

What Pemba and Iris Harvest School is like

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1. Pemba

Pemba is a hot, bustling tropical city of 300,000 plus. Summer is from October to May, and ‘winter’ from June to August. The summer is wet and humid with daytime temperature typically in the high 30s C (~100 F), falling about 5 C (10 F) overnight, and this is the height of the malaria season. The winter daytime temperature is around 26 C (79 F), falling to 20 C (68F) by dawn, and has less malaria. Rain is rare but it is still humid. Pemba is on a peninsula and boasts beautiful white sandy beaches—the classic tropical paradise physically, with a sea temperature of 25-27 C (77-82 F) which is great for swimming.



The population seems to be 95% African. There is an increasing population of Westerners due to economic growth, increased tourism and humanitarian work. Some shop owners are Indian or Pakistani. The locals speak Portuguese (the European version, not the Brazilian version), and also Makua or another African dialect. Few of them speak much English beyond “hello”, and fluent English is rare. It is advantageous to learn Portuguese.

The culture is a friendly, hospitable and generous one. There are a few moderately wealthy people and a lot of very poor people. The economy is recovering from the effects of the protracted civil war which ended about 18 years ago. There are many signs of economic health—small supermarkets, numerous stalls at the markets with a fair range of products, mobile phone networks, lots of vehicles and taxis, building work, etc. But there are also many signs of poverty, with large numbers of barefoot, uneducated villagers without the means to support themselves. Theft is common, but usually non-violent.

Strangely, Pemba keeps the “wrong” time for its longitude; that is, the sun is at its highest soon after 11am, not at noon as it should theoretically be. This means it gets light soon after 5 am (in June) and gets dark about 5pm.

2. The Iris Base at Pemba

Iris has two bases in Pemba. Base 1 is where some long term missionaries, some older Iris children and the Mozambican Bible College students are housed. Base 2 is called the “Village of Joy”. They are 10 minutes walk apart.

All the Iris Mission School students are housed at the Village of Joy. Within the Mission school compound, females, couples and families live in the 12 purpose built houses and male students are accommodated in the House of Peace. House parents are assigned to each house.

Also at the Village of Joy is the accommodation for the Iris children, other long-term Iris staff, the Visitors Centre, prayer-house, Mission school classroom, large church building, kitchen, school buildings, sewing centre, clinic, playground, soccer field, a horse corral, water wells and other administration and construction buildings.

3. The Iris Harvest School Course

The Iris Harvest school course is about 10 weeks long. Sessions are held in the morning between 8am and 1pm, Monday to Thursday with the afternoons off for spending time with the Iris kids and Mozambicans and learning from and working with them as well as giving time to process, shop and rest! Fridays are called Practical Missions Day. Students get the opportunity to work alongside a long term missionary in an area of their choice such as roofing, jail, hospital, village outreach, drama, baby house, mercy ministry, sewing school etc. There are also sessions in the evenings on a Monday and Wednesday where guest speakers are invited to share. Tuesday nights are House Nights where each house gets to share, have fun and sometimes have a meal together.

It is light by 5.30am and generally noisy from 7am onwards. Most students utilize 6-7.00am for quiet-times. Mealtimes for the Iris children are whenever the gong sounds, which is 6am-ish for breakfast, 12.30pm-ish for lunch, and 5.30pm-ish for dinner. Harvest School students usually eat shortly after that.

During the 10 week course, each student will go on one outreach. These are rotated, so there is always at least one group going out each week and usually two.

4. Outreaches

An outreach group consists of a “colour group” of about 10 to 15 students, a similar number of Mozambican Bible College students and one or two Iris staff.

For a weekend outreach, everyone piles onto the back of a truck on Thursday afternoon, drives for up to 4 hours, and arrives at some remote village around dusk. Usually, the sound system is set up and loud music quickly draws a crowd. The “Jesus” film (2 hours) is shown during which the students pray, followed by a gospel message (sometimes preached by one of the students), and an altar call for salvation and healing. Salvation responses are very frequent, and healings are usual. The next day can usually be spent walking around the village, praying for people who are sick, playing with the kids and interacting with the mamas and papas, before showing the movie again in the evening. Saturday is mostly spent travelling home.

Most villagers do not speak any Portuguese, let alone English. They speak Makua or sometimes, another African dialect. Communication requires two interpreters: English-to-Portuguese (usually a westerner), and then Portuguese-to-Makua (a local pastor or Bible School student).

Village children love playing with things like a frisbee or bubbles, which can be a great icebreaker. They love seeing themselves on a digital camera screen. It is necessary to take one’s own tent, sleeping bag and gear, drinking water, toilet paper, and snack food. The ideal tent is not dependent upon tent pegs to stay up, because the ground is not always suitable for tent pegs. Although most villages have latrines (a small hole in the ground over which you squat and take careful aim), some do not, which means you find a place in the nearby bush.

