

## 17.11.2019 Morrungulo Beach Resort

Slowly we continue our drive southward, today to Morrungulo which is about 180km away. The road is to our surprise in a good condition without a single construction site. Before we depart Soraya advises us strongly to adhere more than strictly to the speed limits, which means in a 80 km/h zone we should rather drive only 60 km/h and in a 60 km/h zone only 40 km/h. She stresses more than once, that the police is always on the lookout for a bit of pocket money and very often they tempered with the calibration of the speed cameras, so they show a higher speed than you actually drive.



In the afternoon we arrive at the Morrungulo Beach Resorts and camp site. It's a huge resort directly located at the beach with many coconut trees. We have to choose our parking position carefully, as a falling coconut can cause a lot of damage. Not only destroyed windscreens or sun roofs also our solar panels are at risk. Even fatalities occur by falling coconuts (but not here in this resort).





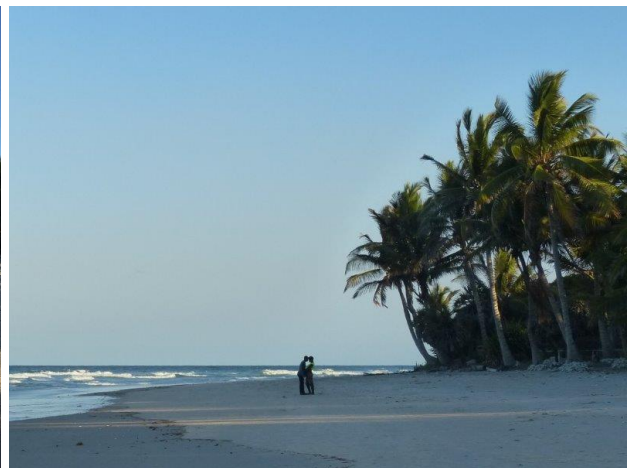
Quickly we get to know our very friendly South African neighbors, a group of two families. The two gentlemen are so fascinated by our Unimog, they both even crawl under the truck to inspect it from down under and admire the portal axles. That's first timer even for us. Later we have a chat and also are invited for dinner.



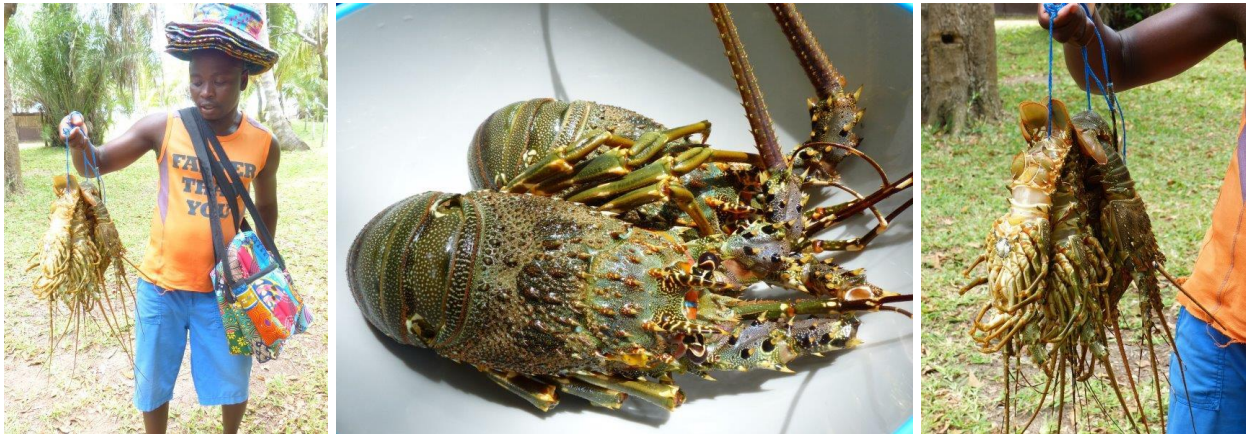
When we get to the beach it's a big surprise. Now we know where the Pick-up full with young people went. Today is Sunday and the village youngsters have a party on the beach.... Every weekend there is a beach party, but unfortunately every time they leave tons of rubbish behind we learn from the resort owner.



