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## MAPUTO CITY

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## 1. Maputo City

When, in 1975, most of the Portuguese settlers switched off the lights and left Mozambique under protest, Lourenço Marques was considered to be one of the most beautiful cities of the world. Since then, suffocating socialism, civil strife and cynical interference from outside its borders have held the Mozambican economy in limbo. Visitors to Mozambique over the past few years may concur that in Maputo the fabled phoenix has struggled surprisingly swiftly from the bottom of a deep pile of the ashes of neglect and banditry, and the city is booming.

Only five years ago Mozambique was the poorest country in the world and visitors returned with tales of abject poverty and consummate devastation. Maputo's pot-holed streets ran with sewage and rusted street lamps had last glowed 15 years previously. Electricity was available only intermittently and running water had become an unheard-of luxury. Only the celebrated Hotel Polana, rebuilt in 1990 at a cost of millions of dollars, offered amenities of an acceptable standard. Gunfire often rattled out from the bairros and teenagers with AK47 assault rifles ruled the streets at night. The October 1992 Peace Accord between the rebels and the rulers has had a remarkable impact. Today Maputo is being transformed with results both swift and stunning. Streets in the city have been resurfaced, new restaurants open monthly and the guns have long disappeared.

The notorious bureaucratic hurdles in the path of visitors' have been eased a little and the 'Maputo Corridor' toll-road between Johannesburg is now open. Visitors are sneaking back to 'L.M.' (as many folk prefer to remember Maputo) to take what might at first be a tentative peek at what's happening, only to be carried along by the unexpected enthusiasm, resourcefulness and variety of the populace. Maputo today is vibrant, confident and cosmopolitan, with an atmosphere that has more in common with Rio de Janeiro than with any city in Africa. Nightclubs swing to the samba and the salsa, while a challenging array of restaurants serve prawns, pen-pen chicken and the finest fried potato chips in the world. If you are not accustomed to compromise in matters of quality and style, there are at least a dozen eating establishments which rub shoulders with the best anywhere. Literally hundreds of sidewalk cafés (*salões*) have opened recently, bringing back that relaxed, friendly atmosphere so reminiscent of the city's past glory.

Although bewildering to the unprepared newcomer, Maputo holds hidden rewards for visitors who take the trouble to absorb the rich cultural mix by mixing with the citizens. As the country of Mozambique is a very recent addition to the list of African destinations which are accessible to travellers, facilities aimed at the budget-conscious may be difficult to find. Note that in Maputo there are traffic lights only at the beginning of intersections, making them difficult for the uninitiated to see. Street names have been repainted and are often also marked on marble or steel plaques fixed to the corners of buildings.

### **Overview of Maputo City.**

This important southern Indian Ocean port lies less than 100km (60 miles) from neighbouring Swaziland and South Africa. With its subtropical climate, beautiful sheltered bay and blend of Portuguese architecture, African spontaneity and Indian cuisine, Maputo (formerly Lourenço Marques) has retained much of its colonial mystique. Nightclubs swing to samba rhythms until dawn and a host of quiosques (kiosks) serve galinha piri-piri (chicken piri-piri), matapas (a delicious cassava-leaf dish), bacalhau (dried cod) and some of the best batata frita (fried potato chips) in the world. Hundreds of *salões* (sidewalk cafés), dozens of nightclubs and the odd sleazy strip-joint complement the vibrant atmosphere of this capital city which feels more Latin-American than African.

Modelled on Portuguese harbour cities such as Lisbon and Porto, Maputo's wide avenues are lined with pavements inlaid with attractive black-and-white stone mosaics. Laid out in a grid pattern in 1847, the 'long' avenues extend at right angles to Avenida da Marginal while the 'short' avenues traverse Maputo Hill away from the bay. By car, you will enter the city via the large traffic circle (*praça*) on Av. 24 de Julho, and proceed for 5km (3 miles) before reaching Av. Julius Nyerere, the heart of the cima, or upper city. Visitors arriving at Maputo International Airport will enter the city via Av. de Acordos de Lusaka. This becomes Av. da Guerra Popular on reaching the high-rise area, runs downhill to the baixa – the lower city – and ends at the massive 'peace goddess' statue in the centre of the square opposite the Maputo Railway Station.

