

# Maputo



With its Mediterranean-style architecture, waterside setting and wide avenues lined by jacaranda and flame trees, Maputo is easily one of Africa's most attractive capitals. It's also the most developed place in Mozambique by far, with a wide selection of hotels and restaurants, well-stocked supermarkets, shady sidewalk cafés and a lively cultural scene.

The heart of the city is the bustling, low-lying baixa (busy port and commercial area). Here, Portuguese-era buildings with their graceful balconies and wrought-iron balustrades jostle for space with ungainly Marxist-style apartment blocks. *Galabiyya*-garbed men gather in doorways for a chat, Indian traders carry on brisk business in the narrow side-streets and women wrapped in colourful *capulanas* (sarongs) sell everything from seafood to spices at the massive Mercado Municipal.

A few kilometres away, along the seaside Avenida Marginal, life takes a more leisurely pace. Fishermen stand along the roadside with the day's catch, hoping to lure custom from the constant parade of passing vehicles; banana vendors loll on their carts in the shade, with Radio Moçambique piping out eternally upbeat rhythms in the background; and local soccer teams vie for victory in impromptu matches in the sand.

Maputo is pricier than elsewhere in the country – especially for imported goods brought in on the toll road linking Johannesburg and the South African economy with Maputo's port and the sea. Yet, there's enough selection to make it a good destination no matter what your budget. Getting to know the city is a highlight of visiting Mozambique and essential to understanding the country. Don't miss spending time here before heading north.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Catch some culture at one of Maputo's many **museums** (p61)
- Dine out in style, sampling a different **restaurant** (p66) every night
- Shop for souvenirs and browse for bargains at the city's colourful **markets** (p69)
- Experience the pulsating pace of the capital's thriving **nightlife** (p68)
- Enjoy the laid-back ambience of **Ilha de Inhaca** (p72), take in the sea air at **Praia de Macaneta** (p73) or sample upcountry life in quiet **Catembe** (p71)

## HISTORY

Long before Europeans discovered Maputo's charms, the local Ronga people were living here, making their living by fishing, whale hunting and farming, with a bit of local trading thrown in to make ends meet.

In 1545 Portuguese navigator Lourenço Marques happened upon Baía de Delagoa, now known as Baía de Maputo (Maputo Bay), in his journey up the Southern African coastline. His reports attracted other traders who established temporary settlements offshore on Inhaca and Xefina Grande islands as bases for ivory trading forays to the mainland. Yet Portuguese attention was soon diverted northwards and they all but abandoned their activities in the south.

Lourenço Marques – as the area eventually became known – took on a new glow in the mid-19th century, with the discovery of diamonds and gold in the nearby Transvaal Republic. Around 1898 it replaced Ilha de Moçambique as the capital of Portuguese East Africa. A new rail link with the Transvaal in 1894 and expansion of the port fuelled the city's growth. In the 1950s and 1960s, 'LM' became a favoured playground for Portuguese holiday makers, and for apartheid-era South Africans who came over the border in droves seeking prawns, prostitutes and beaches. With Mozambican independence in 1975, the city's original residents reasserted themselves and in 1976 President Samora Machel changed the name to Maputo, honouring an early chief who had resisted Portuguese colonialism.

## ORIENTATION

Maputo sits on a low escarpment overlooking Baía de Maputo, with the long avenues of its upper-lying residential sections spilling down into the baixa.

Many businesses, the train station, banks, post and telephone offices and some budget accommodation are in the baixa, on or near Av 25 de Setembro, while embassies and most better hotels are in the city's more staid upper section, especially around the Sommerschild diplomatic and residential quarter. Maputo's tallest building and a good landmark is known as '*trinta e três andares*' (33 Storey Building), in the baixa on the corner of Avs 25 de Setembro and Rua da Imprensa. At the northernmost end of the Marginal and about 7km from the centre is Bairro Triunfo and the Costa do Sol area, with a small beach and several places to stay and eat.

About 10km west of Maputo is the large suburb of Matola, site of the Chissano Museum (p61), and home to many industries.

## Maps

The *Planta de Endereçamento do Centro da Cidade de Maputo* (1997), put out by Conselho Municipal in collaboration with Coopération Française, is somewhat dated but still the best city map; look for it at hotel bookshops. There's a larger version of the same map in book form (*Guia das Vias* 1997) which includes the city's outskirts.

## MAPUTO IN...

### Two Days

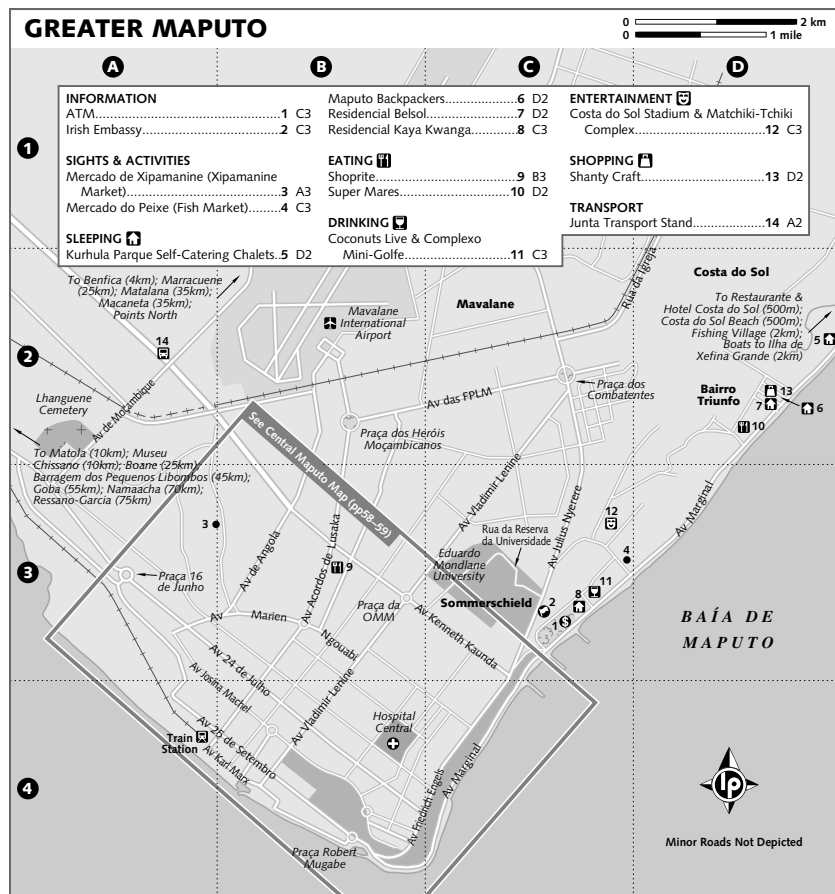
After breakfast at your hotel or a sidewalk café, get an early start on some of the **Walking Tour** (p63) sights, with a detour from the **Mercado Municipal** (p62) to buy some textiles at the nearby **shops** (p69). Once finished the morning's sight-seeing, hire a **laranjinha** (p64) for a ride along Av Marginal to **Restaurante Costa do Sol** (p66) for lunch with sea breezes.

The **Museu Nacional de Arte** (p61) is an essential afternoon stop, before resting up for an evening at **Chez Rangel** (p68), or a pub- and club-hopping tour in a **habana** (p64).

Spend day two visiting more museums – the **Núcleo de Arte** (p61), **Museu Chissano** (p61) and **Malangatana's house and studio** (p61) are highlights – and **craft shopping** (p69). For dinner, treat yourself to a seafood grill buffet at **Hotel Polana** (p67) or enjoy the local cuisine and ambience at **Feira Popular** (p67) before heading out for another night on the town.

### Four Days

Follow the two-day itinerary. On day three, take the ferry to **Catembe** (p71) and lunch at **Restaurante Marisol** (p71). On day four go to **Inhaca** (p72) for relaxation on the beach on Ilha dos Portuguêses or snorkelling around Cabo Santa Maria.



## INFORMATION

### Cultural Centres

**British Council** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 21-310921, 21-321577; www.britishcouncil.org/mozambique; 226 Rua John Issa) Near the UK high commission.

**Centro Cultural Franco-Moçambicano** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 21-320787; www.ccfmoz.com; Praça da Independência; ☎ 2-6pm Mon, 9am–6pm Tue–Fri, 9am–noon Sat) An excellent place with art exhibitions, music and dance performances, films, theatre and more.

**Centro Cultural Português** (Instituto Camões; Map pp58–9; ☎ 21-493892; www.instituto-camoes.pt/ccp/ccpmaputo.htm; 720 Av Julius Nyerere) Art and photography exhibits; opposite the South African high commission.

**Centro de Estudos Brasileiros** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 21-306840, 21-306774; cnr Av Karl Marx & Av 25 de Setembro)

Exhibitions of Lusophone artists, and Portuguese language courses.

### Emergency

For emergency medical treatment, see opposite.

If you are the victim of a crime and need to get a police report as reference for your insurance company, these can be obtained with time and patience at the police station nearest the site of the crime. Useful police stations include those on Av Kim Il Sung, 1½ blocks south of Av Kenneth Kaunda; near the corner of Avs Mao Tse Tung and Amílcar Cabral; and on Av Julius Nyerere, three blocks south of Av 24 de Julho. Some insurance companies will accept a report from your embassy.

Official emergency numbers include **Central Police Station** (☎ 21-325031, 119), **Fire** (☎ 197, 198) and **Hospital Central** (☎ 21-325000/9), but it's generally better to seek help from your hotel or embassy.

### Internet Access

**Mundo's Internet Café** (Map pp58–9; Av Julius Nyerere; per hr US\$2; ☎ 8am–10.30pm Mon–Sat, 10am–10.30pm Sun; ☎) Next to Mundo's restaurant.

