



Important information about your visit to Kosi Bay

Beaches at Kosi Bay:

Kosi Bay is a protected area and falls under iSimangaliso Wetland Park.

No organisms may be caught or removed from the rocky or sandy shores. This includes bait, marine fish and any other organisms for aquariums.

- Bhangane beach is currently the only beach that can be reached by a normal vehicle.
- Kosi Bay mouth can be accessed by a normal car up to the bridge area.
- Visitors need to beware of tide changes when traveling down to the beach, as part of the road to Kosi Bay mouth could be underwater during high tide.
- You will need a 4 x 4 vehicle or 2 x 4 (with diff lock) with high clearance to travel to the following beaches: Black Rock, Lala Nek and Rocktail Bay

Swimming safety:

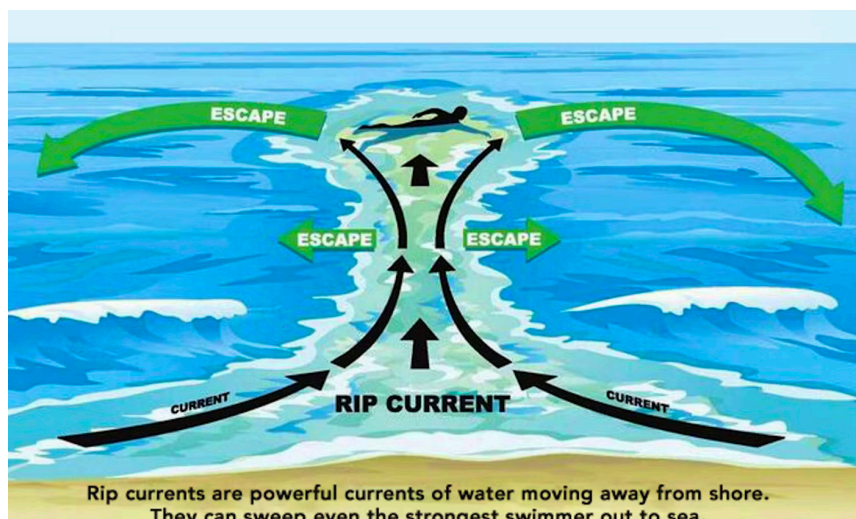
Please be aware that there are no lifeguards at any of the beaches. You swim at your own risk. It is advisable to only swim during low tide as there are very strong rip tides during high tide and spring tide.

What are Rip Tides?

- What appears to be the safest/calmer place to swim is usually a rip.
- A rip is usually the area with NO wave activity, it appears darker and deceptively calmer.
- Sometimes it can appear milky or turbulent but it always has little or no wave activity.
- Rip tides are at their worst during high tide, spring tide, and very windy days! The best and safest time to swim is normally during low tide, that's when the sea is more calm.

Always take 5-10 minutes to observe surf conditions and identify where these areas are. Look at which direction the wind is blowing (on-shore or off-shore). Speak to a local about conditions and safe areas.

Educate children and make them aware. One can't always be watching them, and it is only a matter of a few metres each way of the point of entry to the water that could mean them being safe or instantly caught in a rip.





How to manage your way out of a rip:

- A rip always pulls you away from the shore, yet it will not pull you under the water.
- Never try to fight the current back to shore. This is a natural instinct to save yourself, but it will tire you very quickly, increasing your chances of drowning. Float on your back and raise one arm as a distress signal.
- Instead, swim parallel to the shore, directly across the rip channel where the deep water is pulling you out to sea. Once you get out of the deep channel, use the breaking waves or whitewash to be pushed back to shore. When you get out of the deep water that forms the rip, you may even be able to stand on a sand bank to gather your energy.
- If you're unable to escape the rip by swimming across it, remain calm and tread water, until you're taken beyond the breaking waves. You can also swim out to sea with the rip, knowing that you will be taken just behind the waves. You will then be able to use the force of the waves and whitewash to be pushed to shore.

Stonefish:

There are Stonefish inside the Kosi Bay mouth aquarium and physical contact with them can be extremely painful. Please be exceptionally careful in this area.

Entry permit:

All visitors entering the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, Kosi Bay Mouth, Black Rock, Bhanga Nek, Rocktail Bay, Lala Nek and Island Rock Beach are required to pay the iSimangaliso entrance fee and to have an entry permit in their possession.

Permit costs:

Permits can be obtained from the Ezemvelo Parks Board Office on a first come first serve basis at a cost of R60 per person and R56 per vehicle.

- It is advisable to apply for a Rhino Card as you will only pay a R5 conservation fee per person for a beach permit. The cost of the Rhino Card is R250 per person and R230 per pensioner and you can apply online at www.kznwildlife.com.
- This permit is valid between sunrise and sunset only i.e. 06h00 – 18h00.
- All entry gates and internal access control booms are closed and locked between 6h00 and 18h00.
- Visitors are requested to leave in good time to exit before the gates close.

Permit limits:

The following number of permits are issued daily on a first come first served basis. Prior bookings may not be made.

