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IMFOLOZI TRAILS (Currently five types of trail are offered in iMfolozi)

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- E. **BUSHVELD TRAIL**

Please familiarise yourself with the following information, relevant to the type of trail on which you are booked.

SECTION ONE

INFORMATION RELEVANT TO ALL OF THE IMFOLOZI TRAILS

IMFOLOZI WILDERNESS AREA

Within the boundaries of the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, and for the greater part lying wedged between the White and Black Mfolozi rivers, lays the "jewel" in the crown of South Africa's wilderness areas. The wilderness area covers some 30 000 hectares of iMfolozi's total area of 66 000 hectares.

The wilderness is an area where the earth and its inhabitants are not disturbed by man, and where man himself is but a visitor who does not remain. In this area access is only permitted on foot or horseback. There are no roads and the only tracks are those made by animals. Managed so that its pristine character is not altered in any way, it is an area in where the sights and sounds of nature dominate.

HISTORY OF THE IMFOLOZI WILDERNESS AREA

During the 1950s, far sighted conservationists recognised that iMfolozi's resources of solitude and an unmodified environment needed to be nurtured and protected. Even then, much of old Zululand was rapidly disappearing under the plough and gun. These men recognised that all present and future generations of mankind deserved to experience the inspirational power of an unmodified African landscape. Their basic understanding of the wilderness concept was crystallised and verbalised when game ranger, Jim Feely, presented them with a document of the American Wilderness Society, listing the eleven fundamental principles of the Wilderness concept.

Due to the vision of Dr Ian Player, the then Warden-in-Charge of iMfolozi, and with the determined backing of Colonel Jack Vincent, the then Director of the former Natal Parks Board, iMfolozi's Wilderness Area became the first to be set aside in Africa.

On March 19, 1959, Dr Player and his legendary game guard and friend, Magqubu Ntombela, led the first official wilderness trail along the rhino paths and into the traditional hunting grounds of the great Zulu kings. The wilderness area, today, remains a piece of ancient Zululand frozen in time, a living monument to the Zulu nation. Ancient battlefields and relics bear testimony to its turbulent history.

THE WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

To Thoreau, wilderness was a "tonic", of which humans could never have enough. And for former Supreme Court Justice, William O. Douglas, wilderness helped preserve man's capacity for wonder - the power to feel, if not to see, the miracles of life, of beauty, and of harmony around us.

KZN Wildlife recognised that within the iMfolozi wilderness area, there are resources that are vital to the well-being of man. These are primarily the resources of solitude and an unmodified environment. Wilderness begins where technology ends.

Wilderness has long been recognised as a location for renewal of mind and spirit. What makes the wilderness experience unique is the tranquillity, peace and silence it offers and the opportunity it affords for contemplation. Nature dominates and there is a relative absence of demands on one's behaviour that are artificially generated or human-imposed. Here one becomes aware of the rhythms of the veld and the forces of nature.

Many people have had life-changing experiences in the wilderness, where, away from the all-encompassing technological world, they have been able to realise their full potential. Many trailists, in the after-glow of physical exertion, adrenaline-charged encounters with big game on foot, shared adventure and excitement with fellow human beings in a setting of tranquillity and solitude, have returned from a trail with an intense feeling of well-being. This, in essence, is why the wilderness experience has made such an impact on the many people who have visited the iMfolozi wilderness area.

THE OBJECTIVE

It is important to have the correct perspective when embarking on a trail. Although there is the opportunity of seeing the Big Five in iMfolozi, this is not the main aim of a trail. The focus of these trails is to introduce the trailists to the concept of

Wilderness; its ethic, philosophy, principles and values. We aim to facilitate an experience that embraces some of the fundamental values of Wilderness; solitude, timelessness, freedom from a world where man is in control, and a place where the sounds and ways of Nature pervade. Game viewing is part of it, but there is much else which we will enjoy and discover on a Wilderness trail in IMfolozi. The objective of a trail is to have a wilderness experience, and visitors embarking on an IMfolozi wilderness trail, experience wilderness in which they observe all facets of the bush, both great and small. They discover the many intricate patterns of nature that would otherwise elude them when driving around in a car. It is also a unique opportunity to ask those questions that inevitably crop up.

