

ACACIA AFRICA

MAPUTO CITY & BEACH BREAK – TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code MC4

MAPUTO

4 DAYS

Tour Starts – **Pick up on arrival in Maputo**

HIGHLIGHTS

Maputo
City Tour
Inhaca Island Day trip
(or Hlane National Park visit)

Mozambique is one of Africa's best kept secrets. This great 4-day stay in the country's laid back capital offers a taste of the country's vibrant Afro-Portugese culture and a chance to enjoy it's idyllic beaches.

INTENDED ITINERARY

Whilst it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary. **This tour is operated in association with a local operator. Acacia is proud to be working with local companies supporting local communities.**

Duration: 4 Days
Countries visited: Mozambique

DAY 1 Arrival airport transfer Local hotel City hotel

On arrival at Zanzibar Airport or bus station you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The city of Maputo is a city renowned for its colonial Portuguese architecture and impressive skyline. Historically it has always been a formidable trading port, once trading spices, slaves and ivory. Today its main exports are cotton, sugar and coal. Meanwhile the streets still display the city's colonial and trading past with Portuguese style street cafes, bustling markets and a selection of fantastic restaurants offering plenty of fresh seafood and Arabian, Indian, African and Portugese influenced cuisine. At night the city comes alive with the sound of heady latino beats.

After lunch we take a city tour, to properly explore Maputo's famous buildings and markets. The tour includes visits to Maputo's impressive CFM Railway Station and the famous Iron House, both designed by French architect Gustave Eiffel. We also visit Maputo Cathedral, the City Hall and the old Fortress, now a museum. We finally visit the Central Market, always a hub of activity with stall sellers selling prawns, cashew nuts, fish, vegetables and crafts.

This evening your hotel is just a short walk from a number of bars and restaurants, which you can enjoy in the evenings throughout your time here.

DAY 3 Day trip to Inhaca Island Bx1 City hotel

Today we head down to the port and catch a boat across to Inhaca Island, a beautiful island of beaches and forest in Maputo Bay. You have time here at leisure before the return ferry later this afternoon. Surrounded by rich, warm Indian Ocean waters, this is a great place to swim and snorkel. Snorkelling equipment can be easily

hired from the beaches. For qualified divers it may also possible to dive local reefs. Alternatively, there are walks to do on the island, small markets to enjoy and cafes in which to relax and watch the world go by.

On days when it may not be possible to visit Inhaca Island due to weather and tides, an alternative trip to Hlane National Park is on offer. This beautiful park is across the border in neighbouring Swaziland, but close enough that, with an early start, we can arrive there in time for a morning game drive to see the wildlife at their most active. This park has the largest herds of game in the Kingdom. Zebra, giraffe, wildebeest and a variety of birdlife are to be found here as well as four of the Big Five. After our afternoon game drive we return to Maputo.

DAY 2
Maputo – Day at Leisure
Bx1
City hotel

Today is free for your own exploration. You may like to wander down to the port, soak up the atmosphere at one of the city's many street cafes or continue site-seeing. Worth visiting are the National Museum of Art, the Franco-Mozambican Cultural Centre, which often run events, and the Tunduru Gardens, a leafy oasis in the city and home to many interesting botanical species. If you are around on Saturday mornings it may be possible to visit the arts and crafts market too, where hand carvings, batik paintings and textile hangings make perfect souvenirs, if you're prepared to haggle!

You may also be able to arrange a game driving excursion in Maputo Elephant Reserve if you request it in advance on your arrival. This peninsular of land, south of Maputo is now linked via a bush corridor to the Transfrontier Park combining game reserves in Mozambique with Kruger National Park in neighbouring South Africa - and its populations of elephants are increasing every year.

Tonight is your final chance to enjoy Maputo's colourful nightlife and great cuisine in one of its many restaurants.

DAY 4
Return transfer to Johannesburg
Bx1

After breakfast you have free time in Maputo until your transfer to the airport for your onward flight.

TOUR INFORMATION

TOUR STYLE

Short Break & City Stay.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

All highlights, airport transfers, accommodation, meals as indicated

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Visas, travel insurance, flights, departure taxes, optional activities, laundry, tips, items of a personal nature.