### ***Chief Maputa's capital***

When the first Portuguese explorers landed on this coast nearly 500 years ago, they came into contact with an indigenous people ruled by one Chief Maputa. Consequently, the area from Maputo Bay south to Lake St Lucia in South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province was, and still is, often referred to as Maputaland. Mozambique's original capital for 200 years was the town of Mozambique, on a little island (now called Mozambique Island) about 1500km (932 miles) north offshore from Maputo. The Portuguese virtually ignored their little fortified settlement at Delagoa Bay (now Maputo Bay) until the British and the Boers began to show serious interest in the area. The MacMahon Award of 1873 eventually resolved the territorial dispute in Portugal's favour, resulting in a swiftly developing settlement. The Portuguese named it Lourenço Marques (now Maputo) and it inherited the status of capital from Mozambique Island in 1897.

### ***Fortaleza da Nossa Senhora da Conceição***

This squat red-sandstone fortress, built between 1851 and 1867, stands on the site of the original mud-and-pole stockade. Once a museum glorifying Portugal's colonial conquests, it is now the State Historical Archive and houses the remains of Ngungunhane, last great chief of the Nguni tribe, who ruled the Gaza region until British and Portuguese expansion lead to friction. He was captured and paraded through the streets of Lisbon before dying in exile in the Azores.

### ***Historic City Sites***

In the baixa (downtown) of Maputo, an area which is in fact drained swampland, many colonial buildings still stand along the **Rua do Bagamoio**. There is the Hotel Central and the dilapidated Hotel Carlton. The **Museu da Moeda** (Currency Museum) near the end of Rua do Bagamoio is Maputo's oldest intact example of Moorish architecture and has been beautifully restored to its original state. Open Tuesday to Thursday, and Saturday.

In an attempt to escape the mosquitoes and humidity of the baixa, Maputo's first hospital was erected on an (originally) densely forested hill, in an area which is now characterized by high-rise residential developments. The attractive two-storey **Victorian Central Hospital** has since been converted and is today known as Restaurante 1908. The city's hospital moved to larger premises next door.

### ***Historical and Cultural Walks***

Despite Maputo's reputation for being riddled with thieves and muggers, it is fairly safe to see the sights on foot as long as you leave your valuables behind, avoid deserted or wooded areas, walk in a group and return well before sunset. Strolling certainly beats the frustration of trying to find parking in a city where windshields, headlamps and indicator lenses are stolen in seconds, to the extent that many owners deliberately crack these in an attempt to eliminate their resale value.

To escape the sticky midday heat, the best time to walk is during the early morning, especially on Saturdays and Sundays. 'Maputenses' seem superstitious about exposure to the early morning sun, and so traffic should be light until around 10:00, with another quiet spell during the afternoon 'siesta' (religiously adhered to between 12:00 and 14:00). Since the two routes allow many opportunities to slake your thirst on tea, coffee, sodas or something sturdier, it's unnecessary to carry anything with you except money and maybe some toilet paper. Those who experience anxiety attacks at the thought of dirty toilets, fear not: clean ablutions are all part of the recommended two routes which are both circular, not longer than 8km (5 miles) and have safe parking at the point of departure and return (still, don't leave valuables in your vehicle).

**See the details on the BAIXA and CIMA walks on the site.**

### **Note regarding telephone codes**

In August of 2005 Mozambique introduced new internal dialing codes. Please note that as from the 1st of August the following new telephone area codes now apply for Mozambique:

**Maputo:** 21 + xxxxxx (the telephone number) (for example: to call the Hotel Polana from outside of Mozambique you will need to dial: (+258) 21 + 49 1001. Simply put, add a 2 before the old area code.

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Gaza (Xai-Xai) | 282 + xxxxx |
| Gaza (Chokwe)  | 281 + xxxxx |
| Inhambane      | 293 + xxxxx |
| Sofala         | 23 + xxxxxx |
| Manica         | 251 + xxxxx |
| Zambezia       | 24 + xxxxxx |
| Tete           | 252 + xxxxx |
| Nampula        | 26 + xxxxxx |
| Niassa         | 271 + xxxxx |
| Cabo Delgado   | 272 + xxxxx |

Unless otherwise indicated, all telephone numbers used on this site are local (Mozambican). Mozambique's Country Code is 258, Maputo's area code is 21, South Africa's country code is 27 and note that if dialing from within each country respectively, for both Mozambique and South Africa, a '0' must be added to the area code).

