



## Bonamanzi Game Reserve Room Directory

### Welcome to Bonamanzi Game Reserve!

We're excited to welcome you and hope your stay is as unforgettable as the captivating Sand Forest biome that surrounds us.

May the natural beauty and tranquil atmosphere of Bonamanzi create memories that will last a lifetime.

---

### A Bit of History

**Bonamanzi Game Reserve** was proclaimed a Natural Heritage Site in 1995, recognized for its diverse habitats that provide refuge to threatened species, along with stunning natural features such as the panoramic view over False Bay, which forms part of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park.

Spanning nearly 4,000 hectares, the reserve encompasses a rich tapestry of fever tree forests, savannah grasslands, rare coastal sand forests, and swamps along the Hluhluwe River.

In 1952, Brian and Barry Kramer purchased 121 hectares of land to cultivate sugar cane, naming the farm "Bundu." As sugarcane farming expanded, the Hluhluwe Dam was built, and a breakwater was constructed at the mouth of the Hluhluwe River to prevent tidal saltwater from entering. The cultivated land was later expanded to accommodate pineapple farming.

Over time, natural areas were set aside for conservation, and hunting was prohibited. The first Tree Houses were built atop a rise with breathtaking views of False Bay. The name **Bonamanzi** originates from the Zulu phrase "Bona Manzi," meaning "See Water," reflecting the importance of water in this beautiful and diverse landscape.

---

### Bonamanzi - Home to the "Big 4"

---



## General Safety Reminders

- Be vigilant of wildlife, especially Elephants, Leopards, Buffalo, Rhino, Crocodiles and Hyena
  - Our accommodation areas are not fenced, so please keep a close eye on children.
  - Never wade into any dams or waterholes, and stay well clear of the water line.
  - Wear closed shoes and apply insect repellent for extra protection against ticks, spiders, and caterpillars. Malaria is not a concern at Bonamanzi, but still advisable to use insect repellent.
  - Sulphur Ants: These ants are common in Zululand. They release a foul smell when disturbed, and caution is advised if you have a sulphur allergy.
  - Vervet Monkeys: To avoid attracting these monkeys, make sure your windows and doors are closed when the room is unoccupied.
  - For the safety of both wildlife and yourself, please do not feed or approach the animals.
  - Bonamanzi Game Reserve and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife have announced a ban on visitors bringing firewood into any of their reserves. Visitors can still purchase firewood from the curio shop, which has been safely sourced from areas free of the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB).
- 

## Reception

Our friendly reception team is available daily from **6:00 AM to 10:00 PM**.  
If you need assistance, call us at **081-339-4181**.

Reception will issue you with a disk for your vehicle as access to and from the property will be controlled.

**Please note you will under no circumstances be permitted to leave the property without a disk.**

The Curio Shop at Reception features a beautiful collection of handmade African curios, including intricate beadwork, crafts, and one-of-a-kind treasures. Take home a piece of Bonamanzi while supporting local artisans! In addition, the shop offers a selection of sweet and savoury snacks, refreshing cool drinks, firewood, and ice.

**Check-out time** is strictly **10 AM**. Please return your keys to reception.

In an **EMERGENCY** you may also call:

General Manager: 081 374 5828

Hotel Manager: 067 382 2352

Reserve Manager: 082 079 4293

**Hluhlwe Pharmacy:** 035 562 0028

(8am – 5pm Mon-Fri; 8am – 3pm Sat)

**General Practitioners:** Office hours only

Dr Erasmus: 035 562 0162

Dr Cohn: 035 562 0016

**Ambulance service:**

Netcare: 082 911

### **Hospitals:** Richards Bay / Empangeni

Net Care Bay Hospital (78km): 035 780 6111

Melomed Hospital (96km): 035 791 5300

Empangeni Life Hospital (98km): 035 902 8000

Ngwelezana Hospital (102km): 035 901 7000

### **Lalapanzi Restaurant & Bar / Viewing Deck**

Enjoy a delightful dining experience at our **Lalapanzi Restaurant**, relax and unwind with a refreshing drink at our scenic viewing deck, offering breathtaking vistas over the serene Lalapanzi Dam.