IMfolozi is internationally renowned for its white rhino, having the largest population in Africa. It also has the highest concentration of black rhino in Africa. The bushveld nature of the area lends itself to a magnificent wilderness experience. Once the private hunting ground of the great Zulu king, Shaka, the area is steeped in Zulu history.

Aside from the obvious benefits of enjoying the natural world, the wilderness experience offers a unique opportunity to absorb the holistic impact of wild areas on individual lives. One is able to appreciate silence and solitude which are largely lost qualities in today's world of technological advancement. Also one feels the freedom of leaving their watch behind and living by the rhythms of nature, rather than by the dictates of the watch. This is an experience of physical, mental and spiritual refreshment, a time of refocusing ones life and re-exploring value systems.

WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT

"Wilderness management is essentially the management of human use and influence to preserve naturalness and solitude. It includes everything the person is responsible for in a Wilderness in administering the area. For example, the formulation of goals and objectives for individual areas, and all policies, standards and field actions to achieve them." Wilderness management should be unobtrusive, and implemented with a light hand.

CRITERIA FOR WILDERNESS IN SOUTH AFRICA

1. Wilderness will encompass the characteristics of remoteness and primitiveness found in undeveloped areas.
2. Facilities for visitors will be limited and of a primitive nature.
3. It must be of sufficient size to protect the wilderness character and to provide the wilderness experience.
4. Preservation of the natural environment and wilderness character will be the highest management priority.

In order to maintain the wilderness ethics and character, EKZN Wildlife's facilities are restricted to the minimum limits of sophistication.

TRANSPORT

All trailists are expected to get themselves to and from Hluhluwe- iMfolozi Park by means of their own transport. The closest public transport ends at Empangeni approximately 100 km from Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park.

MALARIA WARNING

All of our trails take place within the malaria belt and thus participants are advised to take precautions as a matter of routine.

LOCATION

The game reserve is located 270 km north of Durban, north of Empangeni and Richards Bay and inland of Mtubatuba, the nearest town. The most suitable route from the south is the N2. Cross the bridge over the Mfolozi River on the main North Coast road (N2), and take the iMfolozi Game Reserve turnoff, 3 km north of the Mtubatuba turnoff. From the turn-off the reserve is clearly sign-posted Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park. The game reserve is 44 km from this point.

Coming from the north, the signboard is opposite the Mtubatuba turn off on the right. Take the tarred Nongoma road for 27 km, before turning off left to the Nyalazi Gate. Follow the signposts to IMfolozi.

The reserve may also be approached from the North, from Vryheid, either via Nongoma and Hlabisa, (although most of the route is gravel), or via the tarred road to Ulundi, then take the gravel road to the Cengeni gate, which is 24 km from Mpila Camp.

AGE RESTRICTION

There is no maximum age restriction. The trailists do however, need to be physically fit(if the trails officer feels that a person

is not physically fit/able enough the person will be turned away upon arrival). Due to EKZN Wildlife's legal policy the minimum age for a child unaccompanied by a parent or legal guardian is sixteen years. No child under the age of fourteen years may participate. (Proof of age will be required by the booking consultant.) If this ruling is not adhered to the underage persons will unfortunately have to be turned away on arrival.

INDEMNITY

Neither the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board nor EKZN Wildlife accepts responsibility for any death, injury or illness sustained or suffered by any person, or theft, or loss of or damage to any property, occurring within or arising from a visit or visits to parks, reserves, or resorts under their management or control, howsoever caused, and whether allegedly due to the negligence of the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board/EKZN Wildlife or any of their employees or agents, or arising from the use of any facilities supplied or made available.

All participants will be required to sign an indemnity before they are able to participate in the trail. Minors must arrive with a letter of consent from the parent or legal guardian.

CLOTHING

Participants are requested to wear suitably coloured clothing that blends with the surroundings. The best colours are khaki and green. Inappropriate colours are white, red, yellow, orange and pink. In general, dark colours are better than light colours.

BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES

Central Reservations Office, KZN Wildlife
P.O. Box 1306, CASCADES, 3202

Telephone: (033) 845 1067 or 845 1000. Fax: (033) 845 1001

Email: trails@kznwildlife.com

Website: www.kznwildlife.com

OR (enquiries only)

The Officer-in-Charge, iMfolozi Wilderness Trails

iMfolozi Game Reserve

Postnet Suite 30

Private Bag X013

MTUBATUBA, 3935

Telephone: (035) 5508478. Fax: (035) 550 8480.

Email: mftrails@kznwildlife.com (make heading: 'Trails Enquiry')

TARIFF

The tariff schedule is available on request from the above address. Tariffs are reviewed annually and increases are effected as of 1 November. Bookings made prior to November for trails after the effective date of the tariff increase are still subject to price increases. In the event of this, the excess can be settled on arrival at the designated trail.

ENTRY FEES

An entry fee to the reserve concerned will be levied.

A Community Levy is also payable on entry as well as on accommodation booked.

SECTION TWO

SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE VARIOUS IMFOLOZI TRAILS

imfolozi Wilderness Trails run five types of trail at time of publication:

- A. The Primitive Trail
- B. The Base Camp Trail
- C. The Short Wilderness Trail
- D. The Extended Short Wilderness Trail
- E. The Bushveld Trail

Here follows a summary of each of the five trails.

A. PRIMITIVE TRAIL

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE TRAIL

This is a more primitive wilderness trail, aimed at the outdoors enthusiast who would like to combine a wilderness experience with backpacking and sleeping out under the stars.

The trail is fully catered - all equipment, bedding and food is provided. (Unfortunately no special diets can be catered for). Trailists are required to assist with food preparation, and camp setup.

After booking in at Mpila Camp by 10:30, trailists are met by the Wilderness Trails staff who will advise them on how best to pack their backpacks. After a light lunch and a briefing, trailists set off into the Wilderness area, where they will spend 4 nights and 3 full days, accompanied by a Trails Officer and a Field Ranger. The trail ends at Mndindini camp 10:00 on the last day.

All four nights are spent out in the bush (no set camp), the Trails Officer will choose a site for the overnight camp. Camping follows a very strict 'minimum impact - no trace' ethic, in line with wilderness principles.

The ethos of the trail aims to facilitate an experience of living basically, with a minimum of sophistication in equipment and food. Water is collected from springs or rivers in the wilderness area, and bathing is done in the river wherever possible. A very important part of the trail is spending time alone on watch at the fire at night. This is where one gets to embrace silence and solitude, qualities that are difficult to find in today's world of fast moving technology. On trail everyone leaves their watches behind, and gets to experience the freedom of not being bound by time, and not having to continually meet deadlines and appointments.

Small camps are set up at night, with trailists sleeping under the stars around a small fire, (a lightweight rain shelter is provided for bad weather) after enjoying a meal prepared by the trails guide and an assistant. Distances covered in walking are not excessive, due to the need to carry all equipment. Backpacks are sometimes left at a campsite and day walks taken to explore the wilderness area.

Primitive trails are conducted from 1 March to 15 November and take a maximum of 8 trailists at any time.

The tariff for the primitive trail will be made available upon booking, or by telephoning the bookings office at (033) 8451067.

You are encouraged to make very certain before you book a primitive trail that you know what to expect.

ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

Report to the Mpila camp office to register, after which you will be directed to the trails officer. It is important to arrive before 10:30 on the date indicated on the reservation voucher, to allow time to pack, walk in and make camp before dark.

