

South African Border Crossing Guide

Every traveller knows how stressful it can be when crossing a border post in South Africa. Having your paperwork in order and being prepared are essential for a smooth transition. Here is everything you need to know for all South Africa's border crossings.

South African Border Crossing Essentials:

1. International Driver's Permit

Although not compulsory this is recommended for everyone driving in foreign countries.

2. Letter of authority

If you are travelling in a rented car or 4x4 across borders, you must have a letter from the rental company giving you permission to take the vehicle out of the country. You do not need police clearance for this.

Vehicle and Border Post info:

Namibia-South Africa Border Crossings

- The road users' fee is R220 for a normal car with an additional amount of R140 for a trailer or a camper
- You can pay with South African Rands, Namibian Dollars or a credit card
- We strongly advise that you take cash in case the card machines are offline

Currency: Namibian Dollar (NAD)

Namibia Border Posts

Namibian Border Post	South African Border Post	Opening Hours	Contact Number	GPS Coordinates
Oranjemund	Alexander Bay	06:00 – 22:00	+27(0) 831 1662	28.5647°S 16.5036°E
Sendelingsdrift	Sendelingsdrift	8:00 – 17:00	+27(0) 831 2203	28.1227°S 16.8889°E
Noordoewer	Vioolsdrift	24hrs	+27(0) 761 8760	28.7656°S 17.6262°E
Vellorsdrift	Onseepkans	08:00-17:00	+27(0) 549 51 0014	28.7345°S 19.3056°E
Ariamsvlei	Nakop	24 hrs	+27(0) 54571 0008	28.0949°S 19.9992°E
Klein Menasse	Rietfontein	08:00-16:30	+27(0) 54531 0084	26.7564°S 19.9992°E

Botswana-South Africa Border Crossings

- Road Transport Permit – P40 (Pula) +- R44
 - National Road Safety – P20 – valid for a calendar year (up to 31 December) P20 will also be charged on a trailer
 - Third-Party Insurance – P50 – motor vehicle insurance (mini-buses and buses will pay a higher fee)
 - Temporary Import Permit (This form will be issued at the border post on entry)
- Currency: Pula (BWP)

Botswana Border Posts

Botswana Border Post	South Africa- Border Post	Opening Hours	Contact Number	GPS Coordinates
Two Rivers	Twee Rivieren	07:30-16:00	+27(0) 54561 0093	26.4701°S 20.6156°E
Bokspits	Gemsbok	08:00-16:30	+27(0) 54511 0043	26.9044°S 20.6904°E
Middleputs	Middelputs	07:30-16:30	+27(0) 53781 0212	26.6705°S 21.8826°E
McCarthy's Rest	McCarthy's Rest	08:00-18:00	+27(0) 53781 0285	26.2015°S 22.5679°E
Makopong	Makopong	08:00-18:00	+27(0) 53922 ask for Vorstershoop 2011	25.3653°S 22.9747°E
Bray	Bray	07:00-16:00	+27(0) 53937 0026	25.4566°S 23.7141°E
Pitsane Molopo	Makgobistad	07:00-16:00		25.7485°S 25.1076°E
Ramatlabama	Ramatlabama	06:00-22:00	+27(0) 18390 2533	25.6419°S 25.5742°E
Pioneer Gate	Skilpadshek	06:00-24:00	+27(0) 18366 0011	25.2756°S 25.7138°E
Ramotswa	Swartkopfontein	06:00-22:00	+27(0) 18365 9010	24.8725°S 25.8826°E
Tlokweng	Kopfontein	06:00-24:00	+27(0) 18365 9055	24.7064°S 26.0939°E
Sikwane	Derdepoort	06:00-19:00	+27(0) 14778 0725	24.6426°S 26.4035°E
Parr's Halt	Stockpoort	08:00-1800	+27(0) 14763 4586	23.4027°S 27.3567°E

Martin's Drift	Groblersbrug	08:00-18:00	+27(0) 14767 1019	22.9981°S 27.9419°E
Zanzibar	Zanzibar	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 14767 1024	22.5719°S 28.4663°E
Platjan	Platjan	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 15575 1040	22.4855°S 28.8337°E
Pontdrift	Pontdrift	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 15575 1056	22.2148°S 29.1382°E

Zimbabwe-South Africa Border Crossings

- Third-Party Insurance (Compulsory) – obtained at border post for R225 or at an AA Accredited Sales Agent store
 - Road Access Fee – based on the vehicle's size paid on entry only. Rates: R60 for a small sedan, R270 for a large 4x4
 - Beitbridge Border Post Fee – R100
 - Exit Pass- R70 at each exit
 - Carbon Pollution Tax: Depends on engine capacity; fees start from R60 up to R270 (valid for 30 days)
- Currency: Dollar (USD)

Zimbabwe Border Posts

Zimbabwe Borer Post	South Africa Border Post	Opening Hours	Contact Number	GPS Coordinates
Beitbridge	Beitbridge	24 hrs	+27(0) 15530 0070	22.2243°S 29.9865°E

Mozambique-South Africa Border Crossings

- Temporary Import Permit for vehicle (Compulsory) – approximately R15 payable in Meticals
 - Third-Party Insurance (Compulsory) – available at any AA Accredited Sales Agent store; R160 (valid for 30 days)
 - Immigration Fees – R17.50 per person
 - Declaration Form for vehicle – cost is approximately R50
- Currency: Metical (MZM) but Rand currency is acceptable in Mozambique.

