

LOWVELD TRAILS CO.

TIMBAVATI TRAILING EXPERIENCE

This 5-day 'Trailing Experience' will open up a new world to the Naturalist. The focus will be on the ability to follow the trail of an animal, anticipate where the trail is going, find the animal and approach the animal, if the situation permits.

Our quarry of preference is rhino, lion and elephant, although we could follow any trail that is workable, including those made by kudu, giraffe and buffalo.

Passion. Experience. Quality.

Scheduled Dates

18-22 October 2025

About the Experience

For the duration of this Trailing Experience, you will be based at the Lowveld Trails Co. Tented Camp in the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve (PNR), part of the Greater Kruger National Park.

The group, made up of a maximum of six participants, will be guided and mentored by two FGASA Trails Guides, one of whom will have a Senior Tracker qualification through the CyberTracker system.

The group will be thoroughly briefed on the principles of 'Trailing' with each participant taking it in turns to act as lead tracker. We utilize a 'team-tracking' technique, which ensures maximum engagement for all participants. There will be continual mentoring through the 'Trailing' process of finding and evaluating a trail, track recognition, trail anticipation and maintaining momentum in order to catch up to the animal.

The small group size, will ensure that each participant has multiple opportunities to track the animals themselves. Your time with us will be practical and intense, with an average of 7 to 8 hours spent in the field each day.

Who can take part?

Anyone with an interest in Nature, wildlife, tracking and an all-encompassing immersive experience would value this opportunity. There are no guiding or tracking qualification prerequisites to take part in this experience. Just arrive eager to learn and with an open mind.

"The goal is to follow an animal's fresh spoor to locate it on the landscape, guide the group to approach and observe it, and, finally, to exit the area without alerting the animal to any human presence. Every tracking situation is different, so we are always in the position of having to "figure it out." This uniqueness also results in variations to the exact experience of each participant, dictated by field conditions and animal behaviour."

Tracker Certification, Cybertracker North America

What to Expect

A typical day starts with a wake-up call prior to sunrise. As the birds announce the approaching day, we enjoy coffee, rusks and a light breakfast before heading out to pick up a fresh trail to follow.

Each participant will carry a day pack with a snack and sufficient water. After a morning of following tracks, we will return to camp for a well-earned lunch and an hour or 2 to rest before heading out again in the afternoon in search of a fresh trail to follow.

Dinner and a crackling campfire will await us back at camp, usually followed by an open air shower and an early night after the physical and mental exertions of the day.

Our Tented Camp, set under giant Jackalberry trees along a dry riverbed, is basic, but comfortable, providing an authentic and interactive experience.

Canvas dome tents house 2 participants each, and a mattress and pillow is provided. Ablutions are simple, yet unmatched. Comfortable seats crouch over pit-fall toilets and canvas bush showers stand under a canopy of trees, open to views of the surrounding bush.

The communal area is around the campfire or at the kitchen area where our cook whips up wholesome meals on a gas cooker and an open fire.

There is no electricity, cell-phone signal or Wi-fi, but we trust you will find a strong connection.

What to Pack

General Equipment

- Daypack (for water, snacks, etc.)
- Sleeping bag/Blanket & sheet
- Water bottles
- Head torch (spare batteries)
- Binoculars
- Notebook and Pen
- Tracking reference books (bring along if you have any)

Wardrobe

- Walking Shoes (already worn in)
- Ankle Gaiters
- Neutral Coloured Clothing
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Flip-flops
- Rain Jacket (Oct-Apr) - just in case!

Personal Essentials

- Sunscreen
- Tooth brush, toothpaste and additional toiletries
- Towel, face cloth & soap
- Additional snacks you may want
- Your own soft drinks / alcoholic beverages

This experience is **fully catered** and all meals, tea, coffee and juice will be provided. Please bring along your own additional snacks and soft drinks / beverages if you wish to.

Book your spot for the Timbavati Trailing Experience

2025 Scheduled Dates:
18-22 October

2025 Rate:
ZAR 19 800 / participant
Minimum of 4 participants ensures departure.

Contact reservations@lowveldtrails.co.za to check availability and book your spot.

Included in the rate:

- Transfers in and out of Timbavati PNR
- Timbavati PNR Conservation Levy
- Lowveld Trails Co. Tracker Card
- Notebook
- All meals, juice, tea & coffee

What you need to know:

- Meeting & End Time | Timbavati Headquarters
- Meeting Time | 12h00 midday on Day One
- End Time | by 11h00 on Day Five
- Vehicles can remain parked at Timbavati Headquarters for the duration.

