



TATE DRUCKER
PHOTOJOURNALIST

Mozambique and Kruger photo workshop with Tate Drucker





MARLOTH PARK



KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Mozambique and Kruger photo workshop with Tate Drucker

Vilanculos - Tofo - Maputo - Marloth Park - Kruger National Park

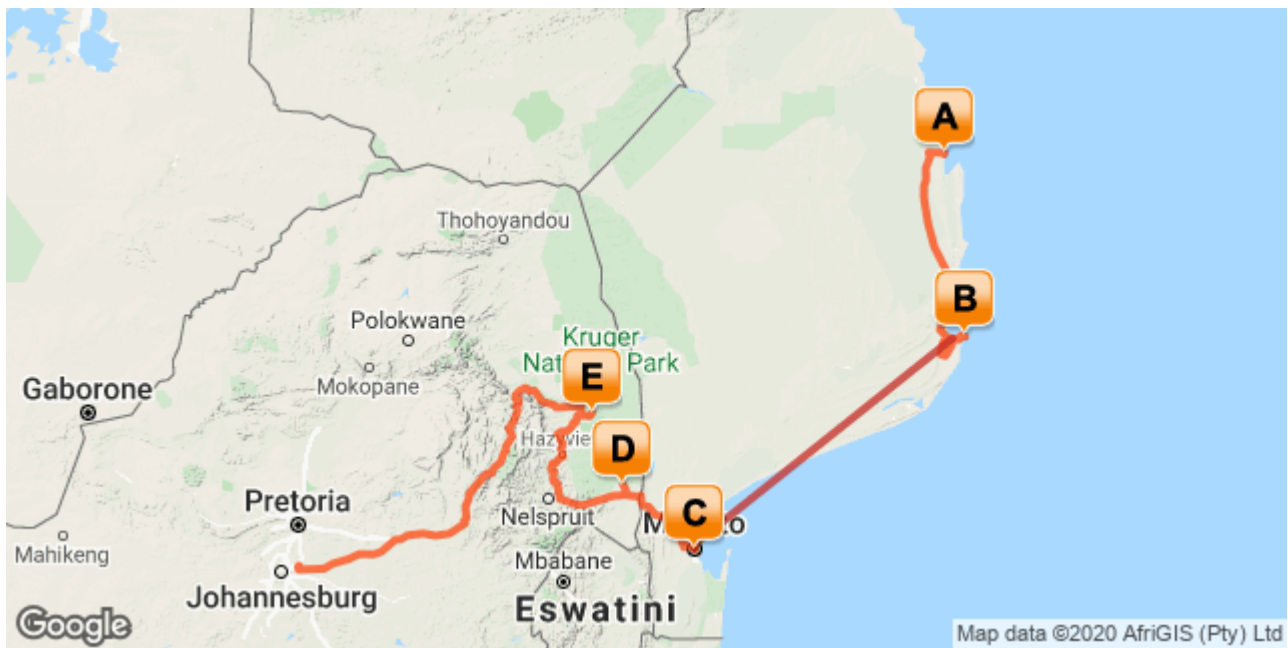
12 Days / 11 Nights

6 Persons

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16 July 2020 - 27 July 2020



[Click here to view your Digital Itinerary](#)

Introduction

This workshop is open for photographers of all levels, from beginners looking to learn the basics and to have the assistance to take the photos of their dreams, to advanced photographers wanting to work on specific skills or goals.

Join award-winning photojournalist Tate Drucker on this exciting trip through southern Mozambique and South Africa's Kruger National Park. Hone your skills as a photographer in this immersive workshop as you sail through the iconic Bazaruto Archipelago, search for giant manta rays and whale sharks in Praia do Tofo, practice your documentary photography in the dynamic cities of Inhambane and Maputo, and become fully immersed on a classic African safari in the world-renowned Kruger.

This workshop is open for photographers of all levels, from beginners looking to learn the basics and to have the assistance to take the photos of their dreams, to advanced photographers wanting to work on specific skills or goals.

This trip is expertly arranged through Travel to Mozambique, a Fairtrade Certified tour operator based in Mozambique for the past 14 years.

