**BORDER CROSSING AND SELF DRIVE TRAVEL IN MOZAMBIQUE MADE EASY – A STEP BY STEP PROCEDURE**

**General information**

**Visas, Passports and Travel documentation.**

You will require a valid passport which is valid for at least six months after the date of your return to South Africa.

All children require Unabridged Birth Certificate

You will require a valid driving license.

Visas are not required for South African nationals for stays of less than 30 days.

**Make 2x certified colour copies of your Passports, Unabridged Birth Certificates to hand in at the border**

**Also advisable to make certified copies of your Driver’s license, ID Document and vehicle registration papers**. ( It is a good idea to laminate these copies and to keep these copies in a separate location to your original documents)

**If your vehicle is subject to a financial lease/hire purchase or loan agreement you will require a letter of authority from the financial institution giving you authority to take the vehicle across the border into a neighbouring country.**

**If the vehicle that you are driving is not yours you will require a letter of authority from the registered owner giving you permission to be in possession of the vehicle and authorizing cross border travel.**

**Third party insurance can be obtained prior to your departure from most of the major insurance companies. Outdoor Warehouse retail stores in South Africa sell the Hollard Insurance product available at their retail outlets nationwide. The current cost of this insurance is R 150.00 per vehicle and R80.00 for a trailer. When taking out this insurance you will require your Passport and your Vehicle and trailer registration particulars. (Registration Number. VIN and Engine Number)**

**Import duty, Goods temporarily imported in Mozambique.**

You may make a declaration on the form provided to the effect that you have nothing to declare in excess of your personal goods, personal effects and that you have no commercial goods, firearms or prohibited and restricted items.

If you are importing any goods into Mozambique make a full declaration and present your original invoices to the customs official.

You will be required to complete a DA65 Form (often referred to as a TIP – Temporary import permit) at the customs desk for all goods that you are temporarily importing into Mozambique. Typically you would declare the following items.

Digital cameras, lenses and accessories

Video cameras and accessories.

GPS equipment (Garmin, TomTom, etc.)

Laptops and accessories

Portable televisions

I-Pod docking station, I-Pod and accessories.

Hi-Fi’s, Radios, Music System

Microwave (if camping)

Camping equipment

Fishing rods, tackle & equipment

Paddle-skis, Kayaks, Canoes.

Boats

Bicycles

Quads

Motorcycles

Jet-skis

Yachts

Generators

Car Freezer/Fridge

Desktop PC, Screen, keyboard and Printers

Camping stoves, gas braais.

DSTV decoder

Portable DVD player

Portable compressor.

Remember that if you have declared an item for temporary import you must bring that item back with you when you exit Mozambique. If the customs officials discover that an item is not present you will either have to return to fetch the item or customs will declare the item imported and you will have to pay a fine and the import duty on the item before you leave the country. Your passport will be retained until these requirements have been met.

Remember that your vehicle contents and baggage may be subject to an inspection regardless of the type of declaration that you have made. In general all vehicles and trailers have to be inspected by a customs official on the Mozambican side in order to obtain a signature on your gate pass. This gate pass will be checked by the gate guard to ensure that firstly you have a customs stamp on it and secondly that you have a customs inspector’s signature on it prior to allowing you access into Mozambique.

**Goods for which a permit or license is required:**

Fire arms, explosives and fireworks.

Animals, hides, skins, animal products and animal parts.

Gold, Silver, Platinum in coins, bars or ingots.

Plants, roots, tubers and medicines.

**Items which are prohibited or restricted may include the following:**

Narcotic drugs

Firearms

Explosives

Pornographic materials and media

Counterfeit goods

Plant materials

Meat products (You may take your own meat with you for personal consumption, make sure that it is frozen and properly sealed or vacuum packed.)

**Travelers import Allowances**

Individual duty free **allowances Mts 5000 per person (Approx R 1500)** are allowed monthly in respect of goods imported into Mozambique for your personal and family consumption only. **RETAIN slips and present such when making border decleration.**

Alcoholic beverages - 1 Liter of spirits per person. 2.25 liters of wine (3 standard bottles).

