

SIMBAVATI

HILLTOP LODGE

SELF DRIVE DIRECTIONS

FROM HOEDSPRUIT AIRPORT (±90 minute drive to Simbavati)

Please DO NOT rely on your GPS after Hoedspruit. It will lead you to the wrong lodge which will mean a two-hour detour. Continuous cellular telephone connection ends at the Enkhulu control gate. There is no mobile network available in the reserve.

As you exit the Airport, turn left for Timbavati Game Reserve onto Argyle Road. Drive through the Guernsey Access Control Gate. Continue straight for approximately 18km until you reach the Enkhulu control gate of the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve. Here you will be required to pay an entrance fee. (This changes on a yearly basis). This gate is open from 6am to 6pm. Please note that continuous cell phone reception ends here.

Aim to arrive by 2.30pm, if possible so that you have ample time to have lunch and settle in before the game drive. If you are going to be late due to unforeseen circumstances, please let us know on (015) 793-9051.

After the gate you continue on the tar road for approximately 37km. Please ensure that you keep to the speed limit (50km/hour) and do not get out of your car. On the way you will see the turnoff for Simbavati River Lodge. Do NOT turn in here.

You will later cross a low water bridge just before the entrance to Ingwelala game lodge. After another 800 meters, you will see the Simbavati Hilltop sign on your right. Turn right onto a gravel track. Follow the Simbavati Hilltop Lodge paw print signs on the trees/side of road all the way to the lodge (for approximately 10km). Please keep a careful lookout for all signs, as the elephants sometimes knock them.

FROM JOHANNESBURG (± 6½ – 7 hour drive)

N1 via Polokwane (Recommended Route)

The N1 route via Polokwane is an alternative from Gauteng to Simbavati. Although this way is ±50 km longer than the Dullstroom route and one pays more in toll fees, for some people this is a better option. It is a road with fewer potholes, and there are fewer delays due to heavy, slow-moving trucks. From Oliver Tambo International Airport follow the R21 north to Pretoria. Just before you reach Pretoria take the N1 North to Polokwane. (From Johannesburg, you follow the N1 North to Polokwane). Take the R71 to Tzaneen just before you get to Polokwane. Follow the R71 via Crobler Street through Moria to Tzaneen. Do not turn off the R71 until you get to the T-junction. Turn right onto the R36/R71 towards Tzaneen. Turn left onto the R71 at the first off-ramp and stay on the R71 through Giyani, Letsitele and Gravelotte until you reach the next T-Junction. At the T-junction turn right onto the R40 south towards Hoedspruit, White River and Mbombela. Continue straight through Hoedspruit. Drive ±6.5 km and then turn left on the D1909 (Argyle Road). The signage reads Timbavati and Eastgate Airport. Then follow the Hoedspruit directions to the Lodge.

Via Dullstroom

The most direct route is via N4 then Dullstroom to Lydenburg and Ohrigstad and onto Hoedspruit. However some people prefer to take the northern route via Polokwane and Tzaneen as there are fewer potholes. See Downloadable Directions.

From Johannesburg take the N12 to Witbank (Emalahleni) and continue on the N4 towards Nelspruit. (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 on the R540 to Dullstroom.

Drive straight through Dullstroom and continue to Lydenburg (name change to 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. Instead 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 south on the R40 for another 6.4km. Turn left onto the D1909 (Argyle Road). The sign says Timbavati/Eastgate Airport road. Then follow the Hoedspruit directions to the Lodge.

FROM KRUGER MPUMALANGA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT OR HAZYVIEW

KMIA – 3+ hours (195km) * Hazyview – Allow 2 to 2½ hours (145km)

The most direct route from Kruger Intl Airport is via the R40 through White River and Hazyview. Similarly if you are staying in or near Hazyview, the R40 north is the direct route. Just 6.5km south of Hoedspruit. You turn right onto the Timbavati/Eastgate Airport road. Allow 1½ hours to get from Hazyview to the Timbavati turnoff. Then another hour to get to the Lodge. Once on the Timbavati Road, you immediately pass the Eastgate Airport. Then follow the Hoedspruit directions to the Lodge.

Alternative Panorama route if staying at a Hazyview Lodge:

The R40 is a difficult road given the number of slow trucks and cars as well as many pedestrians. It takes longer than you would expect.

So if you have time, we recommend enjoying a tour of the Panorama route via the Blyde River canyon. Note that this is a longer route (255km from Hazyview to your lodge or 4 hours driving). En route you can stop off at the Bournes Luck potholes, Gods Window and the Three Rondavels

Emergency Contact Number: +27 (0)15 793 9051/3 or +27(0)15 793 9021