

LOWVELD TRAILS CO.



# TRAILS GUIDE

WORKSHOP

FOR TRAILS GUIDES  
BY TRAILS GUIDES



The most experienced  
mentorship team  
in the industry.



**14 DAYS**

**TWO DESTINATIONS**

13 - 26 APRIL 2020

18 - 31 JULY 2020



PASSION. EXPERIENCE. QUALITY



# about the workshop

The Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA) accredited Trails Guide Workshop is conducted primarily in the Greater Kruger National Park over a period of 14 days. The objective is to provide comprehensive trails guide training and mentorship to fully qualified Apprentice Trails Guides, while facilitating the logging of walking hours and dangerous game encounters required for the lead Trails Guide qualification. Strong emphasis is placed on the ethos surrounding trails guiding, the necessary bush skills required for multi-day trails and holistic environmental interpretation.

The workshop will be facilitated by Brenden Pienaar and Wayne Te Brake. This is an unmatched opportunity for Trails Guide candidates to be intensively mentored by two experienced and active FGASA Trails Guides and assessors, both Professional SKS : DG qualified, with no less than 22 000 walking hours between them.

The workshop has a capacity of 8 participants, split as follows:

## 4 Rifle-Carrying Participants

### Candidates logging towards lead Trails Guide

will be limited to a maximum of four participants per course, ensuring personalised attention from the facilitators and as much first-hand experience as possible.

## 4 Non-Rifle-Carrying Participants

### Candidates logging towards Apprentice Trails Guide

will be able to log these valuable walking hours and dangerous game encounters towards their FGASA qualification as participants.

&/or

### Guests joining to experience

a unique walking holiday, and a chance to go "behind the scenes" and observe how Trails Guides are trained.

All participants will be able to join for the duration of the entire workshop or per destination(s).

Optional Advanced Rifle Handling (ARH) and Trails Guide practical assessments will be offered prior to commencement or when candidates are eligible, respectively.

## Hours & Encounters

There will be an intense 6 - 7 hours spent walking per day for the duration of the course. These average daily hours do not include extra hours spent out on Primitive Trail (4 days) which could add an extra 16 hours to each candidates logbook. We are therefore confident that each candidate will be able to log up to 50 walking hours as 1st/2nd Rifle, and up to 50 hours as a non-rifle-carrying participant, if present for the entire duration of the workshop.

The estimated number of potentially dangerous game encounters are more difficult to predict, although conducting the workshop in two areas with a high density of potentially dangerous game will also ensure the best possibilities for a diverse range of encounters, providing prime learning experiences to the aspiring Trails Guides.

"Fantastic facilitators, awesome sightings, amazing experience. I can highly recommend Lowveld Trails Co., I didn't want the course to finish!"

- Jenni Smith



**Brenden Pienaar** (left) has always experienced a special magnetism towards natural spaces and their ecological functioning. Consequently, he has made a conscious effort to gain as much experience and understanding of these intricate systems over the past fifteen years to better equip himself for a life dedicated to their interpretation and conservation.

His most valued attributes are systematic problem solving and critical thinking, which he refined during a MSc. in Ecology through the University of Witwatersrand (WITS). However, as a practically orientated individual he thrives on time spent in the bush and is continuously challenging his skills as a naturalist.

Together with a BTech: Nature Conservation, Brenden has achieved the FGASA Professional SKS Dangerous Game, SKS Birding, as well as the Tracker Level 3 qualification (Professional Trailing) through CyberTracker. He still actively conducts Backpack Trails in Kruger National Park, but has become passionate about facilitating 'Primitive Trails' & Trails Guide Courses for Lowveld Trails Co. Based on his relevant field experience (incl. > 12 000 trails guiding hours), he acts as National assessor for SASSETTA, CATHSSETA & FGASA.

Brenden's calm nature and ability to interpret the inter-connectedness of the natural environment makes him a popular trail leader/facilitator. He deeply values the concept and philosophy of wilderness and it's associated attributes.

# course facilitators

**Wayne Te Brake** (right) is a Wilderness Trails Guide with sixteen years worth of experience in the Nature Conservation and Field Guiding industry. Along with his degree (BTech: Nature Conservation), he has obtained the FGASA Professional SKS Dangerous Game, SKS Birding, as well as the Tracker Level 3 qualification, including Track&Sign Specialist(CyberTracker). He is also a registered National and FGASA assessor.

Wayne has guided throughout Southern Africa and has spent more than five and a half years conducting Field Guide (Trails Guide) Training courses in South Africa. Over the last number of years, the majority of his time has been spent leading Backpack Trails in the Kruger National Park.

With the advent of Lowveld Trails Co., Wayne's focus has shifted to guiding 'Primitive Trails' and training young Trails Guides in the Private Nature Reserves bordering the Kruger National Park. He has accumulated > 10 000 walking (trails guiding) hours. Wayne is a popular Trails Guide and course facilitator with a deep Wilderness connection. Time spent in the bush with Wayne is always rewarding.



"You will truly be walking with two of the very best Trails Guides in southern Africa. This is an opportunity not to be missed."

- Lee Gutteridge (Wildlife Author & FGASA Scout)



## Why choose Lowveld Trails Co.?

- An industry specialist. The only FGASA accredited training provider that conducts Trails Guide Courses exclusively .
- The most experienced Trails Guide Course facilitator team in the industry.
- The hop on/off options are conveniently structured for those already working in the Field Guiding industry (with limited leave).
- Fair & competitive Trails Guide Course price.

### Included:

- Logging walking hours & dangerous game encounters under experienced mentors.
- Primitive Trail.
- Trail equipment, mattress & pillow.
- Shared accommodation/tents.
- All meals, coffee, tea & juice.
- Lowveld Trails Co. T-shirt.

### Excluded:

- ARH assessment (if required).
- Practical assessment (if eligible).
- Transport to/from Hoedspruit, Limpopo.
- FGASA membership fees.
- Additional drinks.

### Packing Checklist:

Sleeping bag | Sheet | Towel | Walking shoes (already worn in) | Head torch | Water bottles (min. 2 litre capacity) | Backpack (day pack & multi-day pack) | Binoculars & Cameras | Reference books | FGASA Dangerous Game Logbook (only if you already have one) & pen | ID book/Passport |

# workshop costs

## Full 14 day Trails Guide Workshop

13 to 26 April | 18 to 31 July

ZAR 32 500 per person

Participants also have the option to only join for the destination/s of their choice:

### 13 to 26 April Workshop

Timbavati Private Nature Reserve

Tented Camp Trail | 13 to 18 April | ZAR 13 800 per person

Primitive Trail | 18 to 21 April | ZAR 4 900 per person

Nthaba - Balule Private Nature Reserve

Bush Camp | 21 to 26 April | ZAR 13 800 per person

### 18 to 31 July Workshop

Timbavati Private Nature Reserve

Tented Camp Trail | 18 to 26 July | ZAR 18 700 per person

Nthaba - Balule Private Nature Reserve

Bush Camp | 26 to 31 July | ZAR 13 800 per person

Contact [admin@lowveldtrails.co.za](mailto:admin@lowveldtrails.co.za) for reservations.



"Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life."

- Confucius