

SIMBAVATI

River Lodge

Timbavati Private Nature Reserve • Hoedspruit • Limpopo • South Africa
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Simbavati Factsheet

An exclusive African Safari experience awaits you at the Simbavati River Lodge, situated in the world famous Timbavati Private Nature Reserve, which forms part of the Greater Kruger Park. The reserve is home to the famous White Lions and offers exceptional game viewing opportunities. Simbavati River Lodge has extensive tracts of wilderness (over 12,000 hectares) in which to experience an authentic African safari.

An intimate and child friendly camp, Simbavati River Lodge places emphasis on relaxation. Chalets & Tents are comfortably furnished complete with air conditioning, further enhancing your tranquil African Bush experience. The lodge also offers a lounge, bar, dining area and breathtaking views of the nearby Nhlalalumi River.

Pattern of Activities

The lodge offers Big 5 game drives in the early morning and late afternoon/evening to ensure game viewing when the animals are most active. Nocturnal animals, including the big cats are regular sightings at night. Currently there are over 40 mammal species in the Timbavati including the Big 5 of Lion, Leopard, Rhino, Buffalo and Elephant as well as 360 species of bird life.

- Early morning tea/coffee overlooking the river on the deck
- Game Drive (approx 3+ hours) including a coffee/tea stop in the bush
- Mid morning breakfast/brunch on the dining deck
- Time at leisure (use of the swimming pool, books and board games on offer, relax in the lounge area and use the free WIFI, cocktails on the deck or take a look around our well stocked Curio shop)
- Afternoon High Tea (combination of High Tea & Lunch) on the dining deck
- Afternoon/evening game drive (approx 3+ hours) With a Sundowners stop in the bush
- Dinner on the deck or sometimes around the fire in the open air boma (weather permitting)

Special dietary requirements will be catered for subject to **prior notification** (as the nearest shops are over one hours' drive away).

Lodge facilities include:

- Lounge with a selection of books and games
- Curio shop
- Informal meeting room/Activity room
- Game-viewing deck overlooking the river
- Wi-Fi in reception, lounge & deck (but very little cell phone reception)

Room Configuration

- 3 Thatched family chalets, all with 2 bedrooms and one en-suite with shower and bath and air-conditioning. Bed configuration differs slightly for each chalet: Chalet 1 has 2 twin bedded rooms, Chalet 2 has 1 twin bedded room and 1 triple bedded room, whilst Chalet 3 has 1 king bedded room and 1 twin bedded room. Please note: The bathroom leads from one of the bedrooms (not from a central lobby).
- 8 Luxurious Safari Tents, all twin bedded with en-suite. Bathroom configuration differs with either inside shower and outside bath, or inside bath and outside shower.

In room facilities include:

- 2 point plug converters
- Complimentary toiletries
- Coffee/tea facilities
- Eco-friendly insect spray
- Hair-dryer
- Private game viewing deck
- All rooms are non-smoking rooms (smoking on deck of your room)
- Filtered cold water
- Mini bars with drinks and snacks
- Electric blankets on beds for the winter
- Laundry service -bag in room

Honeymoon Value Adds

- Complimentary sparkling wine
- Romantic turndown
- Private dinner

Birthdays

- Staff singing with a cake
- Birthday message

Child Policy

Children of all ages are welcome at Simbavati. There is a children's activity room with a selection of toys/board games. Children will receive an activity booklet on arrival (coloured pencils available to use at reception). Children under the age of 13 will be taken to look at tracks and signs in the bush by a tracker after Breakfast. Board games and books available in the lounge area.

- Between 0 – 3 years; no charge and includes all meals
- 4 – 12 years: 50% of the per person sharing rate per night
- Children 12 years & older sharing with parents in our family units; 3rd/4th person rate applicable
- Child sharing with a parent in our Luxury Tents; per person sharing rate applicable

Baby-sitting during the game drives/evening meals is possible by prior arrangement and at an additional cost (R45 per hour). This needs to be pre-booked.

NB: Children 6 years & over are allowed on Game Drives. Families with younger children can arrange a private vehicle (see above) prior to arrival. Please ask us for our Families at Simbavati Document if you require more detail.

Simbavati Photographic Safaris in association with Nikon

We offer set departure Photographic Safaris on selected dates. Keen photographers can join a Nikon Professional Photographer for all game drives who will assist you with taking better wildlife shots. You can bring your own equipment but some equipment is also available for hire at the lodge. The photographic safaris use our specially adapted photographic vehicles with four swivel seats, special camera mountings and low sides for maximum photographic opportunities. Ask for our Photographic Safaris Leaflet if you want more details. You can also request the photographic vehicle with a field guide on a private basis – see prices below.