**Net Cabo** (Map pp58–9; Tigre Centre, 1st fl, Av Ho Chi Min; per hr US\$1.80; ☎ 9am–7.30pm Mon–Sat) One block uphill from the cathedral.

**Pizza House Internet Café** (Map pp58–9; Av Mao Tse Tung; per hr US\$1.60; ☎ 8am–10pm Mon–Fri, 10am–10pm Sat & Sun) Upstairs at Pizza House restaurant.

**Teledata** (Map pp58–9; Av 24 de Julho; per hr US\$1.20; ☎ 7.30am–8pm Mon–Fri, 9am–6pm Sat) One block west of Av Vladimir Lenine, and diagonally opposite Africa Bar.

### Medical Services

**Clínica 222** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 82-0002220, 21-312222, 21-313000; cnr Av 24 de Julho & Rua Augusto Cardoso; ☎ 24hr) Similar to Clínica de Sommerschild, but cash only.

**Clínica de Sommerschild** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 82-3056240, 21-493924/6; 52 Rua Pereira do Lago; ☎ 24hr) Just off Av Kim Il Sung; has a lab and a doctor on call. Advance payment required (meticals, rand, dollars or Visa card)

**Farmácia Apotheka** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 21-495633; Polana Shopping Centre, 1st fl, cnr Avs 24 de Julho & Julius Nyerere; ☎ 9am–9pm Mon–Sat, 10am–8pm Sun)

**Farmácia Calêndula** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 21-497606; 222 Av Mao Tse Tung; ☎ 8am–8pm Mon–Sat, 9am–1pm Sun) Just up from Av Julius Nyerere.

**Farmácia Capital** (Map pp58–9) Main (☎ 82-3014055; Franca Centro Comercial, Ground fl, cnr Avs 24 de Julho & Amílcar Cabral; ☎ 24 hr) Branch (Av Mao Tse Tung ☎ 82-3014056; ☎ 7.30am–8pm Mon–Sat) The Mao Tse Tung branch is just up from Pizza House restaurant.

### Money

There are 24-hour ATMs all over town, including one on Av Marginal, and at:

**BIM Expresso** (Map pp58–9; cnr Avs Mao Tse Tung & Tomás Nduda)

**BIM Headquarters** (Map pp58–9; cnr Avs Karl Marx & 25 de Setembro)

**Polana Shopping Centre** (Map pp58–9; cnr Avs Julius Nyerere & 24 de Julho)

**Standard Bank** (Map pp58–9) Headquarters (Praça 25 de Junho) Branch (Hotel Polana) Also changes travellers cheques with a minimum US\$35 commission, original purchase receipt required.

For changing cash, in addition to the banks, there are *casas de câmbio* (foreign exchange bureaus) along Av Julius Nyerere southeast of the Hotel Polana, Hotel Pestana Rovuma on Rua de Sé and on Av Mao Tse Tung around Av Tomás Nduda. Out of hours try **Cotacambios** (Airport ☎ 6am–9.30pm Mon–Thu, 6am–10pm Fri, 7am–10pm Sat, 11.30am–10.30pm Sun; City Centre Polana Shopping Centre, ground fl, cnr Avs 24 de Julho & Julius Nyerere; ☎ 9am–9pm Mon–Sat, 10am–10pm Sun).

### Post

**Main post office** (CTT; Map pp58–9; Av 25 de Setembro; ☎ 8am–6pm Mon–Sat, 9am–noon Sun) With poste restante.

### Telephone

**Telecomunicações de Moçambique** (TDM; Map pp58–9) Branch (Ground fl, 33 Storey Bldg, Rua da Imprensa; ☎ 8am–10pm) Branch (Hotel Pestana Rovuma) International calls.

### Tourist Information

**Bureau de Informação Pública** (Public Information Bureau, or BIP; Map pp58–9; ☎ 21-491106, 21-491226; cnr Avs Eduardo Mondlane & Francisco Magumbwe; ☎ 7.30am–3.30pm Mon–Fri, 9am–noon Sat) A dated and dusty selection of books on Mozambique, most in Portuguese; sometimes also city maps.

**Fundo Nacional de Turismo** (Futur; Map pp58–9; www.futur.org.mz; 1203 Av 25 de Setembro) Colourful listings brochures covering Maputo and all of Mozambique's provinces.

### Travel Agencies

**Dana Tours** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 21-497483, 21-495514; info@danatours.net; 729 Av Mao Tse Tung) An excellent agency that specialises in the coast and can sort you out for destinations throughout Mozambique (plus a few in Swaziland and South Africa). Midrange and up with occasional budget offerings. Their sister operator, Dana Agency (☎ 21-484300; travel@dana.co.mz) in the same compound, does domestic and international flight bookings.

**Mextur** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 21-428427/9; mextur@emilmoz.com; 1233 Av 25 de Setembro) Domestic flight and travel arrangements.

**Mozambique Adviser** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 21-309477; www.adviser.co.mz) Bookings desk in the lobby of Hotel Polana; southern Mozambique travel arrangements, car rentals and boats to Inhaca.

**Nau Tours** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 21-380034; www.nautours.co.mz) A good contact for lower-budget trips to Catembe, Reserva Especial de Maputo and Ponta d'Ouro, plus boats to Inhaca and Cabo Santa Maria.

# CENTRAL MAPUTO



See Enlargement



Baía de Maputo

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## DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

Although most visitors enjoy their visits in Maputo without mishap, be vigilant when out and about whether during the day or night, and take the precautions mentioned on p172. Also see the boxed text on p173. In particular, try to avoid carrying a bag, wearing expensive jewellery or having any external trappings of wealth when walking around town – don't give a potential thief any reason to think that you might have something of value. At night, always take a taxi and, day or night, avoid putting yourself in isolated situations. Areas of the city to avoid include the isolated stretches of the Marginal between Praça Robert Mugabe and the Holiday Inn, and the two access roads leading down to the Marginal from Av Friedrich Engels. Also avoid the area below the escarpment just south of Av Patrice Lumumba. If you get stopped by the police, always insist on going to the nearest station (*esquadrão*).

There are several restricted areas that are off-limits to pedestrians, where photos are also prohibited. These include the eastern footpath (sidewalk) on Av Julius Nyerere in front of the president's residence, and the Ponta Vermelha zone in the city's southeastern corner.

On a more prosaic note, Maputo now has traffic lights, but they don't always work, so be careful when cruising through an intersection on green.

## SIGHTS

The heart of old Maputo is in the baixa, which is where most of the sights are, though there are also some wonderful museums in the outlying suburbs.

### Museu Nacional de Arte

Half a block west of Av Karl Marx, the **Museu Nacional de Arte** (National Art Museum; Map pp58-9; <http://musart.tvcabo.co.mz>; 1233 Av Ho Chi Min; admission free; ☎ 2-6pm Tue-Sun), has an excellent collection of paintings and sculptures by Mozambique's finest contemporary artists, including Malangatana and Chissano.

### Núcleo de Arte

This long-standing **artists' cooperative** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-492523; [www.africaserver.nl/nucleo](http://www.africaserver.nl/nucleo); 194 Rua da Argélia; ☎ closed Sun) is a focal point among Mozambican artistic circles. It has frequent exhibitions featuring the work of up-and-coming

artists (some of which is for sale), including pieces made in the 'Guns into Art' project (check their website for more). There's also a pottery area, and a garden where you can talk with the artists and watch them at work. It's in a dilapidated colonial-era house near the Hospital Central.

### Casa e Museu Malangatana

It's possible to visit the **Casa e Museu Malangatana** (House and Studio of Malangatana; ☎ 21-465286, 21-465681; Rua de Camões, Bairro do Aeroporto; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-noon Sat), dedicated to Mozambique's most renowned painter. It is filled with dozens of his own paintings as well as several sculptures of Alberto Chissano. Call ahead to arrange an appointment. The house is located several kilometres outside the city centre; ask directions when arranging the visit.

### Museu Chissano

Works of the renowned sculptor Alberto Chissano are displayed in his family's residence at the **Museu Chissano** (Rua Torre de Vale, Bairro Sial, Matola; admission US\$2; ☎ 9am-noon & 3-5pm Tue-Sun), together with the works of other sculptors and painters. It's outside Maputo in the Matola suburb in an area called Bairro Sial: take Av 24 de Julho towards Matola. Approaching Matola, watch for some grey warehouses on the left side of the roadway, and turn right onto a small tarmac road branching off the main road roughly opposite the warehouses. Follow this for 1.2km and then turn right again. Continue about 1km past the police station. Take the first left after the police station and continue 100m to the T-junction; the Chissano Museum is in the large white house in front of you to the right. Taxis charge from around US\$25 return, including waiting time.

### Train Station

Maputo's imposing **train station** (Caminho dos Ferros de Moçambique or CFM; Map pp58-9; Praça dos Trabalhadores) is one of the city's landmark buildings. The dome was designed by an associate of Alexandre Gustav Eiffel (of Eiffel Tower fame), although Eiffel himself never set foot in Mozambique. Also impressive are the wrought-iron lattice work, pillars and verandas gracing the exterior. Inside are some old steam engines, and the Chez Rangel Jazz Café (see p68), one of the city's best night spots. Although the station is still in use, trains run infrequently and it's often deserted.

## Praça de Independência

This wide plaza is rimmed on one side by the soaring white spire of the **Catedral de Nossa Senhora da Conceição** (Map pp58–9) and on the other by the hulking, neoclassical **Conselho Municipal** (City Hall; Map pp58–9). Just off the square is the **Casa de Ferro** (Iron House; Map pp58–9), which was designed by Eiffel in the late 19th century as the governor's residence, though its metal-plated exterior proved unsuitable for tropical conditions.