- Kosi Bay Mouth: 16 Vehicles
- Black Rock: 12 Vehicles
- Rocktail Bay: 5 Vehicles
- Lala Nek: 5 Vehicles
- Island Rock: 5 Vehicles



Dog Point and Castle Rock Beach:

These beaches fall within a sanctuary area and may not be accessed either by vehicle or by foot. No activity may take place within this activity zone. Parking on the dunes above these areas is also an offense.

General regulations within the park area:

For the safety and benefit of you and other visitors to the park, the following are not permitted:

- Pets
- Fires, except in designated braai areas
- Collection of firewood. Please use your own charcoal or wood to braai in designated braai areas
- Generators
- Loud music
- Littering
- Driving on the beach
- Tampering with fish traps is illegal. The traps are private property
- The purchase or sale of any fish, sea shells, plants, rocks and firewood
- Visitors may not destroy or prune any vegetation to enlarge or create parking
- Alcohol is not permitted on the beach or any public area
- Bright torch lights are discouraged on the beach during turtle nesting season between 1 October and 1 April
- Please be aware, when taking photos of some of the local residents, that they are very sensitive to such matters and may either be very unhappy if they are photographed without permission or feel they require payment for any photo taken

Speed limit:

Please do not exceed 40km/h, as you will be driving through community areas. Watch out for pedestrians, especially children and livestock.

Monkeys:

Please do not feed the monkeys. Feeding them is cruel as they become a threat and will have to be destroyed.

Plants:

It is an offense to pick, uproot, collect or be in possession of, or damage any plants within the reserve.

Contravention:

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and the SAPS will be conducting roadblocks on an ad hoc basis throughout the area to ensure visitors' safety and compliance with the regulations in terms of enabling legislation. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife staff may issue J534 (spot fines) for any contravention.

Reception:

Cell phone communication is very poor throughout the reserve. It is advisable to download the area map for directions to the various beaches in case you lose reception while traveling. Please note that there are no marked signs for directions to any of the beaches.

Horses:

Horses/horse riding is not permitted in the park area.

**Quads & Motorcycles:**

Motorcycles, 4-wheel motorcycles (quads) and 3-wheel motorcycles are not permitted in the park area.

Aircraft and drones:

No aircraft may be flown over the park this includes microlights, paragliders, gyrocopters and unmanned aerial vehicles (drones). This includes the use of drones to take photographs.

Canoes, kayaks or jet skis:

Not allowed at Kosi Bay mouth estuary area. Only local tour guides with legal park concessions are allowed to operate canoes and kayaks in this area.

Malaria:

Kosi Bay is a low-risk malaria area.

- You can take precautions by wearing long-sleeved shirts and trousers after dusk
- Use insect repellents, citronella candles and mosquito nets
- Your pharmacist will be able to prescribe you prophylactic medication

Consult your doctor if you experience flu-like symptoms or diarrhoea and vomiting after visiting the region.

Fishing permits:

- Marine recreational fishing permits are required and are obtained from the Manguzi Post Office
- Fishing from a boat in lakes 1,2 and 3 is allowed whilst lake 4 is a wilderness area with no unauthorized entry
- No fishing is permitted in the Northern sanctuary area from 200 meters south of Kosi Bay Mouth to "13 North" and a Southern one from Bhanga Nek Point south to Dog Point
- Cast nets are not permitted
- Vehicles are not permitted on the beach

Night fishing:

- Permits must be obtained from Ezemvelo Parksboard for night fishing
- Guests are allowed to enter at 17h30 for 18h00 and exit at 22h00 or they can fish until 06h00 the next morning but pay camp-site equivalent

Spear fishing:

- Spear fishing permits are required
- Spear fishing is limited to 400m around Kosi Bay mouth and from Bhanga Nek to "13 North"
- Spear fishing is not permitted within the Kosi estuary

Bait:

- No organisms may be caught or removed from the rocky or sandy shores, this includes bait
- Sand prawns may be pumped by permit holders in the Kosi Bay lakes
- No live bait may be brought into the reserve

Kosi Bay gillies:

No camp gillie under the age of 18 may be employed. They may not act as tour guides and may not pump sand prawns unless they have a bait license.



Launching of boats on the lake system:

- In accordance with SAMSA regulations only people with valid sheltered waters skippers' tickets may launch their SAMSA registered boats on the lake system.
- The launch register at the launch site must be completed
- Launching fees are payable at Ezemvelo Parksboard
- No canoes/kayaks or sailing powered crafts are permitted on the Kosi lakes due to the presence of hippos and crocodiles. There are limited registered tour guides with concessions that have permission to use kayaks and canoes on the lakes and estuary
- Jet skis, aqua pods or hovercraft may not be launched on the lake system
- Boats are to give hippos enough space not to feel threatened

Mthando channel:

- This channel links Nhlange (3rd lake) and Mpungwini (2nd lake) and is a critical feature of the Kosi Bay lake system
- Speeding in this channel is therefore a serious offense. Please travel dead slow!
- It should take at least 20 minutes to pass through this channel
- Remember to keep to the right-hand side at all times