Private Game-Viewing Vehicle

Private vehicle/ranger:	R2,200 per day (until April 2014)
Private photographic vehicle/ranger:	R3,950 per day (until April 2014)

Getting to Simbavati

The Timbavati Private Nature Reserve is a wildlife-rich concession of land that adjoins the western border of the Kruger National Park forming a unique combination of public and private lands called "The Greater Kruger Park". There are no fences between the Timbavati and the Kruger National Park which allows free movement of wildlife between the Reserves.

Transfers

We offer **complimentary scheduled transfers at set times** to coincide with the scheduled flights into and out from Hoedspruit Eastgate Airport. Please note that this is a scheduled transfer and you will be sharing with other guests coming to the lodge. If you are planning to drop a rental car at Hoedspruit Airport, please ensure that you arrive well before the flight arrival time as unfortunately we cannot wait for late arrivals. The transfer time is approx one hour. Please note the complimentary transfers exclude the vehicle entry fee of R120 payable at the gate.

- Scheduled Collection Times from Hoedspruit – 11:20, 12:10 & 13:15
- Scheduled Departure Times from Simbavati – 09:30 (for the 12 departure) & 11:30

If you are arriving at another time, we can arrange **private transfers** from Hoedspruit, Kruger Mpumalanga Intl Airport, Phalaborwa Airport or the Timbavati Gate. Please ask for our Transfers Rate Sheet.

By Air

SA Express operates daily flights from OR Tambo (Johannesburg) International airport to Hoedspruit/Eastgate airport. Transfer from Hoedspruit to Simbavati takes approximately 60 minutes. Other airports in the area are Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport, also known as KMIA/Nelspruit (approx 3-3½ hrs from Simbavati) or Phalaborwa airport (1½-2 hrs).

Clients can fly into the private Leadwood landing strip within the Timbavati Reserve by prior arrangement. Charter company details need to be given directly to the lodge so that transfers can be arranged from the airstrip. There is a **landing fee charge of R330** for the use of the private airstrip – this needs to be prepaid.

Direction by Road: From Johannesburg/Pretoria

Simbavati River Lodge is a 6 to 7 hour drive from Johannesburg or Pretoria.

From Johannesburg take the N12 to Witbank/Emalahleni and continue on the N4. From Pretoria, take the N4 to Witbank. Follow the N4 and turn left to Belfast (Off ramp R33/R540). Once in Belfast, turn right into Voortrekker Street and continue straight with the R540 to Dullstroom. Drive straight through Dullstroom and continue to Lydenburg on the R540. At the T-junction turn left into Lydenburg/Mashisheng into Viljoen Street (R36). Turn left again into Voortrekker Street. Turn right into De Clercq Street and follow the R36 through Ohrigstad. After the Abel Erasmus pass, the R36 turns left to Tzaneen. **Do not turn left here**, but continue straight on the R527 to Hoedspruit.

In Hoedspruit, continue straight. After the bridge crossing the railway line, turn right at the four way stop and continue on the R40 for another 6, 4 km. Turn left onto the Timbavati/ Eastgate Airport road and go through the Control Gate after approx 200 m. Continue straight for another approx 18 km until you reach the control gate of the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve. Here you will be required to pay **a vehicle entrance fee of R120 per vehicle** (subject to change). There is also a **Timbavati Conservation fee of R170 per person** (subject to change) which is payable at the lodge or can be pre-paid. Keep your permit as the Lodge will issue you with an exit permit when you leave the reserve.

Continue straight for approx 25 km (speed limit of 50km/hour) and pass the Ndlopfu sign on your left. Shortly after this, you will see a dam on the right hand side. After this, turn right onto a gravel road at the Simbavati River Lodge sign. The GPS co-ordinates for the turn-off as follows: S 24°12, 20.2' E 31°19,24.2. Carefully follow the Simbavati River Lodge paw print signs on the trees for a further 6,4km to the lodge. (Please do not go to Leadwood Camp). On the way you will be crossing a low water bridge.

Note: From Hoedspruit, it takes another hour to the lodge because of the speed limits in the reserve.

Direction by Road: From KMIA Airport

Driving from Nelspruit or Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (KMIA) to Simbavati will take approximately 3-3½ hours.

From Nelspruit take the R40 to White River. From KMIA turn right onto the R40 to White River. Drive through White River, follow the R40 signs carefully to Hazyview. Continue north on the R40 through Hazyview. Note that this is a busy stretch of road with vehicles, people and sometimes animals on the road. Please drive carefully & slowly and **keep to the speed limits**. Follow the R40 towards Klaserie and Hoedspruit. Just before Klaserie you turn right onto the R40 toward Hoedspruit. Travel for approx 18 km and turn right at the Eastgate airport sign. Follow directions above....

General Information:

- No Pets allowed
- Groups are welcome with an exclusive use lodge rate on offer
- Children of all ages welcome (refer to children policy above)
- Laundry service available
- No bush walks are possible

Lodge Contact Details:

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