

# MOZAMBIQUE



## Introduction:

Bismillahi Rahman Raheem. All praside is due to ALMIGHTY ALLAH, the SUSTAINER, NOURISHER, CHERISHER, PROVIDER, Peace and blessings and salutations be upon our beloved Master and Leader, NABI MUHAMMED MUSTAPHA . ﷺ Alhamdulillah with the grace and mercy of ALMIGHTY ALLAH. I visited Mozambique around 7 or 8 times .With my recent trip being last year in 2022.

## Population:

Mozambique has a population of around 29 million which composes of overwhelmingly Bantu people. The largest religion in Mozambique is Christianity, with significant minorities following Islam and African traditional religions.

## Challenges Muslims in Mozambique face:

During Eid ul Fitr, on many occasions there is always a confusion. Scholars that studied in Makkatul Mukarama and Madinatul Munawarah, they want to follow the ruling of the Saudis and the local ulema want to follow the local siting of Mozambique or South Africa. There is a split when it comes to the ushering of the holy month of Ramadaan and the day of Eid ul Fitr which is a major problem in Mozambique

More than 200 people have been kidnapped in the past 15 years, 90% majority are Muslims. Superficially, there are some high profiled individuals that are involved in these kidnappings to a certain extent

Unemployment is also a major concern amongst the Muslims in Mozambique.

## My experience in Mozambique:

As far as the places we visited, We were on our way to Shai Shai and my host was Farooq Seddat. He

told me When im driving at night I must follow him and when another vehicle is approaching from the opposite direction I must switch on the right indicator and the opposite vehicle switch on their right indicator , there are no lines on the tar road. Both parties switch on their right indicator and you carry on, it works very well but I mean it's a crazy situation

we were agreeing and then one truck was coming SAB breweries and Farouk was in front and I could see that he's taking a big turn and a sharp curve and one of the crates of the alcohol fell onto my car bonnet and Farooq didn't see it and I just jumped out and the trucker driver kept on driving. He didnt even know that one crate had fallen of the truck so I switched on the lights and I kept flashing Farooq until he came back in gujarati he asked me **"WHAT HAPPENED?"** and I related the incident to him so we removed the crate and we poured water put it on the bonnet, Allah shukar there was no damage so that was a bit of a comical and amusing situation

Mashallah we visited Beira, we give talks about Sahabah, Afghanistan and Palestine and we had many many talks in Masjid e Quba, Masjid e Tqawa, Majid Darussalam and various other masajid there in Mozambique. May ALLAAH TA'ALA reward the Ulema out there and mashallah they go out of their way to make life easy and Jaamia Anas, the madrassah there in Matola there is a radio station, so MashaAllah I had programs, Q&A but with the translator in Portuguese another thing that ulama they should really think about those who are married because they speak Portuguese, they should go to Brazil. Brazil needs hundreds of ulama and they can play a great role where they can go with their wives in shaa ALLAAH this is a humble suggestion

### **History:**

Mozambique , officially the Republic of Mozambique , is a country which is located in southeastern Africa bordered by the Indian Ocean to the east, Tanzania to the north, Malawi and Zambia to the northwest, Zimbabwe to the west, and Eswatini and South Africa to the southwest. The sovereign state is separated from the Comoros, Mayotte and Madagascar by the Mozambique Channel to the east. The capital and largest city is Maputo.

## Islam in MOZAMBIQUE:

Islam in Mozambique has a history that goes back to at least the tenth century. The records show that the region was known and well frequented by Muslim travelers and traders. Mussa Bin Bique was considered to be a Shaykh, i.e a person with authority in Islamic knowledge. The name of the island, and subsequently the entire African nation of Mozambique, was derived from his name. With Islam came the literacy into this land in the fields of poetry, history, commercial transactions, and other literary genres. By the middle of the fifteenth century, permanent and flourishing commercial and religious sultanates had been established along the coast and some had penetrated up the Zambezi.

Islam is the second-largest religion in Mozambique behind Christianity. Estimates about adherents of Islam in Mozambique vary between 17% and 19% of the total population. According to local Muslim sources, 25 to 30% of Mozambicans are Muslim. The faith was introduced by merchants visiting the Swahili coast, as the region was part of a Muslim economic network that spanned the Indian Ocean. This later led to the formation of several officially Muslim political entities in the region. The vast majority of Mozambican Muslims are Sunni Muslims. The Muslims consist primarily of indigenous Mozambicans, citizens of South Asian (Indian and Pakistani) descent, and a very small number of North African and Middle Eastern immigrants.

Mozambique has long historic ties with the Muslim world. Initially by way of Sufi merchants, mostly from Yemen, and centuries after through a more organized system of coastal trading cities



## Tourist Attractions:

### Gorongosa National Park:

Gorongosa National Park is at the southern end of the Great African Rift Valley in the heart of central Mozambique, Southeast Africa. The more than 4,000 square kilometres park comprises the valley floor and parts of surrounding plateaus. Rivers originating on nearby Mount Gorongosa water the plain. Seasonal flooding and waterlogging of the valley, which is composed of a mosaic of soil types, creates a variety of distinct ecosystems. Grasslands are dotted with patches of acacia trees, savannah, dry forest on sands and seasonally rain-filled pans, and termite hill thickets. The plateaus contain miombo and montane forests and a spectacular rain forest at the base of a series of limestone gorges. This combination of unique features at one time supported some of the densest wildlife populations in all of Africa, including charismatic carnivores, herbivores, and over 500 bird species. But large mammal numbers were reduced by as much as 95% and ecosystems were stressed during the Mozambican Civil War



## **Inhaca Island:**

Inhaca Island is a subtropical island of Mozambique off the East African coast. The main village is Inhaca, situated just over a kilometer from Inhaca Airport. Various tourist lodges are situated along the northwestern coastline. The island is flanked by protected areas along the western and eastern coastlines, while the majority of the population lives in the interior. The 52 km<sup>2</sup> island separates Maputo Bay to the west from the Indian Ocean off its eastern shores. The island's irregular coastline approaches the mainland Machangulo peninsula at Ponta Torres where a 500-metre-wide tidal race separates the two headlands. In administrative terms Inhaca is a municipal district of the municipality of Maputo, while the Machangulo peninsula is included under the Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area and is part of the district of Matutuíne, Maputo Province



## **Ponta do Ouro:**

Ponta do Ouro is a town in the extreme south of Mozambique, lying on the Mozambique Channel, south of Maputo and just north of the border with South Africa. The name is Portuguese for "tip of gold", referring to a cape at the southern part of the beach. It is known for its beach, dolphins, offshore diving and deep-sea fishing. The currency is the metical, but the South African rand and the US dollar are also accepted. Shopping is very limited in Ponta. There is a petrol station, bank, pharmacy, hardware stores, bottle stores and other small shops in town. Fresh bread can be purchased at the local market. Basic food items like vegetables, fruits can be purchased at this market. No luxurious items are available anywhere in Ponta do Ouro. Holiday accommodation is readily available. There are 3 to 4 modern and comfortable resorts in Ponta on the beachfront and surrounding areas. Other resorts date from pre-war and – although quite primitive with limited facilities – are very popular with tourists due to reasonable pricing and excellent location on the beachfront. It is commonly referred to as 'Ponta' by visiting South Africans.

