

# RESEARCH CAMP

## **RATE BASIS**

Room only: includes accommodation, 15% VAT and Satour Tourism Levy. Excluded from the rate are all meals, all drinks, gratuities, optional extra activities, park fees.

## **LOCATION**

- Located Just outside of the iSimangaliso Coastal Forest Reserve, 8km North from the Manzengwenya iSimangaliso Park offices.
- Midway between Kosi Bay to the north and Sodwana Bay to the south.

## **ACCESS**

### **SELF-DRIVE BASIS**

Approximate driving times to/from Coastal Cashews (no stops or other variables like weather, traffic, etc. taken into consideration):

- Durban Airport +/- 5 hours
- Richards Bay +/- 3 – 3.5 hours
- O.R. Tambo International Airport +/- 9 – 10.0 hours

For Coastal Cashews to Research Camp a further approximate 40 to 60 minutes needs to be added to the above driving times, thus making the total drive time from Richards Bay to Gugulesizwe Research Camp at approximately 4.5 to 5 hours.

All self-drive guests must have a confirmed reservation prior to arriving in camp.

Self-drive guests with their own 4x4 vehicles may drive directly into Research Camp. Parking in camp at own risk.

Guests travelling in 2x4 vehicles, however, must make use of our private transfers to/from camp, utilising Coastal Cashews as the pick-up and drop-off point. While the parking area at Coastal Cashews is fenced, guarded and secured at night, please note that all vehicles parked here are at the drivers own risk.

Private transfer (to/from the camp and Coastal Cashews) and rates are quoted on request and must be booked and paid for in advance. Gugulesizwe & Research share two open-top Landcruisers (game viewers) carrying maximum of 10 people each. We offer various transfers, quoted on request. We do not have set transfer times and will be scheduled at the camp except for Coastal Cashews pick-up must be arranged when making a booking.

Due to the fact that we only have two vehicles we will prioritise Coastal Cashews pick-ups and drop-offs, and then the excursion transfers. Please be aware that if multiple transfers are required due to differing arrival/departure times guests will be charged accordingly. We will work together with the guests in camp to schedule the transfers as best as possible but please be aware that there are limits due to the amount of vehicles.



Please note that the transfer vehicle will wait for approximately 15 minutes and if the lodge has not been contacted regarding a late arrival the lodge vehicle will depart. Another vehicle will be sent when available at an extra cost.

All guests opting to self-drive to Research Camp must supply Maputaland Travel with contact details, plus departure point and proposed route, in order for the camp staff (if needed) to assist should guests not arrive at the estimated time. It is vital that guests are provided with, and careful note is taken of, the self-drive directions provided by Maputaland Travel as it is not possible to rely solely on a GPS device due to the nature and conditions of the access points/road conditions within the park.

For guests who self-drive to Research Camp directly and do not require the private transfers to Coastal Cashews, an additional fee per vehicle per entry is payable directly at the camp. There is no vehicle fee applicable for guests flying directly into the camp airstrip or those that fly into Richard's Bay Airport on a scheduled commercial flight and are then transferred by a touring company to Coastal Cashews.

**PLEASE NOTE THE GPS COORDINATES FOR COASTAL CASHEWS: 27°12'35.97"S 32°35'24.94"E.**

As the area is remote, we recommend guests travel with a mobile phone. Please note, however, that not all areas have mobile phone coverage and after Hluhluwe (when travelling northwards) signal is intermittent and difficult to access (once away from the main roads, generally only Vodacom users will have reception). At Research Camp specifically, there is only Vodacom coverage and no MTN or Cell C signal. Please contact Maputaland Travel for further details.

Closer to the time of travel, we recommend that you contact Maputaland Travel with regards to road conditions which may be affected by seasonal changes, e.g. high rains.

**HABITAT AND WILDLIFE  
ISIMANGALISO WETLAND PARK – RESEARCH CAMP**

Research Camp is situated in Maputaland on KwaZulu-Natal's north-eastern seaboard, a diverse region of forested dunes, wetlands, sandy beaches, woodlands and warm seas. It lies just outside of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, one of South Africa's World Heritage Sites which spans a range of ecological zones. Situated offshore is the sanctuary of the Maputaland Marine Reserve with prolific marine life, spectacular coral landscape, and dolphins and whales.

Few sections of the South African coastline are as unspoilt and secluded, and the area is known for its superb, pristine dive spots as well as the loggerhead and leatherback turtles that come to lay their eggs and hatch on the beaches. The land is a low-lying coastal plain, lined with ancient coastal dunes that are considered to be amongst the tallest vegetated dunes in the world; these are swathed in lush green forest with a variety of animals, birds and plant life that provide a natural counterpoint to the bushveld.



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Common reedbuck frequent the marshes and grasslands, red duiker live in the forest areas, hippo are found in freshwater lakes, and whales and dolphins are often seen offshore. Birding is outstanding, with a number of typical coastal forest species – Green Twinspot, Green Malkoha, Grey Waxbill, Purple-crested and Livingstone’s Turacos.