This trip's photo leader, Tate Drucker, received her B.A. in Photojournalism from San Francisco State University, CA, USA. Originally from the U.S. and now living in Mozambique, Tate's work in over 70 countries has been featured by publications such as National Geographic, The Guardian, The Nature Conservancy, The Washington Post, NPR, BBC Travel, and more.

Accommodation	Type	Destination	Start	End	Basis	Room Type	Duration
Casa Babi		Vilanculos	16 Jul	18 Jul	B&B	3x Twin Room	2 Nights
Blu@Tofo		Tofo	18 Jul	22 Jul	B&B	3x Twin Room	4 Nights
→ Corasiida Guesthouse	alternate						
Palmeiras Guesthouse		Maputo	22 Jul	23 Jul	B&B	3x Twin Room	1 Night
Bushwise Safaris		Marloth Park	23 Jul	25 Jul	FB	3x Twin Room	2 Nights
Shalati Kruger Lodge		Kruger National Park	25 Jul	27 Jul	FB	3x Twin Room	2 Nights

Key

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

FB: Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Price

US\$2900 per person twin/share basis

Included

Bed & breakfast accommodation (sharing) in Moz

Dinner, bed & breakfast accommodation (sharing) in Kruger

All transfers & internal flights (tour starts at Vilanculos airport & ends at OR Tambo airport Johannesburg)

All activities mentioned

Excluded

International airfares

Some meals

Tips and gratuities

Anything not mentioned herein

Day 1: Thursday, 16 July Casa Babi, Vilanculos

Vilanculos

Situated in the Mozambican province of Inhambane, Vilanculos is a laidback town featuring some lovely beaches lapped by crystal-clear turquoise waters. It is stocked with all the amenities needed for a fantastic seaside holiday. This bustling coastal town has its own international airport and serves as a great base for exploring the idyllic islands of the Bazaruto Archipelago. The town itself offers good diving, a wide range of accommodation choices and a lively nightlife. Visitors can jump on a traditional dhow boat and venture to the pristine Bazaruto Archipelago, browse for fresh produce and locally-made souvenirs in the bustling market in the centre of town, and spend the day soaking up the sun on an array of idyllic beaches. Other popular activities include: horse riding, game fishing, kitesurfing, scuba diving, snorkelling and sailing.

Day Itinerary

Welcome to Mozambique! Your guide and photography expert for the trip, Tate Drucker, will be waiting to greet you as you arrive at the Vilanculos Airport, followed by a transfer to our boutique hotel for the next two nights. Become acquainted with beautiful Mozambique and get excited for the trip ahead with an introduction talk to chat about the trip and photography goals for the adventure ahead. At sunset we'll kick off the trip by setting out with our cameras on a traditional Mozambican dhow boat.

Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
16 Jul		Vilanculos Airport [VNX]	Casa Babi		Transfer

Overnight: Casa Babi [View iBrochure](#)

Casa Babi is an intimate eco-chic Boutique Guest House, overlooking the beautiful bay of the Bazaruto Archipelago. With only 4 rooms and a family cottage, personalised service and individual attention to the guests are what make Casa Babi special. Sabrina & Denis, the owners, are always happy to share their stories with their guests around a glass of wine before dinner.

Located in the heart of the fishing village, Casa Babi is a few steps away from a lively beach where one can admire the everyday life go by, rhythmmed by the Dhows going and coming back with their catch.

The sea-view bedrooms benefit from a private veranda that opens on incredible views of the beach and never ending blue-sea and white sand. They are comfortable and spacious, decorated with organic elements and with a special attention to details.

Casa Babi has an in-house restaurant that offers a fresh and creative cuisine tainted with Mediterranean and Mozambican flavours. It can easily adapt to all dietary requirements.

Adjacent to Casa Babi is the activity centre, where the most active will be able to use SUP and kayaks for free or book a dive or a kite-surf lesson.