## Markets

The **Mercado Municipal** (Municipal Market; Map pp58–9; Av 25 de Setembro), with its long rows of vendors, tables piled high with produce, fresh fish and colourful spices, and stalls overflowing with everything from brooms to plastic buckets, is Maputo's main market, and well worth a stroll. Get there early in the morning when everything is still fresh, and before the crowds. The much smaller and lively **Mercado de Peixe** (Fish Market; Map p56), just off Av Marginal, sells a good sampling of what lies underneath the nearby waters; choose what you'd like and get it grilled up on little charcoal burners nearby.

## Fortaleza

The old **fort** (Map pp58–9; Praça 25 de Junho; admission free; ☎ 8am–5pm) was built by the Portuguese in the mid-19th century near the site of an earlier fort. Inside is a garden and a small museum with remnants from the era of early Portuguese forays to the area.

### STOLEN GOODS & BIRD CLAWS

Not exactly a tourist attraction, but a Maputo institution nonetheless, is the enormous and chaotic **Mercado de Xipamanine** (Xipamanine Market, Map p56). The market, which sprawls over the length of several football fields beyond the termination of Av Eduardo Mondlane, is the place to go to buy everything from used appliance parts to mattresses and sofas. More interesting is the enormous selection of traditional medicines and remedies, including an array of animal pelts, bird claws and more. Xipamanine is also notorious as the hub of the local underworld, with an impressive assortment of stolen items for resale.

## Museu de História Natural

The recently renovated **Museu de História Natural** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 21-490879; www.museu.org.mz; Praça Travessa de Zambezi; admission US\$2; ☎ 9am–11.30pm & 2–4pm Tue–Sun) near Hotel Cardoso is worth a stop to see its Manueline architecture and its garden with a mural by Malangatana. Inside are some moderately interesting taxidermy specimens, and what is probably the region's only collection of elephant foetuses.

## Museu da Revolução

The sombre **Museum of the Revolution** (☎ 21-400348; Av 24 de Julho; admission US\$0.60; ☎ 9am–noon & 2–6pm Mon–Fri, 2–6pm Sat, 3–6pm Sun) documents Mozambique's independence struggle. Exhibits are in Portuguese, but with many photos, and provide a good feel for events that have shaped the country's recent history.

## Museu da Moeda

Housed in a yellow building on the corner of Rua Consiglieri Pedroso, the **Museu da Moeda** (Map pp58–9; Praça 25 de Junho; admission US\$0.20; ☎ 9am–noon & 2–4.30pm Tue–Sat, 2–5pm Sun) dates from 1860. Inside are exhibits of local currency, ranging from early barter tokens to modern-day bills. At the time of writing, it's temporarily closed for renovations.

## Praça dos Heróis Moçambicanos

The large Plaza of the Mozambican Heroes, along Av Acordos de Lusaka near the airport (Map p56), is notable for its 95m-long mural commemorating the revolution. The star-shaped white marble structure in its centre holds the remains of Mozambique's revolutionary and postindependence heroes, including Eduardo Mondlane and Samora Machel, as well as those of national poet José Craveirinha. Photographs are prohibited. Except on 3 February, when it's open to the public, you'll need to get permission to visit (including to walk across the praça) from the BIP (p57).

## ACTIVITIES

### Running

Maputo hosts numerous road races, including a half-marathon and a mini-triathlon; watch ads in *Notícias* and on embassy bulletin boards. For work-outs, there's a track at **Parque dos Continuadores** (Map pp58–9; Av Mao Tse Tung), near Av Julius Nyerere, and a local **Hash House Harriers** (<http://groups.msn.com/maputohashhouseharriersgroup>; Aeroclube, Av Kwame Nkrumah; meets 3.45pm Sat).

## Swimming & Boating

For lap swimming, try the 25m pool at **Clube Naval** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 21-492690, 21-494881; www.clubenaval.com; admission US\$4; ☎ from 7am Mon–Fri). The pool at Hotel Polana (see p64) is also 25m at its widest, though only open to hotel guests. Swimming at the beach along Av Marginal is possible though inadvisable due to considerations of cleanliness and occasional rumours of sharks.

The best contact for boat rentals and fishing charters is Clube Naval, which is also the best place to launch a boat if you bring your own.

## Tennis

There are frequent tournaments at the courts at the botanical gardens (Jardim Tunduru, corner Rua da Imprensa and Rua da Rádio), where short- and long-term memberships can be arranged. Clube Naval has courts open to its members, and several of the top-end hotels have courts for their guests.

## LANGUAGE COURSES

The following offer Portuguese language classes:

**Centro de Estudos Brasileiros** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 21-306840, 21-306774; cnr Avs Karl Marx & 25 de Setembro)  
**Instituto das Línguas** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 21-325684, 21-305473; marketing.il@tvccabo.co.mz; 1260 Av Ahmed Sekou Touré)

The main African languages spoken in Maputo are Shangaana and the closely related Ronga. There's no formal instruction, but tutors can be easily arranged; ask around for reliable teachers at the language schools listed here, at your embassy, or at local businesses and offices.

## WALKING TOUR

Central Maputo is compact and easily explored on foot. For descriptions of most of the sights in this tour, see p61. A good place to start is at Praça 25 de Junho, with the old **fortaleza** on its eastern side. Diagonally opposite is the **Museu da Moeda**.

Leave Praça 25 de Junho to the west via Rua Consiglieri Pedroso which, together with Rua do Bagamoyo one block south, forms the heart of the oldest area of the city. The second cross street you'll reach is Rua da Mesquita, where the new **Jumma Masjid** stands on the site of what was once Maputo's oldest mosque.

Continue south along Rua da Mesquita to Rua do Bagamoyo and the building housing the national archives, **Arquivo do Património Cultural**. Turning west on Rua do Bagamoyo brings you soon to Praça dos Trabalhadores, with its large WWI monument and Maputo's impressive **train station**.

Head north one block to Av 25 de Setembro and then east to the **Mercado Municipal**. Continue east along Av 25 de Setembro for 1½ blocks, and then north along Av Samora Machel for three blocks to **Praça da Independência** and the large, white **Catedral de Nossa Senhora da Conceição**. Next to the cathedral to the west is the **Conselho Municipal** building, which was completed around 1945. One block north of Praça da Independência and two blocks west of City Hall is the **Museu Nacional de Arte** – well worth a detour.

From the museum, return to Praça da Independência. On the praça's southeastern edge is the beautifully restored building housing the **Centro Cultural Franco-Moçambicano**. On the small street just south of the cultural centre is the **Casa de Ferro**. Opposite are Maputo's overgrown **botanical gardens**, known as Jardim Tunduru, which were laid out in 1885 by the English landscaper Thomas Honney. The tennis courts on the garden grounds serve as headquarters of the Mozambican Tennis Federation, and you can often see some of the country's best players practising. At the main entrance to the botanical gardens on Av Samora Machel is a large statue of Machel, Mozambique's first president. Exit the gardens to the north on Rua da Rádio, where Rádio Moçambique is located, and then head one block east to Av Vladimir Lenine. The attractive building on the opposite corner houses the **British High Commission**. Go south on Av Vladimir Lenine (which turns into Rua da Imprensa here), passing the **Supreme Court** building on your left. The second cross street you reach is Av 25 de Setembro, with **Café Continental** (cnr Avs 25 de Setembro & Samora Machel) – an ideal spot to end the walk.

## TOURS

The best way to see the sights is to charter a *laranjinha* or *habana* (see p64).

The Mozambique Adviser desk at Hotel Polana arranges reasonably priced half- and full-day city tours, pub crawls ('Maputo by Night') and other excursions.

### TREAT YOURSELF

In keeping with its Afro-Latino rhythms, Maputo now boasts its own fleet of *habanas* – sleek 1950s vintage cars imported from Cuba, complete with fedora-sporting drivers and period tunes on the sound system. The vehicles are in mint condition, with huge, comfortable seats and are an excellent way to see the sights or cruise around town on day or night-time city tours. They can also be chartered for airport pickups, or evenings on the town pub- and club-hopping – guided or not, as you like.

The same company has a fleet of brightly coloured and well-maintained *laranjinhas* – Maputo's version of Cuba's *cocos taxis* – that are ideal for daytime sightseeing or for a leisurely ride along Av Marginal to lunch at Restaurante Costa do Sol. The *laranjinhas* have meters, with prices roughly equivalent to city taxi prices, or about US\$30 per hour; habana charters are about US\$45 per hour. Contact **Laranjinhas Turismo e Taxis Lda** (☎ 21-491071/5, ext 2618, 82-410 0001; egrafica@virconn.com) at Hotel Cardoso for bookings of both (they can also help you plan your Maputo itinerary). You can also catch *laranjinhas* at their stands in front of Hotel Polana or Holiday Inn.

### SLEEPING

Maputo has a wide accommodation selection, with something for all tastes. If you want to be in the thick of things, choose somewhere in or near the baixa. For sea breezes and more tranquillity, head to the upper part of town in and around Sommerschild, or to Av Marginal and Costa do Sol.

### Budget

The closest camping grounds are about 35km north of Maputo at Marracuene and Macaneta. Maputo has three good backpackers, all with English-speaking staff and heaps of information on what to do in and around Maputo. All can also help with airport pickups and transfers to the bus depots for early morning buses north.

**Maputo Backpackers** (Map p56 ☎ 21-451213, 82-467 2230; Quarta Av, Bairro Triunfo; dm US\$8-10, d/tw US\$32/35, tr without/with bathroom US\$49/55) This cosy place is near Costa do Sol and just in from Av Marginal. The spotless rooms all have fans, and if the house isn't too crowded, cooking is permitted. Chapas to/from town stop nearby.

