



www.mozguide.com

PONTA DO OURO TO MAPUTO
 PROVINCES OF MAPUTO, GAZA AND INHAMBANE.

Published: October 2005

1. Ponta do Ouro.....	2
Emergency in Ponta do Ouro or South of Maputo?.....	2
Money in Ponta:	3
Phones in Ponta:.....	3
Accommodation and Dive Operators in Ponta do Ouro:	3
O Lar do Ouro.	3
Dolphin Encountours.....	3
Planet Scuba	3
Tandje Beach Camp.	3
Coco Cabanas.....	4
Motel do Mar.	4
The Whaler (Inside Tandje Beach Resort).	4
Café del Mar Cabanas.....	4
Simply Scuba (In the Tandje Beach Resort).	4
Scuba Adventures (In Tandje Beach Resort).	4
Kaya Kweru:	5
Brittle Star.....	5
Campismo Niño. (The Nest).....	5
Tartaruga Luxury Camp.....	5
2. Ponta Malongane.....	6
Ponta Malongane Resort. (Parque do Malongane).	6
3. Ponta Mamoli.....	6
4. Reserva Especial dos Elefantes do Maputo. (Maputo Elephant Reserve to you)	6
and the Machangula (Santa Maria) Peninsula.....	6
Accommodation in the Elephant Reserve.....	7
Ponta Milibangalala.....	7
Ponta Torres Camp.....	7

1. Ponta do Oura

Anywhere to the south of Maputo City is at the most 2 or 3 hours drive (and just a few minutes by helicopter) from South Africa – which is really where you want to get yourself to in a hurry in the event of a medical (or other) emergency. For this reason you will notice that almost all of the numbers listed below are for places, people and organizations in South Africa.

How to get there

From Johannesburg simply hop onto the N17 past Springs, Ermelo and Bethal. Head towards Jozini and travel over the Lebombo Hills. Follow the signs to Kosi Bay and the Road runs right up to the border post (8:00am-17:00pm). There's a set of car ports where you can leave your car in relative safety if you do not want to take it across the border. Only 4x4 or high clearance vehicles will make the drive and the occasional taxi or tourist makes the 12km journey to and from Ponta during the day. For those feeling fit enough, the walk will take about 2 hrs but stay on marked paths as there are rumours about uncleared landmines still causing mischief. Almost everybody speaks English, and an understanding of Portuguese (while helpful) isn't necessary.

Emergency in Ponta do Ouro or South of Maputo?

Here are the Important Telephone Numbers:

Note: If dialing from a South African cell (or land-line), dial numbers exactly as below. If dialing from a Mozambican cell to South Africa then add 00 27 and drop the zero in the area code or at the beginning of the cell number. Confused? So let's try the first number below which is Manguzi Hospital 035 592 0150, which would then be 00 27 35 592 0150.

Medical Emergency and Evacuation.

Manguzi Hospital	(035) 592 0150
Pongola Hospital	(034) 413 1372
Empangeni Hospital	(035) 772 1111
Richards Bay Hospital	(035) 789 1234
Nelspruit Hospital	(013) 759 0500
Rescue Aviation Air traffic Control Durban	(031) 469 0005
Port Captain Durban	(031) 337 2200
NSRI Durban	(031) 332 9772
Port Captain Richards Bay	(035) 753 1991
NSRI Richards Bay	(035) 901 3821 or 082 990 5949
AA Emergency Medical Rescue	0800 033 007 (from SA only)
Medical Rescue International (MRI)	0800 015 759 (from SA only)
Netcare 911 (can transfer to Poison Centre)	0800 333 444 (from SA only)
Manguzi Police (SA)	(035) 592 0103
Kosi Bay Border Post	(035) 592 9871
Golela Border Post	(034) 435 1070
Capital Air-- Helicopter Services JHB	(011) 827 0335
JHB	083 266 6106
Maputo	+ 258 (0) 82 303 127

