

DIRECTIONS JHB or DURBAN TO NHOXANI via KOSI BAY BORDER: 12-14 Hours

Most visitors wishing to drive to Nhoxani have recommended that the best driving option is to travel from JHB or Durban to Kosi Bay border post and then drive up through the Elephant Reserve. This trip can take you 12-14 hours in peak season. It may be worth breaking the journey on the way in with an overnight somewhere en-route and near the Kosi Bay border. This means you can get to Nhoxani by mid-day on the arrival day. One does not want to arrive at the Ele Reserve gate after 15h00 and arrive in the dark. The gate also closes half an hour before sunset.

Herewith various suggestions for directions from Durban side you pass Richards Bay, Matubatuba and turn of left at Huhluwe / Sodwana turn off. At stop, take a right over bridge and follow road into village. At 3rd circle take a left passing TyreMart & Buildit on your right and take a right not far from there. Over rail track and keep going straight. Hluhluwe to Manguzi / Kosi Bay +/-150km.

Beware of cows and goats on this stretch of road.

At Mbazwane / Sodwana keep going straight, 42-45km you get to a circle and take the exit to Manguzi / Kwanganazwe./ Kosi Bay. 22km from circle you can stop refuel and have a nibble at Total Garage / Steers. Alistair McCann (+27823375668) is the Manager / owner and can assist if you need directions en-route or general info.

From the Total garage it is 18km to the border post, operating hours 08H00 to 17H00 sharp. From border post follow the new tar road north to Maputo. If you are going to overnight in Ponta take first turnoff to your right, no sign yet but you cannot miss it. Follow road straight into Ponta do Ouro.

If you are going straight to Santa Maria ensure you have enough time for travel. Reserve gates open/close in summer 06H00 / 18h00 and winter 07H00 / 17H00. You have two options / Routes. One option is via the Southern or Gala gate. Another option you use the Futi / West gate.

WEST GATE OPTION

There is a smallish brown sign for the elephant reserve Futi gate entrance just before a long left bend in the road. The turn off is to you right onto a small dirt road taking you to the main gate. If you get to a bridge, Futi River on the tar road, you have gone too far. Turn around and look for the smallish Futi gate sign to main gate. From there follow overhead power lines.

SOUTHERN GATE OPTION

I use 1st option route as my preferred route. Please note that if you follow a Gps please ensure you go to Gala Gala and not Gala gala eco lodge in Ponta do Ouro. For the Gala gate turn-off be on the look-out for a smallish brown sign. Take turn off and follow dirt road straight to gate, +/- 30min drive. See fees to pay attached. From there follow sand road straight +/- 30km to Northern gate. From Gala gate, +/- 19km you should see the overhead power lines which you follow all the way to Santa Maria. Here you will join the road coming from the west / Futi gate. 11km to Northern gate. There are a few new signs in the park giving distance to points of interest and many roads but all lead to Rome.

From Northern gate stay left following power lines for just over 35km taking you to Santa Maria. Last 15km could be very sandy and "hard" driving. There are a few blue Nhonguane lodge signs helping and pointing you in the right direction towards Nhoxani Villas. Near Nhonguane Lodge you will see the white signs for Nhoxani Villas.

Enjoy the drive and look out for Giraffe, Zebra, variety of buck, pumba (bush pig) and elephants (to be approached with caution).

Directions, courtesy Laurens of Gozo Azul

Shared by Graham Braby:

Directions to Kosi Bay Border Control

- From Durban, take the N2 North to Hluhluwe.
- Hluhluwe is approx. 250 km north of Durban
- Take the R22 off ramp, right over the N2 highway and head through Hluhluwe town, through Mbazwana, to Kosi Border Post. Distance from Hluhluwe to Kosi Bay Border Control is approx. 170 km

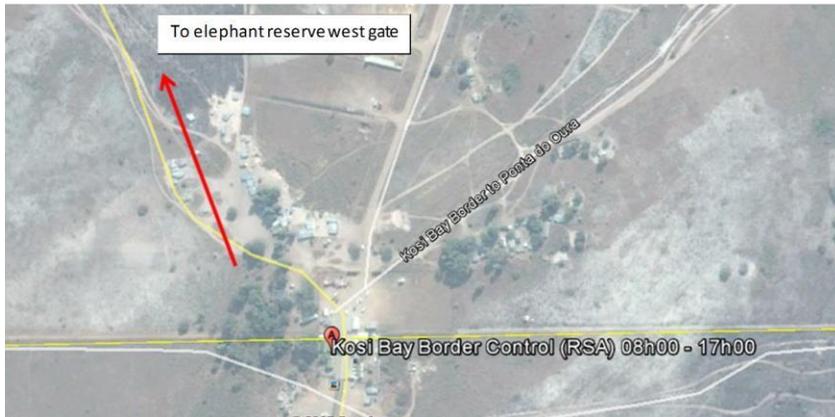
Directions from Kosi Bay Border Control to Nhoxani

You WILL need a proper 4x4 from here. If you are towing a boat, preferably travel in convoy with another proper 4x4 with a strong towing strap, because there is very soft sand in places and quite a few steep rises where you may well get stuck.

