

GETTING TO KWANDWE PRIVATE GAME RESERVE



OVERVIEW AND DETAILS

Kwandwe Private Game Reserve is situated in the heart of South Africa's malaria-free Eastern Cape. The nearest major airport is Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), approximately 160 km (100 miles) from the reserve. There are daily scheduled flights to Gqeberha's Chief Dawid Stuurman International Airport (PLZ) from both Cape Town (CPT) and Johannesburg (JNB).

COORDINATES

Heatherton Towers Reception, Kwandwe Private Game Reserve

[GPS Coordinates on Google Maps](#): 33°08'46.2"S 26°31'32.9"E

PRIVATE CHARTERS

Kwandwe's private Category 3 airstrip enables seamless access for private charters from across Southern Africa, ensuring a smooth and exclusive travel experience.

AIRPORT	FLIGHT TIME*	CESSNA (1-4 pax)	KING AIR 100 (1-8 pax, 2 crew)
Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth) (PLZ)	40 mins	Rates and information on request.	Rates and information on request.
East London (ELS)	30 mins		
Cape Town International (CPT)	2 hrs	Rates and information on request.	Rates and information on request.
OR Tambo (JNB) or Lanseria (HLA)	2 hrs		
*Flight times are estimates and may vary depending on aircraft type and weather conditions. Please enquire about luggage restrictions and other destinations.			



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COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS & TRANSFERS

Daily commercial flights operate to both Gqeberha (PLZ) and East London (ELS). From there, guests can choose between road or helicopter transfers to Kwandwe.

HELICOPTER BELL 505 TRANSFER

Route	Duration	Rate (2025)	Rate (2026)
Gqeberha (PLZ) → Kwandwe	40 mins	From R 27 000	From R 32 400
East London (ELS) → Kwandwe	40 mins	From R 27 000	From R 32 400

Rates include VAT and are one-way from Gqeberha (PLZ) or East London (ELS) for 1–4 passengers. Please contact us for luggage restrictions and weather contingency plans.

ROAD TRANSFER

Route	Duration	Guests	1 Jan–31 Dec 2025	1 Jan – 31 Dec 2026
Gqeberha (PLZ) → Kwandwe	± 2 hrs	1–3 guests	R 6 588	R 6 980
		4–8 guests	R 7 190	R 7 580
		9–12 guests	R 7 866	R 8 240

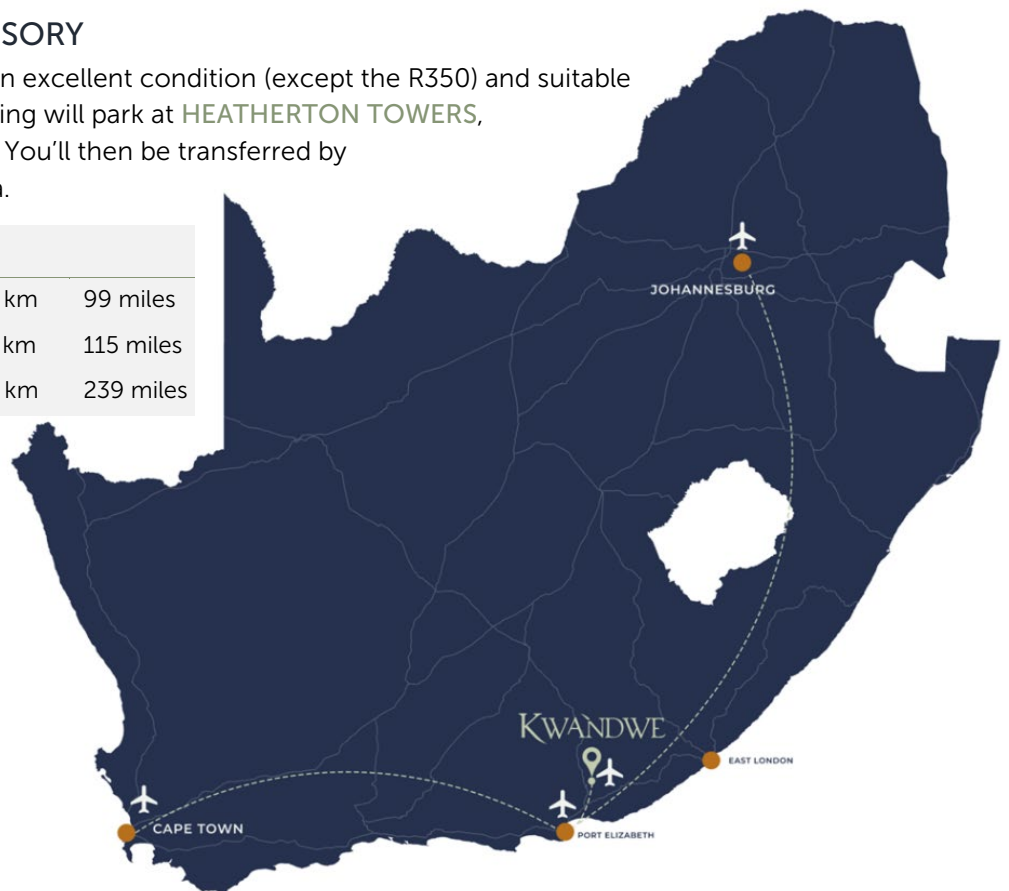
Road transfers between Kwandwe and Gqeberha before 08h00 or after 16h00 incur an additional charge of R1 980 (2025) / R2 180 (2026) per way. | Rates are per vehicle, one way, and are subject to change without notice due to fuel price fluctuations.