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY KZN WILDLIFE

- First Aid kit
 - Toilet trowel, paper etc.
 - Backpack
 - Knife, spoon, cup and plate
 - Rain shelter (fly sheet)
 - Sleeping mat (optional)
 - Water containers
 - Food
 - Personal Water bottle
 - Groundsheet
 - Sleeping bag
 - Cooking pots etc.
- Large plastic bag (to put contents of backpack into in case of rain)

RECOMMENDED ITEMS TO BE PROVIDED BY EACH TRAILIST

- 2 dull-coloured shirts/blouses
- 3 changes of underwear
- 2 pairs shorts or the equivalent
- 1 pair of trousers or jeans
- 1 tracksuit
- 1 swimming costume (optional)
- 1 warm bush jacket or jersey
- A small cloth to dry your feet after river crossings
- Torch with spare batteries
- Insect repellent
- 1 pair of comfortable boots or the equivalent and 1 pair of sandals for around the camp
- Toiletries, including environment friendly/biodegradable soap
- Binoculars, camera, field guide booklets, notebook etc. (optional)
- 1 hat
- 1 light raincoat
- Sun protection cream

NB: It is imperative that you wear a comfortable pair of hiking boots, which are well worn in.

Bayticol (from your pharmacy) is recommended, as ticks can be a problem at certain times of the year.

Zululand winters are cold, with temperatures dropping significantly at night, whilst the summer temperatures can rise fairly high by midday, and rain can be a factor.

CATERING

KZN Wildlife will supply all equipment and provide all meals. You may bring your own equipment as long as it blends into the bush environment (EKZNW will not be held liable for damage to any of your privately owned equipment). You may bring your own additional snacks and drinks should you feel the necessity.

ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

You are permitted to bring a little alcohol into the wilderness area, however no excessive drinking will be allowed for reasons of safety, and to avoid detracting from the wilderness ethic which involves quietly blending in with the environment. A good guideline is to keep within the legal alcohol limit for driving a vehicle. Remember that you need to carry this yourself for four days.

B. THE BASE CAMP TRAIL

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE TRAIL

Trails are led by a Trails Officer and a Field Ranger whose experience and knowledge of the bush serve to inform the trailists, as well as to ensure their safety. All three nights are spent at Mndindini Trails camp where trailists are housed in 3m x 3m tents with two beds to a tent. There is a shower and toilet with water on tap and a fridge for cold drinks. Trailists' motor vehicles are left here in a safe environment.

After booking in at Mpila camp, trailists are directed to the Mndindini Trails camp where they will be greeted by a Field Assistant and the cook. It is recommended that visitors arrive at camp by 15:00 on the first day so that they can settle in at their leisure, in time to meet the Trails Officer for a briefing at 17:00.

The following two days will be spent walking in the Wilderness Area. Guests depart after breakfast, carrying only a daypack each containing their personal effects, water and lunch.

The trail party, led by their guide and assistant, will cover an approximate distance of between 7 and 14 kilometres per day and a reasonable degree of fitness is required. River crossings are sometimes necessary during the walks. The daily routine is dependent on the time of year and guides' style of trail and the overall fitness of the group.

On the final day trailists will do a morning walk, returning to Mndindini for a late breakfast. At this point the trail ends and guests are free to pack up and leave by 11:00

It is imperative that you wear a comfortable pair of hiking boots, which are well worn in.

Base camp trails are from 20 March to 15 November and take groups of 8 trailists at a time.

ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

Check-in for Trails will take place at Mpila camp on the first day of the trail. From there trailists may drive around the game reserve or go directly to Mndindini trails base camp to arrive after 15:00, and preferably before 17:00, on the date indicated on the reservation voucher. Here they will be welcomed by the trails assistant and camp cook, and shown to their accommodation. The trails officer will meet the trailists in the early evening.

Trailists may not, under any circumstances, leave the immediate environs of the base camp on foot, unless accompanied by a guide.

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY KZN WILDLIFE

- All food, tea, coffee and fruit juice
- All daypacks
- All bedding
- First Aid kit
- All cutlery and crockery
- Water bottles
- Towel

RECOMMENDED ITEMS TO BE PROVIDED BY EACH TRAILIST

- 3 dull-coloured shirts/blouses
- 3 pairs shorts or the equivalent
- 1 tracksuit
- 1 pair of pyjamas (optional)
- 1 swimming costume (optional)
- 1 warm bush jacket or jersey
- Insect repellent
- 1 pair of comfortable boots or the equivalent
- 1 pair of sandals or the equivalent (for around the camp)
- Toiletries, including soap (biodegradable)
- Binoculars, camera and bird identification book (optional)
- A small cloth to dry your feet after river crossings
- 3 changes of underwear
- 1 pair of jeans
- 1 hat
- 1 light raincoat
- Sun protection cream
- Torch with spare batteries

Remember that Zululand winters are cold, with temperatures dropping significantly at night, whilst the summer temperatures can rise appreciably by midday, and sudden rain can be a factor.