**Base Backpackers** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-302723; thebasebp@tvocabo.co.mz; 545 Av Patrice Lumumba; dm/d US\$8/20) Popular and often full, with a convenient location on the edge of the baixa, a mixture of dorm rooms and doubles, a kitchen, and a backyard bar, terrace and braai area with views to the port in the distance.

**Fatima's Backpackers** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-302994, 82-414 5730; www.mozambiquebackpackers.com; 1317 Av Mao Tse Tung; camping per person US\$5, dm US\$6-12, d without/with bathroom US\$24/32) Located in the upper part of town, Maputo's longest-running backpackers has a helpful owner, an outdoor

kitchen and bar area, and rooms plus dorm beds in a house next door.

Other than the backpackers, good, safe shoestring accommodation in Maputo is scarce, and most people opt to pay a bit more for one of the places hovering between budget and midrange. These include:

**Hotel Santa Cruz** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-303004; www.teledata.mz/hotelsantacruz; 1417 Av 24 de Julho; s/d US\$28/32, with bathroom US\$32/38) The most basic of the bunch, in a nondescript high-rise near the corner of Av Amílcar Cabral, with reasonable rooms and some plants in the courtyards to brighten things up. Not optimal for solo women travellers.

**Hotel Costa do Sol** (Map p56; ☎ 21-450115; rcs@teledata.mz; Av Marginal; s/d with bathroom US\$31/47) Above Restaurante Costa do Sol, with clean, straightforward rooms with fan, and the beach just across the road. Continental breakfast included.

**Hotel África II** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-488729; hotel.africa@tvocabo.co.mz; 322 Av Julius Nyerere; s/d US\$40/50, with bathroom US\$50/65; ☎ ☎) A good-value place that could just as easily be midrange, with straightforward rooms in a convenient central location. Prices include continental breakfast.

**Hotel África I** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-488729; hotel.africa@tvocabo.co.mz; Av Paulo Samuel Kankhomba; s/d US\$50/65) Under the same management as Hotel África II and of similar standard.

**Residencial Belsol** (Map p56; ☎ 21-451245; Segunda Av; with bathroom US\$40) Good-value rooms and a restaurant (meals US\$7 to US\$10). It's just off Av Marginal; chapas drop you off at the turnoff.

### Midrange

**Pensão Martins** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-324926, 21-324930; morgest@tvocabo.co.mz; 1098 Av 24 de Julho; s/d/ste US\$40/45/60; ☎ ☎ ☎) This is a low-key

place with a convenient, central location, a predominately male clientele and 22 rather spartan rooms with TV and minifridge, that are decent value for the doubles. There's an outdoor restaurant. Continental breakfast is included.

**Hoyo-Hoyo Residencial** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-490701; promotour@tvocabo.co.mz; 837 Av Francisco Magumbwe; s/d US\$38/45; ☎ ☎) This solid, no-frills hotel lacks pizzazz but its 36 rooms are comfortable, serviceable and fairly priced, with TV and breakfast included. The inhouse restaurant, Petiscos (meals from US\$5), is known for its delicious Goan cuisine.

**Kurhula Parque Self-Catering Chalets** (Map p56; ☎ 21-450115; rcs@teledata.mz; Av Marginal; 4-person chalet US\$90; ☎) Under the same management as Hotel Costa do Sol, and just next door, with serviced self-catering chalets – each with a double bed and a loft with two twin beds – set behind a fence on the inland side of the beach road.

**Residencial Palmeiras** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-300199; carlos.pereira@tvocabo.co.mz; 948 Av Patrice Lumumba; s/d without bathroom US\$35, s/d US\$40/55; ☎ ☎) A converted residence with a handful of quiet, clean and comfortable rooms – all but one with private bathroom, and all with TV – near the British High Commission. Continental breakfast included.

**Residencial Villa Itália** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-497298; vitalia@virconn.com; 635 Av Friedrich Engels; s/d/ste US\$55/65/75) This large colonial-era house has a popular restaurant downstairs, a homey ambience and a few spacious, spotless rooms on the upper level. Breakfast included.

**Mozaika** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-303939, 21-303965; www.mozaika.co.mz; 769 Av Agostinho Neto; s/d from US\$60/70, apt US\$140; ☎ ☎ ☎) In a convenient, central location one block west of the Hospital Central, Mozaika has small but well-appointed rooms – each decorated with its own theme, and all set around a garden courtyard with a small pool. There's a self-catering apartment and a bar, though no restaurant. Breakfast included.

**Villa das Mangas** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-497507; villadasmangas@tvocabo.co.mz; 401 Av 24 de Julho; s/d from US\$60/75; ☎ ☎) The bright Villa das Mangas offers small rooms with TV around a garden with a tiny pool in the centre, and a sleek restaurant (meals from US\$9) and bar attached.

**Ibis** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-352200; www.accorhotels.com; 1743 Av 25 de Setembro; r US\$49; ☎ ☎) The good-value Ibis is centrally located in the

baixa, with small, spiffy rooms at very reasonable prices, plus a restaurant, business facilities and disabled access.

**Residencial Kaya Kwanga** (Map p56; ☎ 21-492706/7; www.kayakwanga.co.mz; Av Marginal; s/d US\$60/75; ☎ ☎ ☎) This sprawling place has chalet-style rooms with TV set around a large, grassy compound en route to Costa do Sol. There's a restaurant and conference facilities, and prices include breakfast.

**Hotel África Prestige** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-488729; hotel.africa@tvocabo.co.mz; Av Julius Nyerere; r with bathroom US\$80; ☎ ☎) Next door to Hotel África II and under the same management is this unsigned place, in a refurbished green and white house with polished wood décor and rooms with ceiling fan, minifridge and TV. Continental breakfast included.

**Hotel Terminus** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-491333; www.terminus.co.mz; cnr Avs Francisco Magumbwe & Ahmed Sekou Touré; s/d from US\$60/100; ☎ ☎ ☎) This three-star establishment has small but well-appointed rooms with TV, plus good service and facilities, a business centre, a tiny pool and a restaurant. It's popular with business travellers – and one of the better business traveller choices outside the Top End listings – and often fully booked. Breakfast is included.

There are several private residences in the Sommerschild area offering B&B-style accommodation. Most are of similar quality, with nicely furnished rooms, usually with air-con, TV and telephone, and most also with private bathroom. They include **Residencial Augustijn** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-493693; t.theunissen@tvocabo.co.mz; 204 Rua Pereira Marinho; s/d US\$50/55) and the larger, hotel-style **Residencial Sundown** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-497543; www.hotelmaputo.com; 107 Rua 1301; s/d with full breakfast from US\$55/65; ☎ ☎), with pleasant rooms and wireless internet access. Breakfast is included and meals can be arranged.

### Top End

Except as noted, rates at all of the top end places include a full buffet breakfast.

**Hotel Cardoso** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-491071; www.hotelcardoso.co.mz; 707 Av Mártires de Mueda; s/d US\$135/150, with sea view from US\$160/175; ☎ ☎) Opposite the Natural History Museum, and on the cliff top overlooking the bay and port, this 130-room hotel is a Maputo classic, with good service, a business centre and a bar with sunset views over the water.

**Hotel Pestana Rovuma** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-305000; www.pestana.com; 114 Rua da Sé; s/d from US\$115/150; 🍷 🍷 🍷) Centrally located just off Praça da Independência and opposite the cathedral, the 200-room Pestana Rovuma is another venerable Maputo establishment, with a long history, well-appointed rooms, a small gym, a business centre and a selection of upscale shops and boutiques downstairs. It's run by the Pestana Group, and offers attractively priced package excursions from Johannesburg that include their sister hotels on Ilha de Inhaca and in the Archipelago de Bazaruto.

**Hotel Avenida** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-492000; www.hotelavenida.co.mz; 627 Av Julius Nyerere; s/d from US\$160/175; 🍷 🍷 🍷) This five-star high-rise in a busy location in the upper part of town offers good dining, efficient service, a business centre and sleek rooms with all the amenities. Prices include use of the health club and sauna.

**Hotel Polana** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-491001; www.polana-hotel.com; 1380 Av Julius Nyerere; s/d from US\$150/168, ste from US\$450; 🍷 🍷 🍷) In a prime location on the cliff top with views over the sea, the Polana is Maputo's classiest hotel, and one of the most genteel hotels in the region. It has rooms in the elegant main building or in the newer 'Polana Mar' section closer to the water. There's a beautiful pool set in expansive grounds filled with rustling palms and flowering trees, a business centre, a casino and a restaurant with daily breakfast and weekend dinner buffets. Ask about package deals from Johannesburg. If you're thinking of splurging in Maputo, this is one of the best places to do it.

Other recommendations:

**Holiday Inn** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-495050; www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/h/1/en/hd/mpmto; Av Marginal; r from US\$150/165; 🍷 🍷 🍷) The only upper-end hotel set directly on the water (though there's no swimming). Rooms and services are on a par with those of other Holiday Inns in the region, and there's a small gym and a waterside restaurant.

**Girassol Bahia Hotel** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-360360, 21-360350; www.girassolhotels.co.mz; 737 Av Patrice Lumumba; s/d US\$125/135; 🍷) One of the newer arrivals on the scene, the four-star Girassol offers reliable rooms and service at reasonable prices.

## EATING Restaurants

Maputo has an excellent restaurant selection and it would be easy to go for several weeks trying a new place each evening.

**Mundo's** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-494080; cnr Avs Julius Nyerere & Eduardo Mondlane; meals US\$5-9; 🍷 7am-1am) Burritos, burgers, pizzas and other hearty fare – all served up in large portions on wooden tables set around a streetside veranda and cooled by a misting system in the summer months. Mundo's also has all-day breakfast and a play area for children.

