

Information for crossing the Ressano Garcia/Lebombo Border Control (MOZ/ZA)

Note: *this information is with regards to the **MOZAMBICAN Border post** for crossing between Mozambique and South Africa.*

This is the busiest border between Mozambique and South Africa and is now **open 24 hours a day.**

You will need to bring with you:

- A passport valid for 6 months from date of entry
- Original vehicle registration papers. Certified copies are accepted. If your vehicle is being financed you need a copy of the registration papers as well as a letter from the finance company giving you permission to take the vehicle out of South Africa.
- Valid driver's license
- 3rd party insurance for Mozambique. You can buy this at Outdoor Warehouse or the AA in South Africa before you go or at the border as you enter.
- A police clearance for your vehicle is not compulsory but it is advisable to carry one. From 1 September 2012 you need to have DataDot applied to your vehicle in order to get a police clearance certificate. The cost of this is approximately R550, enquire at your local vehicle roadworthy centers.

When you ENTER Mozambique, obtain the following at the border:

- As you enter the border from South Africa, a gate pass with your vehicle registration will be handed to you by a uniformed police man at the very first gate. Avoid the 'unofficials' who will be demanding this pass from you and enter the immigration and customs building. Any official should be wearing a uniform, name tags only mean nothing.
- an entry visa **except if** from South Africa, Malawi or Mauritius (as you enter normally to the right you will get a form to complete)
- an entry stamp in your passport, no forms required if you do not need a visa
- TIP (Temporary Import Permit for your vehicle) which is obtained from

the customs desk. You fill out the form and return to this counter to have it signed and stamped, once you have it keep it in the vehicle at all times. You pay Mt50-00 for this.

- Now get in your vehicle and proceed to the exit gate and hand over your gate pass to the very last uniformed person you see. A customs official may ask to inspect your vehicle before you exit.

While driving in Mozambique

Keep your passport, driver's license, TIP and 3rd party insurance with you in the vehicle as a police official may ask to inspect these documents. You do not have to hand over any of these documents, you only need to present them to an official when requested to do so.

You also require the following equipment, which can be obtained from most outdoor stores or an AA office:

- Reflective vest when you stop at the side of the road. If there are more than 2 people in the car you need 2 of these.
- A set of two warning triangles.
- If you tow a trailer or caravan you must have a set of blue and yellow warning stickers fixed to the front of your vehicle and back of your trailer.
- A country sticker (ZA if drive a South African registered vehicle)

There are mixed reports about the Mozambique police demanding bribes however it is our experience that if you stick to the law you will not be bothered by the police.

When driving on major roads adhere to the speed limit. From the border to Maputo the maximum speed is 120km/h, or as indicated. On the EN1 which is the highway from Maputo northwards, the speed limit is 100km/h.

On the EN1 you will encounter many small towns where the speed limit of 60km/h is strictly enforced by radar. Do not drive over 60km/h as 61km/h will attract a Mt1000-00 fine which increase rapidly for higher speeds.

Time needed to cross this border:

- On a normal day it should not take you more than 30 to 45 minutes to cross. Be warned that over peak holiday seasons this border attracts a lot of people and heavy delays may be experienced. Check when the Gauteng school holidays start and end.

Some border crossing tips:

- “helpers” – these are unofficial helpers or runners who will meet you as you park your car. They will promise to get you through the border proceedings in record breaking time, for a fee off course. This practice only spurs on more corruption and you are advised to decline this service by kindly saying: "Nao Obregado" - "No thanks!" in Portuguese. Beware that they will tell you that they are officials, if they don't wear a uniform you can ignore them.
- **Never** give your passport to anyone except when handing them in for stamping at the immigration counter.
- Ensure that all travelling persons are available for passport view and stamps inside the building. Check your stamps before you leave the counter!
- Carry certified copies of your driver's license and passport and keep them somewhere safe.

When you EXIT Mozambique follow these steps:

- There is no gate pass when you exit the country, park and proceed to the immigration and customs building. Take your passports, vehicle papers, 3rd party insurance and TIP with you.
- When you park and on your way to the building and even inside the building you will be told by ‘unofficials’ that you have to give them your TIP. If you hand this over you will have to pay them something for their service which can be avoided by just doing it yourself. **There is no payment required to exit the country.**
- Proceed to the customs counter and have your TIP checked. They will keep the TIP form, stamp it and give you a slip which you will take with you to the gate to exit. Then proceed to the Immigrations counter.
- Proceed to the immigration counter with your passports and slip, in order to obtain your exit stamps.
- Now get back in your car and drive to the exit gate where you hand over your slip before you exit the country.