

Visit the Coconut Coast: Self-Drive itinerary: Maputo – Travessia Beach Lodge - Maputo, 7 nights

This tour takes you from the provinces of Maputo and Gaza into the province of Inhambane to Travessia Beach Lodge, approximately 520km one way. The following description of this precious stretch of coastline is courtesy of Mike Slater, Mozambique guide and publisher of www.mozguide.com:

“Inhambane province and its capital of the same name lie outside the destructive path of most of the tropical cyclones that can wreak havoc along this coast. The area’s isolation has ensured its relative escape from modern influences; much cultural and historical heritage has been retained.

The province straddles the Tropic of Capricorn. Extending 200km (124 miles) further east, it also receives about 200mm (8in) more rain than Maputo province. (...)

The coconut palm (*Cocos nucifera*), of which there are nearly two million in the Inhambane area, produces about 22.5kg (50 lb) of coconuts each year. Individual trees are owned by families, who send their youngest sons to collect palm sap for the production of a potent wine called sura. Inhambane’s soil and climate are ideal for the palms – which only thrive in frost-free areas – so much so that trees take about five years to bear fruit (as opposed to seven in other areas), produce for about 40 years and live for up to 80. It appears that a rule of thumb is: ‘the nearer the sea, the better the crop’.”

The Maputo – Travessia distance can be covered in one day’s drive, however for the purpose of this 7-night self-drive itinerary, has been developed with a one night stop on the leg after arrival and a two-night stop on the leg back to Maputo.

Day 1	Arrival in Maputo from Johannesburg (several connections per day) with LAM or SA Airlink Pick-up of hired car, departure from Maputo Airport Overnight at suitable lodges at Chidenguele, XaiXai, or Zavora (Travessia Beach Lodge can recommend lodges of a similar style and philosophy)
Day 2	Departure after breakfast Arrival at Travessia Beach Lodge at Lunch time or afternoon
Day 3	At leisure at the lodge: Early morning coffee/tea Beach-walk/run before breakfast Beach time/Pool time, lunch Early afternoon: Guided bush/ village walk (+/- 2 hrs, flexible) Coffee & Tea at the lounge Sundowners Two-course dinner: fish/meat dish with choice of side dishes/veggies, side salad, desert
Day 4	Bike-tour along the beach, back in time for lunch or picnic
Day 5	Kayaking or Boogie Boarding, Archery
Day 6	Departure after breakfast for Tofo/Barra, various accommodations available
Day 7	Ocean Experience/Scuba Diving/Snorkeling (can also be accommodated as a day-trip from Travessia) Departure after lunch towards Maputo: Overnight at suitable lodges, i.e. close to Zavora
Day 8	Departure for Maputo: Return flight from Maputo to Johannesburg in the afternoon

Check SA Airlink or LAM flight schedule for accurate connections.

Gate-way to the islands: Self-Drive itinerary: Vilanculos – Travessia Beach Lodge – Vilanculos.

The town of Vilanculos is the gateway to the Bazaruto Archipelago and offers a variety of accommodations and activities. If your budget does not allow a stay on the islands, you can easily book a day trip by Dhow to snorkel the reef near Magaruque or the famous 2-Mile reef near Bazaruto island, a little bit further.

The distance from Vilanculos to Travessia is approximately 200km through the coastal hinterland and can easily be done directly after your arrival at Vilanculos Airport. Alternatively, you can start off your trip in Vilanculos and carry on further south from there.

Day 1	<p>Arrival in Vilanculos from Johannesburg or Nelspruit/Kruger International with SA Airlink, around 1pm.</p> <p>Pick-up of hired car, departure from VNX Airport, self-drive to Travessia Beach Lodge</p> <p>Arrival at Travessia Beach Lodge @ approx. 16:30 (Drive time: approx. 2hrs30min)</p>
Day 2	<p>At leisure at the lodge:</p> <p>Early morning coffee/tea</p> <p>Beach-walk/run, breakfast</p> <p>Beach time/Pool time, lunch</p> <p>Early afternoon: Guided bush/ village walk (+/- 2 hrs, flexible)</p> <p>Coffee & Tea at the lounge</p> <p>Sundowners</p> <p>Two-course dinner: fish/meat dish with choice of side dishes/veggies, side salad, desert</p>
Day 3	<p>Day Trip to Inhambane/Tofo for Ocean Experience/Scuba Diving/Snorkeling</p> <p>+/- 5:30/6:00 (depending on tide and launch time): Early continental breakfast, departure from Travessia Beach Lodge</p> <p>+/- 7:30/8:00: Lounge time for Ocean Experience/Scuba Diving</p> <p>Upon return from the boat: Drive to Inhambane or Tofo for Lunch</p> <p>Visit of town and local market</p> <p>15:00 Departure from Inhambane/Tofo</p> <p>16:30/17:00 Arrival at Travessia Beach Lodge in time for dinner</p> <p>(fees apply, diving/boat trip to be booked with recommended dive centre directly)</p>
Day 4	<p>At leisure at the lodge</p> <p>Afternoon/ depending on tide table: Bike-tour along the beach, back in time for lunch or picnic</p>
Day 5	<p>Departure after breakfast for Vilanculos</p> <p>Arrival at Vilanculos, check-in at accommodation at lunch time (contact us for recommendations)</p>
Day 6	<p>Dhow trip / Snorkeling to Magaruque, Day Trip, return in the afternoon</p>
Day 7	<p>Drop-off car at Vilanculos Airport at approx. 11:30/12:00. Flight to Johannesburg from Vilanculos with SA Airlink departs at around 13:30, flight time to Johannesburg approx. 1hr30min.</p>

Check SA Airlink flight schedule for accurate connections.