Villages tend to be noisy until late, with children playing around the tents. The noise starts again at cockcrow 4 AM and is in full swing by 6 AM, so earplugs are a big help for sleeping.

Most students chose to go dirty and unshaven for the three days. Another option is to wash all over in one’s tent with wet-wipes. For most students, villages are very

friendly and the outreach is a highlight, but for a minority it was tough because of illness (e.g. diarrhea) or an unreceptive village (e.g. a mocking spirit).

5. Living Conditions for Students



Accommodation

The 12 houses for students in Base 2 are all very similar. There are three rooms that provide a variety of accommodation. The smaller room can fit a bunk or a double bed, and the other two rooms can accommodate 3 bunks or a double bed and bunk according to the combination of students and families attending. One bunkroom may be used for a family with one double-bunk and a double bed or a married couple. These rooms are small.

There are two bathrooms with a shower in each. In some houses one is for one of the bunkrooms (or family/couples room), and the other is for everyone else and adjoins the living area, which is a combined kitchen/dining area. It is high-density accommodation by Western standards.

There is no glass in the windows, just bars and netting to keep out the mosquitoes and bugs although it does mean that the noise and dust float in. There is an overhead fan which makes the house a bit cooler. The walls are plastered breeze-block and the roof is a single layer of a corrugated inert material.

These houses seem fairly basic by western standards, but they are very luxurious by Mozambican standards. Permanent building materials are very expensive in Mozambique, so houses like these cost around US \$20,000 each to build.

Due to increase in student numbers, Iris is continually building a variety of accommodation for students. This includes a section of housing for couples (one bedroom rooms that share a communal kitchen and bathroom), a housing section for the men that includes bedrooms that accommodate 12 men each with a communal kitchen and bathroom, as well as a section for the women with bedrooms shared and a communal kitchen and bathroom. There is incorporation of

Mozambican men and women in the Mozambican bible school into these areas as well.

Appliances.

Each house in Base 2 has a fridge with freezer which is shared by the housemates. There is a gas stove/cooker with 4 burner rings and an oven; gas cylinders may be exchanged for full ones at the base kitchen. There are electric ceiling fans which are mildly effective. There is no air-conditioning, no electric cooking, no kettle (though you could buy one), no microwave, no phone, no stereo or TV/video.

Furniture.

Bunk beds with mattresses are provided, along with a table and plastic chairs for the kitchen/living area. Most kitchens have some sort of unit for storing food and utensils in. There are virtually no cooking utensils. There is no furniture in the bunkrooms other than the beds, and not much hanging or storage space. Students need to be creative in finding way to store and hang their clothes.

Electricity.

The power is generally reliable. It is 240 volts, which is the same as UK and Europe and Australia and New Zealand, but different from North America which runs on 110 volts.

Any North American appliances brought either need to be dual-voltage (happy to run on either 110 or 240 volts—which most laptops, i-pods, camera battery chargers, etc ,usually are these days, but hair dryers and electric shavers usually are not, so one needs to bring a voltage regulator/adaptor to step the voltage down to 110 volts. If a 110-volt appliance is run at 240 volts it will burn out within minutes. Check the writing on the transformer (black box in the middle of the power cord) to see what voltages are acceptable. Power surges occur occasionally too (e.g. to 500 volts briefly), so students are advised to bring a surge protector if they bring sensitive appliances such as laptops.

The power outlets are European style, which is two round pins and no earth/ground. It is NOT the same as South Africa, which has two round pins further apart and a third round pin for earth. The wall sockets are at the bottom of a recessed round hole, so most travel adaptor cannot access them. The round hole is 40mm internal diameter but has internal protrusions reducing the diameter to 35mm in places and it is 18mm deep.

Adaptors can be bought at Osman's hardware store in Pemba, which access the Mozambican wall sockets and allow one to plug in any continent's plug (US, UK,



Europe or Aust/NZ). These are only 40 metici (US \$1.60). They don't alter the voltage from 240 V, nor do they provide surge protection.

Water.

The water situation is complex. There are taps, showers and flush toilets installed in the houses, for cold water only. However, the water supply is not consistent, so the houses rely on a "high-tech" backup system consisting of a large plastic garbage can which must be filled up at every opportunity when the water supply is going. Short showers are a must. The water is not considered safe for westerners to drink, though the Mozambicans all drink it.

Drinking water is sold to students at the Iris Water Store which is open 2 or 3 times per week and is within the student compound. It is about US\$10-12 for a box of 12 bottles of 1.5L each. Iris maintains a water account for each student. Each student can open an account with a sum of money in mets or US\$, and each time they take away a box of water the cost is deducted from their account or you purchase by the box as needed.

Some students use purification tablets or other system and some of the long termers use a water filter. These can be bought at Osman's but are probably not a cost or space effective option.

Rubbish.

Toilet paper CANNOT be flushed down the fragile toilet plumbing. It must be saved in a plastic bag in the bathroom. Then it, and all other rubbish, is taken to the designated area where it is collected three times a week.

