

How to get to GORONGOSA NATIONAL PARK

Report by Jam Rock Surfpackers

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Driving from Zimbabwe

The most used crossing between Zimbabwe and Mozambique is the Machipanda border, located east of Mutare on the A3 (Zimbabwe side) / EN6 (Mozambique side). At the border, you must show your passport, car registration documents, and pay a border crossing fee. Your vehicle may be inspected at the request of border guards. You have to purchase compulsory 3rd Party Insurance for Mozambique.

From the border of Machipanda to Chimoio:

From the Machipanda border, proceed for 85 km on the EN6 - a good quality tar road - to Chimoio. Chimoio is the closest town to Gorongosa and is a good place to get groceries if you are thinking of being self-sufficient in Gorongosa. Just outside Chimoio, heading east, there is a ShopRite supermarket on the EN6, where you can get all the supplies you will need. There is also a service station conveniently located right next to the ShopRite.

From Chimoio to Inchope:

Continue heading east on the EN6 for 68km until you reach the town of Inchope where the two main roadways of Mozambique, EN1 and EN6, intersect. Turn left and take the EN1 towards Gorongosa National Park.

From Inchope to Gorongosa National Park: Go straight across the junction and continue on the EN1 for another 42km. Significantly after a kilometer, on the left side, there is a BP service station where you can refuel your vehicle. Be sure to refill the tank because there is no fuel for sale inside the Gorongosa National Park. Along the EN1, you will cross the bridge over the Pungue River - enjoy the view which is fantastic! When you see a sign pointing to Gorongosa National Park - turn right and enter a dirt road. Continue on this stretch for 11 km until you reach the entrance gate in the Park. Now you will start your safari!

During the next 18km, you will see paddies, imbabalas, and monkeys until your arrival at the Montebelo Gorongosa Lodge & Safari. Go to the reception where you must pay the entrance fee and get information about the Park.

More information:

In Gorongosa and around

When you arrive in Chitengo for the first time, visit the reception of Girassol Gorongosa Lodge & Safari and you will be escorted you to your accommodation and shown where to find the restaurant, gift shop, and other facilities.

If you are planning to drive your vehicle in the on your own safari, you should have a 4x4 vehicle with a good ground clearance. Park roads can be muddy and bumpy in many areas. Utility cars are not recommended for use within the park's. If you do not have a proper vehicle and want to do a safari, there are guided safaris, morning and afternoon safaris jeeps with high seats.

All visitors to the Park : PLS comply with the rules and regulations of the Park for their own safety and wildlife protection.

There is no fuel or groceries for sale inside the Gorongosa National Park.

The Park has a restaurant serving food and drinks from 06:00 until 21:00. In the restaurant, you can buy bottled water, soft drinks, alcoholic beverages and bread, but all other foods are sold as part of the restaurant's menu. There is a small gift shop in the park, which sells T-shirts and other souvenirs from the Park. All other groceries must be purchased outside the Park.

The nearest place to buy fuel and groceries is Gorongosa Village, just over an hour from Chitengo, heading north on EN1. You can buy fuel at the gas station north of the town and there is a fruit and vegetable street market as well as small shops where you will find some basic groceries.

The nearest town is Inchope, heading south on EN1 and it is about 1h30m, where you can also buy fuel and groceries in local markets. If you are looking for a big supermarket, the nearest is the ShopRite in Chimoio, 2 hours by car, proceeding south on EN1 to Inchope, and then turn west on the EN6.

Buy fuel only at stations that have a pump driven by electricity. Fuel in other places may be dirty, or mixed with water or other chemicals.

Maps