SELF-DRIVE & TRAVEL ADVISORY

Roads to Kwandwe are generally in excellent condition (except the R350) and suitable for 2WD vehicles. Guests self-driving will park at **HEATHERTON TOWERS**, where secure parking is provided. You'll then be transferred by safari vehicle to your lodge or villa.

APPROXIMATE DRIVING TIMES

Gqeberha	2 hrs	160 km	99 miles
East London	2.5 hrs	185 km	115 miles
Plettenberg Bay	4.5 hrs	385 km	239 miles



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SELF-DRIVE DIRECTIONS

- CAPE TOWN
- PLETTENBERG BAY

- Take the N2 east out of the city towards Somerset West.
- Continue over Sir Lowry's Pass, following signs through Caledon and on to Mossel Bay.
- As you approach Mossel Bay, keep left to stay on the N2 and continue through George and Knysna to Plettenberg Bay.

Continue to the instructions from Plettenberg Bay.

- PLETTENBERG BAY
- GQEBERHA

- Rejoin the N2 and head northeast toward Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth).
- Please note: this is a toll road (approx. R50.50 per vehicle).
- On reaching Gqeberha, at the large roundabout, take the third exit to remain on the N2, following signs to Makhanda (Grahamstown).

Continue to the instructions from Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth).

- GQEBERHA (PORT ELIZABETH)
- R67 FORT BEAUFORT (KWAMAQOMA) TURN-OFF

- Continue on the N2 past Makhanda (Grahamstown).
- Pass the Settlers Monument and travel underneath the highway flyover.
- A few kilometres beyond Makhanda (Grahamstown), turn left at the R67 Fort Beaufort (KwaMaqoma) turn-off.

Continue to the instructions from R67 Fort Beaufort (KwaMaqoma) turn-off.

FROM EAST LONDON (ROUTE FROM EAST— NOT PART OF THE CAPE TOWN JOURNEY)

This route is included for guests travelling from the East Coast. Please skip to the following section if you're driving from Cape Town, Plettenberg Bay or Port Elizabeth.

- EAST LONDON
- R67 FORT BEAUFORT (KWAMAQOMA) TURN-OFF

- Take the N2 west towards Qonce (King William's Town) and continue on to Makhanda (Grahamstown).
- Shortly before Makhanda (Grahamstown), turn right at the R67 Fort Beaufort (KwaMaqoma) turn-off.

Continue to the instructions from R67 Fort Beaufort (KwaMaqoma) turn-off.

- R67 FORT BEAUFORT (KWAMAQOMA) TURN-OFF
- KWANDWE PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

- Drive approximately 19 km along the R67 through the scenic Ecce Pass.
- Look out for a large sign on your right marked 'The Great Fish River Reserve'.
- Turn LEFT onto the gravel road directly opposite this sign.
- You'll see two smaller signs on the left: 'Kwandwe' and 'Kranzdrift'.
- Follow this gravel road for about 5 km to the Kwandwe gate.
- Continue straight for another 6 km to reach **HEATHERTON TOWERS**, where you'll check in and leave your vehicle in the guest car park.
- From here, you'll be transferred by safari vehicle to your lodge: Great Fish River Lodge, Ecce Lodge, Uplands Homestead, Fort House, or Melton Manor (15–30 mins' drive).

PLEASE NOTE: As you approach **Heatherton Towers**, you are entering a wilderness area where predators and high-profile game roam freely. For your safety, do not exit your vehicle unless accompanied by a member of our team. If you require assistance, please call us on +27 (0)46 603 3400. Where available, covered parking is provided for guest vehicles. Kindly note that we cannot accept responsibility for theft, loss, or damage to vehicles or belongings while parked on our premises.

TRAVEL TIPS:

- We highly recommend travelling via the R67. **Do not travel via the R350, as road conditions are poor.**
- Mobile signal may be limited in rural areas and on the gravel road into Kwandwe. Be sure to download offline maps or take screenshots of your directions before departure.
- The final stretch of road (after turning off the R67) is gravel but easily navigable in a 2WD. A sturdier or higher-clearance vehicle is still advisable, if available. Even though refueling is unlikely to be necessary on the direct journey to and from Kwandwe, if you plan to continue exploring the region, request that your rental car company provide a list of recommended fuel stations along your route. This helps with planning on longer journeys.
- Choose a vehicle with a sufficiently large fuel tank for remote travel.
- In South Africa, fuel is dispensed by attendants, and it's customary to tip R5–R10 for their service.
- Valid driver's license and rental car that includes roadside assistance, if possible