**Mimmo's** (Map pp58-9) Branch (☎ 21-309491; cnr Avs 24 de Julho & Salvador Allende; meals US\$5-7) Branch (☎ 21-313492; cnr Avs Vladimir Lenin & Maguiguana; 🍷) This bustling streetside pizzeria offers a wide selection of pasta, seafood and meat grills and curries. Its newer, slicker sister restaurant is also called Mimmo's and has indoor dining.

**Restaurante El Greco** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-491898; Av Julius Nyerere; pizzas & meals US\$4-8; 🍷 9am-10pm Tue-Sun; 🍷) The long-standing El Greco's has an extensive menu featuring pizzas, pastas and seafood and meat grills, and a steady flow of old-timers clientele.

**Restaurante Costa do Sol** (Map p56; ☎ 21-450038, 21-450115; rcs@teledata.mz; Av Marginal; meals from US\$5; 🍷 11am-10.30pm Sun-Thu, 11am-midnight Fri & Sat) A Maputo institution, this large, breezy place just in from the beach draws the crowds on weekend afternoons. There's seating on the large beach-facing porch or indoors, an array of fresh seafood dishes and grills. It's located 5km north of the centre at the northern end of Av Marginal.

**Vintage India** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-486430; 450 Av Julius Nyerere; 🍷 lunch & dinner) The rather drab interior of this place is compensated for by tasty curries and Mughlai cuisine, plus a good-value lunchtime buffet (US\$6).

**Dock's** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-493204; docks.naval@intra.co.mz; Av Marginal; meals US\$3-10; 🍷 9am-2am) At Clube Naval, with good seafood grills and burgers, and breezy, waterside seating. There's live music on most Thursday (jazz, advance reservations required) and Friday evenings, and a late-night bar. The US\$0.60 compound entry is deducted from your meal bill.

**Manjar Os Deuses** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-496834; Av Julius Nyerere; meals from US\$10; 🍷 lunch & dinner Sun-Fri, from 6pm Sat) Not quite 'food of the gods', but nevertheless quite nice, with tasty cuisine (featuring dishes from Portugal's Alentejo and Algarve regions) served in a pleasant, wood-toned ambience.

**Villa Itália** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-497298; vitalia@virconn.com; 635 Av Friedrich Engels; meals from US\$6; 🍷 Tue-Sun) This popular restaurant is an amenable spot to spend a quiet evening chatting

over dinner, with shaded outdoor garden seating, or indoors in a spacious, refurbished house. It's also one Maputo's best bets for Italian food, with well-prepared pasta dishes, pizzas, salads and seafood.

**Hotel Polana** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-491001; www.polana-hotel.com; 1380 Av Julius Nyerere; meals from US\$10, dinner buffet US\$30) Offers à la carte dining, plus sumptuous weekend dinner buffets accompanied by a Cuban-style salsa band. Saturday evenings feature an excellent seafood grill, piled high with crayfish, prawns and other delicacies.

**Feira Popular** (Map pp58-9; Av 25 de Setembro; admission US\$0.60; 🍷 lunch & dinner; 🍷) Another Maputo institution, where you can mix and mingle with the crowds as you wander amid dozens of small bars and restaurants set inside a large, walled compound. **O Escorpião** (☎ 21-302180, 21-304377; meals from US\$6), with a mix of traditional and Portuguese dishes, and **Coqueiro** (meals from US\$3.50) specialising in Zambézián cuisine, are two of the best known. Taxis wait outside until the early hours.

Other recommendations:

**Jardim dos Mariscos** (Map pp58-9; Av Friedrich Engels; snacks & meals from US\$3) A good daytime spot for children, with an eatery serving pizzas and an array of standard fare, plus a large playground and lawn.

**Xhova's Inter-Thai Restaurant** (Map pp58-9; Rua Mateus Muthembe; 🍷 Tue-Sat lunch & dinner, Sun lunch) Temporarily closed for annual vacation when we passed through, but the Thai cuisine is rumoured to be delicious.

**Micasa** (Map pp58-9; cnr Av Julius Nyerere & Rua da Argélia; 🍷 9.30am-3pm & 6pm-10pm Mon-Fri, Sat 6pm-10pm) A classy, subdued ambience, with candles, water goblets and linen cloths on the closely spaced tables, and nicely prepared seafood, meat and pasta dishes.

**Las Brassas Restaurant & Cigar Bar** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 84-313 1111; Av Julius Nyerere; meals US\$5-6; 🍷 lunch & dinner) A good place for Portuguese cuisine, with a suitably dark and smoky Old World ambience and an array of seafood and meat dishes.

## Cafés

The café tradition is one of the nicer things left behind in Maputo by the Portuguese, and the city's cafés have become somewhat of an institution. Most of the older ones have a staid feel to them, and the faded ambience and worn furnishings that you'd expect from places that have been around for decades, while the newer ones tend to be young and lively. All serve a selection of tasty *bolos* (cakes) and

light meals, plus *café espresso* and *chá* (tea), and make good spots for a break while walking around town.

**Café Continental** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-302005; cnr Avs 25 de Setembro & Av Samora Machel; pastries & light meals from US\$1.50) The *grande dame* of the city was undoubtedly once grander than it is now – with a down-at-the-heel feel and the original furnishings long since gone – but it makes a good spot to watch the passing scene.

**Hotel Polana Tea Room** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-491001; Hotel Polana, Av Julius Nyerere; pastries & light meals from US\$2-15; 🍷 8am-10pm; 🍷) The most genteel of the city's cafés, where you can settle back in plush chairs while sampling an array of delectable pastries and home-made ice cream. They also have a good-value lunchtime salad buffet.

Other recommendations:

**Náutilus Pastelaria** (Map pp58-9; cnr Avs Julius Nyerere & 24 de Julho; light meals US\$2-5; 🍷 6am-9pm; 🍷) Crêpes, sandwiches and light meals in a glassed-in dining area from where you can watch the passing street scene.

**Vasilis Bakery & Coffee Bar** (Map pp58-9; Av Mao Tse Tung) A lively, popular place just up from Av Julius Nyerere.

**Estoril** (Map pp58-9; Av Mao Tse Tung) Reliable and bourgeoisie.

**Café Milano** (Map pp58-9; Av 24 de Julho) Just off Rua Augusto Cardoso, with a large, slightly hectic streetside eating area offering falafel, shawarma and other Lebanese snacks and light meals plus the usual array of standards.

## Quick Eats

**Piri-Piri Chicken** (Map pp58-9; Av 24 de Julho; chicken to takeaway/eat-in US\$6.50/8) A Maputo classic, with grilled chicken – with or without *piri-piri* (spicy chilli sauce) – to take away or eat here.

**Pizza House** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-485257; 601/607 Av Mao Tse Tung; pizzas & light meals US\$2-5; 🍷 6.30am-10.30pm) Indoor and outdoor seating, plus pastries, sandwiches, burgers, grilled chicken and other light meals and a small convenience store. Upstairs is an internet café.

**Esplanada Kalú** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-303174; Rua Alfredo Keil; meals from US\$3; 🍷 9am-midnight) Good for Maputo flavour, with pick-and-choose salads and grilled meat on skewers, all halal. It's just off Av 24 de Julho.

**Mercado Janeta** (Map pp58-9; cnr Avs Vladimir Lenine & Mao Tse Tung; meals US\$0.50) Close to the pulse of the city, with stalls serving up plates of *xima* (the maize-based staple) and sauce.

**Gianni Sorvetaria** (Map pp58-9; Polana Shopping Centre, cnr Avs Julius Nyerere & 24 de Julho; ☎ 10am-9pm; ☺) We think the home-made ice cream at the Hotel Polana Tea Room is the best, but this comes close.

### Self-Catering

Supermarkets in Maputo are on the pricey side, but well-stocked, with a wide selection of imports from South Africa. Luscious papayas, mangoes and other excellent tropical fruits and vegetables are available at Maputo's markets and from streetside vendors.

**Deli-cious Deli** (Map pp58-9; Polana Shopping Centre; cnr Avs Julius Nyerere & 24 de Julho) Deli meats and cheeses, sandwiches, wine and other imported items.

**Deli 968** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-488855; 978 Av Julius Nyerere) Similar but smaller.

**Mahomed & Co Supermercado** (Map pp58-9; Polana Shopping Centre, cnr Avs Julius Nyerere & 24 de Julho; ☎ 10am-8pm) Small, but conveniently located.

**Shoprite** (Map p56; Av Acordos de Lusaka; ☎ 9am-8pm Mon-Sat, 9am-1pm Sun) Large selection.

**Super Mares** (Map p56; Av Marginal) Upmarket and well-stocked.

## DRINKING & ENTERTAINMENT

### Pubs & Clubs

Maputo's thriving nightlife scene includes a large and frequently changing selection of cafés, pubs, bars and clubs. Thursday through Saturday are the main nights, with things only getting going after 11pm; check *Notícias* or posters around town for specials. Cover charges at most places range from US\$2 to US\$10.

**Chez Rangel** (Map pp58-9; ☎ evenings only, Wed-Sat) This jazz café at the train station is one of Maputo's best night spots, with intimate surroundings and the atmospheric architecture of the train station as a backdrop. There's live music on Saturdays (admission US\$12), and otherwise your choice of a large collection of old jazz gramophone records. An ideal spot to sip a *caipirinha* while taking in afro-jazz beats.

**África Bar** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-314821; 2182 Av 24 de Julho; admission US\$2; ☎ from 5pm Wed-Sun) Next to Ciné Africa, this sleek, hip spot is a good place to start or finish the evening, and draws the expat crowds, especially on Thursday (jazz night, admission free).