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 2: Friday, 17 July

Casa Babi, Vilanculos

Day Itinerary

Today we'll hit the ground running by exploring the stunning Bazaruto Archipelago, a chain of six idyllic islands boasting epic sand dunes, diverse birdlife, endless views of the archipelago's iconic turquoise ocean. As we keep our eyes peeled for the elusive dugong, colonies of flamingos and other marine animals, we'll sail from island to island, snorkel at iconic reefs, climb Bazaruto's white-sand dunes for spectacular landscape shots, and learn about the unique culture embraced by the people who live on these islands.

At the end of the day we'll regroup at our hotel for workshoping and photo critiques.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 3: Saturday, 18 July

Blu@Tofo, Tofo

Tofo

Idyllically set on the scenic Ponta da Barra peninsula in southeastern Mozambique, Tofo is a small fishing village and an exceptionally popular tourist destination. The curved Tofo Beach is an ideal swimming beach lined with a number of lively beach bars, restaurants and accommodation options as well as a small local market. The smaller Tofinho Beach is quieter and is a great spot for surfing and fly fishing. Just beyond the beaches lie some pristine coral reefs inhabited by an impressive array of marine life which make it one of the world's premier dive destinations with

dolphins, manta rays and whale sharks regularly spotted. Other popular activities on offer include deep sea fishing, horse riding through the dunes, exploring the surrounding villages, or taking a trip to the nearby historic town of Inhambane where you can sample food at the local market or enjoy a leisurely dhow ride around the harbour.

Day Itinerary

After a morning photo talk we'll set out in our private 4-hour road transfer to Praia do Tofo, a vibrant beach town and our base for the next four days. Tofo is known for its incredible ocean wildlife and offers the chance for us to have some spectacular sightings. Tofo is also known for its colorful market, lively music scene and culture, thriving surf scene and more. After settling into our beachfront guesthouse, we'll utilize the golden hour light by exploring and photographing the nearby village, including an astrophotography lesson after the sun goes down and the stars come out.

Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
18 Jul		Casa Babi	Blu@Tofo		Transfer

Overnight: Blu@Tofo

Blu@Tofo is the perfect combination of comfort and beach rustic, perfectly positioned on the pristine beaches of Tofo.

Centrally located and on the sandy shores of Tofo Beach, Blu@Tofo is home to five en-suite sea view apartments, which are within walking distance of the local market, restaurants and bars.

Each apartment features a double and single bed or three single beds, as well as a kitchenette, fridge and en suite bathroom. Facilities include a beachfront garden, and a sundeck with a plunge pool, where guests can soak up the sun while listening to the ocean.

For the ultimate family holiday, rent all 5 apartments and have exclusive use of the property, including a semi open lounge / dining area and the swimming pool / deck area.



Alternate: Corasiida Guesthouse

The Guesthouse caters for all tourists that are looking for reasonably priced, beach side, upmarket accommodation, in Tofo.

Corasiida Guesthouse offers five comfortable upmarket en-suite rooms, four with sea views and a fifth spacious family room.

The rooms are elegantly furnished with air-conditioning, excellent quality mosquito nets and fans.

The local village and vibrant market are within easy walking distance of the Guesthouse.

From the Guesthouse, you will have a spectacular view of the whole of Tofo Beach with breath taking sunrises over the ocean and sunsets behind the mangrove and palm trees.

Tofo Scuba, a well-established dive centre, is on your doorstep and the Guesthouse is ideal for patrons who prefer a one-stop-stay and diving experience.



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 4: Sunday, 19 July

Blu@Tofo, Tofo

Day Itinerary

After a morning lesson at our guesthouse to go over the day ahead, we'll set off to nearby Inhambane, a small city that looks and feels as if it's frozen in time. Boasting 70s-style Portuguese-colonial architecture, colorful buildings, and bustling markets, we'll learn all about this small city's vibrant and dynamic history and culture as we take an informative photo walk down its intricate streets. Try your hand at documentary street photography as you integrate yourself into this unique place. In the afternoon we'll head to a nearby functioning "machamba" to see how people farm and harvest local produce such as peanuts, cassava, cashews and more.