Tobacco products – 200 Cigarettes or 100 Cigarillos or 50 Cigars.

Perfumes – 50ml of perfume or 250ml of Eau de Toilette.

Pharmaceutical products – Quantity considered reasonable and appropriate for personal consumption or as prescribed by a registered medical practitioner.

**No beer is allowed to be imported into Mozambique**.

**Foreign Currency and Cash arrangements**

When entering Mozambique you need not declare up to US$ 5,000.00 or the equivalent, in cash or travelers cheques. Above this limit you are required to make a declaration to the customs officials of Mozambique (Alfandegas)

Arrange with your bank that you have sufficient facility on your credit cards, debit cards or travel cards to cover all your travel expenditure. Local currency can be drawn at most ATM’s in Mozambique bearing the VISA, MasterCard or Maestro logos. Some ATM’s restrict the amount of cash that can be withdrawn per transaction. Ensure that you have set an adequate daily withdrawal limit on your cards with your domicile bank prior to your departure. Remember your PIN codes.

It is always safer to **obtain cash from an ATM**, a registered money changer or a commercial bank. ***Avoid using the touts at the border post. These cash vendors work in pairs, offer you an attractive rate (normally a couple of points above the going rate) and once the transaction is underway have an amazing repertoire of techniques designed to distract you and fleece you of your money. Beware***!

**The Procedure to be followed when crossing the Lebombo Border post (RSA) and Ressano Garcia border post (Mozambique)**

After you have left Komatipoort proceed over the Crocodile River bridge and head up the hill to the Lebombo border post. (approximately 2 kms)

***THE LEBOMBO BORDER CONTROL POST (South Africa)***

As you approach the border post you will see a gate in front of you (normally open). Proceed slowly through the gate into the border post. Keep left and drive right up to the border control office building. Park your vehicle as close as you can and have the following documents and items ready.

Pen Passports ( all travelers must report to the passport control officer) Vehicle documents ( The information is required to fill in some of the forms) You WILL BE approached at this point by a tout offering you assistance and promising a speedy passage through the Mozambican border. Do not use these people; they are not official (even though it might appear that they have ID Tags...) rather do it yourself.

**Step 1** Go directly to the customs desk and obtain the following forms.

Gate pass – Fill in your vehicle particulars and the number of persons in your vehicle. The gate pass must be stamped by the customs official.

Temporary export permit (DA65). On this document you will specify all easily identifiable items that you are taking into Mozambique with you and that you will be bringing back to RSA. Fill in this form and return it to the customs desk for checking and stamping by the customs official.

The customs official will remove one page from the document and return the permit/declaration to you. (Keep this document safe as you will require it when you return to South Africa)

**Step 2** Proceed to the passport control desk (immigration) with your gate pass, DA65 form and your passports. The immigration official will require that each person is identified when processing the passports.

Ensure that your gate pass is stamped.

Ensure that each passport is stamped

Check that you have all the documents with you that you brought into the border control office.

**Step 3** Leave the Lebombo border post area hand your gate pass to the customs/police official as you exit and drive slowly down the hill to the Ressano Garcia border (Mozambique).

***THE RESSANO GARCIA BORDER CONTROL AREA (Mozambique)***

**Step 1** The Mozambican gate pass as you approach the gate between the Lebombo border and Ressano Garcia border slow down and look out for the gate guard on the Mozambican side. Stop a little short of him so that he may write down your vehicle registration on the gate pass slip and take note of the number of occupants in the car. The guard will hand you the completed gate pass**. Be friendly** and greet the guard courteously.