**Coconuts Live** (Map p56; ☎ 21-322217; Complexo Mini-Golfe, Av Marginal; disco admission US\$8; ☎ Fri & Sat) A weekend disco catering to a younger, less formal crowd, plus a popular chill-out lounge (admission free; ☎ Wed-Sun).

**Dock's** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-493204; docks.naval@intra.com.mz; Av Marginal; meals US\$3-10; ☎ 9am-2am) The late-night waterside bar here is especially popular on Fridays (happy hour from 11pm), and when the weather is warm.

The main collection of pubs is along and around the seedy and rather dicey Rua do Bagamoyo (go in a group, and without valuables); current favourites include **Gypsy's Bar** (Map pp58-9) and the nearby **Maxim's** (Map pp58-9).

If **Mambo Kaffé** (Map pp58-9; 73 Travessa da Palmeira) reopens (it was closed when we passed through), it's definitely worth checking out, with overflow crowds and live salsa music on weekends. It's just off Rua do Bagamoyo.

Also recommended:

**Gil Vicente** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-308768; Av Samora Machel; ☎ from about 10pm Thu-Sat) A popular café and late-night bar, especially on Thursday (jazz night).

**Sinatra's** (Map pp58-9; cnr Av Mártires de Inhamitanga & Travessa do Varieta; ☎ from 9pm Mon-Sat) A great little place with live Brazilian-Mozambican fusion music and cuisine to match.

**Sixty Levels** (Map pp58-9; 7th fl, 343 Rua Consiglieri Pedroso; ☎ Wed-Sat) A good late-night bar catering to a somewhat older crowd, with views over the city and dancing.

**Complexo Sheik** (Map pp58-9; cnr Avs Julius Nyerere & Mao Tse Tung; admission US\$8; ☎ 10pm-5am Thu-Sat) Dancing with the elite set until dawn; upstairs is a restaurant.

**Hotel Terminus Pool Bar** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-491333; cnr Avs Francisco Magumbwe & Ahmed Sekou Touré) Good for a quiet drink, or if you want to stick close to your hotel.

**Livingstone's Bar & Restaurant** (Map pp58-9; Av Mao Tse Tung; ☎ 10am-11pm Mon-Thu, 10am-dawn Fri & Sat) A dark, British-toned pub that also serves meals.

### Traditional Music & Dance

The best ways to find out what's on are by reading *Notícias* newspaper and watching the posters hung around town. Also check with the Centro Cultural Franco-Moçambicano for upcoming music and dance performances.

**Companhia Nacional de Canto e Dança** (National Company of Song & Dance; Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-400913; www.ncnd.org.mz; Casa de Cultura, 1719 Av Albert Luthuli) Mozambique's renowned Companhia Nacional de Canto e Dança is based at the Casa de Cultura, near the intersection with Av Ho Chi Min. Rehearsals are often open to the public, and you can get schedules of upcoming performances.

## Theatre

**Teatro Avenida** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-326501; teatroavenida@tvcabo.com.mz; 1179 Av 25 de Setembro) Teatro Avenida is home to Maputo's best-known theatre group, Mutumbela Gogo. Plays are in Portuguese. Also watch for M'Beu, a theatre group for high-school students, formed under the auspices of Mutumbela Gogo.

## Sport

Football (soccer) is the national passion. You can watch or join informal weekend matches along the northern end of Av Marginal, or on any empty field. To see a game, head to Costa do Sol stadium (p56) on weekend afternoons.

## SHOPPING

Maputo has a wide selection of reasonably priced crafts.

**Craft market** (Map pp58-9; Praça 25 do Junho; ☎ about 8am-1pm Sat) A good place to start is the Saturday morning craft market, with an array of woodcarvings and other items, some of which are of quite decent quality. In the upper part of town, try the craft vendors (Av Julius Nyerere) who spread their woodcarvings and other wares daily in front of Hotel Polana; hard bargaining is required.

**MozArte** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-312723; Av Filipe Samuel Magaia; ☎ 8am-noon & 2.30-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat) Just around the corner from Museu Nacional de Arte, with artists' workshops and a selection of crafts in the adjoining shop.

**Artedif** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-495510; Av Marginal; ☎ 9am-2.30pm Tue, 9am-3.30pm Wed-Mon) This co-operative for disabled people is about 400m south of Holiday Inn. Crafts sold here are slightly more expensive than those at the street markets, but tend to be of higher quality. Prices are fixed.

**Shanty Craft** (Map p56; ☎ 21-450111, 21-450305; Segunda Av, Bairro Triunfo; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Sat) An excellent stop for high-quality souvenirs and gifts, with a large selection of crafts from around the country.

For *capulanas* (the colourful cloths that women wear around their waist) and other textiles, try **Casa Elefante** (Av 25 de Setembro) or some of the other nearby shops opposite the Mercado Municipal. This is also a good place to look for a tailor (*alfaiataria*).

For books and music, try the following: **Publicações Europa-América Livraria** (Map pp58-9; Av José Mateus) A modest selection of English-language books and magazines.

**Rádio Moçambique** (Map pp58-9; Rua da Rádio) Cassettes and CDs.

**Sensações** (Map pp58-9; cnr Avs Julius Nyerere & Eduardo Mondlane) A few cassettes and CDs, and sometimes English-language magazines; next to Mundo's restaurant.

## GETTING THERE & AWAY

### Air

For domestic and international flights to/from Maputo, see p183.

Airline offices in Maputo include:

**Air Corridor** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-311582, 21-311585; 33 Storey Bldg, cnr Av 25 de Setembro & Rua da Imprensa)

**Kenya Airways** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-320337/8; aquarium@tvcabo.com.mz; 171 Av Karl Marx) At Aquarium Travel.

**LAM** (Map pp58-9) Central Reservations (☎ 21-4680000, 21-326001, 21-465801; www.lam.com.mz; cnr Avs 25 de Setembro & Karl Marx) Sales Office (☎ 21-490590; cnr Av Julius Nyerere & Mao Tse Tung)

**Moçambique Express** (Mex; ☎ 21-466008; mex@mex.com.mz; Maputo airport) Can also be contacted via LAM.

**South African Airways** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-495483, 21-495484, 21-498097; www.flysaa.com; Av Fernão Melo e Castro, Sommerschild)

**Swazi Express** (☎ in South Africa 031-408 1115; www.swaziexpress.com; Maputo airport)

**TAP Air Portugal** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-303927/8, 21-431006/7; www.tap-airportugal.pt; Hotel Pestana Rovuma)

**Transairways** (☎ 21-465108; fax 21-465011; transairways@virconn.com; Maputo airport)

## Bus

Most of the main bus depots (listed following) are outside the city centre, so time your travels to avoid arriving at night. For upcountry fares and journey times, see the town headings.

**Benfica** (Map p56; Av de Moçambique) Chapas to Maracuene and other points close to Maputo.

**Fábrica de Cerveja Laurentina** (Map pp58-9; cnr Avs 25 de Setembro & Albert Luthuli) Chapas to Swaziland, South Africa, Namaacha, Boane and Goba depart from behind the beer factory.

**'Junta'** (Map p56; Av de Moçambique) Maputo's main long-distance bus depot is about 7km from the centre, just past Lhanguene cemetery. Nothing is organised – you'll need to ask where to find your bus – and most departures are about 5am. Coming into Maputo, some buses finish at Junta while others continue into the city and drop passengers at Ponto Final (corner Avs Eduardo Mondlane and Guerra Popular), from where it's about US\$2 in a taxi to the central area.



**Panthera Azul** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-302077/83; www.pantherazul.com; 273 Av Zedequias Manganhela) Weekly bus to Beira (US\$44, 18 hours), departing at 5am Tuesday from its office.

**Transportes Oliveiras** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-405108, 21-400475; Av 24 de Julho) The place to go to catch the ailing Oliveiras buses to Inhambane (departing at 6am and 11am). It's about 4km from the centre, just beyond Praça 16 de Junho (about US\$6 in a taxi). Via public transport, take any chapa heading to Matola or Boane and ask the driver to drop you at Oliveiras. Coming into Maputo, some Oliveiras buses continue along Av 24 de Julho past Mimmo's (see p66), stopping near the Museum of Natural History. Oliveiras also runs nonexpress buses to Xai-Xai, Maxixe and Vilankulo.

Departure and ticketing points for express buses to Johannesburg include the following (see p187 for times and prices):

**Greyhound** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-355700; www.greyhound.co.za; 1242 Av Karl Marx) At Cotur Travel & Tours.

**InterCape Mainliner** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-431006; www.intercape.co.za; 899 Av 24 de Julho) At Tropical Air Travel.

**Panthera Azul** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-302077/83; www.pantherazul.com; 273 Av Zedequias Manganhela) Behind the main post office.

**Translux** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 21-303825, 21-303829; www.translux.co.za; 1249 Av 24 de Julho) At Simara Travel & Tours.

## Train

Slow trains (most economy class only) connect Maputo with:

**Chicalacuala** (on the Zimbabwe border) Departing at 1pm on Wednesday from Maputo and at noon on Thursday from Chicalacuala (2nd/economy class US\$8/4, 19 hours).

**Chokwé** Departing Maputo at 9.55am on Saturday, and from Chokwé about 4pm on Sunday (about US\$0.80, 11 hours).

**Marracuene** Departing Maputo daily at 3.15am and 5.45pm, and from Marracuene at 4.45am and 7.30pm (about US\$0.20, 1½ hours).