Back in Tofo we'll have time for workshopping and critiques, then head out to enjoy live music and a traditional buffet featuring delectable Inhambane cuisine in the evening.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 5: Monday, 20 July

Blu@Tofo, Tofo

Day Itinerary

This morning we'll set out on the sea again for one of Tofo's legendary ocean safaris. Search for whale sharks, giant manta rays, dolphins, impressive schools of fish and humpback whales from our cruising dinghy. If you don't have an underwater camera, a simple one will be provided for you to make the most of your underwater adventure.

In the afternoon we'll participate in a Mozambique cooking lesson, where you can practice your food photography and your hand at making traditional delicacies such as *matapa*, *chamussas*, *feijoada* and more. For the rest of the day you can have the option to relax on the beach, workshop your photos, or take a sunset walk to photograph Tofo's impressive surfers in action (maybe with a humpback whale breaching in the background!)

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 6: Tuesday, 21 July

Blu@Tofo, Tofo

Day Itinerary

Today we'll have the exciting opportunity to visit Mocucune Island. After a 20 minute dhow ride, we'll reach the island and spend the day learning about the unique community that lives there, with plenty of opportunities to practice portrait and documentary photography. Visit one of the oldest Muslim cemeteries in Mozambique, and stop into a local bakery to try Mozambique's special freshly-cooked *pao*. Sip out of fresh coconuts and watch how traditional weavings and pottery are made. At the end of our visit (and at low tide), we'll walk back across the bay as we make our way back toward Tofo.

On our final evening in Tofo we'll have the opportunity to workshop the photos we've taken so far, as well as go out and photograph one last golden hour before we make our way inland from the coast.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 7: Wednesday, 22 July

Palmeiras Guesthouse, Maputo

Maputo

Mozambique's capital, Maputo, is known for its well-preserved Portuguese colonial architecture. With its beautiful art deco architecture and its amazing setting on a hill overlooking the glittering Maputo Bay, the city of Maputo was once the Riviera of Southern Africa. Previously called Lourenco Marques, Maputo is Mozambique's largest city and home to the country's most prominent harbour. It is well-equipped with a wide selection of hotels, supermarkets, restaurants, a vibrant cultural scene and open-air sidewalk cafes lining the streets. Visitors can stroll down the jacaranda-lined streets of the Baixa neighbourhood in the Old Town, explore the Praca da Independencia square, discover the neoclassical City Hall and view the unique bronze-domed Maputo Railway Station. Other popular activities include: visiting the beautiful beaches of Catembe and Ponta d'Oura, and snorkelling and scuba diving in the warm Mozambican waters.

Day Itinerary

After a morning in Tofo, we'll head to Inhambane Airport for our quick 1-hour flight to Maputo, the capital of Mozambique. After arriving at our charming guesthouse, we'll set out on an afternoon walking tour of this bustling city. Photograph the old Portuguese railway station and the nearby covered market. Take a walk down the famous Costa Do Sol, where fisherman come in with their daily haul and locals lounge in the fading afternoon light.

Flight Information

Date	Flight	Airline	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time	Class	Ref
22 Jul	124 (Scheduled)	LAM [TM]	Inhambane Airport [INH]	15:00	Maputo International Airport [MPM]	16:00		

Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
22 Jul		Blu@Tofo	Inhambane Airport [INH]		Transfer
22 Jul		Maputo International Airport [MPM]	Palmeiras Guesthouse		Transfer

Overnight: Palmeiras Guesthouse

Located in the heart of Maputo City, Mozambique, Palmeiras Guesthouse provides luxurious accommodation.

The establishment features bright and spacious rooms which come equipped with air-conditioning, TVs with cable channels, telephones, minibars and other conveniences.

Guests are provided with a hearty breakfast at the guesthouse, and a variety of restaurants and pubs are available in the area for other meals. Things to do in the area include sightseeing, shopping, swimming at the beach, and much more.