- **Breakfast:** 07:00 – 09:30
- **Lunch:** 12:00 – 15:00
- **Dinner:** 18:30 – 21:00

Breakfast and dinner are served buffet-style or as a set menu. Lunch features a lighter à la carte menu with options like burgers and toasted sandwiches. Please allow at least **30 minutes** for meal preparation.

For those self-catering or camping, remember to pre-book dinner at reception by **4:00 PM**. Please inform us about any dietary preferences or allergies ahead of time!

---

### **Swimming Pools & Play Area**

Cool off in one of our refreshing swimming pools, conveniently located near the campsites and the main **Lalapanzi Camp**. Don't forget to bring your own towels and sunscreen!

For younger guests, **Lalapanzi Camp** has a jungle gym and swings—a perfect spot for adventurous fun!

---

### **Water**

Our tap water is not drinkable but safe for showers and washing. It may have a slight colour or odour, which is entirely normal.

Bottled water is available for purchase at reception, or you can enjoy purified water through our reverse osmosis system at a nominal fee.

---

### **Wi-Fi**

Complimentary Wi-Fi is available in and around all accommodations, though connectivity may be challenging at times. For a stronger connection, please visit reception.

Wi-Fi Password: **BonaPanzi**

### **Load Shedding & Power Outages**

In case of power outages, we've taken steps to ensure minimal disruption:

1. Generators will operate when necessary for your comfort.
2. Load shedding schedules will be posted on the **guest information group**.
3. Quiet Hours: To preserve the tranquillity of the reserve, generators will not run between **10:00 PM** and **5:00 AM**.
4. Water Supply: Power cuts can affect water flow, so please bear with us if interruptions occur.
5. Sustainability: We prioritize the responsible use of generators to protect our precious ecosystem.

---

### **Housekeeping**

We want to make your stay as comfortable as possible:

- Daily housekeeping includes bed-making, general tidying, and towel replacement (if left on the bathroom floor).



- **Self Catering:** Breakfast dishes are taken care of, but dinner dishes are your responsibility—dish soap is provided.
- Laundry services are available; please contact reception for assistance.
- Should you require babysitting services, please contact reception to arrange.
- Please report any **breakages** to reception.

For the benefit of the environment, please turn off the air conditioning and lights when leaving your accommodation. For optimal efficiency, set the air conditioning to **22°C** and keep doors and windows closed while it is running.

---

## Activities & Adventures

Bonamanzi is brimming with exciting activities! For more information, pricing, and bookings, visit Reception call us at **081-339-4181**.

- **Game Drives**
- **Boat Cruises**
- **Guided Birding**
- **Walking Trails**

---

### Game Drives

- **Game Drives**  
Embark on an unforgettable safari adventure with a qualified ranger, whose expert knowledge will enrich your experience as you explore the wild wonders of the reserve. Get up close to the Big 4 and discover the incredible biodiversity that makes Bonamanzi truly special!
- Arrive 15 minutes before departure.
- For afternoon drives, you can buy drinks 30 minutes prior and keep them chilled in the vehicle's cooler box. Enjoy drinks while watching the sunset over the bush
- Bring a jacket in case the weather changes.
- Keep phones on silent and maintain low noise levels.
- Tipping is customary - Tip your ranger directly or add it to your room charge.

### Night Drives

- For a truly magical experience, join us for a guided Night Game Drive! Our expert game ranger will share fascinating insights into the nocturnal world, uncovering the hidden behaviours of the reserve's wildlife after dark. Book at Reception for a safari under the stars
- Private vehicle night driving is restricted before sunrise and after sunset, except in accommodation areas.

---

### Boat Cruises

Enjoy a relaxing and peaceful cruise along the Hluhluwe River and take in a breathtaking, unique perspective of the reserve's stunning landscape!

- Perfect for birdwatchers.
- Book a private boat cruise with a braai on board—perfect for families & special occasions.