Vehicle Emergencies

Automobile Association (AA) inside SA only	0800 01 01 01
AA Emergency Rescue Services inside SA only	0800 11 19 97
AA South Africa Head Office	(011) 799 1000
Van Wetten Towing Services (Pongola)	(034) 413 2174 or 083 626 1687
Springbok Garage (Pongola)	(034) 413 1536 or 082 893 1353
Mostert Motors (Pongola)	(034) 413 2174 or 082 553 8644

Weather Information

Maritime Weather	(031) 307 4135
Ski Boat & Sailing -- KZN North Coast	082 231 1607
Sodwana Bay 7 day forecast	082 231 1677
Richards Bay 7 day forecast	082 231 1605

Other Useful Numbers

Kosi Bay Spar (Barney or Nico)	(035) 592 0427
Marlin Supermarket (Ponta do Ouro)	082 961 4844
Bula Bula Restaurant (Ponta do Ouro)	092 58 21 650 003
Kosi Bay Lodge	(035) 592 9170 or 083 262 4865
La Lapa (Accommodation near border)	(035) 592 9055
Malongane Water Sports (Kobus Theron)	(034) 413 2305 or 082 570 7600

Money in Ponta:

Rands (best currency to carry in Most of Mozambique) but US\$ and meticaais also accepted. Credit Cards are starting to become useable at the more expensive places, but enquire when booking and there are no ATM's. Strange thing about Ponta is that it is difficult to find someone who will change reasonable amounts of rands or US\$ to local meticaais.

Phones in Ponta:

Public landline and cell phones available. Mozambique cell reception good, SA cell reception only if you take a ride up 'cell-phone hill' about 2km away.

Accommodation and Dive Operators in Ponta do Ouro:

O Lar do Ouro.

South Africa: Tel: 0833257026, Moz: + 258 21 650038. Email: info@pontadoouro.com
Website: <http://www.africaninvitation.com/8060.htm> Clichéd it may be but this is a real home away from home complete with swimming pool (take your feet off that couch you gimlet-eyed dork!). Carry on past Planet Scuba far enough to be away from the mindless masses (during the S.A school holiday periods), but close enough for a nice stroll to the beach action. Janice and Teresa are the attentive and charming owner/operators. Rates: R450 per person, DBB (high season i.e. the S.A school holidays).

Dolphin Encountours.

Tel: Mozambique: +258 82 271 601. Email: adelphicent@mweb.co.za
Website: www.dolphin-encountours.co.za Situated in the Tande Beach Resort adjacent to the beach and almost mosquito free due to the prevailing easterly winds - has an organic, authentic feel about it. Swim with wild dolphins while you still can. Accommodation: Reed and palm rooms and wooden chalets with fan and mosquito net. Shared ablutions. Rates: Ranges from R70 to R120 bed only – some meals can be arranged. Nearest place to eat is the Dolphin Bar a short stroll away.

Planet Scuba.

Tel South Africa: +27 (0) 82 8097971, Email: info@planetscuba.co.za
Website: www.planetscuba.co.za Get here by hanging a right as you enter Ponta, then next right and keep left at the fork - third house on the left. Rates: From R265 to R350 pp. Dinner, Bed and Breakfast in the House, which has double rooms and shared bathroom. Outside there are flats with 2 bedrooms and shared bathroom. No towels provided. DSTV in the lounge and Internet access for guests only costs R 6.50/min. Meals are eaten on a wooden loggia with sea-views and a Pool Table. Scuba Diving: Resident dive operation and dolphin swims, quad bikes, jet skis, horse riding and kite surfing can be arranged.

Tande Beach Camp.