### **Best Times to Visit Maputo**

Although 300km (187 miles) south of the Tropic of Capricorn, Maputo's location adjacent to the warm Mozambique Current produces a generally tropical climate along the coast, but should one of the rare cold fronts hit this area, Maputo can be really cold during winter. May to August are the driest, coolest months – top temperatures around 27°C (68°F); monthly rainfall less than 30mm (1in). October and November are the hottest (up to 35°C), while December and January and February are the wettest, with average monthly rainfalls of 150mm (6in) in the south, increasing to 250mm per month in Niassa province.

### **Getting To Maputo and the rest of Mozambique**

**By Air:** Direct flights from Paris, Lisbon, Johannesburg, Harare, Manzini, as well as from Mozambique's provincial capitals (except Inhambane and Chimoio) service Maputo International Airport, 8km (5 miles) from the City Centre, tel: (1) 46-5074.

**The Mozambican airline,** LAM (Linhas Áreas de Moçambique), tel: (21) 42-6001, fax: 46-5134, website: [www.lam.co.mz](http://www.lam.co.mz), has daily flights between Johannesburg and Maputo and between Johannesburg and Vilankulo. LAM also has regular domestic flights to Vilankulo, Chimoio, Beira, Tete, Pemba, Quelimane, Nampula, and Lichinga.

**South African Airways:** [www.flysaa.com](http://www.flysaa.com) has daily flights between Johannesburg and Maputo. From inside of South Africa phone 0861359722 or internationally, call + 27 11 978 5313.

**By Car:** You can easily reach Maputo from South Africa via the new N4 Toll Road (toll fees Joburg to Maputo add up to around R120), entering at the Komatipoort (Lebombo)/Ressano Garcia border which is open from 0600 – 2200, but is usually open 24 hrs during the Dec 15 to Jan 05 peak holiday period; or from Swaziland via the good-condition Lomahasha/Namaacha route. There are extensive upgrades to the Lebombo/Ressano Garcia border post. Once completed this should ease the chaos and congestion experienced here, particularly during the South African school holiday periods (see <http://www.education.gpg.gov.za> )

**By Bus:** Intercape: E-mail: [info@intercape.co.za](mailto:info@intercape.co.za) tel (1) 43 1006, Pretoria tel: (12) 654 4114 and Greyhound: [www.greyhound.co.za](http://www.greyhound.co.za) tel South Africa 083 915 900 for enquiries and information. Luxury buses do the trip between Maputo and Johannesburg/Pretoria and Pretoria/Johannesburg to Maputo every day. Also from Durban to Maputo and back.

**By Train:** The Komati Train (Shosholozza Meyl): [www.spoornet.co.za](http://www.spoornet.co.za), South Africa toll-free: 086-000-8888 (or book at the Station in person). departs Johannesburg at daily 18:10 for Komatipoort. arriving 06:42 - ou

change to *Chapa* minibuses in Ressano Garcia (keep a careful eye on your baggage and don't entertain touts) and arrive in Maputo at around 10:00.

### ***Getting Around Maputo and From Maputo to Local Destinations.***

#### **Airport Taxis**

Maputo International Airport is served 24hrs by city taxis (at other airports in Mozambique the taxis usually only meet the scheduled flights). The usual fare from the Maputo Airport into the city centre (a trip of only 8km or 15 minutes) is around US\$15-20, but always negotiate the entire fare before you take the ride as most taxis do not have operable meters. Hotel Polana meets all international flights and travel agents will transfer you to other hotels by prior arrangement. Around town, locals use *chapas* ranging from mini-buses to landrovers and trucks.

#### **Call a Taxi**

Top Taxi (Maputo) 31 1004.  
Radio Taxi (Maputo) 49 7967.

#### **Car-hire in Maputo:**

Avis Mozambique Car Rental [www.avis.co.za/main.asp?id=508](http://www.avis.co.za/main.asp?id=508)  
Avis offers budget Mozambique car and 4x4 rental at Maputo airport, Beira airport and in the Hotel Polana.

#### **Avis Mozambique Car (and 4x4) Rental Branches:**

Beira Airport  
Tel: 23 301263, Fax: 23 301265 Beira International Airport  
Maputo: Polana downtown  
Tel: 21 494473. Fax: 21 494498. 20 Mao Tse Tung Avenue.  
Maputo Airport  
Tel: 21 465497. Fax: 21 465493. Maputo International Airport.