## GAME VIEWING

As the camp is situated within a coastal forest reserve, this is not a traditional terrestrial game viewing area, however, birding is excellent. The snorkelling opportunities are outstanding. October to March sees loggerhead and leatherback turtles come ashore at night to lay their eggs. June to October can produce wonderful sightings of humpback whales during their annual migration.

## ACTIVITIES

- 40 kilometre beach (approximately 15- to 20-minute drive from the main area).
- Bird watching
- Surf/rock fishing (guests are to please bring own equipment including tackle; no equipment is provided). Fishing licenses/permits are required for both conventional fishing and fly-fishing. These are not sold in camp and must be obtained, prior to arrival and in person, from the nearest National Post Office. Please note that the offices of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife National Parks no longer sell these.
- Swimming (at own risk, as there are no life guards).
- Swimming and snorkelling at Lala Nek (only during low tide). Snorkelling equipment provided.
- Beach picnics with catered option (tide and weather dependent)
- Outdoor movies (weather dependent)
- Guided Forest walk with palm tasting
- Walking (guided on requested) and running trails
- Children’s guided adventure walk
- Children’s local cuisine cooking experience
- All above activities are unguided, unless specified.

\*Please note that no activities are arranged to take place off camp premises on either the 1st January or 25th December. All activities, on said days, will be camp-based only, with guests remaining in camp. In addition, the following activities are not permitted within the reserve: surfing, boardsailing, launching any type of boat, lighting fires, driving any type of vehicle on the beach.

## CAMP DESIGN AND FACILITIES

- Kitchen and dining area
- Pool
- Open-air lounge area
- Braai area

## ACCOMMODATION

Number of Rooms: This camp accommodates 8 guests, subject to concession numbers and/or concession availability.

4 x rooms in total comprising:

- 4 x twin-bedded canvas rooms each with two three-quarter beds



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## CATERING

Research Camp has a well-equipped kitchen for self-catering. A catered option is also available at Research camp, charged additionally. The catered option includes:

- Light Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Catered option excludes drinks except tea and coffee. Light breakfast, lunch and dinner (Excludes drinks except tea and coffee. We try our best to focus on conservation and preferably provide sustainable, plant-based organic meals. Guests are welcome to bring their own meat for our chef to cook).

## ROOM DESCRIPTION

- Canvas rooms on a concrete floor, with sandy pathways on the ground.
- En-suite facilities with an indoor shower.
- No air-conditioning - however, a small fan is provided in each of the rooms.
- During winter months blankets are provided.
- Pillow, flat sheet, fitted sheet, blankets and shower towels are provided.

## ELECTRICITY

- 220V electrical lighting is provided.
- There are 220V plug points in the rooms which can be used to charge batteries and for sleep apnoea machines and other electrical devices. All equipment needs to be able to accept 220V power or have an adaptor to convert the 220V to 110V. Please bring spare batteries, necessary adaptors and charging cables.

## CHILD POLICY

- Children of all ages are accommodated and may partake in activities with all other guests.
- The minimum age for scuba diving is 8 years in the pool and 10 years in the open sea.

## LAUNDRY FACILITIES

- We do not offer laundry for guests.

## SMOKING POLICY

- Our Smoking Policy refers to both regular cigarettes and electronic cigarettes. Smoking in the camps/lodges is permitted in selected areas only. While not visibly marked, these areas will be identified by our by camp/lodge staff. Please note that we have a strict No Smoking Policy in our main area, on vehicles and guest rooms (including private rooftop areas), except on the verandas. On activities a stop will be made for refreshments, at which time smokers may have a cigarette. Fires are often the result of discarded cigarette butts as the dry African bush ignites very easily and the resulting flash fire/s are hazardous to both animal and plant life. While that risk is not the same for electronic cigarettes, the use of electronic cigarettes on our vehicles is similarly not allowed as this may negatively impact the experience of a fellow traveller.

## PAYMENT FOR EXTRAS

- Extras can be paid for with cash (ZAR, US Dollars, GBP Sterling and Euro) MasterCard, Visa and American Express credit cards. If paying cash, change will be given in Rand, the South African currency.
- Cheque debit cards and Diners Club credit card are not accepted.



# RESEARCH CAMP

## GRATUITIES GUIDELINES

Tipping is not compulsory. If, however, you would like to tip because you have received good service, we have enclosed a brief guideline to assist you. You may wish to add a nominal amount ranging between ZAR 100.00 to ZAR 300.00 per day for incidentals (subject to personal budget choice) – i.e. if additional activities are booked once on your journey, if travel arrangements change for any reason, in acknowledgement of good service received in another area, etc.

- Guides – ZAR 120.00 per person per day
- Housekeeping and Porterage – ZAR 50 per day

We would like to emphasise that tipping is not a requirement and should be undertaken only by choice, dependent on the service received.



THE SLOW LIFE

