

The PONDO TRAIL® Transfers and Logistics -2024 rates

To Port Edward:

We will all meet in Port Edward between 07:30am – 8:00am on the morning of departure. We meet at either Port Edward beachfront or at The Estuary Hotel depending on where most of the team are staying. (The meeting place and confirmed time will be communicated to you via email, two days before departure).

For those who are flying into KZN, we suggest that you fly to King Shaka Airport (KSA), Durban the afternoon before. We also recommend that you transfer from the airport to Port Edward for the night. For the transfer from the airport, our guests have had good service from Escape Through Africa Travel (0626399009), Margate Coaches coach@margatecoach.co.za (0835005547) and Southern Shuttles <https://southernshuttle.co.za/>. For smaller groups, HW Shuttle Service is also a good option (0735922590)

There are lots of options for accommodation but most of our guests choose to stay at the Estuary Hotel (catered) <https://estuaryhotel.co.za/> or Port Edward Holiday Resort (self-catered) <https://portedward.co.za/>. If you stay elsewhere, you will need to find your own way to the meeting place in the morning. When booking at the Estuary, please email them directly for the best rate info@estuaryhotel.co.za.

If you are driving your own car, you would also need to meet us in Port Edward on the morning of departure. Private cars can be left in Port Edward while we are on the trail. Safe parking at either The Estuary Hotel or Port Edward Holiday Resort will be arranged. There may be a small fee involved if you are not staying at these places (approx. R100 per vehicle).

To Mtentu (The official start of the Pondo Trail):

Although we meet in Port Edward, the official start to the trail is near Mtentu. You may want to consider the Ocean Safari to get there on the first morning. This entails a +-1hr15min boat ride from Port Edward to the start of the trail. By far the majority of our groups choose this option as it is a truly epic way to start the adventure and we often see lots of dolphins and other sea-life along the way. This boat ride is always a highlight, and it really sets the scene for what is to follow. The cost of the Ocean Safari transfer is R850pp.

The other option is a ±2hr30min vehicle transfer (on a bumpy and dusty road) from Port Edward to Mtentu. The cost of the vehicle transfer is from R400pp. (Price depends on the number of people who choose this option)

Both transfers can be arranged directly through Wild Child.

It is highly encouraged that the whole group does the same thing.

Getting Home:

- **By road**

We can organise the transfer from Manteku (the finish) back to the airport and/or Port Edward at the end of your trip. This shuttle costs R470pp whether you are going to Port Edward or King Shaka Airport (KSA). ETA in Port Edward is between 12:00pm and 1:00pm. For those going to KSA, the shuttle would be able to get you there at about 4:00pm so please **don't book any flights that depart before 5:00pm.**

Please understand that due to the remoteness of our Pondo Trail, there are no luxury transfer companies in the area. We use local Pondoland companies whose vehicles are safe, and the drivers are good; however, it is important to note that you will be traveling in a Coaster, Sprinter or Quantum on bumpy, dusty, potholed road. It is slow going and a long day on the road. This, however, is a small price to pay for the luxury of spending time in remote and beautiful Pondoland. Some people choose

to book two vehicles for their group so that there is more space. This is an option; however, it does mean double the price per person.

Guests coming from JHB should consider flying one way **out of Umtata Airport** as this is much closer than KSA and there is a good variety of flights available. We can get you to the airport around 12:30pm, so a midday flight works well. Unfortunately, there aren't flights out of Umtata to Cape Town at this point. Cost of the Umtata shuttle is R280pp

The shuttle prices quoted above are based on the full group (min 20pax) using the same shuttle. If the group is split or some people in the group choose to self-drive or use the helicopter, the price pp for the shuttle may change. If this is the case, we will endeavor to find a smaller vehicle to try and keep costs down. We do not add any profit onto the shuttle service and, as such, need to ensure that we are not out of pocket.

- **Self-drive**

Some people ask about having their private vehicles transferred from the meeting place in Port Edward to Manteku (final camp), so that they can self-drive home. This is an option, and we are happy to help facilitate the process but please note that it is not a Wild Child company that does the vehicle transfer. It is a local-run Pondoland transport company that we connect you with. The drivers are great, and we have had good experiences with them in the past. However, we do not have insurance to cover vehicles during the transfer or while the cars are parked at the camp (Manteku) and, as such, we are not responsible for the transfer of your vehicle. Our camp manager keeps an eye on the vehicles while you are hiking, and we have never had a problem, but just to be clear that the vehicles are not being transferred by Wild Child Africa.

Should you choose this option, it is important to note the following:

- The vehicle must be 4x4
- The drivers need to be paid in cash on the morning of departure (R1000 per vehicle)
- The vehicle must have a full tank of fuel before you hand your keys over
- Your insurance company must cover people other than yourself driving the vehicle
- The roads are tough with potholes, mud, dust and rocks. Please ensure your vehicle has a spare and the equipment needed to change a tyre is in the vehicle.

- **By helicopter or chartered plane**

For those wanting to explore the option of a helicopter flip from Manteku to Port Edward, please contact Daniél from AirTrack (079) 890-3988

For those wanting to explore the option of a chartered plane out of Port St Johns, please contact Sue from Avalon Aviation (083) 505-4882

Conservation Levy:

Please note that as of January 2024, Mkambati Trust has implemented a mandatory conservation levy of R300pp. This levy is payable by any person wanting to traverse through the northern section of the Mkambati Nature Reserve. While we are fully aware that this is an unexpected cost for our guests, we ask that you will be understanding and supportive of this conservation initiative in Pondoland. It is a once off per person cost.

***Note: Rates subject to change**

Wild Child Africa



BE WILD. BE FREE. EXPLORE AFRICA HOW IT WAS INTENDED TO BE.