(Sometimes called Ponta do Ouro Campsite). Tel South Africa: +27 (0) 11 678 0972, Email: rose@simplyscuba.co.za Website: www.simplyscuba.co.za
Turn right as you enter Ponta do Ouro and carry on parallel to the beach until the road

becomes a dead end at the beach camp entrance. A no-frills sprawling and fairly well shaded campsite with adequate ablution (except during the S.A school holidays) and a few beach view chalets. Lunch and supper on offer at The Dolphin Restaurant and Bar. Rates: Camping from R65 to R85 pp. Self-catering chalets: 2 bed from R200 to R290; 4 bed from R520 to R720; 6 bed from R880 to R1 150.

Coco Cabanas.

Tel: South Africa +27 (0) 11 478 3686, Email: gbastos@hixnet.co.za
Website: What website? Follow the road right as you arrive in Ponta do Ouro and then keep right. Somewhat airless concrete flats with kitchenettes that are OK in winter but a bit sticky in summer. Rates: From R320 to R450 per room. Types of Accommodation:

Motel do Mar.

Tel: Maputo +258 21 65 0000, Email: reservations@ponta.co.za Website: www.pontadoouro.co.za Anyone who can remember Ponta from the '60's and '70's, will know about the Motel do Mar and not much has changed this then. Reminds one of a mountain fortress as it seems that views outwards and easy access to the beach (which is right over there) were not a priority of the architects. Pass the main shopping square and turn left at Bar Babalaza. Rates: From R430 to R1030 per cabana per night.

The Whaler (Inside Tande Beach Resort).

Tel: South Africa: +27 (0) 83 421 5918, Email: craigw@aquaventure.co.za Website: www.aquaventure.co.za (no info on The Whaler here, Craig!). Reed hut dive camp with shared (meet a fellow dive-nut) self-catering facilities (meals by prior arrangement). Ablutions have been shared with the main campsite, which is not ideal during the busy and silly season so the promised Whaler showers and toilets will be very welcome. Mainly cater for S.A. dive schools but packages can be arranged for International dive schools. Rates: From R90 pp bed only.

Café del Mar Cabanas.

Tel: Mozambique + 258 21 650048/9, Email: cafedelmar@tropical.co.mz
Website: Under construction. Can't miss this one, drive into Ponta, stop at the shopping area and look up behind you – can't see it? Get out of the car and try again – there you are now! The roomy reed chalets overlook a pretty garden with a pool. Shared showers and toilets with hot running water. As the cabanas are right behind the famous 'party going' Café del Mar Restaurant and Bar where there is live music most weekends, don't stay here if you value drowsing off to the sound of the sea or want to self-cater. DSTV and conference room. Rates: From R380 per person sharing including dinner, bed and brunch (no-one gets up early enough to worry about breakfast).

Simply Scuba (In the Tande Beach Resort).

Tel: South Africa +27 (0) 11 678 0972/3. Email: dive@simplyscuba.co.za Website: www.simplyscuba.co.za Divers stay in furnished dome tents (includes bedding) set up in a nice little shady garden arrangement. Bit cramped if you are really not that into the dive scene, but perfect if your kicks are below the wave-line sunshine. Self-catering facilities and own ablution block. Rates: From R125 to R185 pp. Diving: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Scuba Adventures (In Tande Beach Resort).

Tel: Mozambique: +258 21 650026 or South Africa: Africa Scuba Travel +27 (0) 11 648 9648
Email: scubatravel@iafrica.com Website: www.scubatravel.co.za or try www.scubatravel.co.za Seen images of the Voortrekkers in their tented wagon 'laager' or the pioneers of the American mid-west? Well this camp is something like that – perfect for folks

of a like mind who want to save by cooking their own grub, but otherwise they will put you up at the Motel Del Mar and you can eat at Fishmongers Restaurant. Own ablutions block are in the pipeline (pun not intended). Rates: From R125 to R185 pp.

