



Driving Directions

+27 66 398 6928- Lodge Contact Number

+27 72 246 6386- Reservations Contact Number

LODGE COORDINATES

31°17' 17.552" S 30° 0' 39.045" E

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO GWEGWE BEACH LODGE FROM EITHER DURBAN, KING SHAKA AIRPORT OR BALLITO VIA PORT EDWARD

- Travel down the N2 in a south-westerly direction to Port Edward following the coastal highway all the way.
- Drive straight past Margate.
- About 40km before Port Edward, you can make a last coffee stop or shop at the large Shelley Beach Mall (off to your left-hand side). It is best to refuel here.
- Once through Port Edward, you leave KwaZulu-Natal by driving over the Umtamvuna Bridge and enter the Eastern Cape Province. Continue past the Wild Coast Sun / Casino on the R61.
- Travel inland through Redoubt then Bizana.
- At the first big T-junction, turn left and back onto the N2 towards Flagstaff, Lusikisiki and Port St Johns.
- Turn off left to Mkambati about +1.5km before Flagstaff at the top of a hill. Do not go into Flagstaff – the traffic is hectic! There should be a sign at the top of the hill for Holy Cross and maybe Mkhambathi.
- Follow signs to Holy Cross Hospital and then Mkambati (or Mkhambathi). The last 47km or so is on a dirt road.
- You will be asked to sign in at the main entrance gate for Mkambati Nature Reserve and pay a R34 pp park fee in cash.
- Once inside the reserve, you will be on a concrete strip road.
- Don't stop at the main administrative centre and keep travelling straight on the concrete strips towards the coast.
- As one drives down the ridge towards the sea, keep an eye open for the first turning to your left.
- Turn left onto another strip road and keep going all the way to GweGwe Lodge where the strip road stops.

NOTES:

Drive time: Depending on your vehicle, it should take around 5h30m to 6 hours plus time for any stops on the way.

NB: When driving in the Eastern Cape, every school has hectic speed bumps that have lost their paint so are often difficult to see. The trick is to drive 50m or so behind a taxi or another local vehicle and watch their brake lights. That will tell you where to slow down to avoid hitting these speed bumps at speed and also any potholes.

The drive through to GweGwe and Mkambati takes you through attractive rural countryside with just 30km on dirt roads. Please ensure that you are driving a car with a reasonable clearance that has a full spare tyre (and not a "biscuit" / temporary tyre). While a 4x4 is a nice-to-have, it is not essential, and a crossover may be suitable depending on the model. Overall, the key is decent clearance.

The emergency contact number for GweGwe Beach Lodge is 066 398 6928 It is best to send a WhatsApp message to this number if you are lost, require additional directions or any other assistance.

Emergency Contacts:

Heather - +27 82 336 8716

Chloe - +27 74 364 5567

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO GWEGWE BEACH LODGE FROM JOHANNESBURG VIA KOKSTAD

- Take the N3 for Nottingham Road or Howick and overnight in one of the Midlands lodges, hotels or B+B's.
- The following day continue on the N3 and turn off just past Mimar Dam onto the R617, travelling through Bulwer, Underberg for Kokstad with the 'Berg' on your right.
- Travel through Kokstad looking for signs for Umtata / Mthatha, driving past Mount Currie Inn. Please refuel in Kokstad before continuing onto the N2 aiming for Brooks Nek following signs for Umtata / Mthatha.
- At around +6.8km from Mount Currie you will enter the Eastern Cape Province and a further +6.7km from the border on the N2, you will need to be on the lookout for the turnoff onto the R394 for Flagstaff / Lusikisiki / Port St Johns. Use your Waze or Google Maps for directions in conjunction with these directions.
- Turn left off the N2 by turning sharply backwards onto the R394. That tight 270-degree left turn will direct you towards Flagstaff, Lusikisiki and Port St Johns. Continue on the R394. From now on, its best to follow a taxi or a local driver as they will know where the (painful) speed bumps are.
- Approximately +1km before Flagstaff at the crest of a hill, you turn left to Holy Cross. There should be a small sign at the turnoff at the top of the hill for Holy Cross. Do not go into Flagstaff – the traffic is hectic.
- Follow signs to Holy Cross Hospital and then Mkambati following signposts and Google Maps. The last 30km or so to the reserve entrance is on a dirt road. Drive slowly and you will be fine.
- You will be asked to sign in at the main entrance gate for Mkambati and pay a R34 per person park fee. Once inside the reserve, you will be on a concrete strip road.
- Don't stop at that main administrative centre, keep travelling straight on the concrete strips towards the coast. (The administrative centre used to be the old hospital, parts of which were built over 100 years ago. So, it's a bit derelict.)
- As you drive down the ridge towards the sea keep an eye open for the first concrete strip road to your left. Turn left onto this concrete strip road and keep going all the way to GweGwe Lodge where the strip road ends



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DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO GWEGWE BEACH LODGE FROM EAST LONDON

- The drive from East London's King Phalo Airport to GweGwe Beach Lodge is about 480km and takes approximately 7 hours 30 minutes.
- The best route is east on the R72 to Fleet Street in central East London. (DO NOT TRAVEL WEST TO THE BUFFALO PASS ALTERNATIVE ROUTE! It is dangerous.)
- From Fleet Street, turn left onto Currie Street and continue for about 6 km until the N2 ramp to Mthatha.
- Travel 220 km into Mthatha. Do not stop on the highway. Beware of stray animals. Beware of vehicles driving on the wrong side of the road where there are double lanes.
- The Shell Ultra City in Mthatha is relatively safe for a comfort break, but do not leave your vehicle unattended for long. Make sure it is locked. Hide valuables from sight.
- Do not visit the Mandela Museum or any shops in Mthatha. Travel along Nelson Mandela Drive until the Mthatha Mall on your right. After the mall, turn left into Dr Dan Pasiya Street. NB Keep your windows closed and doors locked while driving through Mthatha.
- Turn right at the Total Fuel Station and Steers – R61 to Port St Johns. NB. These roads are often not marked.
- Travel to Port St Johns (about 90km). Do not stop for bogus police officials. A roadblock will have signs and cones to demarcate it. A single person who jumps into the road in a blue outfit and reflector vest is generally not a policeman. If you are pulled over by a suspicious policeman, do not turn off your vehicle, but partially unwind your driver's window and inform him that you will drive slowly to a police station or fuel station ahead.
- About 5 km before Port St Johns, turn left onto the Pondoland Bridge that crosses the Mzimvubu River.
- Take care on the windy road to Lusikisiki (40 km). Beware of big speedbumps. The first ENGEN fuel station on the left as you enter Lusikisiki is a relatively safe stop for refueling. It has clean ablutions and reasonable coffee.
- Travel to Flagstaff (about 45 km). Beware of high speedhumps. Keep windows closed and doors locked throughout the journey. Flagstaff may be congested. Be patient.
- About 500 metres outside Flagstaff, take the right turn to Holy Cross Hospital and Mkambati Nature Reserve. Travel about 40 km on tar but beware of potholes and speedhumps. Continue on a poor gravel road from Mtontsasa Police Station to Mkambati Nature Reserve (about 30 km).