



# Ponta Malongane

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**Take your binoculars and a cold beer and, enjoy the relaxing sound of waves crashing while watching the whales just a few meters away. This is staying in Ponta Malongane!**

On my way back to Maputo, I could not stop thinking about the old days, when this was a six-hour journey. A true adventure, that used to start on a ferry and continued for more than 65 miles on a dirt road that turned to mud whenever it rained, leaving cars easily bogged down.

Now, there is a bridge and an asphalt road. And, despite the fact we still needed a 4x4 to travel the last five miles on a sand trail, the entire trip to Ponta Malongane took us only two hours!

Not surprisingly, the offer of tourist accommodation in this peace of paradise nested in the skirts of the south coast of Mozambique, has increased and improved. We booked at Wakene – Tartaruga Verde, a daily-served house where our group of six adults and four children stayed comfortably for 250 USD/night.

When I received the information from the manager to plan our tour, I was surprised at the quantity of restaurants available. But, when we arrived, I could immediately see other innovations in Malongane. Happily, a pharmacy, two traditional groceries and a well-served bottle-store were there, allowing us to buy some essentials left behind.

Even so, everything was more expensive than in Maputo and at the end of the long weekend bottled water and coffee were finished in more than one place. So, unless you are staying in a lodge offering an (expensive) catering service, it is still wise to carry your supplies from the city. Houses are generally well equipped and furnished to stock and cook food, and you can always ask (and pay) the maid for extra cleaning after lunch.

There is not a correct time of the year to travel to Ponta Malongane. Gifted with abundant vegetation, white sand and the warm blue water of the Indic Ocean, the

place is perfect for more than one type activity. So, it all depends on your plan.

If you intend enjoying the sun and the beach, you will probably feel better from October to April, when the wind has gone, though you may also have some rainy days during that period.

If you prefer long walks and watching the whales from the veranda, the dry season, from May/June to September, is your best option. During those months, temperatures are rarely over 25°C and the wind is often blowing. But you will still be able to enjoy the sunny and warm weather during the day and feel comfortable in your mid-season clothes in the early morning/evening.

In any case, remember that you will be in a remote place to spend a weekend away from everyone and everything. Even television and video games are rarely available as usually there is poor internet.

Thus, taking books, family games and basic medicines, as well as having valid health insurance, may avoid unnecessary stress. Mosquitos are also a constant presence, and your blood tends to be their preferred drink. Meaning, unless you are a very patient and committed environmentalist, don't forget to take your insecticide and repellent.

All set, relax and enjoy as much as we did!