**Avis Southern Africa** [www.avis.co.za](http://www.avis.co.za) not only offers excellent Mozambique car rental, but also car Rental in South Africa, Lesotho and Namibia.

#### **Airlines operating in Mozambique**

**Linhas Aereas de Mocambique (LAM):** <http://www.lam.co.mz/uk-home>

**Air Corridor** is based in the northern city of Nampula, and has started operations with one aircraft, a Boeing 737-200, with 115 seats (98 in economy class, and 17 in business class). The company operates domestic flights between Nampula, Quelimane, Beira and Maputo. After this initial phase, it will also fly to Pemba, in the northernmost province of Cabo Delgado.

**Air Corridor:** Av. Karl Marx 1242, Maputo  
Tel (Maputo): (21) 355 700 or 311 580/2/3 or mobile: (0) 82 362 154.  
Fax: 355701.  
Email: [aircorridor.mpm@aircorridor.co.za](mailto:aircorridor.mpm@aircorridor.co.za)  
Website: [www.flyaircorridor.com](http://www.flyaircorridor.com)

TIMETABLE:

#### **AIR CORRIDOR**

| <b>Flight /</b> | <b>Airport</b> | <b>departure /</b> | <b>Airport</b> | <b>Arrival /</b> |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Monday /</b> |                |                    |                |                  |
| <b>QC601</b>    | Nampula        | 07.00 h            | Quelimane      | 07.45 h          |
|                 | Quelimane      | 08.15 h            | Beira          | 09.00 h          |
|                 | Beira          | 09.30 h            | Maputo         | 10.35 h          |
| <b>QC602</b>    | Maputo         | 11.30 h            | Beira          | 12.35 h          |

|                    |           |         |           |         |
|--------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| <b>QC602</b>       | Maputo    | 11.30 h | Beira     | 12.35 h |
|                    | Beira     | 13.05 h | Pemba     | 14.35 h |
|                    | Pemba     | 15.05 h | Nampula   | 15.35 h |
| <b>Tuesday /</b>   |           |         |           |         |
| <b>QC603</b>       | Nampula   | 08.00 h | Pemba     | 08.30 h |
|                    | Pemba     | 09.00 h | Beira     | 10.30 h |
|                    | Beira     | 11.00 h | Maputo    | 12.05 h |
| <b>QC604</b>       | Maputo    | 13.15 h | Beira     | 14.20 h |
|                    | Beira     | 14.50 h | Quelimane | 15.25 h |
|                    | Quelimane | 15.55 h | Nampula   | 16.40 h |
| <b>Wednesday /</b> |           |         |           |         |
| <b>QC605</b>       | Nampula   | 07.30 h | Quelimane | 08.15 h |
|                    | Quelimane | 08.45 h | Beira     | 09.20 h |
|                    | Beira     | 09.50 h | Maputo    | 10.55 h |
| <b>QC606</b>       | Maputo    | 12.00 h | Beira     | 13.05 h |
|                    | Beira     | 13.35 h | Pemba     | 15.05 h |
|                    | Pemba     | 15.35 h | Nampula   | 16.05 h |
| <b>Thursday /</b>  |           |         |           |         |
| <b>QC607</b>       | Nampula   | 07.00 h | Pemba     | 07.30 h |
|                    | Pemba     | 08.00 h | Beira     | 19.30 h |
|                    | Beira     | 10.00 h | Maputo    | 11.05 h |
|                    | Maputo    | 12.00 h | Beira     | 13.05 h |
|                    | Beira     | 13.35 h | Quelimane | 14.10 h |
|                    | Quelimane | 14.40 h | Nampula   | 15.25 h |
| <b>Friday /</b>    |           |         |           |         |
| <b>QC609</b>       | Nampula   | 08.00 h | Quelimane | 08.45 h |
|                    | Quelimane | 09.15 h | Beira     | 09.50 h |
|                    | Beira     | 10.20 h | Maputo    | 11.25 h |
| <b>QC610</b>       | Maputo    | 15.00 h | Beira     | 16.05 h |
|                    | Beira     | 16.35 h | Pemba     | 18.05 h |
|                    | Pemba     | 18.35 h | Nampula   | 19.05 h |
| <b>Saturday /</b>  |           |         |           |         |
| <b>QC611</b>       | Nampula   | 08.30 h | Beira     | 09.35 h |
|                    | Beira     | 10.05 h | Maputo    | 11.10 h |
| <b>QC612</b>       | Maputo    | 13.00 h | Beira     | 14.05 h |
|                    | Beira     | 14.35 h | Nampula   | 15.40 h |
| <b>Sunday /</b>    |           |         |           |         |
| <b>QC613</b>       | Nampula   | 10.00 h | Pemba     | 10.30 h |
|                    | Pemba     | 11.00 h | Beira     | 12.30 h |
|                    | Beira     | 13.00 h | Maputo    | 14.05 h |
| <b>QC614</b>       | Maputo    | 15.00 h | Beira     | 16.05 h |
|                    | Beira     | 16.35 h | Quelimane | 17.10 h |
|                    | Quelimane | 17.40 h | Nampula   | 18.25 h |

