

LOWVELD TRAILS CO.

TIMBAVATI PRIMITIVE TRAIL

On the Timbavati Primitive Trail you will be exposed to Nature's finer detail, the grandeur of the landscape and the thrill of moving among iconic large mammals in the classic big game country of the central Lowveld.

Well beyond an activity, it is a fully immersive experience that permits participation in Nature as opposed to traditional spectatorship. It creates the space for personal, social and Wilderness regeneration.

It is real, visceral and completely authentic.

What to Expect

This 3-night walking Trail takes place in the world renowned Timbavati Private Nature Reserve, part of the Greater Kruger National Park.

Led by professional Wilderness Trails Guides, with thousands of Trail hours experience each, you will spend a minimum of three self-sufficient nights (four days) in the wild.

Carrying all your equipment on your back, you will enter a world only accessible to a privileged few.

Groups set their own pace and explore according to their interests and capabilities.

There are no demarcated campsites or routes. Each night is spent under the stars (no tents) at a pristine location with participants sharing in the responsibility of 'night-watch duty'.



What to Pack

Everything required for the duration of the Trail must be carried in a backpack.

Participants must be completely self-sufficient and must cater for all their Trail meals, including 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners, as well as the odd snack. In order to minimize our impact, all cooking must be done on a gas stove.

Below is a complete 'Primitive Trail Checklist' to assist participants when packing.

Trail Equipment

- Backpack (between 50l and 60l)
- Sleeping bag
- Mattress (simple roll mat for insulation or a blow-up mattress)
- Small/blow-up pillow (optional)
- Ground sheet (optional)
- Trail fold-up chair (optional - you may thank us though)
- Mini gas cooker and lighter
- Small pot, Plate/bowl and mug
- Sharp knife and spoon - you can use pocket knife/ Leatherman.
- Water bottles - capacity of 2.5 - 3 litres.
- Head torch
- Binoculars (optional)

We provide you with a Bivvy Bag in which to put your sleeping bag during the night to protect you from rain or dew. Leave a small space for this in your backpack, or you can strap it to the outside.

Trail Kit

- Walking Shoes (already worn in)
- Gaiters
- Neutral Coloured Clothing
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Flip-flops
- Sarong – can be used as blanket, sun protection and towel
- Rain Jacket for Oct to Apr (just in case!)
- Winter nights will be a lot cooler so a jacket and a warmer sleeping bag is recommended during those months.

Personal Essentials

- Sunscreen
- Tooth brush and toothpaste
- Toilet paper
- Small towel, face cloth and soap
- Backpack raincoat/cover to protect backpack and contents in case of rain or dew.
- A large ziplock bag is useful to store your rubbish, wrappings etc.

Trail Food & Drink

Keep it simple. Remember all cooking will be done on your gas cooker. Below are a few basic meal suggestions.

Breakfast - Oats-so-easy, Futurelife, muesli bars, apple/naartjie.

Lunch - Pro-vitas/Salticrax/Wraps, cream cheese, avo, biltong, salami, tuna sachets.

Dinner - Pasta, couscous, salami, biltong, instant soup, or dehydrated Trail meals - visit the 'FAQ' page at lowveldtrails.co.za for supplier links.

Snacks - protein bars, biltong, droewors, trail mix/nuts/dried fruit.

Drinks - coffee, tea, juice sachets.

Water Provision while on Trail is rainfall-dependent.

During the summer months, when water is plentiful, you'll collect from pools in non-perennial rivers, elephant diggings and depressions/pans in the veld. Once the dry winter months arrive, the guides will do water-drops prior to the start of the Trail.



Book your Timbavati Primitive Trail

This Trail is restricted to private group bookings of up to 8 participants. Operational from mid-April to mid-June, and in August and September 2026.

Timbavati Primitive Trail Rate | ZAR 52 000 / group / Trail
Timbavati PNR Conservation Levy | ZAR 870 / person / Trail

Contact reservations@lowveldtrails.co.za to check availability and secure your preferred dates.

What you need to know:

- Meeting & End Point | Timbavati Headquarters
- Meeting Time | 11h00am on Day One
- End Time | by 11h00am on Day Four
- Vehicles can remain at Timbavati Headquarters for the duration of the Trail.

Visit the '[Frequently Asked Questions](#)' page on our website for more information about our Trails.



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WILDERNESS RATING

The Timbavati Primitive Trail landscape is characterized by quintessential Lowveld savanna, with large open sodic sites and intimate seasonal drainage lines. The area supports good numbers of all the large mammal species, resulting in frequent animal encounters. Although the road network is relatively sparse, there is still the chance of bumping into game drive vehicles, as the properties we walk on are also accessible to a few lodges.

69%

Compared to our other Primitive Trails:
Makuya Primitive Trail - 82%
Kalahari Primitive Trail - 85%

Visit lowveldtrails.co.za to find out more about our Wilderness Rating Criteria.

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