Laundry.

Except for families, students are expected to wash their own clothes by hand in cold water in the laundry area at one corner of the compound. There is a roster for this. Each student has one laundry day per week when they are allowed to wash their clothes in plastic tubs and hang them on the clothes lines. There is a drying area in the laundry area (lines provided, but you need to provide own clothes pins/pegs). Clothes are fairly safe during the day, but clothes left after dark are sometimes stolen. Iris asks students not to hang up clothes in their rooms (mosquito breeding hazard) nor on the porches of their houses (low-class shanty town look).

Families and staff are assigned a "laundry lady", a reputable widow from the local village, who will do a wash for 50 mets (about US\$2) .

6. Shopping in Pemba

Most items of daily living can be bought in Pemba. The biggest supermarket, Osman's,

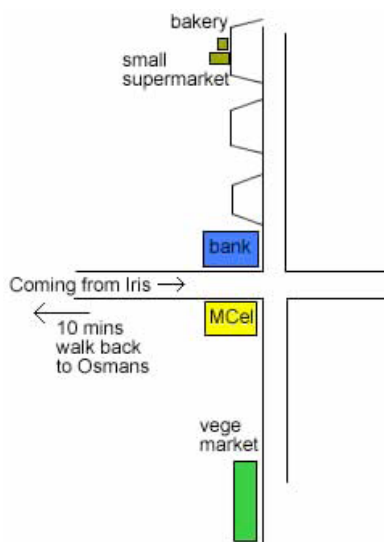


has just about everything, and is a 10-minute taxi ride from Iris. The range of brands and flavors is small, but there will be at least some sort of drinking chocolate, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, cereal, jam, etc. there. Prices are fixed but are relatively expensive, about 1.5-2 times what we are used to paying in the west. The market stalls are cheaper than the supermarkets but prices are not fixed and displayed, which puts us at a disadvantage being viewed as rich foreigners, with no Portuguese and no idea of what the usual price is.

The market is good for fruit and vegetables; bananas, tomatoes, cucumbers, cabbages, onions, green peppers/capsicums and eggs are readily available at reasonable prices. White bread (17 mets) and rolls can be bought at a number of bakeries.

Mobile phones can be bought at MCell (the mobile service provider) from US\$45 upwards, and several students bought these. A SIM card (if you already have an unlocked tri-band phone) is 50 metical (US\$2). Iris provides the initial dishwashing detergent, cleaner for the bathrooms and insect spray to kill bedbugs.

Shopping is time-consuming and some shops shut from 12.30-2pm (lunch/siesta), and on Saturday afternoons, so the best time to shop is Saturday mornings. Prices are generally higher in Pemba, sometimes a lot higher for certain items. Stocks and availability are uncertain.



Getting into town

The easiest way to get there is to wait by the road outside the main gates of the Iris base until a taxi passes by and ask to be taken to MCell; and negotiate a price of about 100 metical before you get into the taxi. It should be about 100 metical

whether it is one person or 4 people going. It is advantageous to have the correct money in your hand when hailing a taxi. Taxi trips at night are more expensive.

The ATM machine is just around the side behind the Standard Bank, and accepts VISA and MasterCard and some other major credit cards.

MCel is the place to get mobile phones working and adding phone credit to the SIM card (See section below on Keeping in Touch). MCell recharge cards are also readily available from roadside vendors.

The fruit & vegetable market is about 200 metres from MCell, on the same side of the road. The market is actually about 10 metres back from the sidewalk, behind a wall, so one must go in through gates to get into the market.

One bakery is about 200 metres beyond the Standard Bank, on the same side of the road, in the third 'bay' of shops, under the sign "Padaria". It is a small shop and doesn't obviously look like a bakery from its window, but if you go inside there is bread behind the counter. This one slices the bread.



Next door there is a small and rather expensive supermarket, "Supermercado" that provides some alternative products to Osmans. The other bakery is along from Osman's and has a small grocery supply at the back of the shop.

Osman's grocery store is where most students buy everything we were unable to buy more cheaply at the market. It is a 10 minute walk back along the road towards Iris, and passes by a number of stalls which sell such useful items as capulanas, buckets, plastic chairs, etc. A few doors down from Osman's grocery store is Osman's hardware/construction store, which is the place to buy the adaptor plug. Students are also encouraged to buy from the local sellers. Products such as shampoo, soap powder, flour, sugar, eggs, tins of food and biscuits can be bought at labeled prices.

7. Money

The Mozambican unit of money is the "metical". At present the exchange rate is around 26 meticals (or meticai) to the US\$1. US\$ are accepted in very few places. They are acceptable at the Iris base for your key deposit (\$50) and your drinking water account.