**Matola** Departing morning and evenings in each direction (US\$0.20, 1½ hours).

**Ressano-Garcia** Departing Maputo at 7.45am daily, and Ressano Garcia at 12.10pm (US\$0.60, four to five hours).

## GETTING AROUND To/From the Airport

Maputo's Mavalane International Airport is 6km northwest of the city centre (US\$8 to US\$10 in a taxi).

Via public transport, take bus 18, which runs between the Natural History Museum and the airport.

## Boat

For boat charters to Inhaca, Ilha dos Portugueses, Cabo Santa Maria (just south of Inhaca) or Xefina Grande, and for fishing charters, see the companies listed under Getting There & Away in the Ilha de Inhaca section, p73.

## Bus & Chapa

City buses, which are operated by Transportes Públicas de Maputo (TPM), are numbered and usually have destinations displayed in the window. All rides within the centre cost US\$0.15.

Chapas go everywhere and cost US\$0.20, plus extra for large baggage. Some have signboards, though for most you'll need to listen to the destination called out by the driver's assistant. To get to Junta, look for a chapa going to 'Jardim'. When coming back from Junta into town, look for a chapa heading to 'Museu'.

Useful transport stands include:

**Museu de História Natural** (Map pp58-9) Chapas to the airport and Junta.

**Ponto Final** (Map pp58-9; cnr Avs Eduardo Mondlane & Guerra Popular) Terminus for some of the upcountry buses, and for chapas running along Av Eduardo Mondlane.

**Praça dos Trabalhadores** (Map pp58-9) Chapas to Costa do Sol; chapas to Costa do Sol also depart from the corner of Avs Mao Tse Tung and Julius Nyerere.

**Ronil** (Map pp58-9; cnr Avs Eduardo Mondlane & Karl Marx) Chapas to Junta, Benfica and Matola.

## Car

For general information on prices and rentals, see p193. Car crime is rife in Maputo – park in guarded lots when possible, or tip the young boys on the street to watch your vehicle. Also see p172.

**Avis** (Map pp58-9 ☎ 21-465497/8, 21-494473; www.avis.co.za/main.asp?id=508; intersection Avs Julius Nyerere & Mao Tse Tung) Two branches: diagonally opposite Hotel Polana, and at the airport.

**Europcar** (Map pp58-9 ☎ 21-497338, 21-466172, 82-302 8330; europcar@virconn.com; 1418 Av Julius Nyerere) Next to Hotel Polana and at the airport.

**Hertz** (Map pp58-9 ☎ 21-494982, 21-303171/3; hertz.reservations@tropical.co.mz) At Hotel Polana, and at the airport.

**Imperial** (☎ 82-300 5180, 21-494459, 21-315345; www.imperialcarrental.co.za) At the airport.

## Taxi

There are taxi ranks at Hotel Polana (☎ 21-493255 to call a cab), across the street from Hotel Pestana Rovuma, and at Hotel Cardoso.

Taxis also park near the train station and at the Mercado Municipal.

Some taxis have meters; otherwise, you will need to negotiate a price. Town trips start at US\$2. From Costa do Sol to Junta costs about US\$12.

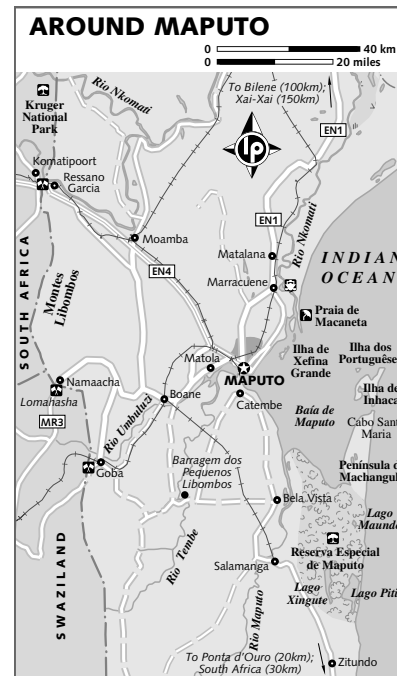
## AROUND MAPUTO

Maputo offers a good array of excursion – most along the coast, and all easily visited as day trips.

## CATEMBE

Catembe, a bucolic town on the south side of Baía de Maputo, offers a taste of upcountry for those who won't have a chance to leave the capital. Head here for a day or overnight, munch on prawns, enjoy the views of Maputo's skyline from across the bay and get into local rhythms.

**Catembe Gallery Hotel** (☎ 21-380050; www.catembe.net; ste/tr US\$95, apt US\$300; 🏠) has pleasant rooms with small balconies overlooking the bay and a handful of suites boasting Jacuzzis



and original paintings by local artists. There's also two serviced, family-style apartments with kitchens and the popular **Restaurante Marisol** (meals from US\$5), known for its prawns, Mozambican cuisine, delicious home-made pasta and cheeses, make-your-own-pizzas and live music on Sundays. Next door and under the same management is **Pensão Catembe** (dm/r US\$15/50), with dorm beds and doubles sharing facilities. Staff organise good value trips to Reserva Especial de Maputo, Inhaca and other destinations. It's about 4km north of the ferry dock; call first and staff will come and collect you.

Other places to try for a meal include **Esplanada-Bar Retiro de Catembe** (meals from US\$4), about 400m down to the right on the beach when leaving the ferry pier, and the long-standing local hangout, **Diogo's** (meals from US\$3), about 300m down the beach to the left of the ferry pier, with grilled prawns.

## Getting There & Away

A large and struggling ferry runs daily between Maputo and Catembe from the dock near the Ministry of Finances (per person day/evening US\$0.15/0.20, per vehicle US\$6, 20 minutes). The first boat from Maputo departs at 5am, then 6am, 7am, 8.30am and thereafter every few hours or so until 10pm. From Catembe, the first departure is at 5.30am, then 6.30am, 7.30am and 9am; afternoon and evening departures from Catembe are at 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5pm, 6pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 10.45pm and 11.30pm (final boat, sometimes leaves earlier). Smaller passenger-only boats (US\$0.20) also run throughout the day between about 7am and 7pm.

## ILHA DE XEFINA GRANDE

Ilha de Xefina Grande, about 5km offshore from Costa do Sol, has a long and murky history as a Portuguese trading base, prison and war garrison. Now there's nothing left of its tumultuous past other than some old cannons and the remnants of a fort, and attractive, usually deserted beaches. Swimming, snorkelling and picnicking are the main diversions. There are no facilities and not much shade so bring everything you'll need with you, including water.

Motorboat charters can be arranged through any Maputo travel agency, or with the boat operators (listed under Ilha de Inhaca, following), from about US\$35 per person,

with a minimum of four people. Local boats from the fishing village 3km beyond Restaurante Costa do Sol at the northern end of the Marginal will take you over less expensively but much more slowly.

## ILHA DE INHACA

Just 7000 years ago – almost like yesterday in geological terms – Inhaca was part of the Mozambican mainland. Today, this wayward chunk of Mozambican coastline lies about 40km offshore from Maputo, and is a popular weekend getaway. It's also an important marine research centre, known in particular for its offshore coral reefs. The reefs are among the most southerly in the world and since 1976, parts of the island and surrounding waters have been designated a reserve to protect them and local marine life. About 3km northwest of Inhaca is the tiny, uninhabited **Ilha dos Portuguêses** (Portuguese Island), a beautiful white patch of sand surrounded by clear waters. It was formerly a leper colony and is now part of the Inhaca marine reserve system.

The majority of Inhaca's residents belong to a subgroup of the Tembe-Tsonga and speak a dialect of Ronga distinct from (but mutually intelligible with) that found on the mainland.

**Telecomunicações de Moçambique** (☎ 7.30am-12.30pm & 2.30pm-7.30pm Mon-Fri, Sat 7.30am-noon), between Pestana Inhaca Lodge and Restaurante Lucas, has domestic and international calls.

## Sights & Activities

The best beaches are on the island's north-eastern edge past the lighthouse, and on Ilha dos Portuguêses. The closest good beach to the ferry pier is about 2km south, along the bay. On Inhaca's southwestern edge is a marine biology research station and a small **museum** (☎ 21-760009, 21-760013; admission US\$3; ☎ 8.30-11.30am & 2-3.30pm Mon-Fri, from 9.30am Sat, Sun & holidays) with specimens of local fauna. Transport can be arranged through Pestana Inhaca Lodge or Restaurante Lucas. Otherwise, it's a 50-minute walk to the marine research station, and double that to the lighthouse.

**Birding** opportunities abound, with about 300 species recorded on Inhaca. This is a remarkable figure, considering that the island measures only about 72 sq km in area. Among others, watch for great-winged and white-chinned petrels, mangrove kingfishers, crab plovers and greater frigate birds.

The **woodcarvers** based at Pestana Inhaca Lodge work with light-coloured wood, which is then painted, or darkened with a mixture of finely powdered charcoal and water, followed by a layer of shoe polish.

Just south of Inhaca, across a narrow channel at the tip of Machangula Peninsula, is beautiful **Cabo Santa Maria**, with quiet beaches and crystal-clear waters ideal for snorkelling. The area, which is also known for its pelicans and flamingos, is usually visited by boat from Inhaca or direct from Maputo, although there's also an overland route through the Reserva Especial de Maputo and a self-catering camp; see p79.

## DIVING & WATER SPORTS

**Gone Fishin'** ([gonefishin@mailbox.co.za](mailto:gonefishin@mailbox.co.za)) operates out of Pestana Inhaca Lodge, and offers diving instruction and equipment rental, plus snorkelling, windsurfing and sea kayaking.

A new dive centre is scheduled to open shortly at Inhaca Azul. Follow the Inhaca links at [www.exotictravelgroup.com](http://www.exotictravelgroup.com) for more information.