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 8: Thursday, 23 July

Bushwise Safaris, Marloth Park

Marloth Park

Situated along the southern border of the world-famous Kruger National Park, on the banks of the Crocodile River, Marloth Park is a tranquil holiday town and wildlife sanctuary in the beautiful province of Mpumalanga. This 3000-hectare park is inhabited by abundant wildlife and is home to four of the Big Five. The rhino, lion, and buffalo are kept in Marloth Park's Lionspruit Game Reserve, while the kudu, zebra, giraffe, wildebeest, ostrich, impala, and warthog roam freely between holiday houses, lodges and hotels. Visitors can watch elephants play in the river, catch

a glimpse of some magnificent wildlife from the lookout points and watch the spectacular sunset over African bushveld. This park offers a string of wonderful activities including: guided game walks, game drives, night safaris, mountain biking, fishing, quad biking, horse riding, bird watching and even golfing inside the Kruger Park at Skukuza.

Day Itinerary

Say goodbye to Mozambique as we take our private road transfer across the border into South Africa, bound for the world-renowned Kruger National Park. Our base for the next two nights is Bushwise Lodge, located on the southern border of Kruger. Upon arriving and checking into our classic African safari lodge, we'll switch gears as we prepare for four days on safari in the spectacular Kruger. Hone your skills animals such as lions, elephants, leopard, giraffes, rhinos, cheetah, hyenas and more.

In the evening we'll return to our lodge for a delicious fireside dinner in our lodge's quaint safari boma.

Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
23 Jul		Palmeiras Guesthouse	Bushwise Safaris		Transfer

Overnight: Bushwise Safaris

We remain small and personal so our guests can be comfortably accommodated and cared for. The rooms in the lodge each have a bathroom en-suite and are air-conditioned and equipped with ceiling fans and insect screens in front of all the windows and doors. The lodge has a big open balcony, infinity pool with sun deck and bar area. Free WiFi at the lodge. No self catering facilities or television in the rooms at the lodge.

The self catering unit has a fully equipped kitchen with lounge area, private patio and lapa (BBQ area), 2 bedrooms, a shared bathroom with bath tub and shower and a separate toilet. There are ceiling fans in the rooms and lounge and insect screens in front of all the windows. No WiFi, air-conditioning, swimming pool or television in the self catering unit.

If not at the lodge, breakfast is served at a water hole in the Kruger Park. Dinners are served under the African sky by candle light in our "Boma" outside. The upper rendezvous deck with infinity swimming pool and bar has lovely views over the Kruger Park and the Crocodile river and it provides a relaxed atmosphere for sharing the day's stories.



Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 9: Friday, 24 July

Bushwise Safaris, Marloth Park

Day Itinerary

Wake up before dawn and hop into our open-air safari Jeep as we head into Kruger for our sunrise game drive. Game drives are often done around sunrise and sunset, as that's typically when animals are most likely to be moving around and are the most active. Today we'll test our luck as we explore and shoot Kruger during sunrise and sunset drives, coming back to our lodge in the middle of the day for siesta, workshopping, and lounging on the top deck as we look for wildlife from the comfort of our lodge's pool.

Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 10: Saturday, 25 July

Shalati Kruger Lodge, Kruger National Park

Kruger National Park

Stretching over more than two million hectares, the Kruger National Park is one of the world's largest game reserves and a truly remarkable destination. Owing to its exceptional size, visitors are able to experience fantastic diversity – from changing scenery and ecosystems to an impressive array of animals, plant life and birdlife. The park is home to over 130 mammals and over 500 bird species. Visitors can look forward to learning about the area's prehistoric past, enjoying a host of accommodation options, and viewing abundant wildlife including the famed Big Five. The diversity sheer density of wildlife makes Kruger National Park an unforgettable and potentially life-changing experience.

Day Itinerary

From Bushwise we'll head deep into the park to our next base, the Shalati Kruger Lodge. Located adjacent to the Manyeleti Game Reserve within Kruger, we'll be fully immersed in the bush as we spend our nights in luxury ensuite safari tents, falling asleep to the iconic sounds the African wilderness around us. After arriving at the lodge we'll set out for our sunset game drive, followed by a dinner under the stars.

Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
25 Jul		Bushwise Safaris	Shalati Kruger Lodge		Transfer

Overnight: Shalati Kruger Lodge

Shalati Kruger Lodge borders the Manyeleti Game Reserve that in turn have open boundaries with the Kruger National Park and the Sabi-Sand Game Reserve offering very affordable rates on accommodation, meals and activities. All 14 Tented Units are permanent safari style tents with en suite facilities (see below for room amenities) and the camp layout offer views on the surrounding Manyeleti Game Reserve . A range of meal options are offered in the restaurant, Bush Pub and the Boma. The lodge offers morning and afternoon open vehicle safaris, bushwalks all inside the Manyeleti Game Reserve or Kruger National Park (Full day Game Drives). All activities are subject to availability and weather permitting.



Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 11: Sunday, 26 July Shalati Kruger Lodge, Kruger National Park

Day Itinerary

Put on your walking shoes as we set out for a guided game walk through the bush. Search for zebra, buffalo, antelope and giraffe as we meander on foot through the savanna at sunrise, camera in hand. The afternoon will be spent on our final game drive before celebrating our journey and the portfolios we created during our final dinner all together.

Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 12: Monday, 27 July End of Itinerary

Day Itinerary

From Shalati we'll take a private road transfer to Nelspruit, where we'll then take a shuttle bus to Johannesburg for our flights home or onward to the next destination.

Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
27 Jul		Shalati Kruger Lodge	OR Tambo International Airport [JNB]		Transfer

Urgent Contact Numbers

Company Name	Telephone	Email Address	Contact Person
Tate Drucker			
Experiential Travel	+61 418 325 812	info@experiential.travel	Neville Jones
Experiential Travel - Emergency	+61 416 371 178		

Contact

Service Provider Directory

Service Provider	Ref. Number	Telephone	Address
Blu@Tofo			Terra-Agua-Ceu Diving and Safaris Adventures Rua Primeiro de Maio, 295 Bairro Balano 1 CP 129 Inhambane – Mozambique
Bushwise Safaris		+27 83 651 7464	2821 Seekoei street Marloth Park 1340
Casa Babi		+258 84 412 6478	Odyssea Dive rua do palacio - bairro desse Vilanculos Inhambane Mozambique
Palmeiras Guesthouse			948 Avenida Patrice Lumumba Maputo Mozambique
Shalati Kruger Lodge		+27 13 790 1011	

Travel Information



Situated on the east coast of Africa, this tropical paradise is blessed with 2500 kilometres of spectacular coastline. With its idyllic beaches fringed with palm trees and lapped by crystal-clear waters brimming with a dazzling array of marine life, this enchanting African nation is an ideal adventure holiday destination, with an abundance of activities on offer such as snorkelling, sunset cruises, horse-riding, dolphin tours and world-renowned scuba diving. Mozambique's two major centres, Maputo and Inhambane, offer an exotic kaleidoscope of art, music and delicious local food as well as a lively nightlife scene. Spend your days immersing yourself in the fascinating local culture, marvelling at the impressive colonial architecture and interacting with the fabulously friendly local inhabitants. Those seeking a more remote getaway can head for the isolated beaches of Benguerra Island; the historic Portuguese and Muslim architecture of Mozambique Island; or the outstanding wildlife of Gorongosa National Park. However, you choose to spend your time in this exceptionally scenic destination you are likely to leave with a heavy heart and a burning desire to return time and time again.

Banking and Currency

Currency

The unit of currency in Mozambique is the Metical (M) which is divided into 100 centavos. South African Rand and US\$ are also widely accepted.

Banking

Local banks have branches in cities that are generally open on weekdays from 07h45 to 12h00. ATMs are spreading across the country, but travellers cheques are difficult and expensive to exchange.

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Public transport is not recommended within Mozambique, however there are reliable bus shuttles to the north and international/local planes.

There are scheduled flights into Maputo and Vilankulo. Flights are generally routed via Johannesburg in South Africa. There are a variety of smaller airstrips for smaller charter flights (to the islands, etc).

Driving is on the left in Mozambique. You need to make sure that you are carrying ID, your drivers licence, the car registration papers and your insurance details. It is also obligatory to carry a warning triangle and I would also recommend a high viz vest. The wearing of seat belts is compulsory.

The roads are generally not in good repair. Many of the main roads have an awful lot of potholes and some are very deep.