### Air Charter Companies

#### **Airplus** (Maputo)

Tel: (2) 1465993

Fax: 466341

Email: [airplus@virconn.com](mailto:airplus@virconn.com)

Gabinetes (Counters) 3 e 4 Aeroporto de Mavalane (Maputo International).

#### **MEX - Moçambique Expresso Sarl** (Maputo)

Tel: (21) 466008

Fax: 465562

Cell: (0) 82 304 4770

Email: [mex@mex.co.mz](mailto:mex@mex.co.mz)

Web site: [www.mex.co.mz](http://www.mex.co.mz)

#### **Transairways** (Porta 88, Edifício do Aeroporto (Airport Building) Maputo.

Tel: (21) 465168

Fax: 465011

Email: [transairways@virconn.com](mailto:transairways@virconn.com)

#### **Unique Air Charter Lda** (Av. Karl Marx 1242, Maputo).

Tel: (21) 465592

Fax: 465525

After Hours:

Tel: 419490

Cell: 082 314 7000

Email: [millennium@tvcabo.co.mz](mailto:millennium@tvcabo.co.mz)

### Buses

Transportes Oliveiras (fairly good reputation), terminus just after the circle (praça) at the end of Av. 24 de Julho tel: (21) 73-2108. Transportes Virginias (north to Beira – not a great reputation but cheaper than Oliveiras), based at Hotel Universo, tel: (21) 42-2225 or 42-7003. There is also 'TSL' but this company has a bad reputation and should only be considered as a last resort. If staying at a backpackers, enquire at the desk regarding how to use the local and long-range public transport.

## 2. Around Maputo

### ***Mercado Xipamanine***

The history of Xipamanine market goes back to the days of Lourenço Marques and before, when black traders throughout Mozambique were restricted to the outskirts of the city limits. Adventurous tourists did, however, patronize Xipamanine, which had the reputation of selling anything from live leopards to human body parts.

Not much has changed, although today you won't find any living, wild creatures apart from the odd pet baboon. To get to Xipamanine, either take a chapa (taxi), or if you are driving, go out of town down Av. de Maguigwana to Praça 21 de Outubro. Turn right into Av. Angola, and then immediately left into Rua dos Imãos Roby. Carry on along this road until you arrive at the hectic, mostly open-air marketplace. Here, preferably leave someone at the car to look after it, or at least don't leave anything of value inside. Guard against pickpockets and bag-snatchers, and be sure to visit the section selling traditional medicines and talismans, where you may gain an insight into the hidden spiritual world of the Shangaan and Ronga tribes.

### ***Xefina Grande Island***

At the end of the Marginal, a short distance out to sea, lies the larger of the two islands which guard the mouth of the Incomáti River. Although Xefina Grande is inhabited by a few traditional fishermen, the lack of fresh water has prevented extensive settlement, leaving the environment largely unspoiled. Arrange a cruise to the island through the Hotel Polana. The island's beaches and snorkelling offshore are excellent. Alternatively you could explore the tumbledown ruins of the mid-16th-century Portuguese fort.

### ***Av. da Marginal***

Maputo's Marginal promenade extends from the end of Av. 25 de Setembro to the fishing village located a short distance past **Restaurante Costa do Sol**. It is best to begin your promenade at the ferry jetty on Av. 10 de Novembro. Walk towards the bay mouth, pass the **Escola Náutica** (Naval School), after which you will join the Marginal, and the city's **Zona Verde** (green belt), at the large traffic circle. Continue under the flyover and on around the bend to the **Clube Naval** (yacht club), which was built in 1913. The club has an excellent pub, restaurant and swimming pool open to visitors on payment of a temporary membership fee. Next is **Artedif**, a workshop for disabled artisans, housed in thatched rondavels in the centre of the Marginal. Here a range of curios and leatherwork is on sale; repairs to shoes and bags are also undertaken.