**Step 2** Proceed up the hill towards the border control building. The border may be congested and a number of large trucks will be parked up the road in a line. Do not park behind the trucks, pass them on the left or on the right and park on the left as close to the passport control building as possible. **At this point you will most probably encounter numerous touts hassling you, offering you passport assistance, the opportunity to change money and generally all types of facilitation services. Ignore all of these offers and courteously decline the services. These guys are persistent and sometimes it feels like mayhem!**

**Step 3** Third party insurance

If you have not arranged the compulsory third party insurance you will need to do this first. There are a number of cabins on the left hand side opposite the passport control building where you will find a number of Insurance offices. We recommend using Hollard Insurance (Hollard Seguros – Moçambique). You will need some cash and all your travel and vehicle registration documents. Insurance can be paid in ZAR.

**Current costs – R150.00 per vehicle and R 80.00 for a trailer.**

**Step 4** Get all your documents together, have a pen with you and proceed into the passport control office and go directly to the customs/”vehicular” desk. Ask the official for the vehicle import document. The document is a two page form with a piece of carbon paper.. Fill in this form, return it to the official who will stamp it, return the top copy to you and he should also stamp your gate pass. Present any other documents to the official if requested to do so. Proceed to the passport control desk (all travelers). **Check Documents**

At this point you should have the following **stamped** documents with you

South African export permit/declaration

Mozambican import permit

Third party insurance document

Mozambican gate pass/customs slip

Passports  **(CHECK DATES CORRECT)**

**Step 5** Exit the passport control building and locate a customs official (The customs officials wear a beret and light blue shirt with a name tag “Alfandegas”). Indicate to the official which is your vehicle. The official is required to inspect your vehicle and trailer before signing your gate pass. This inspection can be cursory or thorough depending on how busy the border is, if you are rude or any number of trivial reasons. Be patient and be courteous always.

Please ensure that you have declared obvious items like a car fridge, generator, etc. You will be fined and kept waiting, sometimes for hours if the official discovers illegally imported goods. After this inspection you may get in your vehicle and proceed to the exit gate.

**Finally – Entering Mozambique**

**Step 6** At the Ressano Garcia border control exit gate you will be stopped by the gate guard. Present to the guard your stamped and signed gate pass/customs slip. After the guard has checked that your gate pass has a passport and customs stamp on it plus the signature from the inspecting official you will be waved on, through the gate and into Mozambique. **Beware! If you have paid a “facilitation fee” to a customs official to waive your vehicle inspection do not be surprised if another customs official at the exit gate conducts a secondary inspection non-withstanding that you have a signed gate pass.** The customs officials are in cell phone contact and will often phone through your vehicle registration to the exit official if they feel they could extract a bit more cash from you. This scam is used to hit you with a double whammy – your “facilitation fee” plus an “unofficial fine” if any undeclared goods are discovered.

**Keep to the speed limits and respect the rules of the road.** The national road going North (EN1) is the main transit artery. Everybody uses the road, locals on bicycles and foot, donkey carts, crazy taxi drivers, huge lumber trucks normally with a small herd of goats tethered on top, trans-africa busses that crab sideways down the road, animals, vendors and most importantly children.

The national road (EN1) going North passes through each city, town or village and at each settlement you will be required to firstly **slow down to 80km/h and secondly to 60km/h** or less as you proceed through the town. The traffic police love to set up speed traps at these locations so beware! **You can expect a minimum fine of Mtn 1000.00 if you are caught speeding even if you are only 5km/h over the limit.**

**Please NOTE later section as regards fines. DO NOT PAY BRIBES when you are in the wrong. Pay what is due and request an official receipt.**

Schools are often located at the outer limits of each town and you will sometimes encounter hundreds of scholars walking along the road from little toddlers to young adults. **Kids are unpredictable** and often little games are played by the kids as they chat and walk to and from school. Drive very defensively; give the kids a wide berth by moving to the centre of the road when necessary. Hoot repeatedly if you think a group are being distracted by games, laughter or simply being unruly and have not noticed your vehicle approaching. Watch their body language.

**Drive Safely - Do not let your holiday begin or end in tragedy!**

**TRAVEL DOCUMENTS**

Keep all your travel documents in an A4 folder/bag in an easily accessible position while you are travelling.

