledata.mz

IBIS Mozambique: Tel: + (27) 120533, Fax + (271) 20839. Email: fatima.ibis@teledata.mz or fatima@ibismz.org

Airlines.

LAM - Linhas Aéreas de Moçambique: Av. FPLM

+ (271) 2 04 34.

Air Corridor: Hotel Girassol. Av Filipe S Magaia

+ (271) 2 02 22.

Aeroporto de Lichinga. Bº Aeroporto. Tel: + (271) 2 01 27.

Cargo and Document Carriers.

Ashrafi Cargo Carriers offer a transport service from South Africa to most locations in southern Africa. Tel: Johannesburg, South Africa: + 27 (11) 4532040. E-Mail:

hanifgrp@webserv.co.za . www.hanifgroup.co.za

DHL Moçambique LDA: Rua 7 Abril. Tel: + (271) 2 80 10.

Vehicle Spares and Repairs.

Estações de Serviço Cassamo Amade: (Service Station). Av Samora Machel . + (271) 2 12 05.

Chamaune Multivendas- Acessórios e Peças (Spares and accessories). Av Filipe S Magaia . Tel: + (271) 2 05 46.

Auto Escape. Acessórios e Peças: Av Julius Nyerere . Tel: + (271) 2 10 75.

Where to Stay in Lichinga.

Hotel Girassol Lichinga.

Judging by the stature and quality of this 70- roomed newly constructed hotel, the International Girassol group evidently anticipate that Lichinga will become a busy business hub. I think they are right but whatever happens the Girassol has rooms big enough to play soccer in and a swimming pool that could be the only usable one in town. Secure car-park for dozens of vehicles. Vehicle rental can be arranged.

Location: Avenida Filipe Samuel Magaia just behind the 'Conselho Municipal' government block.

Accommodation: Traditional hotel with HUGE en-suite rooms, good restaurant, business centre with internet. Very clean, secure and well-managed.

Rates: Single: \$85, double: \$92, suite: (2 bed) - \$120.

Contact:

www.girassolhoteis.co.mz/en/hoteis/girassol_lichinga_hotel

Pensão Ponto Final

Location: Av Filipe Samuel Magaia .

Accommodation: Typical basic and quite small and airless rooms, but friendly and secure.

Rates: From MT400 single, no breakfast included.

Contact: + (271) 2 09 12. Email: ccm.lichinga@teledata.mz

Pousada de Lichinga

Perhaps the best place to meet some of the locals, whether they be Mozambican or 'expat', and to play a game of Pool. The bar/restaurant serves good local and 'Continental' dishes, but the prices are quite steep.

Location: Av Filipe Samuel Magaia, right next to the unmistakable Hotel

Hotel Girassol Lichinga (Hotel Lichinga).

Accommodation: 13 double rooms some with en-suite bathroom

Rates: From MT550 single.

Contact: Tel: + (271) 2 01 76.

Hotel Chiwindi.

Popular for seminars and with visitors from out of town on official business.

Location: Av Julius Nyerere.

Accommodation: Acceptable rooms with similar beds.

Rates: Negotiable but be expected to be asked for MT450 single.

Contact: Tel + (271) 2 03 45.

Residencial Rival.

A nice guesthouse in one of the '*bairros*' run by Senhor Américo.

Location: Bairro Muchenga – ask someone to show you the way.

Accommodation: A couple of clean and comfortable double rooms.

Rates: From MT350 per person

Contact: + (271) 2 05 92.

Quinta Capricórnio.

Tucked away in a pine-forest (feels like somewhere in Switzerland), a few kilometres from the centre of Lichinga. Was started by Kate (a Scottish Doctor) and Mariette (a Dutch Vet) who have now handed it over to a local coop. Quiet, shady and plenty of borehole water.

Location: Everyone knows where it is

Accommodation: Has the only camping sites near Lichinga, and a few fairly ramshackle cabins with dodgy beds.

Rates: MT150 pp camping. MT600 per chalet.

Contact: Not known.

Centro Kuchijinji.

Comfortable rooms available at the base of this Christian Relief Agency.

Location. About 2km out of town (LHS) on the airport/Maniamba/Metangula road.

Accommodation. Caters to members and guests of the Aid Organization

Contact. Tel: + (271) 20336.