Where the green belt ends, a road joins the Marginal from the left, and here reed furniture, wood carvings and colourful pottery are on sale. After this, the defunct campismo (caravan park), now a conference and exhibition centre, extends for about 1km (1/2 mile). Pubs, clubs, kiosques and youngsters selling ice-cold beverages from polystyrene boxes line the road all the way to Restaurante Costa do Sol which features a jazz band on Saturday afternoons.

### 3. Where to Stay in Maputo

Note, the Hotels and other accommodation listed below represent those where the author has previously stayed. There are other good hotels in Maputo.

#### ***Luxury Accommodation in Maputo.***

(Payment in US\$, SA rand, meticaais or VISA and Mastercard.)

#### **Hotel Polana and Casino**

1380 Av. Julius Nyerere

Tel: (21) 49-1001/7

Fax: (21) 49-1480

Website: [www.hotel-polana.com](http://www.hotel-polana.com)

E-mail: [res@polana-hotel.com](mailto:res@polana-hotel.com)

One of Africa's truly gracious (but surprisingly unpretentious) hotels. Stunning views, cool breezes, huge swimming pool in large tropical gardens. Best 'Damn the Calories' and 'eat all morning' breakfast a part of the deal.

**Rates:** From around R1000 per room B&B. (There are special vacation packages).

#### **Hotel Cardoso**

707 Av. dos Mártires de Mueda

Tel: (21) 491071

Fax: (21) 491804

Email: [info@hotelcardoso.co.mz](mailto:info@hotelcardoso.co.mz)

Website: [www.hotelcardoso.co.mz](http://www.hotelcardoso.co.mz).

Stylish, clean; Splendid views of sunsets over Maputo Bay. Can't afford the Polana? And the Holiday Inn is full? Then stay at the Cardoso.

#### **Holiday Inn**

Avenida da Marginal (Beach Promenade)

Tel: (21) 49 5050.

Fax: 497700.

Website: [www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/1/en/hd/mpmto](http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/1/en/hd/mpmto)

Email: [pauln@himaputo.co.mz](mailto:pauln@himaputo.co.mz)

Maputo's only beach resort (they have to constantly clear the pool of sand); this place is certainly both family and business friendly. Certainly the nicest Holiday Inn I have experienced. Book well in advance, this one's popular and great value.

**Rates:** US\$120 - \$220 per room (2 adults plus 2 children) B&B.

#### **Hotel Avenida**

627 Av. Julius Nyerere

Tel: (21) 49 2000,

Fax: 49 9600

Website: [www.hotelavenida.co.mz](http://www.hotelavenida.co.mz)

E-mail: [h.avenida@teledata.mz](mailto:h.avenida@teledata.mz)

Couldn't be more central so business travelers can save on their car hire allowance and buy themselves a few beers at Pub Mundo's nearby. 6 conference rooms and swimming pool.

**Rates:** US\$105 – 300. Single B&B.

## ***Mid-Range Accommodation in Maputo***

### **Hotel Rovuma**

Rua da Sé, 114, Maputo.

Tel: (21) 305 000,

Fax: (21) 305 305

E-Mail: [reservas.africa@pestana.com](mailto:reservas.africa@pestana.com)

Website: [www.pestana.com/EN/Hoteis/Africa/Mocambique/Rovuma/](http://www.pestana.com/EN/Hoteis/Africa/Mocambique/Rovuma/)

Right in the heart of old Maputo - the more 'interesting and authentic' part. Great views over the city – bring your binoculars.

**Rates:** From US\$100 breakfast not included.

### **Hotel Terminus**

587 Francisco Orlando Magumbwe

Tel: (21) 49-1333,

Fax: 49-1284.

Email: [termhot@terminus-hotel.com](mailto:termhot@terminus-hotel.com)

Website: [www.terminus-hotel.com](http://www.terminus-hotel.com)

Comfortable and air-conditioned with satellite cable TV. Quite a lot fancier than I had expected and they have free dial-up internet in the rooms and a really inviting pool surrounded by real looking palm trees.