Trailists are advised to buy a tin of "Bayticol" from their pharmacy. It is also usually available from the Mpila Camp Office. Ticks can be a problem at certain times of the year and "Bayticol" is a highly effective deterrent. Trailists are advised to bring gaiters, which serve as an effective deterrent from ticks as well as thorns (available from any hiking shop).

CATERING

Catering is provided in the form of three meals per day, starting with supper on the day of arrival and concluding with lunch on the day of departure. Meals are simple but nutritious and quantities provided should satisfy most appetites. The menus have been developed with input from previous trailists and satisfy the palate of the average person

If you are a vegetarian or have special dietary requirements, please phone the iMfolozi Wilderness Trails office (035) 5508478 two weeks beforehand, and they will try to make arrangements, where possible. People with any special requirements may of course bring their own food and every assistance will be given to prepare it. Unfortunately, however there can be no

reduction in the cost of the trail.

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In addition to all meals, tea, coffee and a cold drink is provided. Fruit and nuts are provided as snacks between meals, however trailists may also bring their own between meal snacks and refreshments.

ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

A little alcohol may be brought into the wilderness area, however no excessive drinking will be allowed for reasons of safety, and to avoid detracting from the wilderness ethic, which involves quietly blending in with the environment. A good guideline is to keep within the legal alcohol limit for driving a vehicle.

In order to maintain the wilderness ethic and character, EKZN Wildlife facilities are restricted to the minimum of sophistication.

C. THE SHORT WILDERNESS TRAIL

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE TRAIL

Short Wilderness trails are run from 14th February to 20th November, and depart on Fridays and Sundays. They are 2 nights and 3 days in duration.

This trail is fully catered, and all food will be transported into the wilderness trails camp on donkeys, but trailists will be expected to carry a daypack containing their personal affects, water and lunch. Personal items will, however, be transported back from the wilderness on the donkeys at the end of the trail.

Guests who overnight at Mpila Camp the night before the trail, may organize to have the bulk of their personal belongings carried into the Satellite cap by donkey in donkey bags which are made available. These bags must be dropped off at Mpila camp by 16:00 the day before the trail.

Trailists are required to book in at Mpila camp by 12:00 on the first day, where they are met by the trails staff and given a trails briefing. Lunch on the first day is not provided. After their bags are packed, trailists walk the approximate 7 km in to the Wilderness Satellite Camp where they will spend the following two nights in dome tents with mattresses, sleeping 2 mattresses per tent. The camp has no ablution facilities save for the traditional shower bucket of warm water, set up in a tree, and a spade, toilet paper and matches, which serve for a toilet.

Trailists walk back to Mpila camp on the third day, carrying only their personal affects and lunch. The trail ends after lunch.

The distance walked on the first day is approximately 7 km. The average distance covered on the second and third days can be up to 15 km, but is flexible depending on various factors.

Trailists carry all their personal equipment on the first day. On the second and third days they carry only a light pack containing their picnic lunches and water bottles.

This trail is by no means an endurance test, but a fair level of fitness will ensure greater enjoyment.

ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

Report to the Mpila camp office by 12:00 to register. It is important to arrive by 12:00 on the date indicated on the reservation voucher, to allow time to pack, walk in and get to the trails camp before dark.

Trailists will be met by their trail ranger and assistant at 12:00 on the first day of the trail at the Mpila camp office. It is essential for trailists to be punctual. The trail departs from this location, and, as the trailist must walk in to the camp and arrive before dark, anyone arriving late will unfortunately be left behind.

Make adequate provision for travelling time between your point of departure and place of arrival. The driving time between Johannesburg and Mpila Camp is approximately 7 hours. Durban to Mpila is approximately 3 ½ hours.