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice

Mozambique offers some of the best cuisine in Africa, providing a popular blend of Portuguese, Indian and African influences. The country is well known for its seafood, which includes excellent prawns and crayfish, and the wildly popular grilled catch of the day, locally known as peixe grelhado. Local dishes, mainly along the coastal areas have a certain flair which makes them unique from the foods found in neighbouring countries. Mozambicans believe in the liberal use of coconut milk and their favourite local hot pepper, peri peri to add a zesty burn to their meals. For more carnivorous visitors, there is a decent variety of high quality meats, usually, bought into Mozambique from neighbouring South Africa.

In Mozambique all towns treat their drinking water, travellers are however advised to boil the tap water before drinking it, alternatively would be to buy mineral water. Tap water can safely be used for showering and brushing your teeth.

Climate and Weather

The Mozambique coastline stretches for almost 2,000km, covering latitudes from about 11° to 27° South, and has a tropical ocean current running north to south along its length for the whole year.

Despite this range of latitudes, the whole country broadly follows a southern African weather pattern, with the rains falling largely between **December** and **March**.

This does vary a little between the north and south of the country, with the rains lasting a few weeks longer in the north than the south, but the pattern is the same. Humidity can be uncomfortably high during this period.

Most of Mozambique's rain arrives on moist southeast trade winds, but glance at a map to see that it lies in the rainshadow of Madagascar. This gives Mozambique a relatively low annual rainfall – and a great deal of protection from the tropical storms and the occasional cyclone which head towards it during this period.

By around **April** or **May** the rains subside, the sun comes out and the humidity drops – better weather spreads gradually from the south to the north.

June to **October** is the dry season, with often perfect tropical weather: clear skies, plenty of sun and almost no rain. This is the best time for most people to visit Mozambique. Although still tropical, **June**, **July** and **August** are Mozambique's coolest months; you'll need a light duvet at night, even though the temperature reaches over 30°C by day. During **September** and **October** it remains dry as daytime temperatures climb, though it cools down a lot at night.

November is a less predictable month of transition. Sometimes the rains start, although many days remain sunny and hot. The rains generally start earlier in the north of the country.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations

Light clothing is a must for most of the year (do not forget your swimwear and sunscreen!). However, during winter (June-August) it can be chilly in the evenings, so pack something warm. When visiting game reserves, remember to pack sensible walking shoes, a hat and colour appropriate clothing (browns, greens, etc). In the evenings, it is advisable to wear long sleeved shirts to protect from the mosquitoes.

Electricity and Plug Standards

Current is 220/240 volts at 50 cycles per second. A three-point round-pin adapter plug should be brought for your electrical appliances. Such adapters are also available at the major airports.



This vast country is undoubtedly one of the most culturally and geographically diverse places on earth. Fondly known by locals as the 'Rainbow Nation', South Africa has 11 official languages and its multicultural inhabitants are influenced by a fascinating mix of cultures. Discover the gourmet restaurants, impressive art scene, vibrant nightlife and beautiful beaches of Cape Town; enjoy a local braai (barbecue) in the Soweto township; browse the bustling Indian markets in Durban; or sample some of the world's finest wines at the myriad wine estates dotting the Cape Winelands. Some historical attractions to explore include the Zululand battlefields of KwaZulu-Natal, the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg and Robben Island, just off the coast of Cape Town. Above all else, its remarkably untamed wilderness with its astonishing range of wildlife roaming freely across massive unfenced game reserves such as the world-famous Kruger National Park. With all of this variety on offer, it is little wonder that South Africa has fast become Africa's most popular tourist destination.

Banking and Currency

Currency

The currency is the Rand, which is divided into 100 cents. There are R200, R100, R50, R20 and R10 notes. Coins come in R5, R2, R1, 50c, 20c, 10c and 5c.

Banking

Banks are found in most towns, and are generally open from 09h00 to 15h30 on weekdays and 08h30 to 11h00 on Saturdays (Closed Sundays and Public Holidays). Most of them offer foreign exchange services - with cash, bank & credit cards as well as travellers cheques. You can also obtain cash from automatic teller machines (ATMs). Several international banks have branches in the main city centres. Always advise your bank that you are travelling outside of the country as they might block your purchases if they are not informed.