VISA, MasterCard and a few other credit cards are accepted, and it is easy to withdraw money from your credit/debit card account at one of the ATMs. A

credit/ATM card, is the easiest way to get metici here. US cash is difficult to spend here. Travellers cheques must be changed at the bank and the lines/queues are long.

US currency can be changed at the bank but a more cost effective and time efficient option is to do this at Fatima's grocery shop. Fatima's is near MCEL; walk about 20 metres towards the fruit & vegetable market, and it is on the opposite side of the road. They have no queue; will usually exchange US currency for metici at a more favourable rate than the bank. You must have clean, good quality, recent US bank notes!! There must be no writing or marks on the notes, they must not be overly creased and must be dated 2006 or after. Higher denominations such as 100's and 50's can be exchanged at Fatima's at a more favourable rate than 20's.

For key deposit and water store money it is a great help to the Mission School to have the US cash in the same condition!!

8. Keeping in Touch

Iris does not permit students to connect their laptops to the internet on the Iris base. In town there is an internet café beside the MCEL opposite the Standard Bank, which is also \$5 per hour, air-conditioned and very pleasant. The café allows you to connect using your own laptop (both wireless or by wire), so one can write e-mails on Outlook at home and then just do a send/receive at the café. There are an increasing number of restaurants offering wireless internet to customers.

Mobile phones. SIM cards are cheap (\$2) if you have an unlocked triband phone. Most USA cell phones are locked to a particular network and it is necessary to go to the network provider and pay them to unlock the phone, before you leave the USA. Otherwise it cannot be used on any other network. The little package with the SIM card in it does not tell you your new phone number. You have to text a friend in order to find out your own number! The international code for Mozambique is +258 (where "+" is whatever your country has to dial to get an international line, e.g. 011 from within the USA, 0011 from Australia, 00 from New Zealand etc).

Customer services are all in Portuguese, so this must be switched to English as follows – dial 133 for customer service, then select option 3, then option 2, then option 2, then press * to confirm that you really want to change to English. You need to wait a little for the Portuguese menu to start up each time before pressing the next menu option number.) If you are successful, then next time you dial 133 you will hear menus in English to recharge your minutes/account, check your balance, etc. Mobiles are useful for keeping in touch with other students and for getting hold of Iris/Harvest staff. Texting is cheap within Mozambique.

9. The Beach

Just across the road from the Iris base is a beautiful tropical beach. The sand is fine and white, and the water is warm enough to stay in for an hour without getting chilled. There is no surf. It is a lovely place to swim.

There are hazards. Directly opposite Iris, the beach is rocky, and the sea urchins with their nasty spikes are found among the rocks. It is therefore necessary to go further down the beach (to the right), towards the little huts of the resort, to get to rock-free and urchin-free sand. Swim shoes are essential. Flip-flops (jandals/thongs) are not secure enough for swimming, though sandals attached around the ankle would be okay. It would be a great beach for snorkel & goggles & flippers if you wished.

There are occasionally jellyfish so a swim shirt/rashie is an advantage though most people don't bother. There is some type of worm egg in the dry sand which may burrow into your skin if you lie on the sand for a period of time. Therefore better to lie on a towel.

It is usually a good idea to go in a group of at least 3 or 4, so someone can guard keys and bottles and towels while the others go swimming, and to provide some security from vendors/hasslers.

10. The Students at Iris Harvest

About 300 students from all over the world come to the school. It is great to hear their testimonies of how they got to the school. The nationalities represented are varied and include United States, Canada, British, Northern Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, India, South Africa, Holland, Switzerland, France and Iceland. Most schools have several families with children and some couples without children attend. Most students are in the 18-30 year age group, though there are some in their 40's, 50's, and 60's too".

11. Dress Code

Iris' guidelines have been that women should wear skirts (or dresses) that cover their knees.

Women: The female neck, shoulders and breasts are not considered particularly sexual—sleeveless tops, tank tops, and even breast-feeding in public are quite unremarkable to Mozambicans (**though remember that there are western men among the students**). It would be best to wear tops that aren't too tight with modest necklines. However, the female shape from the abdomen to the knees is considered sexual, and students are requested to be circumspect about how this is presented. Around the Iris base and in classes, long shorts (below the knee) are okay. Three quarter length trousers (Capri pants, i.e. trousers to just below the knee) are very popular.

When going on outreach or if the Mozambican Bible School students are present, at classes on Mondays and Wednesdays, or at Sunday morning church, it is culturally appropriate to wear a skirt/dress/capulana which covers the knees. A capulana is simply a length of material for using as a wraparound skirt. It is the same as a sarong. They can be purchased at the Sewing School at the base or in town. Many students wrap it around over their capri pants when needed. Even on the beach, most women wear longish shorts over their one-piece bathing suits.

Men: It is okay for men to wear shorts, though even these are longish (most of the way to the knee). Men should always wear a shirt (T-shirt or singlet) when outside, even on base, though it is okay to go topless on the beach.