There are a number of traffic police (white shirts) and police (grey shirts) checkpoints on the National roads and in and around Maputo and along the EN1 going North. You may be stopped and asked to present your travel documents. Be courteous, **smile a lot** and present the required documents as requested. Ensure that before you proceed you receive all your documents back.

in Mozambique towards your holiday destination.

Then it is up to you to Relax, unwind and enjoy!

Have the most wonderful experience in Mozambique

EMERGENCY NUMBERS IN MOZAMBIQUE

Anti-corruption Hot Line+258 82 965 7804+258 21 31 06 93
Tourism GREEN LINE for HELP or ADVICE+258 800 460 460
G.C.C.C - PATRULHA+258 800 460 460 (This is # for Corruption Control)

South African High Commission, Maputo+258 21 24 3000 - office hours+258 84 304 4600 - After hours emergencies
Police:Maputo: +258 21 32 5031, +258 21 400 159 Nelspruit: +27 13 759 1000Ambulance:Maputo: +258 21 32 5000 or +258 21 32 5009ER 24 Maputo: 84 124Nelspruit: +27 82 911
Hospitals:Maputo: +258 21 32 5000 or +258 21 32 5009+258 84 389 0486
Mediclinic (Nelspruit) +27 13 759 0500

We highly recommend our clients to check **DriveMoz on Facebook** where a wealth of travel advice can be found and files downloaded. On the site you will also find details of the Zello walkie talkie application that will enable you to stay in contact with persons in Moz that can assist you.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS AND FINES

T**here are different officials on the road performing specific functions and controlling**

**various elements.The information contained herein will provide for a more friendly and courteous interaction between officials and road users.**

**When stopping for an official, please indicate, stop and turn on your hazard lights. Kindly turn down the**

**music and remove your sunglasses. The officer will appreciate this small token of respect.**

· **Officers in White Shirt and Blue Trousers – Traffic Police** - shall carry identification, with their name and

number visible on their uniform - are permitted to fine you for any traffic violations as listed in this table.

**Please insist on the written fine and do not initiate a**

**bribe**. This will ensure that you are not extorted from and pay the correct fine. **Help stamp out corruption**.

· **Officers in Light Grey Shirt and Dark Grey Trousers - Protection Police** - are NOT permitted to fine you for

any violations. They are allowed to take you to the police station for arrest only if you are found carrying

stolen goods or illegal substances or contraband, or for theft or assault. They normally work together with the

traffic police.

· **Officers in Dark Green - Rapid Intervention Police** - similar to duties to Protection Police

· **Officers in Light Green Shirt and Green Trousers with Red Armband - Taxi Police** - are only permitted

to check taxis.

· **Officers in Light Blue Shirt and Blue Trousers -Algandega/Customs** - permitted to search vehicles for

undeclared items.

· **Military** - Allowed to search vehicle at roadblocks or border posts.

Below are telephone numbers if you find yourself in any trouble. If you are treated unfairly call the number below

and/or write down all details and hand in at your tourism destination.

Do not be intimidated - use this document to your benefit.

Anti-corruption: +258 82 396 9890

ER24 Maputo: +258 84 124 3724

RSA High Commission: +258 21 49 0059/3030

After hours: +258 84 304 4600

TRAC N4 Toll Route Emergencies: +258 82 303 4303

**TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS & FINES MTN**

**(Road Decree 1/2011)**

1. None compliance to permanent and temporary traffic road signs (Art14) 1000

2. Drivers shall not drive with any part of their body outside of the vehicle (Art16) 1000

3. Not reducing speed at: · Hills, bends, intersections, circles, bridges, tunnels, villages, buildings, schools, people, animals, places of reduced visibility, signposted as danger/perigo (Art32) 1000