On the left hand side of the beach is the big party, but on the other side of the beach something else is going on...



One of the beach boys is offering us fresh crayfish and we cannot resist. However, we can resist his bracelets, hand bags, sunhats and other treats he has on offer.



As it is time to go to bed, both of us start to have a sore throat and our noses get stuffed up. How strange is that.

### **18.11.2019 Morrungulo Beach Resort**

The night was a nightmare, we both develop strong flu like symptoms, blocked noses, cough, having cold and hot chills, we cannot sleep instead we are tossing and turning in bed.

In the morning it gets worse, we develop headache and joint pain. We are pretty down and feel just sick. How can we get so sick so fast and both at the same time? Incredibly, not only we have flu like symptoms, also our South African neighbors, who arrived at the campsite yesterday a few hours earlier than us, got sick overnight as well with the same symptoms. Suddenly we remember that Angela and Carlo have told us about a very idyllic campsite where both of them fell quite sick. We ask them and they confirm that it was indeed at the „Morrungulo Beach Resort“ where they got so sick it was worth mentioning. We hear the staff working in garden coughing and sneezing too.

We are sure that this cannot all be a coincidence. Is there such an aggressive flu virus which makes you sick within hours? The incubation time of a flu is normally 1-3 days, but not 1-3 hours. We do a little research and have a strong suspicion that Legionella bacteria are the culprits. These bacteria are responsible for the so called Legionnaires' Disease or Pontiac Fever. In both cases, the symptoms are similar to a heavy flu infection, only with Legionnaires' Disease people develop a lung infection as well, after one week the symptoms should have subsided and everything should be fine again.

Legionella are breeding in lukewarm standing water and are waterborne, people inhale the bacteria when taking a shower or brushing teeth. From time to time one hears about a legionella outbreak on a cruise liner...



The resort here is very big, about 60 chalets and a large camp site. Now during low season there are only a few guests, the water is standing in the large tanks and is not consumed fast enough. The temperatures are high which means ideal conditions for the bacteria to reproduce. We learn that most water systems have legionella bacteria in them, it's their high concentration which leads to an outbreak of the Pontiac fever.

We feel very bad and spend most of the day in bed, the situation is the same with our South Africa friends.

### **19.11.2019 Bonito Bay**

We want to escape from this possibly highly contaminated resort and check in at the Bonito Bay Camp, just 3km further south.

Our neighbors have informed the owners of the resorts this morning about our suspicion, but they showed no understanding. The only comment of the owner was that they should take their bacteria back to South Africa where they came from. This is not very professional. Actually, the water should be tested. We are sure that many more guests of the Morrungulo Beach Resorts will fall ill, especially with Christmas high season coming up soon.

The Bonito Bay Resort has no dedicated camp sites, but one is allowed to park between the chalets and use the bathroom and kitchen of a chalet. A friendly staff starts to seriously fire up the donkey so we have hot water soon. The resort is deserted, later we meet an elderly couple who only speaks Portuguese other than that there are very few staff and no other guests.



We still feel rather sick and sleep a lot to get better.

## 20.11.2019 Bonito Bay

A thunderstorm in wee morning hours wakes us up and we get our first rain since weeks. The good news is that it cools down, but the bad news is that our roof window seems to leak as water finds its way through our ceiling lamp onto our bed!

In the afternoon it stops to rain and we find out that the seal of the roof hatch is possibly to blame for the water coming in. Water is getting into the roof hatch housing, from there into the cable trays and finally dripping through our ceiling lights. Luckily, we had no shortcut...At least we now know the problem, but we'll have to deal with in at a later stage. Let's just hope it won't rain too much.