Lake Sibaya:

- No vessels may be launched in Lake Sibaya
- Kite surfing and driving along the edge of the lake is strictly prohibited

Safety:

- Please keep your valuable possessions safely in your camp
- Remove all your equipment from your boat when not in use

Launching of boats into the sea:

- Kosi Bay area is part of the Maputaland Marine protected area
- In accordance with the Marine Living Resources Act, no vessel including fishing skis, canoes or kayaks may be launched in the Maputaland Marine protected area
- The closest approved launch site for private vessels is Sodwana Bay

Security in Kosi Bay:

- Every effort has been undertaken by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife in liaison with SAPS to ensure you enjoy a safe and secure visit to the reserve. However, you should be aware and take all the normal security precautions you would when visiting any city, town or resort in the Republic of South Africa
- Be aware of strangers and suspicious behaviour and do not offer lifts to strangers
- Be alert whilst visiting informal taverns
- Please report all incidents and emergencies. SAPS Manguzi (035) 592 0103/2000.

Mozambique border:

- A valid passport and vehicle papers plus Third Party vehicle insurance is needed. (Visas and Third Party vehicle insurance can be purchased at Kosi Bay border post)
- No need for Visas for South African citizens, but certain countries would need to have a valid visa



What vehicle do I need to explore Kosi Bay?

If you don't have the right vehicle a transfer can be arranged at an extra cost.

There are some lodges that you can reach with a normal vehicle, however, you will need either a 4x4 or 4x2 vehicle with diff lock to explore the beautiful area. You will need a 4x4 vehicle to go to Black Rock and Rock Tail Bay beaches.

Road conditions:

The gravel main roads are hard surfaced and rough and must be travelled at a speed that is conducive to your vehicle. The roads to the beaches and lake areas are sandy.

It is advisable to lower tyre pressure to at least 1.4 bar to make it easier to drive in sand.

When to go to Kosi Bay:

- Winter temperatures are moderate with beautiful days
- March to June is the best
- October can be windy (the lakes can become too choppy for boat trips)
- Swimming and snorkelling are possible all year round.
- Summer has more rain and temperatures can rise above 30 degrees
- From mid-November to mid-January the first female Loggerhead and Leatherback turtles come ashore to lay their eggs. From January to March you can see turtle hatchlings.
- Between July and December Humpback Whales and Southern Right Whales migrate along the coast. They travel north to Mozambican waters and then come back again on their way south to Antarctica. The Humpback Whales are curious and playful as well as acrobatic.

What to pack for your Kosi Bay holiday:

- Kosi Bay is a snorkeling paradise, weather and tide dependent
- Bring masks and fins if you have them, alternatively, book a snorkelling activity as the snorkelling gear can be supplied
- Diving shoes are also a good idea if you don't have snorkel and fins, to protect your feet from rough rocks and Stonefish

It gets hot in Kosi Bay. Remember the following:

- Sun hat and sun block
- Old t-shirt or rash vest to snorkel with
- Closed walking shoes with a good grip to prevent you from slipping on slippery rocks
- Bird guide book and binoculars if you are a keen bird watcher
- Camera or GoPro for taking underwater photos

Basic medical kit:

- Pain tablets
- Imodium
- Antiseptic and antihistamine cream
- Antihistamine tablets if you suffer from allergies
- Insect repellent, citronella candles and mosquito nets



The following shops are available in Manguzi:

Grocery stores

Spar
Boxer
Cambridge
Shoprite

Pharmacy

Temba Nkosi Pharmacy
Shoprite Chemist

Liquor stores

Spar tops
Shoprite
Boxer liquors

Fast food

Steers
KFC

Hardware shops

Build-It Ephondweni – Manguzi
Cashbuild
Kosi Bafana Bafana Hardware

Courier Service

Courier Guy- Manguzi

Gas

Kosi Bay Gas Afrox- Manguzi

Hospital

Manguzi Provincial State Hospital:
(035) 592 0150

Doctor

Dr. Najen Moodley – Manguzi Medical Centre:
(035) 592 0462
Dr. Qwabe: (035) 592 0285

Mabika Renal Solutions (Pty) Ltd

Dialysis – Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
Thabani Mabika: 083 287 5106

Dentist

Dr Mbelu – Manguzi Medical Centre:
(035) 592 0462

Petrol Stations

Total
Engen

Banks

First National Bank
ABSA
Capitec Bank
Ithala Bank
Nedbank & Standard Bank ATM's

Blue Horizons cleaning service fee breakdown:

The full day fee will be applicable anytime the cleaning lady is asked to do washing, even if only half day clean-up is performed. Kindly refrain from paying any cash directly to the cleaning lady.

Half day (included in the price)

- cleaning dishes
- cleaning up kitchen
- tidying up house
- sweeping
- making of beds

Full day (R120 per day)

- laundry
- cleaning up kitchen;
- tidying up house
- sweeping
- making of beds
- mopping floors
- cleaning bathrooms