Sanga.

150 km north of Lichinga (via the Marrupa road), Chipandje Chetu's basic camp (no facilities except for pit toilets) in Sanga district is the closest game viewing option for travellers in and around Lichinga. Situated just outside one of the Niassa reserves buffer zones, Sanga shares elephant, lions, leopard, buffalo and a variety of antelopes including the rare sable antelope and eland with the park.

Entering Chipandje Chetu and staying at Uzuzu has to be arranged beforehand with the Provincial administration of forest and wildlife in Lichinga.

Contact: *Serviços Provinciais de Florestas e Fauna Bravia:*

Phone: + 258 (271 20 977

Fax: 20557

Chipandje Chetu Conservation Area, Tel: + (271) 20917. Fax: + (271) 20557, Email: zambezihunters@yahoo.com

Where to Eat in Lichinga.

O Chambo. Dona Argentina puts together excellent and good value-for-money meals at her small place next to the Mercado municipal. It is a good idea to warn her that you are coming. Tel: + (271) 21354.

Restaurante Planalto. Near the Hotel Girassol. Call Dona Sarah, + (271) 20385.

Quinta Capricórnio. **Used to do a mean Goat stew, cheeses and yoghurts, but not sure whether this has been continued under the new cooperative-style of management.**

Hotel Girassol. Really good food, particularly the 'all you can eat' buffet breakfasts.

What to see in Lichinga.

Perhaps this is what Tijuana in Mexico was like 50 years ago, without the coast, so don't expect grandiose cathedrals or crumbling castles.

The following sites can be covered on foot in a couple of hours:

Bank (Banco Austral) and ABC Cinema.

The Banco was built (like most of Lichinga) in the 1950's with furniture and fixtures to match. Next door is the **Cinema ABC** which is a large art-deco structure big enough to swing an Airbus in. Sometimes offers movies but mostly used for church services and the odd beauty contests. On some public holidays a wooden stage is erected in the adjacent park for live music concerts and other events.

Stunning Art-deco government buildings are also off the main *Praça da Independência* and recall an era when style took precedence over functionality. Nearby the **Catedral de Lichinga** is an imposing white edifice which has a bell tower and mean-looking bell which is never used. For a humbling and moving experience, join one of the Sunday morning masses.

The Golden Nights disco should be open at least once per month and if it is don't miss moving with the masses to Mozambican Samba and any Boy/Girl bands that happen to be in vogue that week.

Estação de Comboios. Lichinga's train station is a nice little reminder of Manueline architecture in the middle of nowhere. The platform is a short way out of town, but don't rush to buy a ticket to Cuamba, there are currently only one or two goods trains per month – top speed 15kph!

Parque das Crianças.

The wreck (quite intact) of a downed Dakota airplane lies in the corner of a children's park just off the main traffic '*praça*'.

9. Lago Niassa (Lake Malawi).

Lago Niassa (Lake Malawi) is the third largest lake in Africa and one of the world's biodiversity hotspots. Though navigated for centuries by indigenous people in dugout canoes, slave traders and missionaries on steamboats and dhows, the lake still conceals a lot to be explored. The Lake is shared between Malawi, Tanzania and Mozambique. Most of the lake surface belongs to Malawi and 66% of the catchment area lies in Malawi, 27% in Tanzania and 7 percent in Mozambique. In Malawi some 5 million people live within the lake basin while only about 150 000 people live in the Mozambican part.

Distrito de Lago stretches north-south along Lake Niassa, covering the major part of the Mozambican shoreline. Within this district the capital, Metangula, with a population numbering 13,000, is a municipality in its own right with autonomous status.

More than 600 fish species have been identified, but research estimates that a total of over 1,000 species are living in the lake. The fish in the lake are renowned for their incredible colour schemes easily competing with their saltwater cousins on the coral reefs. In particular, the Mbuna - the famed cichlid fishes, prized throughout the world of tropical fish enthusiasts. 99% of the Cichlids are endemic to the lake and each island in the lake has its own endemic rock-dwelling cichlids known to be some of the most colourful.

The Tchila (*Labeo Mesops*), extinct in Malawi waters, is known to exist on the Niassa side of the lake. Many species can only be seen in the clear waters of the Mozambican shoreline.