**Rates:** From US\$70 B&B.

### **Hotel Girasol**

Tel. +258 1 360350

Fax. +258 1 360330

Website: [www.girassolbahiahotel.co.mz](http://www.girassolbahiahotel.co.mz)

Email: [mundicor@visabeiraturismo.pt](mailto:mundicor@visabeiraturismo.pt)

Quirky, cylinder-shaped hotel with amazing views. Was resurrected from post-colonial oblivion a couple of year's back and has retained that relaxed local atmosphere with good service, rooms and food.

### **Costa do Sol**

Tel: (21) 45 0115.

Fax: 45 0162.

(rooms, chalets and famous restaurant), at the end of the Marginal on the beach. Noisy on weekend nights, but get down and enjoy the live jazz.

**Rates:** From US\$35 single.

**Sundown Guest House**

Rua 1301 no. 107 Sommerschield (one block from Clinica Sommerschield, near the corner of Avenidas Kenneth Kaunda and Kim Il Sung), Maputo..

Tel/Fax: +258 (21) 497543

Email: [denis@hotelmaputo.com](mailto:denis@hotelmaputo.com)

Website: [www.hotelmaputo.com](http://www.hotelmaputo.com)

This area is the diplomatic quarter of Maputo, and is usually very quiet and secure, so you can expect a good night's sleep. Just 10 minutes drive to the city centre, 20 minutes to the airport. Great personal service (some big hotels would not compare) and facilities, wireless internet, free pick up from the airport, direct dial phones, 'honor' bar, airconditioning and more.

**Accommodation:**

8 rooms, some are 'Suites', some ('Apartments') have a separate living area.

All with en-suite bathrooms.

**Rates (single/double occupancy per night):**

All rates include a full buffet breakfast. Standard: US\$55.00/65.00. Suite: \$60.00/70.00.

Apartment: \$65/75.00. Includes all taxes. Special corporate, NGO, and long-term packaged rates are available upon request.

### ***Budget Accommodation in Maputo (Cheapest first)***

#### **The Base Backpackers**

545 Avenue Patrice Lumumba.

Tel: (21) 30 2723.

Fax: 31 3750

Website: [www.hostelz.com/display.php/21363+The+Base+Backpackers](http://www.hostelz.com/display.php/21363+The+Base+Backpackers)

E-Mail: [frannypf@yahoo.com](mailto:frannypf@yahoo.com)

Well located and one of the friendliest and cleanest places that I have stayed at in Mozambique. Easy walk to important places like where to eat, drink and dance. Rates from US\$10.

#### **Fatima's Backpackers**

1317 Avenida Mao Tse Tung.

Tel: Mobile: + 258 82 4145730 or 82 3070870.

Fax: (+) 258 1 300 305

Email: [fatimas@tvcabo.co.mz](mailto:fatimas@tvcabo.co.mz)

Website: [www.mozambiquebackpackers.com/](http://www.mozambiquebackpackers.com/)

Dona Fatima (quite an institution in Maputo), has had this place for many years. It has evolved from being a mossie and hippy infested 'old-style' backpackers (i.e for real travelers, not yuppie wanna-be backpacker) in Fatima's home, to a slightly-less mossie but still hippy-infested - but much cleaner and more spacious - place next door to the 'original'. For this reason I love it (have even stayed when 'The Polana' was an alternative on a 'freebie' basis), and it deserves its cult status. Rates from around US\$12. Nice pub and dorm and doubles and parking for 6 vehicles at a squeeze and make sure you're in last if leaving first. Now where did I put that 100% deet, Fatima?

#### **Residencial Hoyo-Hoyo**

837 Av. Francisco Orlando Magumbwe

Tel: (21) 49 0701

Fax: 49 0724

Email: [promotur@zebra.uem.mz](mailto:promotur@zebra.uem.mz)

This place is real value-for-money, has a great restaurant and is within walking distance of most of the important places in the city - recommended.

**Rates:** From US\$40 single and US\$50 double – bed only.

#### **Hotel Ibis (Accor Group)**

1743 Avenida 25 de Setembro.

Tel: + 258 (21) 352 200

Fax: 352 220.

Website: [www.accorhotels.com/accorhotels/fichehotel/gb/ibi/4975/fiche\\_hotel](http://www.accorhotels.com/accorhotels/fichehotel/gb/ibi/4975/fiche_hotel)

Email: See the booking tab on the website.

With low season rates starting from US\$40, central location and 24 hour snacks available, the Ibis is really good value for money.