12. Culture Shock

Perhaps “environmental shock” would be a better term as it is more than just the culture which challenges us. It is worst in the first 2-4 weeks, then tends to wear off as one adjusts and adapts and learns.

In no particular order:

Language barrier: The main language spoken here is Portuguese (European version, not Brazilian). Until one learns Portuguese, it is difficult or impossible to communicate regarding even the most basic interactions. The problem is greatest immediately on arrival. Most Americans were at an advantage because Spanish is the most commonly learned second language in the USA, and it is very similar to Portuguese.

Tips:

- See item 14 below – Getting Started with Portuguese for Harvest School. It contains the Portuguese alphabet and pronunciation, and about 50 simple phrases. They are enough to enable you to cope for the entire school, and a good springboard from which to learn more.
- Get a book to learn Portuguese from, e.g. the Lonely Planet Series “Portuguese” (2nd edition, 2006, ISBN 1-74059-213-1, US\$9). Consider also a Portuguese-English dictionary such as Larousse’s.

Mozambicans: There are several different groups of Mozambicans who interact with the students. These include the Mozambican Bible College students, the Mozambican pastors, the Iris children, village kids and vendors. Make friends with a Mozambican “pastor” in the dining room. Most are fairly young and eager to learn English, and happy to help with Portuguese. Visit the Iris children. One can roll up at virtually any time and just say hello. They are mostly very friendly (a few are shy), and some speak good English, and are easy to make friends with. You can take them out if you ask permission first from one of the *tias* (lit. “Aunty”, ie child

care ladies). Note: men are not allowed to go into the girls' dormitories and women are not allowed to go into the boys' dormitories.

It is a very touchy culture. It is normal for children to grab you, hug you, and touch you. It is even normal for men to hold hands as a sign of friendship! However, it is not acceptable for children to pinch, put fingers in faces, slap heads, hit or bite.

Poverty and Begging: Iris staff will advise on how to best give into the situation here in Pemba as giving unwisely has unintended negative effects.

In places where Iris or other Westerners have visited the Mozambicans, especially the children, can often develop an intrusive begging/demanding/dependent attitude to westerners, not seen in other villages. It prevents the development of true friendship and tends to destroy the culture. Giving out money discourages working. If a child is hungry invite them to lunch at the Village Feeding program that occurs each day or to Sunday lunch which is open to everyone.

Crime and Theft: It is important to be security conscious. The student houses are within a walled guarded compound, and each house has a self-locking door and bars on the windows, so items left in one's house are reasonably secure., provided the door is locked when no-one is home. (The bunkrooms are not individually lockable).

Bags and backpacks are attractive to thieves, and *bandidos* (bandits, thieves). It is possible that you could be confronted by a bandido with a knife, especially if you are alone or it is after dark. The knife is usually just to cut the straps on your backpack.

The village children who roam the base are also 'quick with their hands'. Passport and visa documentation should be kept with you (eg notarized copy). Don't bring more valuables to Pemba than you have to. Leave unnecessary valuables in the house when you go out. The house key is best worn on a lanyard around the neck, inside one's shirt. If carrying a large amount of money it is best in a money belt hidden under one's shirt and skirt/trousers. Some women find that a handy place to keep a small mobile phone is tucked into the elastic top of a boob-tube style of dress. Bumbags (fanny packs) under clothing are harder to steal from than backpacks. Backpacks are of great interest to bandidos, so stay within a group during the day if you have a backpack, and try not to carry one around at night at all.

Don't leave anything out on the house porches, esp. at night. Don't display your valuables more than you have to (eg cellphone, camera). Don't put things down and leave them lying around unguarded. Zip-up pockets are better than non-zippable ones. Class and church are not totally safe because of the quick-fingered village

children, so everything you take there should either be on your person, or of low value and you don't mind losing it.

Spiritual Warfare: Iris is on the front line and are prime targets for the enemy. Witchdoctors curse them regularly. This may surface as undue sickness, a spate of accidents, or discord among the staff and students. The main defenses are through worship, prayer, the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and personal holiness.

Food: Meals are provided at the Iris base dining room. This is a big concrete building (It echos and is noisy) with tables. The Iris children and the Mozambican pastors all eat here too. Students can eat with their fingers as the Mozambicans do, or with a fork. Sunday lunches can be a bit chaotic because it is open to the entire village. The Mozambican pastors who eat there are responsible and well-behaved and friendly and are good to make friends with and practise Portuguese on, if you can make yourself heard above the happy noise. The food itself is quite tasty.



Breakfast is a bread roll and a cup of black sweet tea. Lunch is a bowl of rice, and beans. Dinner is rice with a variety of toppings such as fish or a spinach-like stew, called matapa or a cabbage-like stew or occasionally chicken. The servings of rice are large. The diet is very starchy, and low in fibre, vegetables, fruit and certain vitamins (eg. vit C). Constipation is quite common and some people choose to take regular laxatives. Most students supplement the dining room food with fruit and vegetables and bread and other foods from Pemba city. Iris encourages students to eat with the Bible School students as often as possible in order to build relationship, and not to eat at outside restaurants more than once or twice per week.