The chalet has such a unique architecture it is worth mentioning. The architect has built the hut in a way that the main pillar is exactly in the middle of the hallway, bathroom and kitchen are in the back.



One has to always watch out not to hit that pole and squeeze past the pole. Such an obstacle in this position is just not on your mind. With the dim lighting inside we can't see much and there is always a chance to still run against the pole.

## 21.11.2019 Praia do Barra

Almost recovered we drive to the Inhambane peninsula. Inhambane is the so called "Province of Coconut Palm Trees" and features some of the most popular beaches of Mozambique.





On route, we pass through some villages and towns like Maxixe and can witness some of the village life. It is still fascinating to see what the women can balance on their heads: cooler bins, crates of drinks, bowls of fruits, but we have also seen half filled sloshing water bottles, a pile of ceramic plates or pallets of raw eggs.



We cross the Tropic of Capricorn, which is running along the 23<sup>rd</sup> latitude south of the equator and is the Southernmost point where the sun stands exactly on the zenith. An exact vertical pole would not create a shade in any direction. The sun reaches this southerly point on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December the start of summer in the southern – and winter in the northern hemisphere. It is also the southern boundary of the tropics located between the Tropic of Capricorn and the equator.





The mango sellers are getting more and more. Here are so many mango trees, that the mangos just fall from the trees and rot on the ground, just like apples in Germany. What a piiiity! We stock up seriously on mangos because one can only buy the whole bucket and not just two or three.





Soon we reach Inhambane, a rather quiet provincial capital already founded in the 11<sup>th</sup> century when the Arabs set up a trading post here which was served with their dhows. In the year 1560 the Jesuits founded their first mission in Inhambane. However, the golden era of the city was in the 18<sup>th</sup> century when the first slaves were shipped from here to America and an ivory trade was established.

Inhambane is a pleasant and laid back city, people are dressed well, meetings take place in a restaurant and no one is begging. We take our time to explore the city and the large market ,Mercado Municipal'.





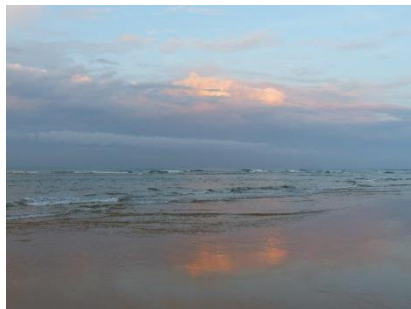


After we leave the city we still drive 27km to Ponta da Barra, a beach on the northern tip of the peninsula. We pass a lagoon and many holiday resorts of which at least half is closed or in ruins. Here to campsites are located next to each other, we choose 'Areia Barra', both camps look similar and are equally empty.



The tip Ponta da Barra is sheltered from the open sea and the wind. It takes a few minutes to cross the dunes and reach the sea, the shallow beach is very wide and looks picturebook perfect. Eric, the son of the South African camp site owners, adopts us immediately after our arrival. Probably he is a bit bored without any other kids to play with. He shows us the shortest way to the beach where he convinces a local fisherman to give him the small zebra fish they caught for his aquarium.

We have never seen so many crabs on the beach, they are very fast and hard to catch.







The disadvantage of the nearby estuary is that as soon as it's getting dark, flying ants and mosquitos are swarming around us, so we eventually have to retreat into the safety of the car. As we are parked well protected from the wind, we are experiencing a rather hot night in the cabin as there is no wind to cool us down a bit.

**22.11. Tofo**

Our next destination is Tofo, one of the most popular beaches of Mozambique. Indeed we see more tourists here than anywhere else so far on our trip.

There are no tarred roads in Tofo yet, but it caters well to the tourist industry. Many shops, markets, dive operators, bars and even a Japanese restaurant can be found here. No wonder so many tourists like it here.

The only campsite in Tofo „Fatima's Nest“ is however located in a courtyard without sea



view and without any cooling breeze. The reason why we only stay one night, even so the village of Tofo is very nice.



We definitely ordered the larch beer ...

