



Hilltop Lodge Factsheet

The Simbavati Hilltop Lodge – situated within the world renowned and breathtakingly beautiful Timbavati Private Nature Reserve, which forms part of the Greater Kruger Park – guarantees an exclusive, authentic and unforgettable African Safari experience. Home to the famous white lions, expect exceptional game viewing within Simbavati Hilltop Lodge's extensive tract of over 12,000 hectares of unspoilt wilderness

Enjoy magnificent views of the bush, the Nhlalalumi River and the distant foothills of the Drakensberg Mountain Range from the vantage point of the beautiful small koppie on which the lodge is situated. Accommodation is pure African safari, and comprises of individual pavilion-style luxury tents, arranged to create a unique village feel. Each suite comprises two individual tents – one for the main bedroom, and a separate bathroom, which is linked by a passage that can be opened up on one side – allowing for an indoor or private outdoor shower experience. Privacy is guaranteed thanks to the careful placement of the tented-suites, ensuring a tranquil and intimate stay. Some of the private suites are situated to avail of the breathtaking views, and are therefore accessible via steep stairs. For the mobility impaired, please ensure that you stipulate your needs when booking.

Activities

The lodge offers Big 5 game drives in the early morning and late afternoon/evening, taking advantage of the time of day that the animals are naturally most active. Nocturnal creatures - including the big cats - are regular sightings at night. Currently over 40 mammal species are listed as resident in the Timbavati, including the Big 5 - Lion, Leopard, Rhino, Buffalo and Elephant, as well as endangered species including Wild Dogs and Cheetah. There is an abundance of birdlife, with a total of 360 species of bird listed.

Your day includes:

- Early morning tea/coffee, a selection of fresh fruit and pastries on the deck overlooking the river
- Game activity (approximately 3+ hours), including a coffee/tea stop in the bush
- Mid-morning breakfast/brunch – Continental and full hot breakfast
- Leisure time – enjoy the use of the infinity pool overlooking spectacular views of the distant Drakensberg Mountains. Alternatively, relax in the lounge/bar area, avail of the free WiFi on offer, or simply allow your mind to wander while sipping a refreshing cocktail, and watching the wildlife at the Nhlalalumi River.
- Lunch – a la carte or chef's specials
- Afternoon High Tea – tea or coffee and freshly baked sweet and savoury treats
- Afternoon/evening game activity (approximately 3+ hours), which includes a bushveld Sundowner break. Alternatively, embark on a prearranged bush walk, and

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be back at camp in time to enjoy sundowners while watching the sun sink below the horizon.

- Dinner of African-inspired cuisine is served on the deck, or – weather permitting – around the fire in the open-air boma.

Special dietary requirements: We require **prior notification** in order to accommodate any special dietary requirements you may have. Please ensure that you notify our reservations office upon booking.

Lodge facilities include:

- Game-viewing deck overlooking the river
- Infinity pool, with panoramic views of the bushveld and Drakensberg Mountains
- Covered pool lounge for shaded outdoor relaxation
- Curio Shop
- 360° Bar
- Lounge, that offers a selection of books and board games
- WiFi connectivity in the reception, lounge and deck area

Room Configuration

- 8 Luxurious Safari Tents, offering King-size or Twin-bed options. Please specify your requirements when booking.
- The en-suite bathroom tent is connected to main tent via a small passage, with an opening to the outdoors that gives you an indoor or private twin shower outdoor shower option.

Tent facilities include:

- A private game viewing deck
- Airconditioning
- Ceiling fan
- Mini bar with drinks and snacks
- Coffee and tea-making facilities
- Complimentary eco-friendly, biodegradable products

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- Eco-friendly insect spray
- Electric blankets for the winter period
- Laundry services. A laundry bag is supplied in the room
- Safe for storing valuables
- Hairdryer

Honeymoon Value Adds (within three months of wedding date)

- Complimentary bottle of sparkling wine
- Romantic turndown
- Private dinner

Other Special Occasions

Please inform management of your special occasion when making your reservation.

Child Policy

- No children under 12 years of age
- Children under the age of 16 years have to share a room with an adult over the age of 18 years.

Getting to Simbavati

The Timbavati Private Nature Reserve is a wildlife-rich concession of land adjoining the western border of the Kruger National Park. The amalgamation of public and private land in the area forms "The Greater Kruger Park" area. There are no fences between the Timbavati and the Kruger National Park, which allows for the free movement of the animals between the Reserves.

*It is important to note that guests wishing to visit Simbavati from the Kruger National Park are unable to enter the property via the bush/park, but will have to exit the park and approach via the tar road (see directions).

Transfers

We offer **complimentary scheduled transfers at set times** to coincide with the scheduled flights into and out from Hoedspruit's Eastgate Airport. Please note that this as it is a scheduled transfer, you will be sharing transport 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 we are unable to wait for late arrivals. The transfer time is approximately one hour. **Please note the complimentary transfers exclude the vehicle entry fee of R140 (subject to change) that is payable at the gate.**

- Scheduled Collection Times from Hoedspruit – 11:20, 12:10 (Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays) & 13:15
- Scheduled Departure Times from Simbavati – 09:15 (for the 12 departure), 10:00 (for the 12:45 flight on Sundays, Tuesday and Thursday) & 11:10

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We are able to arrange **private transfers** from Hoedspruit's Eastgate Airport, Kruger Mpumalanga International 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 90 minutes. Other airports in the area are Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport, also known as KMIA/Nelspruit (approximately 3-3½ hours from Simbavati) or Phalaborwa airport (1½-2 hours from Simbavati).

Guests can fly into a neighbouring airstrip 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 **prepaid landing fee of R330** payable for the use of the private airstrip.

Directions by Road from Johannesburg/Pretoria

Simbavati Hilltop Lodge is a six to seven 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/Mashishing on the R540. At the T-junction, turn left into Lydenburg/Mashishing 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 approximately 200m. Continue straight for about another 18km until you reach the control gate of the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve. Here you will be required to pay **a vehicle entrance fee of R140 per vehicle** (subject to change). There is also a **Timbavati Conservation fee of R180 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 approximately 25km (speed limit of 50km/h) and pass the Ndlopfu sign on your left. Shortly after this, you will see a dam on the right hand side, and a Simbavati River Lodge sign (also on your right) – **CONTINUE STRAIGHT PAST THIS TURNOFF** for another 15.2km until you see the SIMBAVATI HILLTOP LODGE signpost. Turn right onto a gravel road and follow the signposts from there onwards (about a half hour to the lodge).

Note: From Hoedspruit, it takes another 1.5 hours 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.

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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 and slowly, and **keep to the speed limits**. Follow the R40 towards Klaserie and Hoedspruit. Just before Klaserie, turn right onto the R40 toward Hoedspruit. Travel for approximately 18km and turn right at the Eastgate airport sign. Follow directions above from this point....

General Information

- No pets allowed
- Groups are welcome with an exclusive use lodge rate on offer
- Laundry service available
- Bush walks by prior arrangement and subject to availability
- Very limited cell phone reception
- Smart-casual dress code for dinner

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