Students often eat in their own houses either dining-room food or food from Pemba and Iris doesn't mind that. Reasonably-priced meals of more familiar foods can be found a short taxi-ride away at the *Hukuna Matata* and *Russell's place*, at *The Dolphin* restaurant (on the beach), and at *The Nautilus*. Iris students are not allowed to use the facilities of the Pemba Beach Hotel because of abuses by previous students; the only exception is its *Clube Navale* restaurant where students are welcome to buy a meal. The pool there is unfortunately out of bounds to Iris School students.

Heat: The temperature is pleasant and tolerable for the June-August (Southern winter) school, although it can be quite hot on occasions. For the October-

December (Southern summer) school, it is very hot. Some people enjoy the heat, but many find it uncomfortable.

Tips:

- light-coloured cool loose clothes, and frequent showers, or dips in the sea;
- showering at bedtime makes it easier to sleep;
- wet-wipes for face and arms;
- leaving the curtains tied up at night to increase ventilation, though this makes it lighter inside and leaving the bunkroom doors open so the light breeze can blow right through the house. If the sun is shining on the roof then the ceiling fans actually make the rooms hotter because they blow down the hot air that collects in the peak of the roof—so better to just open the doors and windows during the day;
- ensuring the sunscreen and bug repellents you bring with you are thin and non-greasy (because thick greasy ones have insulating properties and make you hotter), and wash them off before going to bed;
- use the freezer. Frozen bananas make a great cheap cold snack. (Peel first; leave in freezer) The freezer is much more effective than the fridge at making drinks really cold.
- buying an electric fan: about US\$25 for a short-stemmed one, or US\$45 for one on a pedestal from Osman's store; or they are cheaper in the market or at Fatima's.

Dirt: Most of the ground surfaces around the Iris base and Pemba are dirt, which is a medium brown mixture of fine sand and dust. It stains clothes; trousers and skirts are hardest hit. It gets everywhere—students tread it into the houses, and it blows in through the windows. Occasionally it is very windy and then the dust gets absolutely everywhere.

Tips for coping with the dirt:

- bring khaki brown trousers or skirts so the dirt won't show, or at least fairly darkcoloured clothes;
- nylon (polyamide) seems to take up the dirt less than cotton, so is a good material for shorts/trousers/skirts well);
- bring more trousers or skirts than you would usually need (laundry opportunities are only twice per week);
- keep your clothes and other possessions in variously-sized plastic bags (eg ziplock bags are great);
- sweep the house out every day;
- carry a few wet-wipes around with you, to get rid of that dry dusty feeling on the hands.

13. Taking a Family

Families have a room with a double bed and bunks. To assist they are allocated a laundry lady once or twice a week to help with washing.

Some aspects are fun for children. Playing with other (western) children in the compound is great, as is the communal living with lots of “aunties” and “uncles”, and the beach and the sea. Small children enjoy the fact that Mozambique is one big sandpit, although not many parents necessarily share this joy.

Some aspects can be a struggle as the children may not like the food at the Iris’ dining room. Some take their children to class with them. Some parents take it in turn to attend sessions or stay home with the children. It is very difficult for both parents to attend all sessions. Iris does not encourage children under 10 years old to go on the overnight outreaches as there are just too many uncontrollable factors and the risks are considered too high. Parents can either take it in turn to go on different outreaches while their spouse looks after their children, or they can arrange a babysitter so they can both go at once.

The bunk beds are high as even the lower bunk is quite high (about 80cm), to allow room for luggage underneath. There is no ‘lip’ or railing to stop the sleeper from falling out. The bunks are unsafe for children who may fall out during the night. There are various solutions to this hazard. Some families have moved the bunk beds hard up against the wall and brought the double bed hard up on the other side, so it isn’t possible to fall out on either side (and they don’t use the upper bunk at all); some families have brought railings with them and some families have rigged up a guard ‘rail’ using rope or capulanas.

14. Getting started with Portuguese for Harvest School

Terminology: Portuguese is shown as “bom dia (bong dee-a)”. The pronunciation guide in parentheses has hyphens (-) between syllables, and the stressed syllable is in italics. Where the meaning of each Portuguese word is not obvious, a literal word-for-word translation is given as “(lit. ‘good day’)”.

m masculine	f feminine
sg singular	pl plural

Pronunciation. Usually, the second-to-last syllable is (strongly) stressed. If there is an accent above a vowel, that syllable is stressed instead. Eg. Entendo (eng-teng-doo) =I understand.

Até amanhã (a-te a-ma-nyang) = See you tomorrow (lit. ‘until tomorrow’).
(The tilde accent also nasalizes the vowel, eg Não (nowng) =No/not.)

