



Miti Miwiri | Ibo Island

A GUIDE TO GET TO IBO ISLAND
FROM TANZANIA

Tanzania which has for a number of years been exposed to tourism is now favouring tourism to its new touristy destination neighbour, Mozambique. Since the construction of the Unity Bridge there are three main routes over the Rovuma River border:

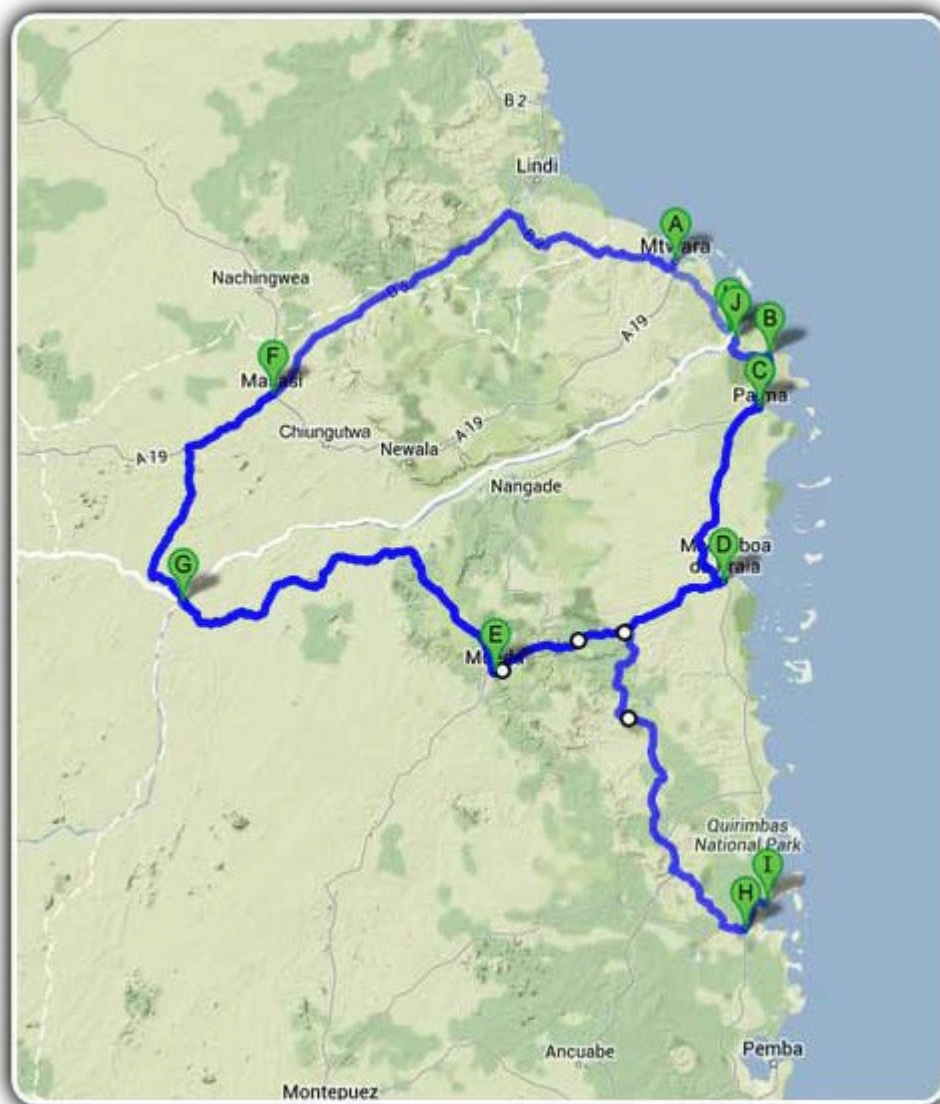
One crossing is at the south of Mtwara, Tanzania (*Point A on the Map*), where there are small boats available. This is exclusively used for people travelling by public transport.

The two others are presently more adequate for people travelling with their own vehicle. *Negomano (Point G on the Map)* south of Masasi, Tanzania, where there is the Unity Bridge and an immigration outpost. And *Kilambo (Point J on the Map)* where there is a vehicle ferry.

If travelling by boat, there are immigration officials at Msimbati (Tanzania) and at Palma (*Point C on the Map*) and *Moçimboa da Praia*, Mozambique (*Point D on the Map*).

To Ibo from Tanzania

From Tanzania to Ibo routes Map



- *The route passing through the points F, G, E, H, I, is the route crossing the border over the Unity Bridge*
- *The route passing through the points A, J, B, C, D, H, I, is the route crossing the border over with the ferry.*

TRAVELLING BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

If you are using public transport you should travel via **Mtwara** (*Point F on the Map*) where you will need to spend a night. There are plenty of places to sleep nearby the main bus station for around USD 10.

You can organize a pick up straight to the border (Ask your hotel) to leave the following day early morning. This should cost you around USD 6 per person. You will need to stop before the border crossing to stamp your passport for exit purposes. Once you reach the river, you will need to negotiate with the boat operators. This should cost around USD 8, although they will probably start at USD 40. Do not be aggressive in the negotiation as this will not take you anywhere but be patient. The crossing takes approximately 20 minutes.