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY KZN WILDLIFE

- All food, tea, coffee, cold drinks
- All bedding
- All daypacks
- Water bottles
- Towel
- First Aid kit

RECOMMENDED ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT BY EACH TRAILIST

- 3 dull-coloured shirts/blouses
- 3 pairs shorts or the equivalent
- 1 tracksuit
- 1 pair of pyjamas (optional)
- 1 swimming costume (optional)
- 1 warm bush jacket or jersey
- 1 pair of comfortable boots or the equivalent
- 1 pair of sandals or the equivalent (for around the camp)
- Torch with spare batteries
- Sun protection cream
- Toiletries, including biodegradable soap, Insect repellent
- Binoculars, camera and bird identification book (optional)
- A small cloth to dry your feet after river crossings.
- 3 changes of underwear
- 1 pair of jeans
- 1 hat
- 1 light raincoat

Bayticol (from your pharmacy) is recommended as ticks can be a problem at certain times of the year.

Remember that Zululand winters are cold, with temperatures dropping significantly at night, whilst the summer temperatures can rise significantly by midday.

CATERING

Catering is provided in the form of three meals per day, starting with dinner on the day of arrival and concluding with lunch on the day of departure. Meals are simple but nutritious, and quantities provided should satisfy most appetites. The menus have been developed with input from previous trailists and satisfy the palate of the average person. If you are a vegetarian or have special dietary requirements, please phone the IMfolozi Wilderness Trails office (035) 550 8478 two weeks beforehand, and they will try to make arrangements, where possible. People with any special requirements may of course bring their own food and every assistance will be given to prepare it. Unfortunately, however there can be no reduction in the cost of the trail. Fruit and nuts are provided as snacks between meals. Trailists may also bring their own between meal snacks and refreshments.

ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

You are permitted to bring a little alcohol into the wilderness area, however no excessive drinking will be allowed for reasons of safety, and to avoid detracting from the wilderness ethic which involves quietly blending in with the environment. A good guideline is to keep within the legal alcohol limit for driving a vehicle. Remember that you need to carry this yourself on the first day.

In order to maintain the wilderness ethic and character, EKZN Wildlife's facilities are restricted to the minimum of sophistication.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WITH REGARD TO THE SHORT AND EXTENDED SHORT TRAILS, IF AN ENTIRE TRAILS IS BOOKED OUT BY ONE GROUP, AND IF THE TRAIL BOOKINGS ALLOW FOR IT, THE GROUP ARE ALLOWED TO BOOK TWO CONSECUTIVE TRAILS, TO ALLOW FOR A CUSTOM MADE LONGER TRAIL OF EITHER FOUR OR FIVE NIGHTS, DEPENDING ON THE COMBINATION

D. THE EXTENDED SHORT WILDERNESS TRAIL

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE TRAIL

Extended Short Wilderness trails are run from 14th February to 20th November, and depart on Tuesdays. They are 3 nights and 4 days in duration.

This trail is fully catered, and all food will be transported into the wilderness trails camp on donkeys, but trailists will be

expected to carry a daypack with their personal affects, water and lunch. Personal items will, however, be transported back from the wilderness on the donkeys at the end of the trail.

Guests who overnight at Mpila Camp the night before the trail, may organize to have the bulk of their personal belongings carried into the Satellite cap by donkey in donkey bags which are made available. These bags must be dropped off at Mpila camp by 16:00 the day before the trail.

Trailists are required to book in at Mpila camp by 12:00 on the first day, where they are met by the trails staff and given a trails briefing (lunch on the first day is not provided). After their bags are packed, trailists walk the approximate 7 km in to the Wilderness Satellite Camp where they will spend the following three nights in dome tents, sleeping 2 mattresses per tent. The camp has no ablution facilities save for the traditional shower bucket of warm water, set up in a tree, and a spade, toilet paper and matches, which serve for a toilet.

Trailists walk back to Mpila camp on the fourth day, carrying only their personal affects and lunch. The trail ends after lunch.

The distance walked on the first day is approximately 7 km. The average distance covered on the second and third days can be up to 15 km, but is flexible depending on various factors.

Trailists carry all their personal equipment on the first day. On the second and third days they carry only a light pack containing their picnic lunches and water bottles.