## Sleeping & Eating

**Marine Biology Research Station** (☎ 21-760009, 21-760013; fax 21-492176; r per person US\$15) Just in from the water on the island's southwestern edge, these no-frills rooms have shared facilities and cold-water showers. Primarily for students and researchers but is open to the public on a space-available basis. There is a kitchen, and a cook can be arranged, but you will need to bring your own food. Book rooms at least five days in advance.

**Pestana Inhaca Lodge** (☎ 21-305000; [www.pestana.com](http://www.pestana.com); s/d/f with half board US\$125/218/250; ☎ ☎) Set in expansive, shaded gardens just north of the ferry pier on the island's western side, this four-star establishment is Ilha de Inhaca's main hotel. The brightly painted rooms have been recently upgraded, and offer billowy mosquito nets, fan and air-con and nicely modernised bathrooms. The family rooms (most of which are wheelchair-friendly) have one double bed, a sofa bed that can take two children, and a small veranda. Once you move past the hustle at the pier, it makes a relaxing retreat (go midweek or in the off-season for more quiet). There's a saltwater swimming pool, a restaurant (lunchtime buffet US\$16) and favourably priced package deals from Johannesburg (also in combination with sister

hotels in Maputo and on the Archipelago de Bazaruto).

Several new accommodation options on the island should be opening soon. For updates, check with **Inhaca Development** ([inhacalodge@gmail.co.za](mailto:inhacalodge@gmail.co.za)), and with **Inhaca Azul** (☎ 21-402007; [www.exotictravelgroup.com/inhacazul\\_lodge.htm](http://www.exotictravelgroup.com/inhacazul_lodge.htm); s US\$80, 2 or more persons US\$150), which already has a handful of self-catering chalets (up to eight people) just in from the beach north of Pestana Inhaca Lodge. Also see Ponta Torres Camp (p79).

**Restaurante Lucas** (☎ 21-760007; meals US\$5-8, 1-/2-person seafood platter US\$18/26, lobster/prawns about US\$17; ☎ from 7am) This long-standing local-style restaurant is the main place to eat. It's pricey, but the seafood grills are delicious, and the ambience is laid back. Order in advance if you're in a rush or if you fancy a particular dish. It's located next to Pestana Inhaca Lodge.

## Getting There & Away

### AIR

There are daily flights to/from Maputo on **TransAirways** (☎ 21-465108, fax 21-465011; [transairways@virconn.com](mailto:transairways@virconn.com)) for US\$50 return. Flights are in the afternoon in each direction, except Saturday, when they're in the morning.

### BOAT

For speedboat charters to Inhaca (US\$35 to US\$50 per person, minimum four people) and Cabo Santa Maria, contact **Desemar** (☎ 82-301 8070, 82-309 7920; [sergio302003@yahoo.com](mailto:sergio302003@yahoo.com)), which runs the fast and smooth MV Závora, or Nau Tours (p57). The ride takes about one hour, and can be rough during the windy months of August and September. All boats drop you at the beach in front of Pestana Inhaca Lodge; departures from Maputo are from next to Escola Náutica (Av Marginal). If you're travelling on your own and need a group to join for the boat charter, book through the tours desk in the lobby of Hotel Polana.

Alternatively, the **Vodacom ferry** ([www.inhaca.co.mz](http://www.inhaca.co.mz)) departs from Maputo's Porto da Pesca (off Rua Marques de Pombal) at 8am on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday (US\$16 one-way, two hours). Departures from Inhaca are at about 3pm on the same days. The less-reliable Nyaleti departs from the Catembe ferry pier at 7am on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday (1st/2nd class US\$6/3.20 one-way, two to three hours), returning about 3pm (in theory) the same day.

Charter speedboats usually stop at Ilha dos Portuguêses en route to Inhaca. Otherwise, transport is easy to arrange with local fishermen on the beach in front of Pestana Inhaca Lodge, and at low tide it's sometimes possible to walk from Inhaca.

## Getting Around

Car hire with driver can be arranged at Restaurante Lucas from about US\$80 per day.

## MARRACUENE & PRAIA DE MACANETA

Macaneta is the closest open-ocean beach to Maputo, with stiff sea breezes and long stretches of dune-fringed coast. It's on a narrow peninsula divided from the mainland by the Rio Nkomati, and is reached via Marracuene, 35km north of Maputo along the EN1. Marracuene was a getaway for wealthy Maputo residents during colonial days and the scene of some heavy fighting in the 1980s during the war. Today, it's a small riverside town with a sleepy, faded charm, its main street lined with bougainvilleas and old Portuguese villas in various states of repair.

## Sights & Activities

Just north of Marracuene is Matalana village, birthplace of renowned artist Malangatana, and site of his **Centro Cultural de Matalana**. When finished, it is intended to be a local cultural hub, with an arts and crafts centre, arts training for children, an open-air theatre and more, all now in varying stages of completion.

## GWAZA MUTHINI

Each year in February, Marracuene fills up with visitors commemorating those who died resisting colonial rule in the 1895 Battle of Marracuene, known locally as Gwaza Muthini. At the heart of the festivities is the killing of a hippo from the Rio Nkomati and the *kuphalha* ceremony, or invocation of the ancestors, although the hippo hasn't been very forthcoming in recent times and a goat is usually roasted instead. Gwaza Muthini also marks the beginning of the season for *ukanhi* – a traditional brew made from *canhu*, the fruit of the *canhoeiro* tree found throughout Maputo and Gaza provinces, and considered sacred in much of the region.

At Macaneta, the main activity is swimming. Currents can be strong, so take care when plunging in, and with children.

## Sleeping & Eating

### MARRACUENE

**Marracuene Lodge** (☎ 21-494529; marracuene@teledata.mz; camping per person US\$8; r per person with/without half board US\$55/39; 📍) This agreeable place is in a tranquil setting along the Rio Nkomati about 4km south of Marracuene, and reached via a signposted road (4WD) from the EN1. It has good camping with hot-water ablutions, plus a couple of two- and six-person self-catering chalets and a restaurant. Boat transfers to Macaneta beach are included in half-board rates, and otherwise cost US\$16 per person. Birding is good, and boats can be hired for river trips.

**Casa Lisa** (☎ 82-304 1990; buckland@teledata.mz; camping per person US\$5, chalets per person US\$22-28) Just west of the EN1 about 18km north of Marracuene (watch for the signpost), this is a convenient overnight stop if you're driving between South Africa and points north and want to avoid sleeping in Maputo. On offer: simple three- and four-person chalets, most with bathroom, plus camping, a restaurant (breakfast and dinner only, no self-catering) and a bar.

### MACANETA

**Jay's Beach Camp** (☎ 82-3001430, fax 82-3301430; camping per adult/child US\$12.50/6.25, 2-/4-/6-person chalets US\$62/94/125; 📍) The relaxed Jay's is a long-popular spot, with large, grassy grounds backed by sand dunes and coastal vegetation, camping with ablutions, no-frills chalets and a braai area. Day guests are welcome and children under 12 camp for free. Just over the dunes is a long, surf-pounded beach. It's 12km from the ferry and signposted (4WD only). Day use of compound per vehicle is US\$4.

**Macaneta Lodge** (Complexo Turístico de Macaneta; ☎ 82-3229920; macanetalodge@tdm.co.mz; 2-/4-person bungalows with bathrooms US\$70/140; 📍) The long-standing Macaneta Lodge is popular with day visitors who come to enjoy the seafood grills and the beach. Accommodation is in straight-forward and recently renovated but rather soulless chalets. There's a good restaurant (meals from US\$5), a small conference centre and a discotheque sometimes on weekends.

**Motapa Estuary Lodge** (☎ in South Africa 015-7933816; info@transfrontiers.com; 8-person lodge with/without full board US\$586/312; 📍) This lovely place is in a tranquil

setting on the Rio Nkomati, with four rustic double bungalows, a restaurant and bar, and the chance for fishing, canoe trips and birding. There's a river cruiser and transport to the long beach just north of Jay's Beach Camp can be arranged, as can ferry collections for those without their own 4WD. Follow signs to Jay's, but where the road splits, leave the right fork to Jay's and branch left along the unsignposted track for Motapa. The camp is generally rented out in its entirety and advance bookings are essential; overnight visitors only.

## Getting There & Away

Via public transport, take any northbound chapa from Benfica (US\$1.20, one hour) to the Marracuene turnoff, from where it's a 10-minute walk to the Rio Nkomati ferry (round-trip per vehicle US\$6.50, five minutes, until about 6pm). Once on the other side, follow the road for about 5km to a junction of sorts, from where most of the Macaneta places are about 5km to 8km further (4WD essential).

For Matalana, continue north on the EN1 past Marracuene for about 7km to the Matalana junction, following signs first for the police training centre, and then for Centro Cultural de Matalana.

## BARRAGEM DOS PEQUENOS LIBOMBOS

Barragem dos Pequenos Libombos (Pequenos Libombos Dam) lies in the hills about 45km southwest of Maputo and supplies the capital's water. The countryside is tranquil, the river has crocodiles and it makes an amenable day getaway if you have your own vehicle. The nearby Montes Libombos (Libombos Mountains) offer wide views and the area is good for cycling. **Complexo Turístico Pequenos Lebombos** (☎ 21-306729; d/q from US\$35/75; 📍 📍) at the dam has small self-catering cottages set around large lawns, with a pool (per adult/child US\$5/2.50) and a restaurant (meals from US\$5).

## Getting There & Away

Chapas from Maputo to Goba drop you at the dam entrance (US\$1, 1½ hours). Driving, head out on Av 24 de Julho to the Matola road, continue through Matola to Boane, go left and continue about 7km to the dam entrance. Alternatively, follow the signposted road linking the main road west of Boane with Goba.

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