4. Speed limits: (Art33)

· Small passenger vehicle w/o trailer in towns

60km, out of towns 120kmph

· Small passenger vehicle with trailer in towns

60km, out of towns 100kmph

· Goods vehicle in towns 60kmph, out of towns

100kmph

5. Fines for exceeding the speed limit (Art33)

· Exceeding max limit up to 20kmph 1000

· Exceeding max limit up to 40kmph 2000

· Exceeding max limit up to 60kmph 4000

· Exceeding max limit more than 60kmph 8000

· Exceeding max limit more than double prison from 3 days to 3 months plus fine 8000

6. Speed cameras must show speed travelled and date and time of offense

7. Exceeding seated passenger limit (Art55) 500

8. Cargo reducing driver visibility (eg canoes must

face up) or protruding the length or width of the vehicle (Art56) 1000

9. Not having correct or working illumination, light signally devices, reflectors, lights, blue & white

towing sticker (Art59,60) 1000 to 2000

10. Failure to use emergency lights with vehicle breakdown or tow (Art63) 750

11. Ignoring traffic signals (Art69) 1000

12. Throwing objects from vehicles (Art78) 500

13. Having alcohol inside the vehicle and not in the

trunk/boot (Art81) 500

14. Driving under the influence of alcohol, when

tested by breathalyzer (Art81)

· From higher than 0,0mg/l, to 0,3mg/l 1500

· From 0,3mg/l to 0,40mg/l 2500

· From 0,41mg/l to 0,70mg/l 3500

· More than 0,70mg/l 5000

· More than 1,2mg/l - prison sentence up to 1 month plus fine

· A public transport or dangerous cargo driver, if over 0,0 mg/l - prison sentence of up to 6

months plus fine (Art81)

15. Driving under the influence of narcotics or psychotropics (Art81) 2000

16. Failure to fasten seat belt while driving, front and back (Art87) 500

17. Children under the age of 12 not transported on the back seat and secured with system for their

height and weight (fine for each child) (Art87) 300 · Children under 3 can travel in the front seat if

using a back facing retention system (Art87)

18. Drivers and passengers of motorcycles not wearing helmets (.Art87) 300

19. Driver using any audio headphone or radiotelephonic (cell phones) device without headset with microphone/ loudspeaker (Art89) 2000

20. Prohibited to use equipment/ devices to detect instruments for recording of offences (radar detectors) - devices can be confiscated (Art89) 2750

21. Failure to have 2 safety triangles and 1 reflective jacket (Art91) 1000

22. Driving an unregistered vehicle (Art120) 5000

23. Driving an unregistered trailer (Art120) 2500

24. SADC drivers licenses are valid (Art129)

25. Driving incorrect vehicle to drivers license 1000

26. Having a drivers license but not carrying it with you (Art127) 200

27. Not being qualified to drive (never taken test and received license) prison sentence of 3 days

to 6 months plus fine (Art127) 5000

28. Driving with an expired license (more than 30 days) (Art127) 5000

29. Not complying with medical restriction of drivers license (Art127) 2000

30. Failure to stop after causing an accident or abandoning injured/deceased persons - prison

time of one to eight years (Art152)

31. Failure to have 3rd party insurance (Art157), in case of an accident vehicle will be seized

(Art162) 500

32. Seizure of drivers license (Art160)

· When license has expired

· When license has been suspended

· When driver under the influence

· Suspected it is falsified

33. Seizure of vehicle documents (Art161)

· When the vehicle is seized

· When the papers are illegible

· When the vehicle is unsafe

· Number plates do not comply with regulatory

conditions

· When characteristics of the vehicle (including

tyre measurements) do not match those on

the papers

· Suspected they are falsified

34. Regarding above, the official will issue a note

as a substitute for a time and restrictions set

thereon, eg-for the vehicle to be taken for

repairs and must be returned repaired within a

maximum of 8 days (Art161) 1500

35. Seizure of vehicle (Art162)

· Vehicle not conforming to registration

specifications

· No number plates

· An accident has been caused without 3rd

party insurance

36. Voluntary compliance / payment of fines must

be exercised within 15 days at any Provincial

traffic Dept of Police (Art172)