

GREAT PLAINS

CONSERVING AND EXPANDING NATURAL HABITATS

DIRECTIONS FROM HARARE INTO THE SAPI PRIVATE RESERVE

- Travel north on the A1, past Westgate shopping centre on the outskirts of town, toward Chinhoyi.
- Banket has fuel, about 90kms out of Harare.
- Chinhoyi will have fuel a further 24 kms on.
- Karoi has fuel 200kms out of Harare. This is the last 'semi' reliable stop.
  - The road between Harare and Chinhoyi is pretty good. Be aware that the road deteriorates between Chinhoyi and Karoi (lots of pot holes in the tar and edges of the road falling away) and then progressively gets worse as nearing Makuti and down to the valley escarpment. Look out for large trucks dodging potholes and veering into oncoming traffic, or pushing you off the road when you are trying to overtake them,
- Makuti has one fuel station which is about 90kms out of Karoi, still heading North on the A1.
  Latitude: -16.31087 | Longitude: 29.245128
- From Makuti, drivers can take a left to Kariba, or continue straight into the Zambezi valley on the Chirundu road.
  - If you are running low on fuel at Makuti and there is none available there, you will have to continue north along the A1 into Chirundu (a further 60kms) to fill up and then come back to the National parks gate.
- At the top of the escarpment before descending into the valley, the National Parks Marongora office is located.
  Latitude: -16.223509 | Longitude: 29.161445
  - All cars need to report to the Marongora National Parks office to pay for entry and conversation fees into the park, including the Sapi Private Reserve (this is usually paid in USD). Drivers will be issued with a permit. This is likely the last point of mobile reception if anyone wanted to send final messages or let camp hosts know that they are on their way (the trip into camp will take a further 3 or so hours from this point).
  - The escarpment road has just been professionally resurfaced – 7kms of better tar down into the valley floor.
- 23kms after Makuti, immediately after descending down the escarpment, turn right.
  - This is a dirt road and drivers will pass through a boom gate (the "Chimutsi" gate) where they need to show their entry permit obtained from Marongora.
    Latitude: -16.189027 | Longitude: 29.161192
- After the first boom, drivers continue for 32kms until they cross the Rukomechi river and come to the 2nd boom gate (the "Nyakasikana" gate) and a T-junction. Drivers need to show their permit again at this gate.
  Latitude: -16.055862 | Longitude: 29.409353
- Take an immediate right after the boom and travel on dirt road for a further 20 kms where drivers will then see a turn to the left with a sign to Great Plains, Chikwenya lodge and Chitembe lodge.
  - The road now becomes more of a bush track for about 47kms – it's very passable in the dry months and a little more challenging in the wet months (December to February).
- After 47kms, drivers will pass a sign saying they are entering the Chikwenya / Cape Mount concession.
  - With preapproval from the Great Plains Sapi Private Reserve camp managers, self-drive guests will be able to continue for 1 km or so until they reach a junction.
- Drivers will take a right turn at this junction which should have a small Great Plains sign visible. They will now be on the River road which runs past the Great Plains camps.
  Latitude: -15.689666 | Longitude: 29.568696
- Tembo Plains Camp guests will turn left off the River road after about 13kms, with a 1km track directly into camp on the river.
  Latitude: -15.660035 | Longitude: 29.684433
- Explorers Camp guests will continue for a further 7kms and turn left into camp along the river. Look out for the Great Plains sign.
  Latitude: -15.647102 | Longitude: 29.714847

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MAP FROM HARARE TO THE SAPI PRIVATE RESERVE

Download the GPS File for this route here
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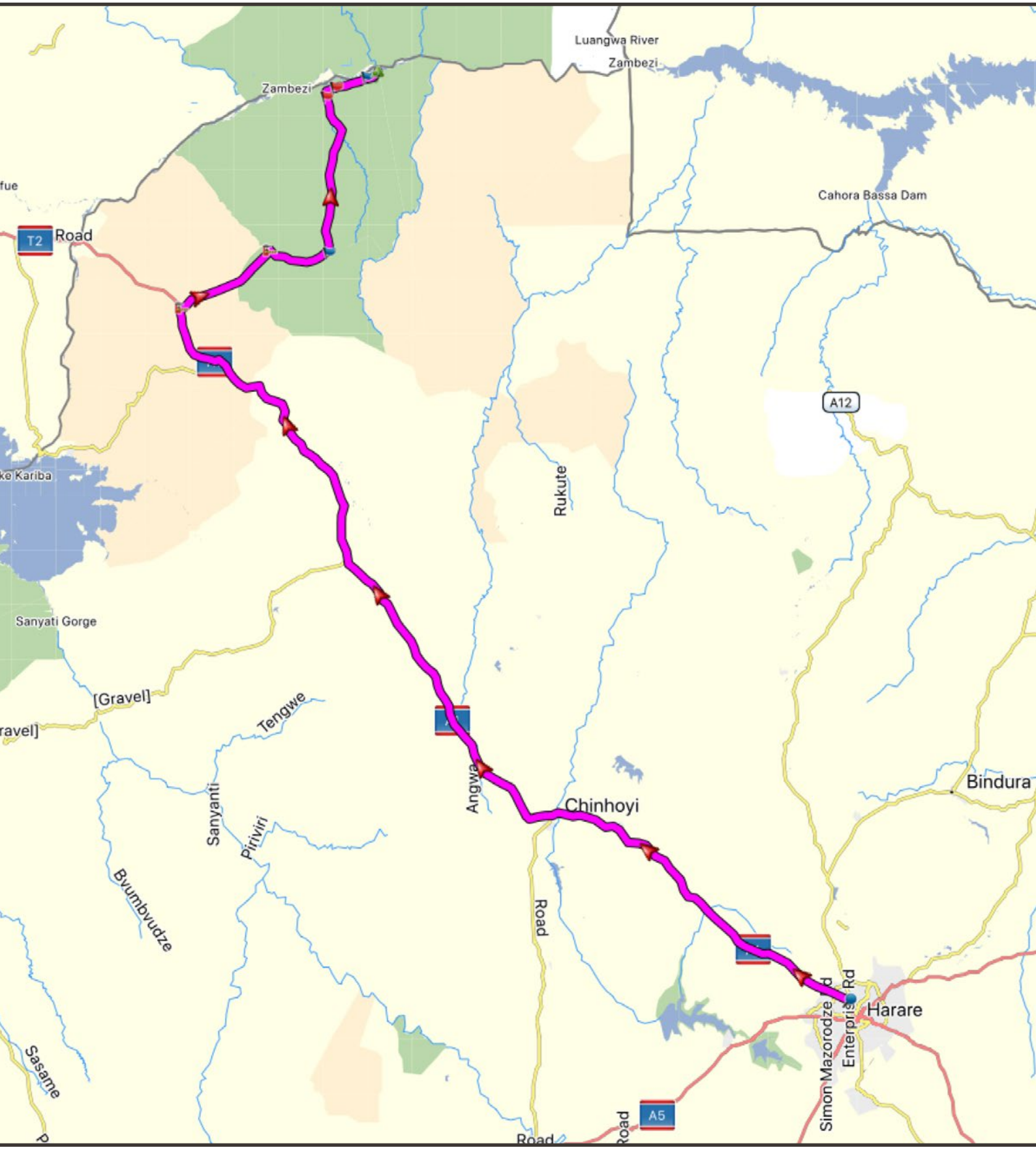

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MAP FROM FIRST GATE TO TEMBO PLAINS AND SAPI EXPLORERS CAMP

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