ACCOMMODATION

Comfortable, centrally located hotel with bar, restaurant and swimming pool. Rooms all have air conditioning and en suite facilities

MEALS

Meals included are – Breakfast (B) x 3

OPERATOR

As this tour is run by a respected local tour operator, you will benefit from their extensive local knowledge and enthusiasm as well as helping Acacia support local businesses in Africa.

TOUR PREPARATION

BOOKING INFORMATION

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent pre-departure information and related documents.

Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving full details of your joining point. Maputo is well served by a variety of airlines. Your travel agent can advise on travel to and from Maputo.

JOINING INFORMATION

You will be met on arrival at the airport on day 1 and transferred back on day 4. **Please ensure you inform Acacia of your flight times before your travel.**

EXTENDING YOUR STAY

If you wish to enjoy further time in Maputo we can arrange extra nights at your request. If you would like more time in Mozambique look at our tour **Mozambique Escape (ME7)** or contact us for more information.

WHAT TO BRING

Please try to keep your luggage to a minimum, bearing in mind that most airlines impose a 20kg limit. For this tour you will need to bring a mixture of lightweight clothing and warmer clothing for the evenings. Mosquito spray is advisable. Maputo is not a high crime city but exercise caution at night and in busy markets. It is a good idea to purchase a money pouch / belt that is easily hidden under clothes. Please try to avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use your hotel safe to store the bulk of your money, passport, and airline tickets when possible.

VACCINATIONS/HEALTH

The table below indicates the vaccinations suggested for travel on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. You should seek professional medical advice from your GP or clinic at least six weeks prior to departure.

Country	Tetanus	Diphtheria	Polio	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Typhoid	Meningitis	Rabies	Yellow Fever	Malaria
Mozambique	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	*	R

C = Compulsory, R = Recommended, * = If travelling from infected countries a certificate of proof may be required.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

The table below indicates the visas required for travel to the countries on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. At least one month prior to travel seek confirmation from embassies or a visa specialist, that these requirements are still current. For UK citizens the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers free up-to-date travel info: www.fco.gov.uk For other nationalities a number of travel advice websites are listed on the Acacia website.

Nationality	UK	AUS	NZ	USA	CAN	BEL	IRE	NED	DEN	ITA	GER	AUT	SWE	FIN	NOR	MEX	KOR
Mozambique	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Acacia that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your guide will ask you for a copy of this when you join the tour. It is also important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated as your emergency contact. We can recommend a respected, specialist travel insurance provider for this tour. Please contact Acacia for more information.

MONEY MATTERS

PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and internet cafes etc. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget US\$15 per day. Also put aside US\$ for any additional accommodation before or after your tour.

- **Spending money** is best carried as cash in US dollars, Euros, Pounds Sterling or SA Rand which can be transferred into the local currency on arrival.
- **Currencies:** Mozambique – Metical (MZM)
- **ATM machines** are found in Maputo but generally only accept VISA or Mastercard.
- **Credit cards** can be used in large shops and your hotel
- **Travellers cheques** can be difficult to cash outside Maputo

It is recommended to bring your money in a mixture of ways and your guide can best advise on what to use where.

TIPPING

As in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy, it has become customary to give a small gratuity to local staff, including your guide and drivers, at the end of a tour, for services rendered. The amount is a matter for individual discretion.

Country Information - MOZAMBIQUE

Facts

Capital:	Maputo
Size:	799 380 sq km / 308 642 sq miles
Population:	19,406,703 (Sept. 05)
Groups:	Makua, Shangaan, Chokwe, Manyika, Sena, Makonde, Euro-Africans, Indians, Europeans (mainly of Portuguese origin)
Languages:	Portuguese, Bantu languages like Makua-Lomwe, Sena-Nyanja, Tsonga
Local time:	GMT + 2
Seasons:	Wet (October – March), dry (April-September)
Currency:	1 Metical (plural Meticais) = 100 Centavos
Telephone:	Country code 258 , international access code 00
Electricity:	220 V / 240 V / 50 Hz, round pin attachment plug, Schuko plug and receptacle with side grounding contacts or South African plug

This is a poor country, but one where the people are open and generous. It also has some of the best beaches on the east coast of Africa and some of the worst roads. Although the Portuguese arrived here in the late 15th century and set up trading post, colonization did not start in earnest until the late 17th century with the setting up of private agricultural estates. The country consists of a wide coastal plain rising to mountains and plateaus on the Zimbabwean, Zambian and Malawian borders. The dry season runs from April to September during which the climate is pleasant, the remainder of the year is the wet season where it is hot and humid. The population is around 19 million and the main tribal groups are the Makus, Tsonga, Malawi and Shona. Portuguese is the official language but there are many African Languages, English is not widely spoken.