Kaya Kweru:

Tel: South Africa +27 (0) 83 407 4022, Mozambique: + 258 21 465 0009 Email: info@u-can.co.za Website: www.u-can.co.za U-can developments have brought some of what I like least about South Africans (I am one) to sleepy (once) Ponta do Ouro. Ah well, it's horses for courses so for an experience of Gauteng by the sea in comfortable and very secure chalets with pool, bar and suitably subdued staff, you simply will not beat Kaya Kweru. Rates: 2-bed chalets from R350, 4-bed chalets from R650. Right into Ponta do Ouro and then sharp left at the main square.

Brittle Star.

Tel: South Africa: +27 (0) 83 228 9004 Email: XXXXXXXX Website: XXXXX Not available. Turn left as you come into Ponta, instead of right, couple of houses up. tions:

Campismo Niño. (The Nest).

Tel: South Africa: Tel +27 (0) 82 788 8742 (Debby) Email: debby.viljoen@metso.com Website: Debby thinks this will happen. Signposted on the Malongane road from Ponta do Ouro. Reminds me of what I used to like about Mozambique destinations: quiet (in a dune forest), unpretentious, no electricity, and no quad-bikes – marvelous so get here before 'they' do! Bring every thing you need including your own tent. Keep fit on the steep park down (and up) to the beach. Nice views and basic ablutions. Rates: Camping from R50 per child and R65 per adult. Highly recommended.

Tartaruga Luxury Camp.

Tel: South Africa + 27 11 728 4942. Email: tartaruga@mweb.co.za, Website: www.tartaruga.co.za Although I did not receive a very warm welcome at the gate (the friendly guard had been instructed 'guests only' – fair enough), I think that Tartaruga has got it right. Comfortable East-African-Safari style tents with mosquito nets and fans in a pristine climax dune forest. A couple of minutes stroll to a secluded beach. Communal catering and bar facilities. Catering by prior arrangement. Horse Riding, swimming pool, Jacuzzi, Braai (BBQ) area. Rates: From R405 to R470 per person per day.

2. Ponta Malongane

Just north of Ponta do Ouro but within easy driving distance

Ponta Malongane Resort. (Parque do Malongane).

Tel: South Africa (013) 741 1975. Email: reservations@malongane.co.za Website: www.malongane.co.za

Rates: (Per person): Dive Camp tents R80-R105, Log huts R130-R155, rondawels and chalets R130 – R160. Malongane is signposted from either the Kosi Bay Border or from Ponta do Ouro.

A sprawling well-shaded area that can be a little mosquito infested during calm weather so bring along that double deet spray. Meals are R130 per person per day including breakfast, lunch and dinner. Dives are R165 to R200, Dive Course are R550 (discover scuba) to R3600 (dive master).

3. Ponta Mamoli

Ponta Mamóli (at 'tar' road junction, it's a left to Zitundo and a right to Mamóli).

Tel: South Africa +27 (0) 11 444 3260, Email: bookings@pontamamoli.com

Website: www.pontamamoli.com Fits in perfectly with the sensuous sweep of secluded beach that has just got to be one of southern Africa's most picturesque. Warm and welcoming atmosphere from Kevin and Frank, very serene and inspiring Lodge. Environmentally and 'peace and quiet' - friendly lodge. Work in harmony with the local community and are making efforts to create a nature reserve. The twin-bedded, en-suite log-cabins are tucked away under Casuarina (She-oak) trees that were apparently planted centuries ago so that Portuguese sailors would know where to look for fresh water. Rates: From R600 to R840 per person per night including dinner, bed and breakfast. The Restaurant, which overlooks the pool deck and beach, serves real home made food (breakfast, lunch and dinner). If you are looking for a honeymoon spot south of Maputo, *you have come to the factory*. Horse out rides a speciality as well as Scuba diving, snorkeling, whale watching, dolphin encounters, canoeing and deep-sea fishing. Watch turtles laying their eggs from October to January.

4. Reserva Especial dos Elefantes do Maputo. (Maputo Elephant Reserve to you) and the Machangula (Santa Maria) Peninsula.

