

# Mozambique

## Information for applicants

### Mozambique

Mozambique is a southeast African country with a 2,700 km-long coastline along the Indian Ocean. The country borders Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Swaziland. Mozambique, which did not gain independence from Portugal until 1975, and has been afflicted by years of war, remains one of the ten poorest countries in the world, despite of all the development progress made. Mozambique's economic clout is equivalent to that of the city of Bonn, and the challenges of providing services to a population of almost 30 million dispersed over an area two and a half times the size of Germany are immense. On the other hand, Mozambique has significant potential in agriculture, as a transit country for the landlocked countries in Southern Africa and in the raw materials sector. Mozambique is distinguished by the diversity of its population: In total, over 40 languages are spoken in the country with Portuguese as the official language. The capital, Maputo, is also known by its sobriquet: the 'pearl of the Indian Ocean'. It is located at the southern tip of the country and marks the end of the major road corridor to Johannesburg.

### Climate and sights

Mozambique has a savannah climate, with one wet season and one dry season. Roughly 80% of the annual precipitation falls in the rainy season between November and April. While the weather in the rainy season is humid and hot, nights in the dry season are far colder, especially in the capital.

Daytime temperatures vary between 25°C and 30°C all year round, reaching up to 35°C inland. In coastal cities in particular, there is generally also a pleasant breeze.

### Medical care

With some limitations, medical services in the capital are adequate, but deteriorate significantly the further from Maputo you travel. Maputo has both state and private clinics, with the latter often run by international organisations. However, you should travel to South Africa for complicated procedures, which is not a problem due to the proximity.

### Accommodation and quality of life

Though it has over one million citizens, Maputo does not suffer from the same traffic problems as many other major cities. The coastal location also helps keep pollution in check. In recent years, the supply of accommodation has improved, and prices are at an acceptable level. However, due to their age and the lack of renovation, well-maintained houses with gardens are difficult to find. The market for modern apartments has greatly improved thanks to the extensive construction work. There is a vibrant market for expat apartments, and brokers who specialise in this market.

Its Portuguese past and seaside location gives Maputo a Mediterranean atmosphere with street cafés, small parks around the city and a good selection of restaurants compared with other African capitals. There is a small but constantly growing

cultural scene. Germany supports cultural work there with an outpost of the South African Goethe Institute, and also offers German courses.

Both Mozambique's endless beaches and its proximity to the South African border provide a wide range of leisure activities. The world-famous Kruger National Park shares a border with Mozambique and can be reached in two hours from Maputo.

## Shops and services

The supply of goods in Maputo is excellent. The major South African supermarket chains have branches in Maputo, stocking a very wide range of goods, including fresh fruit and vegetables.

Dedicated expat shops satisfy even unusual consumer wishes like a wide variety of cold meats, cheese or chocolates. Local markets also sell Mozambican products like cashew nuts, coconuts, fresh fish or shrimp.

The provincial capitals now also have branches of South African supermarket chains. The range on offer there is limited and focuses on local demand. Mozambique's currency is the metical. The banana sector is well developed. Foreign currency accounts are permitted.

## Accompanying partners and children

All employees and their family members need an official passport. This entails an official accreditation with Mozambique's Ministry of Foreign Affairs via the embassy. The identification issued as part of this process ensures the rights to protection under the TC framework agreement. The visas granted permit free entry into and departures from Mozambique. The procedure takes three weeks and is initiated via the GIZ office once employees arrive in the country. The accreditation prohibits

accompanying partners taking on employment under a national contract.

**Schools:** Maputo has multiple international schools, including the Maputo International School with the Cambridge Curriculum, the American International School of Mozambique (AISM) that also offers the IB, the French school or the Portuguese school. They are all private schools with major differences in their school fees. Details of the fees can be found on their websites, as can the school year starting dates, which vary from school to school. Employees can also send their children to boarding schools in South Africa. There is no German school. German for children is organised on a private basis in cooperation with the Goethe Centre.

**Childcare:** There are many different childcare centres and kindergartens.

## Find out more

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amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/mosa-  
mbik-node](https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/mosambik-node)

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