Points of Interest

Maputo

Mozi's capital was formerly named Lourenço Marques after a Portuguese explorer who landed here in 1544. Before Mozambique's civil war, Maputo was one of Africa's most important commercial cities and the main port from where South Africa shipped its mining products.

Although the war scars are still visible, it hasn't lost its distinct Portuguese atmosphere with bakeries on every corner and **street-side cafes** à la Paris or Buenos Aires. You can also feast on the freshest **sea food** ever, prepared 'peri-peri' (spicy) style. Besides that, Maputo is known for its pumping **nightlife**.

There are a few sights left from pre-war times like the **Fort of Nossa Senhora da Conceicao (Our Lady of Conception)** and the restored **Central Train Station** which was built in 1910 by Gustave Eiffel. You will also find a fish and a craft market in town.

For an art experience of a different kind head to **Núcleo Arte** – a co-operative transforming weapons into art pieces, reflecting the country's change. The artists are very friendly; they show you how they work and allow you to take pics. For a day out, hop on one of the boats to **Inhaca Island**. There, you can visit the maritime museum and the historic lighthouse or just go for a stroll. The **Maputo Elephant Reserve**, south of the capital, covers 104,000 hectares and is famous for its large herds of elephants and flocks of flamingos.

ACACIA ON THE ROAD – NEWS & EVENTS



RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

We believe that you get the most out of a journey by respecting the culture and people of the places you visit. On our tours we try to travel in a way that benefits the communities we pass through and minimises negative impact on the environment. This can be from ensuring the campsites we use are clean when we leave and dressing respectfully in conservative areas to getting involved with local charity projects. We ask that you are open to this when you travel with us. Being proactive in responsible travel helps develop cross-cultural understanding and friendships with the local people, and will greatly enhance your experience in Africa.

PHOTOS & STORIES SEARCH

If you've ever thought you can take better pictures than the brochures or have a great travel story and want to see yourself in print, then we're looking for you. If you've captured a great moment on tour, whether it's of the wildlife, local people, landscape or life on the road why not enter our monthly photographic competition starting in 2009. Not only do we give away a monthly prize, you may also see your photos published in a future brochure or on our website. We are also on the lookout for stories of life on the road, the funny, exhilarating, moving or simply unforgettable things you did on tour. We publish the best stories on the Tales from the Road section of our website. Send your photos or stories to acaciaontheroad@googlemail.com

Photos should be in digital format & good resolution (max 6 pics per person) and labelled with the location of where the photos were taken. Meanwhile if you have a story or anecdote about your tour (up to 400 words) it needn't be word perfect, we'd love to hear about it.

Legalities: You, the photographer/author, retain copyright of all images & words submitted but we reserve the right to use of them for Acacia brochures, promotions & advertising.

For information on our Acacia Small Group Safaris, Adventure Tours, Comfort Class Safaris, Short Breaks & City Stays, Voluntours, Dive Tours, New Horizons and Access Tours or to contact us please visit www.acacia-africa.com

<p>Acacia Adventure Holidays Ltd 23A Craven Terrace London W2 3QH</p> <p>UK Tel. +44 (0)20 7706 4700 Fax. +44 (0)20 7706 4686 SA Tel. +27 (0)21 556 1157 Fax. +27 (0)21 557 5983</p> <p>Email: info@acacia-africa.com Website: www.acacia-africa.com</p>	 The logo for Acacia African Adventures features a stylized acacia tree in the foreground, with a sunset or sunrise in the background. The text "ACACIA AFRICAN ADVENTURES" is written in a curved banner across the middle.	 The logo for ABTA (Association of British Travel Agents) consists of a circular emblem with a stylized globe or sunburst pattern. Below the emblem, the letters "ABTA" are written in a bold, serif font, with "Association of British Travel Agents" in a smaller font underneath.	 The logo for ATTA (African Travel & Tourism Association) features a silhouette of the African continent in the center. The text "african travel & tourism association" is written in a circular path around the continent, and "atta" is written in a stylized, lowercase font below it. Below "atta", it says "Incorporating the Indian Ocean Islands".
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