Mozambique Border Posts

Mozambique Border Post	South Africa Border Post	Opening Hours	Contact Number	GPS Coordinates
Pafuri	Pafuri	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 13 735 6882	22.4490°S 31.3157°E

Giriyonda	Giriyonda	08:00-16:00 Oct-March 08:00-15:00 April-Sept	+27(0) 13 735 8919	23.5840°S 31.6600°E
Ressano Garcia	Lebombo	06:00-24:00	+27(0) 13 793 7311	25.4431°S 31.9867°E
Ponta do Ouro	Kosi Bay	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 35 593 9871	26.8643°S 32.8293°E

Swaziland-South Africa Border Crossings

- Third-Party Insurance – included in the fuel price; no document required
- Road Tax – R50 payable for vehicles, 14% tax charged on goods brought in for personal use with no charge on the first R1 000; charge is applicable on an excess of R1 000 and is non-refundable.

Currency: Lilangeni (SZL)

Swaziland Border Posts

Swaziland Border Post	South Africa Border Post	Opening Hours	Contact Number	GPS Coordinates
Mananga	Mananga	07:00-18:00	+27(0) 13790 7075	25.9331°S 31.7613°E
Matsamo	Jeppe's Reef	07:00-20:00	+27(0) 13781 0382	25.7507°S 31.4676°E
Bulembu	Josefsdal	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 13712 3891	25.9446°S 31.1215°E
Ngwenya	Oshoek	07:00-22:00	+27(0) 17882 0138/9	26.2125°S 30.9892°E
Lundzi	Waverley	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 17819 5763	26.3275°S 30.8885°E
Sandlane	Nerston	08:00-18:00	+27(0) 17846 9207	26.5697°S 30.7918°E
Sicunusa	Emahlathini	08:00-18:00	+27(0) 17826 0941	26.8605°S 30.9084°E
Gege	Bothashoop	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 17826 0400	26.9737°S 30.9684°E
Mahamba	Mahamba	07:00-22:00	+27(0) 17826 0076	27.1055°S 31.0691°E
Salitje	Onverwacht	08:00-18:00	+27(0) 34413 1380	27.3162°S 31.6438°E

Golela	Lavumisa	07:00-22:00	+27(0) 34435 1070	27.3172°S 31.8884°E
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Lesotho-South Africa Border Crossings

- Toll fees – determined by the weight of your vehicle. +-R30

Currency: Loti (LSL)

Lesotho Border Posts

Lesotho Border Post	South Africa Border Post	Opening Hours	Contact Number	GPS Coordinates
Maseru bridge	Maseru Bridge	24 hrs	+27(0) 51 924 4300	29.2980°S 27.4546°E
Peka Bridge	Peka Bride	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 51 933 3951	28.9450°S 27.7344°E
Maputsoe	Ficksburg Bridge	24 hrs	+27(0) 51 933 2760	28.8839°S 27.8903°E
Caledonspoort	Caledonspoort	06:00-22:00	+27(0) 58 223 8400	28.6948°S 28.2339°E
Montansa Pass	Montansa Pass	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 58 713 1600	28.5902°S 28.6826°E
Sani Pass	Sani Pass	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 33 702 1169	29.5847°S 29.2863°E
Ramatsilitso	Ramatsilitso	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 39 256 4443	30.0502°S 28.9339°E
Qacha's Nek	Quacha's Nek	06:00-10:00	+27(0) 39 256 4391	30.1297°S 28.6856°E
Ongeluksnek	Ongeluksnek	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 39 256 7001	30.3383°S 28.2519°E
Tele Bridge	Tele bridge	06:00-22:00	+27(0) 51 611 1710	30.4319°S 27.5673°E
Makhaleng Bridge	Makhaleng Bridge	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 51 673 1484	30.1641°S 27.3996°E
Sepapus Gate	Sepapus Gate	08:00-16:00	+27(0) 52 332, ask for 190	29.9476°S 27.1993°E
van Rooyen's Gate	van Rooyen's Gate	06:00-22:00	+27(0) 51 583 1525	29.7560°S 27.1091°E

Quick Border Post Tips:

Border posts can be daunting, confusing and may even frustrate you but no worries, follow these tips and you will sail on through with no problems.

1. Make a folder for all your important documents to prevent unnecessary loss and stress.
2. Get all your documents in order ready to hand in to the border official.
3. Be patient and smile – always be polite and co-operate, this will help make the procedure go smoothly without annoying the person who has the power to give you access.
4. Ask for the maximum number of days possible – you could end up stuck in the middle of nowhere with a flat tyre and not be able to return in time.
5. Don't overstay your time; this will lead to problems at the border when trying to leave.
6. Make sure your passport has enough empty pages for the necessary stamps.
7. Keep a few pens with you, there are never enough at the border posts, it will help you fill out the paperwork faster without having to wait. Now go enjoy your travels on the roads of Africa!

Disclaimer: Please note that pricing indicated may vary at any given time of travel.