Through an accident of history (as well as British colonial arrogance), Mozambique only possesses a relatively small portion of the lake and the Likoma islands which are surrounded by Mozambican waters, remain an enclave of Malawian territory.

Where to Stay on Lago Niassa (Lake Malawi).

Meponda.

In the dry season, Meponda is less than an hour's drive from Lichinga and the scenery on the winding escarpment road is beautiful even if Meponda will never become the next Cancún (thank goodness). Meponda has a basic guesthouse called Amor de Vida, a long, sweeping beach, and a boat trip just south to an estuary will allow encounters with hippo and crocodile.

Red Granites: The only deposit occurrence of red deposits known in Mozambique is in Chonde hill, east of Meponda. The mountain is 500 m high above the level of Lago Niassa. The area is composed of diluvial, proluvial, eluvial, granites, contact metamorphic rocks, migmatite, and gneisse sediments.

Metangula:

Praia de Chuwanga. A wide, curving sandy beach overlooked by a pretty fishing village where bent baobabs boldly brave the brilliant Africa sun (sic).

Complexo Cetuka, owned by the charming mayor of Metangula, one Senhor Katawaia is an unpretentious local lodge that can accommodate 14 people in three guesthouses right on the beach. You can also pitch a tent. Ablutions are basic (no running water) and shared. The restaurant offers whatever is seasonal or can be caught in the sea or village and it is wise to let your hosts know your needs preferably the day before. Only 5km away you find the old historical missionary station of Messumba that dates back to the two first Anglican missionaries who arrived in 1882, having walked from the Indian Ocean 500 miles (800km) away.

Cobué:

Cobué is the kind of little lakeside village where you just might find a retired eccentric millionaire busy writing his (or her) memoirs. It is tiny and until recently when the track from

Metangula was rehabilitated using Irish money, it was only accessible by water or via the small airstrip. Thanks to the mast on Likoma Island (Malawi), there is a cell phone signal but not that MCell will be of any use here and you will have to rely on an International Roaming agreement.

Cobùè is also where you will find one James Bondo (no relation to Daniel Craig) who has a little restaurant at the lakeside where you can safely park your wheels if you arrive by road and want to explore the lake or go to Nkwichi Lodge or Likoma Island for a while. You can stay over at the **Njati Yoyella Hotel**, which is basic, friendly and clean.

Nkwichi Lodge.

It is not often that I find a place that deserves that hugely abused epithet 'unique'. And it's not because, in an attempt to launder some of their dirty money, some drug or armaments-lord has built a ridiculously opulent hotel there, or because the food is imported from the far reaches of the Earth, but Nkwichi is matchless because even if the lodge was not there, the setting alone would be worth the effort and money spent in getting there.

At Nkwichi there are only 7 chalets so make sure that you book well in advance if you want to be one of the 14 lucky guests to enjoy the lakeside charms. Note that the showers are outside amongst the rocks and the loos are ventilated pit latrines. Also the lake in this area has been declared to be bilharzia-free.

The Lodges' conservation area, Manda Wilderness, is home to most of the classic African game: lion, leopard, elephant, zebra, buffalo, the rare sable antelope and the endangered African wild dog.

Nkwichi lodge has a 24-foot wooden sailing boat (40 hp motor) that can collect guests from different spots on the lake.

Location. About 10km south of Cobùè.

Accommodation. 7 double chalets each built around, through and under the local boulders, streams and trees. Like truly organic, man!

Rates. African resident's rate: US\$180 per night per couple. Internationals: US\$360 per couple. Lowest single rate (African residents) \$90 to highest single (peak season international) £150.

Contact. Email: mdw01@bushmail.net Website: www.mandawilderness.com

Mbueca Village.

Mchenga Wede (Nice sands) Backpackers.

Douglas, who is one of the inimitable staff at Nkwichi, has built a row of chalets at his village which is called Mbueca and is located about 10km south of Nkwichi Lodge. Get to Mchenga Wede via Cobùè where you can catch a dhow south, or by road via Lichinga and Metangula, turning left just before the Cobùè – Lupilichi branch. One of the best locations for a backpackers in all of Africa, and not likely to become too 'done' for a long time to come. Contact Douglas via Nkwichi Lodge.