If a word ends in -i or -u; -im or -um; -l, -r or -z, then the final syllable is stressed.

Portuguese is pronounced a little differently from English. The pronunciation guide provided after each Portuguese phrase tells you exactly how to pronounce it; but this section gives you an idea of how to tackle written words you don't know. There are some exceptions to these general rules.

a aa like a of 'father' if stressed

a like a of 'among' if not stressed, eg nada (naa-da) =nothing.

b b as in 'boy', eg bom (bong) =good (m).

c k like c of 'car' if before a, o or u;

s like s of 'sing' before e or i, or if it has a cedilla below (ç); eg cinco (seeng-koo) = five.

d d as in 'dog', eg dois (doysh) =two.

e e usually like e of 'get', eg ele (e-le) =he.

f f as in 'fat', eg feliz (fe-leesh) =happy.

g g as in 'gap' if it's before a, o or u; eg galinha (ga-leen-ya) =chicken.

zh like s of 'measure' before e or i, eg gelado (zhe-laa-doo) =icecream (lit. 'frozen')

h silent at start of word, eg hora (o-ra) =hour.

y like the second i of 'million' in the middle of a word, eg mulher (moolyer) =woman.

i ee like the ee of 'feet', eg obrigada (ob-ree-gaa-da) =thank you (f).

j zh like the s of 'measure', eg Jesus (zhe-zoosh) =Jesus.

l l as in 'like';

m m as in 'man' at the start of a word; eg mais (maish) =more;

-ng as in 'sing', nasalized and cut short, if not at the start, eg bom (bong) =good (m).

n n as in 'no' at the start of a word;

-ng as in 'sing', nasalized and cut short, if not at start of word, eg Não entendo (nowng eng-teng-doo) =I don't understand (lit. 'no I-understand')

o o as in 'got' if stressed;

oo like 'oo' of 'boot' if not stressed, eg como (com-oo) =how

p p as in 'pay';

qu kw as in 'quack', if the qu is before 'a'; eg quanto (kwang-too) = how much/many;

k as in 'cat' otherwise, eg que (ke) =what

r rr is a rolled 'r' like the French 'r', e.g. rosta (rrosh-ta) =face.

s s as in 'sail' if it is at the start of the word, eg sim (seeng) =yes;

z as in 'ease' between vowels, eg camisa (ka-mee-za) =shirt;

sh as in 'wish' at the end of a word/syllable, eg como está? (ko-moo eshtaa)=how are-you? (the 'e' of está is so light as to be almost silent, and from here on is written as "shtaa" for pronunciation).

t t as in 'ten';

u oo as in 'book' usually, eg um (oong) =a/one.

v v as in 'vat', eg vir (veer) =come.

x sh as in 'wish', eg roxo (rosh-oo) =purple m.

z z as in 'zero' unless at end of word, eg zero (ze-roo) =zero.

sh as in 'wish' at end of word, eg feliz (fe-leesh) =happy.

K, W and Y are absent from Portuguese.

Useful Phrases at Harvest School

Basics

Yes: Sim (seeng)

No: Não (nowng).

Please: Por favor (poor fa-vor) (lit. by/for favour)

Thank you: Obrigada (o-bree-gaa-da) if you are female; men say obrigado (o-bree-gaa-doo).

Excuse me (to get attention): Faz favor! (faash fa-vor) (lit. do favour)

Excuse me (to get past): Com licença (kong lee-seng-sa) (lit. With permission)

Sorry: Desculpe (desh-kool-pe).

Social

Good morning: Bom dia (bong dee-a) (lit. good day) (NB: dia/day is masculine)

Good afternoon: Boa tarde (bo-a taar-de) (NB: tarde/afternoon is feminine)

Good evening: Boa noite (bo-a noy-te). (lit. good night)

Hello/hi: Olá (o-laa).

How are you? Como está? (ko-moo shtaa?) (lit. how you-are?)

I'm well, and you? Estou bem, e você? (shtoh beng, e vo-se?)

My name is... O meu nome é... (oo me-oo no-me e...) (lit. The my name is...)

What is your name? Como te chama? (ko-moo te shaa-ma?) (lit. How you called?)

See you later: Até logo (a-te lo-goo) (lit. until soon).

Goodbye: Adeus (a-de-oosh) (no expectation of seeing them again)

I come from the United States [of America]: Venho de Estados Unidos [da América] (ven-yoo de shtaa-doosh oon-eed-oosh [dam-er-ee-ka]) (lit. I-come from States United [of America])

I come from Canada: Venho de Canadá (ven-yoo de ka-na-daa)

England: Inglaterra (eeng-gla-te-rra)

Australia: Austrália (owsh-traa-lya)

New Zealand: Nova Zelândia (no-va ze-lang-dya)

How old are you? Quantos anos tens? (kwang-toosh aa-noosh tengsh?) (lit. how-many years you-have?)