This trail is by no means an endurance test, but a fair level of fitness will ensure greater enjoyment.

ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

Report to the Mpila camp office by 12:00 to register. It is important to arrive by 12:00 on the date indicated on the reservation voucher, to allow time to pack, walk in and get to the trails camp before dark.

Trailists will be met by their trails ranger and assistant at 12:00 on Tuesday at the Mpila camp office. It is essential for trailists to be punctual. The trail departs from this location, and, as the trailist must walk in to the camp and arrive before dark, anyone arriving late will unfortunately be left behind.

Make adequate provision for travelling time between your point of departure and place of arrival. The driving time between Johannesburg and Mpila Camp is approximately 7 hours. Durban to Mpila is approximately 3 ½ three-hours.

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY KZN WILDLIFE

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| • All food, tea, coffee, cold drinks | • Water bottles |
| • All bedding | • Towel |
| • All daypacks | • First Aid kit |

RECOMMENDED ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT BY EACH TRAILIST

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| • 3 dull-coloured shirts/blouses | • 3 changes of underwear |
| • 3 pairs shorts or the equivalent | • 1 pair of jeans |
| • 1 tracksuit | • 1 hat |
| • 1 pair of pyjamas (optional) | • 1 light raincoat |
| • 1 swimming costume (optional) | |
| • 1 warm bush jacket or jersey | |
| • 1 pair of comfortable boots or the equivalent | |
| • 1 pair of sandals or the equivalent (for around the camp) | |
| • Torch with spare batteries | |
| • Sun protection cream | |
| • Toiletries, including biodegradable soap, Insect repellent | |
| • Binoculars, camera and bird identification book (optional) | |
| • A small cloth to dry your feet after river crossings. | |

Bayticol (from your pharmacy) is recommended as ticks can be a problem at certain times of the year.

Remember that Zululand winters are cold, with temperatures dropping significantly at night, whilst the summer temperatures can rise significantly by midday.

CATERING

Catering is provided in the form of three meals per day, starting with dinner on the day of arrival and concluding with lunch on the day of departure. Meals are simple but nutritious, and quantities provided should satisfy most appetites. The menus have been developed with input from previous trailists and satisfy the palate of the average person. If you are a vegetarian or have special dietary requirements, please phone the iMfolozi Wilderness Trails office (035) 550 8478 two weeks beforehand, and they will try to make arrangements, where possible. People with any special requirements may of course bring their own food and every assistance will be given to prepare it. Unfortunately, however there can be no reduction in the cost of the trail. Fruit and nuts are provided as snacks between meals. Trailists may also bring their own between meal snacks and refreshments.

ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

You are permitted to bring a little alcohol into the wilderness area, however no excessive drinking will be allowed for reasons of safety, and to avoid detracting from the wilderness ethic which involves quietly blending in with the environment. A good guideline is to keep within the legal alcohol limit for driving a vehicle. Remember that you need to carry this yourself on the first day.

In order to maintain the wilderness ethic and character, EKZN Wildlife's facilities are restricted to the minimum of sophistication.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WITH REGARD TO THE SHORT AND EXTENDED SHORT TRAILS, IF AN ENTIRE TRAIL IS BOOKED OUT BY ONE GROUP, AND IF THE TRAIL BOOKINGS ALLOW FOR IT, THE GROUP ARE ALLOWED TO BOOK TWO CONSECUTIVE TRAILS, TO ALLOW FOR A CUSTOM MADE LONGER TRAIL OF EITHER FOUR OR FIVE NIGHTS, DEPENDING ON THE COMBINATION.

E. THE BUSHVELD TRAIL

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE TRAIL

Bushveld trails are run from 1st December to 30th January. They are 2 nights and 3 days in duration.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE TRAIL

Trails are led by a Trails Officer and a Field Ranger whose experience and knowledge of the bush serve to inform the trailists, as well as to ensure their safety. Both nights are spent at Mndindini Trails camp where trailists are housed in 3m x 3m tents with two beds to a tent. There is a shower and toilet with water on tap and a fridge for cold drinks. Trailists' motor vehicles are left here in a safe environment.

