

Amangwane Kosi Bay

Our community camp is a rustic haven in the dunes surrounding the lakes of Kosi Bay and is situated close by the northernmost entrance to the Wetland Park and in the heart of the welcoming Thongaland community. We are just outside the gate to Kosi Bay mouth (a 10-minute drive from the beach).

Your accommodation is in cool reed chalets, each with twin beds and en-suite toilet and shower. An al-fresco dining area and fire circle is the perfect place to relax, unwind and make the most of the warm days and the starry nights.

The accommodation is basic. We do not have mains electricity and rely on solar power or generator for lighting in the evenings and the charging of batteries. We provide comfortable beds and linen etc, but we ask that you bring your own toiletries and beach towels.

This is a non-luxury destination for the adventurous traveller – come to love beautiful Kosi Bay.

GENERAL INFORMATION

BOATS

There is no boat access to the Sea from Kosi mouth, and the nearest lake launching site is from the KZN Wildlife camp on Third Lake (about 45 minutes drive, if you are towing, from our camp). If you wish to bring your boat, you are welcome. You will need to have category C safety equipment and your inland waters skippers ticket.

DIVING

There is no diving permitted from Kosi Bay. The nearest dive site is Ponta do Ouro just over the Mozambique border, or Sodwana Bay (about an hour's drive south of Kosi Bay).

ACCESS

There is a good tar road through to Kosi Bay. The last 4 kms of the drive is a graded dirt road to the camp. You can get to us with any vehicle except perhaps sports cars with very low clearance. We are 10 minutes drive from the Mozambique border and less than 2 hours from Hluhluwe.

PARK ACCESS

We are situated just outside the gate to Kosi Bay mouth. Gate opening times vary but are generally 6am to 6pm (please check as you go in the park). You can organise gate permits with us. The track down to the beach parking area is sandy and only 4x4 vehicles are permitted. It is approximately 3.5 kms to the bay from the gate. We offer shuttles to the beach for R100 pp return (excluding gate fees and pending availability). It takes about 45 minutes to walk between the bay and Amangwane.

MALARIA

Kosi Bay is in a low risk malarial area. We do not generally have many mosquitoes being on a hill and away from any standing water. It is recommended to bring mosquito repellent and lightweight long sleeves and trousers for the evenings. If you wish to take anti-malarial prophylaxis speak to your doctor or local travel clinic. Most people that do choose tablets choose Malarone.

<http://www.santhnet.co.za/index.php/malaria-advice-for-travellers/item/330-malaria-risk-map-for-south-africa-2013.html> is a good place to get more information on malaria.

We do not have mosquito nets permanently up, but do have a few available if you are worried.

FACILITIES and DINING

Amangwane has no electricity and basic facilities. We have a well-equipped kitchen for those of you who are self catering (gas-powered ovens/stove tops and fridges). We have BBQ / braai facilities, a camp fire and a spacious seating area. Please bring your own food supplies & charcoal. If you are booked in on a dinner, bed and brunch package you will have 2 main meals. We have tea and coffee, juice and fruit available throughout the day. Beer and soft drinks are available through the corner shop. If you would like other drinks or snacks you are welcome to bring extra. There are shops in the nearby town (approx 20 minutes drive from Amangwane).

ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES available near Amangwane include:

- Snorkelling trips to the bay – this is one of the top 10 snorkelling sites in Africa – the clear warm waters are perfect. Highly recommended.
- Fish trap visits – one of your hosts, whose family has been in the area for generations, will take you to his fish traps and explain how they work. He will show you how they are made and after explaining how he spears the fish, you are encouraged to try and catch one yourself. What you catch you can keep – we can prepare it for your dinner.
- Elephant Safaris – in Tembe Elephant Reserve. This small but unique nearby reserve lies on the border between South Africa and Mozambique. It is home to the BIG 5, and is especially known for its LARGE elephants, and is also home to the endangered Suni, as well as other more common African wildlife species.
- Canoeing/ Kayaking – the community guides will take you out for an easy paddle on these beautiful waterways.
- Fishing – our guides can show you the hotspots and help with your technique. Bring your own tackle.
- Visit to local school – meet and talk to local kids in the classroom (term time only!).
- Turtle tours – nesting season is between November and February. Cross the lake in the early evening by boat, and take a walking tour with trained community guides in search of nesting loggerhead and leatherback turtles.
- Boat trips – launching at 3rd lake - enjoy the waterways of this large lake system.