I'm [22] years old: Tenho [vinte e dois] anos (ta-nyoo [vingt ee doysh] anoosh) (lit. I-have [22] years).

Language difficulties

Do you speak English? Falas ingles? (faa-lash eeng-glesh?) (lit. You-speak English?)

I don't understand. Não entendo. (Nowng eng-teng-doo). (lit. No Iunderstand).

Pardon? Desculpe? (Desh-kool-pe?). (lit. sorry?).

What do you call this? Como é que chamas isso? (ko-moo e ke shaa-mash eess-oo?) (lit. how is what called this?)

Ministry

Do you know Jesus? Conheces Jesus? (koo-nye-sesh zhe-zoosh?) (lit. You know Jesus?)

Jesus loves you! Jesus te ama (zhe-zoosh te aa-ma) (lit. Jesus you loves)

Are you sick? Estás doente? (Shtaash dwent-e?) (lit. you-are sick?)

Can I pray for you? Posso orar para você? (Poss-oo oo-rar paa-ra vo-se?) (lit. I-can pray for you?)

Come Holy Spirit! Vem Espírito Santo! (Veng shpee—ree-too sang-too!) (lit. Come Spirit Holy)

How are you now? Como estás agora? (ko-moo shtaash a-go-ra?) (lit. How you-are now?)

Thank you, Jesus! Obrigada, Jesus! (o-bree-gaa-da zhe-zoosh!) (Men say obrigado, Jesus (o-bree-gaa-doo zhe-zoosh)).

Problems with unruly children

You shouldn't be here: você não pode estar aqui (vo-se nowng po-de shtaaa-kee) (lit. you not can be here)

(Please) leave: sai (por favor) (saa-ee poor fa-vor))

That's enough!: chega! (shay-ga) (lit. enough)

No hitting: Não bate! (nowng baa-te) (lit. no you-hit)

Don't touch: Nao toca! (nowng to-ka) (lit. no you-touch)

Go and sit down: vai sentar (va-ee sen-taa) (lit. you-go you-sit)

Shopping

Where is ...? Onde é ...? (ong-de e...?)

How much is it? Quanto custa? (kwang-too koosh-ta) (lit. how-much cost?)

Can I have (a) ..., please?

Pode-me dar (um) ..., por favor? (po-de-me daar (oong)..., poor fa-vor?) (lit. can-you-to-me give (a)..., for favour?)

Yes please: Sim, por favor (seeng, poor fa-vor)

No thank you: Não, obrigada f / Não, obrigado m (nowng, o-bree-gaa-da f/o-bree-gaa-doo m)

Numbers

0 zero (ze-roo)

1 um (oong)

2 dois (doysh)

3 três (tresh)

4 quatro (kwaa-troo)

5 cinco (seeng-koo)

6 seis (saysh)

7 sete (se-te)

8 oito (oy-too)

9 nove (no-ve)
10 dez (desh)
11 onze (ong-ze)
12 doze (do-ze)
13 treze (tre-ze)
14 catorze (ka-tor-ze)
15 quinze (keeng-ze)
16 dezasseis (de-za-saysh) (lit. ten-six)
17 dezassete (de-za-se-te) (lit. ten-seven)
18 dezoito (de-zoy-too) (lit. ten-eight)
19 dezanove (de-za-no-ve) (lit. ten-nine)
20 vinte (veeng-te)
25 vinte e cinco (veeng te seeng-koo) (lit. twenty and five)
30 trinta (treeng-ta)
35 trinta e cinco (treeng-ta e seeng-koo)
40 quarenta (kwa-reng-ta)
50 cinquenta (seeng-kweng-ta)
60 sessenta (se-seng-ta)
70 setenta (se-teng-ta)
80 oitenta (oy-teng-ta)
90 noventa (no-veng-ta)
100 cem (seng)
125 cento e vinte e cinco (seng te veeng te seeng-koo) (lit. hundred and twenty and five)
200 duzentos (doo-zeng-toosh)

Recommended further reading:

- Lonely Planet Series, “Portuguese”, 2nd edition 2006, ISBN 1-74059-213-1 (US\$9). This excellent little phrasebook (with brief intro to grammar, and small dictionary section) uses the same helpful pronunciation guide for each word as used in this file. Its dictionary section really needs to be supplemented by an additional Portuguese-English dictionary.
- Larousse Portuguese-English Concise Dictionary ISBN 2-03-542001-6(US\$17) is good but is rather large (780g, nearly 2lb) and uses the official funny phonetic ‘alphabet’ to give the pronunciations, which must be learned on pages X-XI. It is better than the (much lighter) Berlitz Portuguese Pocket Dictionary which offers no guide at all to the pronunciation of each word.
- Essential Portuguese Grammar by Alexander da R. Prista ISBN 0-486-21650-0 (US\$6) first published 1966, is a light, short (107 pages), simple paperback of the essentials of Portuguese grammar for those wanting to go a little further than the Lonely Planet Series does.