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Travelling around South Africa is relatively easy by air, road and rail.

Principal air routes are serviced by SAA and British Airways. There are also low-cost carriers on main routes, namely Kulula.com, Mango and Safair. Facilitating travel around South Africa are 10 airports managed by the Airports Company South Africa (Acsa). In addition, there are some 90 regional airports, including the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport in Nelspruit and the Skukuza Airport, offering access to the Kruger National Park.

An extensive tarred road system makes travelling in South Africa by vehicle convenient and easy. You will find gravel roads in rural areas though. Please note that a valid international driver's licence is required. We drive on the left-hand side of the road. Most global car hire firms have branches in South Africa and Uber is available.

Another means of getting around South Africa are inter-city bus services such as Greyhound and Trans-Lux. Metrobus buses are available for in-city transport. Metered taxis must be ordered by telephone. There is the popular MyCityBus system in Cape Town as well as a hop-on-hop-off tourist bus in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

Our rail system includes the long-haul, inexpensive Shosholozha Meyl Metrorail trains. More luxurious options are the Blue Train, Premier Classe and the steam train Rovos Rail. There is also the Gautrain rapid transit railway system in Gauteng Province linking Sandton and Marlboro to the O.R.Tambo International Airport and a Commuter Service linking Rhodesfield, Marlboro, and Sandton (east-west link) and Park, Rosebank, Sandton, Midrand, Centurion, Pretoria Central and Hatfield (north-south link). All stations with the exception of the Airport station have integrated car parking facilities.

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice

Standards of hygiene in relation to food health and safety in South Africa, are generally high in hotels, restaurants, pubs and nightspots. Tap water in South Africa is safe to drink and cook with when taken from taps in urban areas. Not all tap water in rural areas is safe for consumption, so take precautions if necessary.

It is safe to eat fresh fruit, vegetables and salads, and put ice in your drinks. South Africa's fish, meat and chicken are of excellent quality, so there is no need to limit yourself when enjoying the local cuisine.

Restaurants are subject to South Africa's food safety control legislation, which is implemented by local government. Regulations include certification and regular inspections by health inspectors to ensure hygienic standards are maintained.

Street food is not as common in South Africa as it is in other countries, although vendors selling traditional snacks and meals can be found in city centres and townships. Food safety in such instances cannot always be guaranteed.

Climate and Weather

South African temperatures, which are measured in centigrade, average at highs of 28°C to average lows of 8°C in the summer months while winter temperatures range from 1°C at night to around 18°C in the day. Average annual rainfall is on the low side at under 500mm a year, making the country somewhat dry. Much of the rain falls in the Western Cape in the winter, differing from the rest of the country, which experiences summer rainfall. On the plus side, the South African climate boasts more than its fair share of sunshine, recording an average of 8.5 hours a day.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations

Summer

Bring clothes that are cool, light and comfortable because summer temperatures can get well into the 30 - 40 degree Celsius range in some areas. Also bring an umbrella or raincoat during summer as this is when most of the country gets its rain, but don't forget a swimming costume (bathing suit).

Winter

The winters are generally mild, comparing favourably with European summers. But there are days when temperatures dive, especially in high-lying areas such as the Drakensberg, so be prepared with jerseys and jackets. Cape Town gets its rain during the winter season so it's advisable to bring rain gear along.

General

Always bring a hat, sunglasses and sunblock as the sun can be strong even in the winter months.

Walking shoes are a good idea all year-round, with warm socks in the winter.

If you are doing business in the country, business attire (suit and tie) is generally called for in the corporate sector, but media for example generally dress more casually.

For game viewing, a couple of neutral-toned items will be useful, but there's no need to go overboard. A good pair of walking shoes is also advisable.

For the evening, if you are dining at an upmarket restaurant or seeing a show, smart-casual attire is recommended.

Electricity and Plug Standards

Current is 220/240 volts at 50 cycles per second. A three-point round-pin adapter plug should be brought for your electrical appliances - such adapters are also available at major airports..
