

LOWVELD TRAILS CO.

KALAHARI PRIMITIVE TRAIL



On the **Kalahari Primitive Trail** you will journey through mixed Kalahari woodland, interspersed with a network of large seasonal pans.

A Primitive Trail in this wild, expansive environment filled with semi-arid adapted species, will expose you to Nature's fine detail, the grandeur of the landscape and the thrill of moving among iconic large mammals.

Well beyond an activity, this 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.

What to Expect

This walking safari takes place in the remote !Khamab Kalahari Reserve in North-West Province, South Africa. Sharing it's northern boundary with Botswana, this protected area covers approximately 95 000 ha.

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 the responsibility of 'night-watch' duty.



We have a strong 'no-trace' camping ethic.



The Kalahari is an environment of extremes, with extremely high summer day-time temperatures, and extremely low winter night-time temperatures. We therefore operate two short 'Primitive Trail' seasons during the most suitable periods of April and May, and September, when temperatures are at their mildest.

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 (for a 3-night Primitive Trail), 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 40l and 60l)
- Sleeping bag (winter weight)
- Mattress (simple roll mat for insulation or a blow-up mattress)
- Ground sheet/Tarpaulin (a must!)
- Small/blow-up pillow (optional)
- Sleeping Bag Liner (recommended for warmth)
- 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 - should have capacity of 2.5 - 3L.
- 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) - avoid shoes with mesh air vents, due to fine sand.
- Gaiters
- Neutral Coloured Clothing
- Hat and Sunglasses
- Flip-flops
- Sarong – can be used as blanket, sun protection and towel
- Waterproof poncho (just in case!)
- Nights will be quite cold so be prepared with a jacket, scarf, gloves, beanie and layers.

Personal Essentials

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

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, dehydrated hummus.

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 - due to the low annual rainfall in the Kalahari, the guides will do water-drops prior to the start of the Trail, providing guests with access to water every morning and afternoon.

Book your Kalahari Primitive Trail

This Trail is restricted to **private group bookings** of up to 8 participants.

During 2027 there will be two Kalahari Primitive Trail Seasons:

Autumn Season | 01 April to 31 May 2027

Spring Season | 29 August to 30 September 2027

3-night Trails will depart every Sunday and Thursday, and 6-night Trails depart on Sundays.

3-night Kalahari Primitive Trail Rate | ZAR 81 900 / group

6-night Kalahari Primitive Trail Rate | ZAR 163 800 / group

Lowveld Trails Co. Wilderness Levy | ZAR 650 / person / Trail

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

Find out more about our **Travel Add-on** and **Gear Rental Options** from reservations@lowveldtrails.co.za or the Pre-Travel Information.

Trail Rate excludes:

- Transport to and from the Trail.
- Accommodation pre-/post-Trail.

What you need to know:

- Meeting Point | !Khamab Kalahari Reserve
- Meeting Time | 13h00pm on day one
- End Time | by 11h00am on last day
- Detailed directions to the !Khamab Kalahari Reserve meeting point are in the Pre-Travel Information.
- Vehicles can remain at the meeting point for the duration of the Trail.

"We did the primitive trail in the Kalahari and it was truly life changing. The scenery, wildlife and wilderness feeling was on another level. But even more importantly was the quality of the guides. They took the experience to another level. I cannot recommend a primitive trail with Lowveld Trails enough, especially in this day and age. It is the perfect way to disconnect from modern life and reconnect with the wild."

Byron Lotter - May 2025 Kalahari Trailist



LOWVELD TRAILS CO. WILDERNESS RATING

!Khamab Kalahari Reserve scores our highest Wilderness rating. Contributing to this is the slim chance of seeing any sign of other humans, incredible wide open skies and vistas, the distinct wilderness atmosphere of the Kalahari and very healthy game densities. This area is unique, raw and remote, offering an unparalleled sense of freedom.

85%

Compared to our other Primitive Trails:

Timbavati Primitive Trail - 69%

Makuya Primitive Trail - 82%

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



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