

Portuguese Island, Maputo Bay, Mozambique

A wild, uninhabited sandbar in Maputo Bay, Portuguese Island gives cruise passengers a rare private-island day on the Indian Ocean — white sand, warm turquoise water, local craft vendors, and a grilled prawn braai right on the beach.

Tender only (no pier)

Typical call: 6-8 hrs

USD / ZAR / Metical accepted

Portuguese / Shangaan

Beach & nature focus

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____

Arrive: _____

All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____

Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender from anchorage — no pier for large vessels

Best For: Beach days, snorkeling, kayaking, local crafts

Walk to center: Beach & facilities 2-5 min from tender landing

Don't Miss: Local craft market & grilled giant prawns on the beach

Getting around: Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Beach Day on Portuguese Island** — The island's main draw — wide white-sand beaches, warm calm water, and a buffet set up by the cruise line.
 - Snorkeling the Shallows** — The shallow, clear waters around Portuguese Island harbour colourful reef fish and patches of live coral.
 - Kayaking & Stand-up Paddleboarding** — Rental kayaks and SUPs are typically available on the beach, giving you a chance to explore the
- calm bay at your own pace.

 - Boat Trip to Inhaca Island** — A short boat hop reaches Inhaca Island, the largest in Maputo Bay.
 - Local Craft Market** — Artisans boat over from Inhaca Island each cruise day to sell wood carvings, colourful capulana fabric, beaded jewellery, and handmade crafts.

BEST WALKS

- Beach Perimeter Stroll** ~1-2 km | Easy | 20-40 min — Walk the length of the beach from the tender landing northward along the shore.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bring cash in small bills. USD and South African Rand are widely accepted by local vendors; Mozambican Metical also works. There are no ATMs or card readers on the island.
- Sun protection is non-negotiable. The Indian Ocean sun is intense. Reef-safe sunscreen, a wide-brim hat, and a rash guard will save your day.
- Apply insect repellent before going ashore. Sandflies and mosquitoes are present near the scrubby interior, particularly in early morning and evening.
- Tender timing matters. Secure an early tender ticket the night before if you want a quiet morning. Tendering thousands of passengers takes hours — last tender departs strictly on schedule.
- Wear water shoes or sandals. Sand heats up quickly, and shell fragments near the waterline can be sharp.
- Try the local specialties. Grilled giant prawns and a Tipo Tinto rum-and-raspberry from a local vendor are the quintessential Portuguese Island experience — far better than ship food.

Portuguese Island, Maputo Bay, Mozambique — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- 1

Portuguese Island Beach

Uninhabited protected island in Maputo Bay with pristine white sand, once a 16th-century Portuguese trading post.
- 2

Inhaca Marine Reserve waters

Protected reef waters around the island managed by the Inhaca Marine Biology Station, good for snorkeling.
- P

Cruise port / terminal