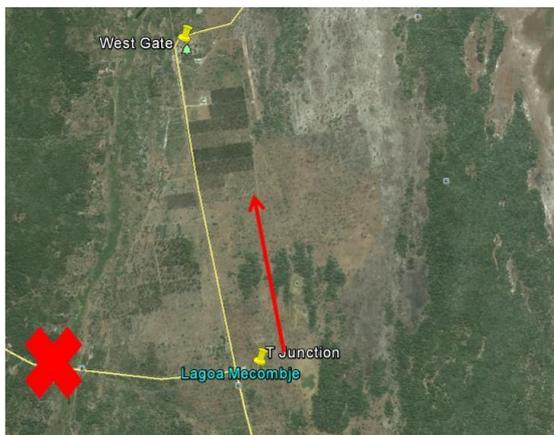
The trip to Nhoxani is approx. 110 km, but it is low range 4 wheel drive for quite a lot of the way. If you are towing a 19 ft boat, be prepared for an 8 hour rough journey. If you are travelling light then you may do it in 4 hours.

Carry a lot of fuel for the return journey. Low range slow work, with a heavy boat on the back, chews fuel. My diesel 3.2 litre Pajero used 3/4 of a tank of fuel to do the trip in one direction only !!!

- As you come out the Moz side of the border post there are 3 dirt road options in front of you. **Roads are not always roads, in many places they are just tracks !!!**
- The right goes to Ponto Du Ouro, Middle goes to Mamoli and onto the elephant reserve south gate (nice route but do not go this way with a boat because you will get stuck in the forest)
- We took the yellow road to the left, which skirts the western side of the elephant reserve.



- This yellow road will merge after a few kms with the route 201 (P522) which is the road from Ponta do Ouro to Bella Vista.
- You are aiming for the West Gate of the Elephant reserve. There were camping facilities at the West Gate, not sure what they are like now.
- The west gate is approx. 40 km from Kosi Bay Border Control
- **PLEASE SEE ATTACHED GOOGLE MAP AND DIRECTIONS FROM KOSI BAY BORDER CONTROL TO ELEPHANT RESERVE WEST GATE**
- **Look out for this T junction below, approx 3 km before you get to the West gate. Do not turn left which is the road to Bella Vista.**
- Go straight on the minor road to the West Gate.



- From the West Gate you will enter the elephant reserve. You are aiming for Santa Maria Village. It's a long slow drive.
- You basically have to follow your nose, follow the route. The power lines follow the route most of the way, so they are an indicator that you are on the right road.
- If you are lost ask locals for Santa Maria, they will point you the right way. I found a hand held compass useful for the places where you cannot see lakes or reference points.
- If you have a GPS with Tracks 4 Africa you will find this quite easy to follow.
- From Santa Maria you are close to Nhoxani.

Road trip to Nhoxani from Ponta D'Oro - Entering through Southern gate of Elephant park.

This is your best option. **This route is not recommended for towing a boat. You can however tow a trailer or Jet-ski**

- During heavy rainfall this route is not recommended because of the rising water level of the lakes that you have to drive through. Please check that all the passports have been stamped by Immigration on SA and Mozambican side.
- Ponta border post time. 08h00 - 17h00, Elephant Reserve gates open at Sunrise, close half an hour before sunset.
- Deflate the vehicle and trailer's tires
- Immediately turn left once through the border post. It will look as if you pass through a taxi rank. **26°51'83.60"S 32°49'76.20"E**
- After about 8,5km turn right at Ponta Mamoli sign. **26°46'44.20"S 32°48'60.8"E** Drive for 3km until next turn off.
- Next turn off is to your right. **26°44'97.60"S 32°49'21.80"E** Short tar road for about 3.2km.
- Turn off to your left at **26°44'23.70"S 32°51'01.40"E**
- Entering Elephant park through south gate. **26°36'46.90"S 32°50'62.90"E**. Entrance fee is R133 per person and R133 per vehicle. (This fee has to be paid again on return if you stayed longer than 2 nights). (Fees are subject to change) Follow transmission lines. *Remember to keep your receipt to display at gate when returning. Otherwise you have to pay again!*
- Drive for about 19km until you get power pole no. 353. **26°26'70.30"S 32°51'45.30"E**. Turn right.
- Drive for about 44km to Santa Maria town. Turn right. **26°06'13.34"S 32°55'37.82"E**. Follow the Torres camp signs. Keep left.
- Beach: No driving on the beaches is allowed. You can drive all the way to the house you are staying at at Nhoxani.



The road is narrow for the last 500m.



SA High Commission in Maputo for advice or assistance on +258 21 49 0059/3030 or their after-hours duty officer on +258 84 304 4600.



Ponta do Ouro 🚩
08:00-17:00