The Reserve is situated some 70 km south of Maputo along the southern shore of the Bay of Maputo. This area falls within an international centre of plant diversity and contains numerous endemic plant species. The Reserve's northern boundary cuts across the Machangula peninsula and follows the coastline down the Mozambique Channel. The western boundary is drawn along the western shore of the Rio Fúti at a distance of 50-100 metres from the river following the old fence line. The exact alignment of the Reserve's southern boundary is not clearly demarcated.

Estimates vary from 100 to 300 elephants resident in the Reserve and an unknown number in the forest area south of the Reserve and in the Fúti corridor. Hall-Martin (1988) suggests that historically the Reserve was the core area for a coastal population of elephants and bulls that ranged south into the area of the Tembe Elephant Reserve in Northern Kwa-Zulu/Natal during the wet season. Reports indicate that most of the remaining elephants in the Maputo Elephant Reserve are found in cow/calf units and we sighted one of the two relatively large groups that numbered around 40.

The Maputo Elephant Reserve is potentially one of Mozambique's most important natural assets, and until recently it has certainly been one of its most neglected. Its coastline, unique plant and animal life remind one of Botswana's Okavango, South Africa's Kosi Bay and Tanzania's southern coast. While its proximity to the capital gives this area the potential to generate substantial tourism revenue, it seems almost incomprehensible to me that this unmatched chunk of 'real' Africa has not even been properly demarcated yet, let alone protected or managed. This possibly has something to do with the propensity that local politicians show for cosying up to creepy characters like one Earl J. Blanchard (now deceased) who came up with a multi-million dollar scheme for the area that he titled 'The Elephant Coast'. Someone should have smelt an entire granary full of scurvy rats when he

proposed that San people from the Central Kalahari desert be introduced to the Reserve and a narrow-gauge railway system be constructed to haul visitors around to see the spectacle.

Accommodation in the Elephant Reserve.

Note that there is only one legal camping site and this is at Ponta Milibangalala. South African opportunists do sporadically set up illegal operations at other locations in the Reserve and you should know that by patronizing one of these, you would probably be contributing to the continued environmental decline of a very special place. One fellow who set up shop at Ponta Dobela (yes that's where the development twits want to put an offshore terminal for what I really don't know), had his camp burned down while he was away, and not by indignant locals, but by an angry business partner.

Ponta Milibangalala.

No contacts, no bookings possible and no guarantees that the place won't be overrun by 'people from the South' although this is usually only likely during the South African School holiday periods, especially over Easter and Christmas. Enter the Reserve either at the north (or west) gate near Salamanga, or via the less-used (and more difficult to find) southern gate. Milibangalala has basic ablutions, space for around a dozen tents and is often without running water so haul in all your requirements. **Rates:** Reserve entrance Mt200 000 (R70, US\$10) per adult, less for children. Camping is also Mt200 000 per person per night. From the north (west) gate it is easy to get to Milibangalala as the route is signposted, but the south road can be much more interesting.

Ponta Torres Camp.

Tel +27 (0) 84 555 0822 (Christine), Email: info@africaafrica.co.za
Website: www.africaafrica.co.za/Pontatorres 100km north of Kosi Bay (at least a 5 hour drive) on the beautiful Santa Maria Peninsula overlooking Inhaca Island. 2-bedded en-suite safari tents on wooded decks overlooking the Bay, and 2-bedded dome tents with communal ablution facilities.

The camp accommodates 20 guests. All bedding is supplied. Kitchens are rustic thatch and reed with a braai place, freezing facilities, crockery and cutlery. Excellent deep-sea fishing off the Santa Maria reefs only 4km offshore. Hells Gate Channel, between Inhaca Island and the Peninsula and only a 10min walk away from the Camp, offers excellent surf fishing and fly-fishing for big Kingfish. Great place for sea kayakers and birders will find Torres to be the most southerly area for some rare coastal bird species. **Rates** (Self-catering): Safari Tents: R220 per person per night
Dome Tents: R160 per person per night.