Once on the Mozambican side, you will need to walk for approximately 2km to the border custom offices where there will be pick ups waiting for passengers going towards **Palma/Mocimboa da Praia** (*Point C & D on the Map*). Make sure to check where the pick up terminates. The journey from **Quionga** (*Point B on the Map*) on the Rovuma River to Mocimboa da Praia should not cost you more than USD 13.

You will probably have to spend a night at Mocimboa da Praia. If so, we recommend spending the night at “Chez natalie” as it is by far the most welcoming and charming place in Mocimboa da Praia. If you need Meticaís (Mozambican Currency) Mocimboa is the first place you will find with ATMs. You may also decide to exchange dollars on the black market. If so you will find a large number of traders. Be sure to check the official exchange rate before hand.

When ready to pursue your journey south, take the early (4 o'clock) daily bus to Pemba (it is called Mecula). If you get a seat it is an easy ride that should not take you more or less 6 hours to reach Pemba.

if you are feeling adventurous and would like to get to Ibo Island on the same day, talk to the bus controller and explain your plan. They will let you off at the village named “29 de Outubro”. From there you will need to make your way towards Mahate by hitch-hiking, which you will probably have to pay. Make sure that the vehicle you are taking is stopping in villages such as Bilibiza, Mahati or Quissanga (*Point I on the Map*) as if you can not arrive on Ibo Island on the same day, at least you will have a basic place to rest and nourish. Once in Quissanga, you are only 7 km away from the port where you can take the boat to Ibo.

*Be aware that if this is your plan, it is imperative to contact us to check the tides and to organize a boat, as you might get to the coast and find at low tide.

TRAVELLING BY BOAT

You can try and hire a Dhow to get to Mozambique from Tanzania. Find out information locally in Tanzania's dhow ports of Mikindani, Mtwara and Msimbati.

For further information about the rest of the journey, check the section, travelling “By Public Transport”.

TRAVELLING BY OWN TRANSPORT

Crossing the Rovuma with a ferry:

The road from *Mtwara (Point A on the Map)* to the border is in reasonably good condition. There's a vehicle ferry at *Kilambo (Point J on the Map)*, operating at high tide. During the August to November dry months, the boat can only cross at high spring tides as it requires a minimum of 3 metres to cross. It is advised to check the tides in advance as you could get stuck for a few days.

Most of the waiting time is due to the offload, as the crossing itself only takes 20 minutes to 1 hour. 7 cars fit on the ferry. It cost approx USD 15 for the vehicle and one driver in addition there is an extra USD 0.30 to be paid per passenger.

In Mozambique, the road is unsealed, but in reasonable condition from the border to Palma, a mix of tarmac and good dirt from Palma to Moçimboa da Praia, and tarmac from there to Pemba.

Crossing the Rovuma over the Unity Bridge:

Unity Bridge was built in the middle of nowhere in memory to 5 independence fighters who swam over the Rovuma River at exactly that point. However 300 km down the river both sides of the border have tarred roads connecting to the river...

The condition of the roads connecting the bridge to the main road-network of both countries are still unsealed and could therefore be difficult during the rainy season.

From *Masasi, Tanzania (Point F on the Map)*, drive down to *Negomano (Point G on the Map)* border crossing. If you leave early in the morning from Masasi, you should be in *Mueda, Mozambique (Point E on the Map)* in the afternoon. You should however make sure that you obtain your Visa in advance as it is not yet possible to get a visa on the Mozambican side. You will probably have to spend one night in Mueda which unfortunately does not offer much comfort at this present time.

From *Mueda/Mocimboa da Praia (Points E/D on the Map)* drive down towards Macomia/Pemba. Continue until reaching the village named "29 de Outubro", where you will see on your left hand, the back of a large sign with a red background and white letters written "ADPP". This sign is posted on a dirt road. There turn left on the dirt road towards Bilibiza. Once in Bilibiza continue on the same road, you will reach the village of Mahate after 30Km. There you will find another "T" junction:

Turn to the left in direction of *Quissanga (Point I on the Map)*. Once in Quissanga still at the top of the hill find a road sign indicating **Tandanhangu** on the left. follow the road until you get to the bottom of the bay.

TRAVELLING BY PLANE

Currently only one schedule airline, **LAM** (Linhas Areas de Moçambique) is flying from Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) to **Pemba** (Mozambique). However smaller airline companies can fly directly from Tanzania to the Quirimbas (coastal aviation). The flight time from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania to Pemba, Mozambique is 1 hour, 22 minutes.

Flights from Dar Es Salaam (J. K. Nyerere Airport) to Pemba (Pemba Airport).

Day	Departure	Arrival	Flight Number	Aircraft
Tuesday	16:15	16:25	TM463	B737
Thursday	16:00	16:45	TM2453	J41
Saturday	15:50	19:10	TM465	B737

* For further instruction about how to get to Ibo from Pemba, refer to the pdf file "To Ibo from Pemba"