After booking in at Mpila camp, trailists are directed to the Mndindini Trails camp where they will be greeted by a Field Assistant and the cook. It is recommended that visitors arrive at camp by 12:00 on the first day so that they can settle in at their leisure, in time to meet the Trails Officer for a briefing at 14:00.

The following day will be spent walking in the Wilderness Area. Trailists leave camp after a light breakfast, carrying only a daypack each containing their personal effects and water, and return to camp for brunch. Due to the intense heat during the summer months, guests are then free to spend the very hot hours of the day at leisure in the camp. The group undertakes a late afternoon walk after an afternoon snack.

The trail party, led by their guide and assistant, will cover an approximate distance between 7 and 14 kilometres per day and a reasonable degree of fitness is required. River crossings are sometimes necessary during the walks. The daily routine is dependent on the time of year and guides' style of trail.

On the final day trailists will do a morning walk, returning to Mndindini for brunch. At this point the trail ends and guests are free to pack up and leave by 11:30.

It is imperative that you wear a comfortable pair of hiking boots, which are well worn in.

ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

Check-in for Trails will take place at Mpila camp on the first day of the trail. From there trailists may drive around the game

reserve or go directly to Mndindini trails base camp to arrive after 12:00, and preferably before 13:30, on the date indicated on the reservation voucher. Here they will be welcomed by the trails assistant and camp cook, and shown to their accommodation. The trails officer will meet the trailists for a briefing at 14:00.

Trailists may not, under any circumstances, leave the immediate environs of the camp on foot, unless accompanied by a guide.

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY KZN WILDLIFE

- All food, tea, coffee and fruit juice
- All daypacks
- All bedding
- First Aid kit
- All cutlery and crockery
- Water bottles
- Towel

RECOMMENDED ITEMS TO BE PROVIDED BY EACH TRAILIST

- 3 dull-coloured shirts/blouses
- 3 pairs shorts or the equivalent
- 1 tracksuit
- 1 pair of pyjamas (optional)
- 1 swimming costume (optional)
- 1 warm bush jacket or jersey
- Insect repellent
- 1 pair of comfortable boots or the equivalent
- 1 pair of sandals or the equivalent (for around the camp)
- Toiletries, including soap (biodegradable)
- Binoculars, camera and bird identification book (optional)
- A small cloth to dry your feet after river crossings.
- 3 changes of underwear
- 1 pair of jeans
- 1 hat
- 1 light raincoat
- Sun protection cream
- Torch with spare batteries

Remember that Zululand winters are cold, with temperatures dropping significantly at night, whilst the summer temperatures can rise appreciably by midday, and sudden rain can be a factor.

Trailists are advised to buy a tin of "Bayticol" from their pharmacy. It is also usually available from the Mpila Camp Office. Ticks can be a problem at certain times of the year and "Bayticol" is a highly effective deterrent. Trailists are advised to bring gaiters, which serve as an effective deterrent from ticks as well as thorns (available from any hiking shop).

CATERING

Catering is provided in the form of three meals per day, starting with supper on the day of arrival and concluding with brunch on the day of departure. Meals are simple but nutritious and quantities provided should satisfy most appetites. The menus have been developed with input from previous trailists and satisfy the palate of the average person

If you are a vegetarian or have special dietary requirements, please phone the IMfolozi Wilderness Trails office (035) 5508478 two weeks beforehand, and they will try to make arrangements, where possible. People with any special requirements may of course bring their own food and every assistance will be given to prepare it. Unfortunately, however there can be no reduction in the cost of the trail.

In addition to all meals, tea, coffee and a cold drink is provided. Fruit and nuts are provided as snacks between meals, however trailists may also bring their own between meal snacks and refreshments.

ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

A little alcohol may be brought into the wilderness area, however no excessive drinking will be allowed for reasons of safety, and to avoid detracting from the wilderness ethic, which involves quietly blending in with the environment. A good guideline is to keep within the legal alcohol limit for driving a vehicle.

In order to maintain the wilderness ethic and character, EKZN Wildlife facilities are restricted to the minimum of sophistication.