---

### Guided Birding

Bonamanzi is truly a birdwatcher's paradise, with its diverse biomes offering an incredible variety of bird species. While you might spot common favourites like hornbills and guineafowl, keep an eye out for rarer gems such as the Pink-Throated Twinspot, Lemon-Breasted Canary, African Broadbill, and more.

Enhance your birding experience with a guided tour led by our expert rangers, who will share their knowledge and help you spot elusive species. Book your guided birding adventure at Reception and immerse yourself in the vibrant avian world of Bonamanzi.

---

### Walking Trails

Bonamanzi is home to the Big 4 (Elephant, Rhino, Buffalo, Leopard). If you're planning an unguided walk, please stay vigilant for potential dangers, including poisonous snakes, hippos, crocodiles, hyenas, and even insects. Never walk alone.

- Always walk with a buddy and inform someone of your planned route.
- Stay on designated trails and within accommodation areas.
- Maps are available at reception
- To book a guided walk, kindly make your reservation through reception.

## Self-Drive Safari Rules

To ensure your safety and protect the wildlife, please observe the following rules:

1. Respect for Guided Tours - Guests are kindly requested not to follow game viewers to avoid disruption to the guides' activities and interference with their duties.
2. Stay inside your vehicle – no hanging out of windows!
3. Stick to designated roads – off-road driving harms the environment.
4. Keep noise levels low – no loud music; enjoy the peaceful sounds of nature.
5. During periods of rain, driving may be restricted to the roads around the accommodation and Sand Forest areas. Large parts of the reserve are covered with cotton soil, which, when wet, swells and becomes extremely slippery. Cotton soil clings to vehicle tyres, making traction impossible—even for 4x4 vehicles.
6. An online version of the reserve map is available in the "Information" section through the QR code.

Please be advised that if a vehicle becomes stuck, a recovery fee of R1,000.00 will apply.




---

## Wildlife Safety

- Speed limit: **20-40 km/h** – Wildlife can appear unexpectedly.
- Respect the animals – they always have the right of way.
- Watch their behaviour – animals with young or predators nearby can be unpredictable.
- Do not feed or approach wildlife. It's dangerous for both them and you.
- Littering on the reserve is strictly prohibited and poses a serious danger to the animals. Please dispose of your waste responsibly to help protect the wildlife and their habitat.

---

## Nearby Excursions

### Duma Zulu (4 km)

Experience a recreated traditional Zulu village, offering a taste of Zulu beer and a fascinating look into local customs like spear and pot making, beadwork, basket weaving, and Sangoma bone throwing. The experience culminates with vibrant Zulu dancing. **Tel:** 035 562 2260

### Emdoneni Cheetah Project (6 km)

Join morning or afternoon tours and witness the feeding of cheetahs, servals, caracals, and African wild cats. Bookings are essential. **Tel:** 035 562 7000 **Website:** [www.emdonenilodge.com](http://www.emdonenilodge.com)

### Ilala Weavers (8 km)

Visit Fig Tree Café, a charming curio shop, a Zulu cultural museum, and a gallery of African art, clothing, and jewellery. **Tel:** 081 400 0947 **Website:** [www.ilala.co.za](http://www.ilala.co.za)

### Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Game Reserve (23 km)

Big 5 park opt for a self-drive safari or book a guided safari with our Bonamanzi game viewer vehicles.

**Gate Times:** 6 AM to 6 PM in winter, 5 AM to 7 PM in summer (Nov 1st to Mar 31st).

Please note: Mobile and credit card facilities at the gate may be limited.

**Tel:** 035 562 0848 **Websites:** [www.kznwildlife.com](http://www.kznwildlife.com) or [www.ekznw.co.za](http://www.ekznw.co.za)

### Elephant Interaction (44 km)

Meet the friendly habituated elephants. Learn about their fascinating history and more about elephants in general. Daily interactions take place at 11 AM—booking is essential.

**Tel:** 035 595 8089 **Website:** [www.bayetezulu.co.za/about/activities/elephant-interaction](http://www.bayetezulu.co.za/about/activities/elephant-interaction)

**Further Afield:** Greater St Lucia Wetlands, Mkuze Game Reserve, Pongola Dam/Lake Jozini, Sodwana Bay, Kosi Bay.

