

# WILD ZULULAND

*Digital Magazine*

*The return of the  
Zamimpilo Craft  
Market*

*Must*  
STAY  
PLACES

FROM TRAGEDY TO  
TRIUMPH – THE  
ZULULAND RHINO  
ORPHANAGE

*Big 5 Day Safari with  
Luleka in Manyoni*

GOT KIDS? EXPLORE OUR TOP  
SELF-DRIVE SAFARI TIPS FOR  
FAMILIES!

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*A tribute*

*to Moya - the 15 year  
old ambassador  
cheetah*

*Valentines  
Getaway*

*Explore iHlozi Bush  
Lodge, nestled in  
Kuleni Game Park*

*Say I do!*

*Discover the best wedding  
venues in Zululand.*

*The reality of  
Guiding - by  
Timothy Raven*

Feb 2025





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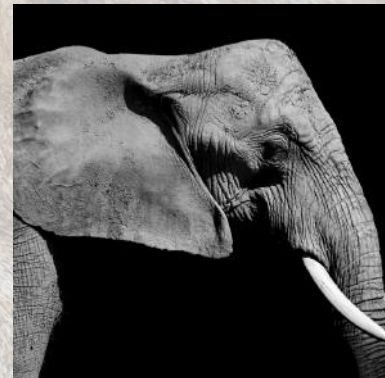
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# Editor's Note

*From opulent bush retreats to heart-pounding wildlife encounters, this edition immerses you in nature's untamed beauty at its finest.*



Recently, I've been healing in the heart of nature, letting its fauna be my guide and its flora my anchor. The bush teaches us what we often forget: that even after Zululand's wild storms, the sun will rise, and life will move forward. There were moments when I sat still, watching as a mother impala mourned her calf - a quiet lesson in the art of letting go. I saw lions clash, then reconcile, their bond stronger than the fiercest fight.

I watched a young leopard navigate the lush bush, learning survival with every step. The wild speaks in whispers and roars, offering lessons we can't quite grasp unless we truly immerse ourselves. My time at the serene iHlozi Bush Lodge and in the vast beauty of Manyoni Private Game Reserve, gave me the clarity and breath of fresh air I needed. And that's the essence I want to share with you, my dear readers.

*A heartfelt thank you to all our amazing readers and contributors! Your support and creativity light up our journey. For more inspiring adventures and getaway ideas, don't forget to explore our website below. Here's to many more stories and discoveries together!*

*"The wilderness holds answers to more questions than we have yet learned to ask."*

– Nancy Newhall

*Shenay*

**Editor-in-Chief**

**WILD ZULULAND DIGITAL MAGAZINE**



[www.wildzululand.co.za](http://www.wildzululand.co.za)



# WILD WATERS

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## Navigating Nature's Power in the Heart of the Reserve

In late January, an elephant calf tragically lost its life in the floodwaters of the iMfolozi River. The body was discovered at the low-level bridge near the Mtubatuba Sugar Mill on a Saturday afternoon, a somber reminder of nature's unpredictability.

The river had been swollen from weeks of heavy rains upstream, and its destructive force was evident as it burst its banks, reaching up to 1 km in width at the N2 bridge near KwaMsane.

Last Monday, the Black iMfolozi River rose dramatically, making the route to Mpila Camp impassable. What was even more concerning, however, was the reckless behavior of some visitors who got too close to the danger. Many left their vehicles to take photos, and some allowed children to throw sticks into the powerful floodwaters, completely forgetting that they were in a wildlife reserve filled with crocodiles, elephants, lions, and leopards, among other dangerous creatures. While the sight of a flooded river is undeniably interesting, it's an important reminder that this is a wild habitat, and visitors must respect the power and unpredictability of nature.



**CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION**







## News Update

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This week, the bridge between Point 4 and 5 in the Hluhluwe section, on the way to Hilltop Camp from Nyalazi Gate, also succumbed to floodwaters. Visitors had to take a detour through Memorial Gate. Eventually the water receded, leaving behind vast sandbanks.

Though the Zululand rains often bring out spectacular wildlife sightings, like African wild dogs, lions, and cheetahs, and offer photographers a chance to capture the landscape in a new light, it's crucial for visitors to be prepared.

Make sure your vehicle is ready for the unpredictable weather, plan your trip carefully, and always remain cautious both on the roads leading to the reserve and within it. The wonders of the wild are best appreciated with respect for its power and unpredictability.





## **WEDNESDAY WHY DAY!**

### **Why do Bat-Eared Foxes switch gender roles?**

Bat-eared foxes have a fascinating social dynamic that sets them apart from many other species. Firstly, some mammals are monogamous and mate for life, such as the tiny dik-dik. Other mammals have a harem system, with one dominant male getting all the females. Bat-eared foxes are relatively unique in being polygamous. The core of the family is a male and female (think husband and wife) that mate for life. However, after a year or two, the male will often take on a second wife. As the family increases, the male can even get a third long-term mate, although this behaviour has only been observed on a handful of occasions. Bat-eared foxes flip traditional gender roles. Females give birth to 3-6 cubs each year, but the males then perform typical female roles. Males will groom, play, babysit, and rear their young. They will also guard the den against predators. During this time, the females will forage and feast on insects. Females need more nutrition as they have to give milk to the pups. In comparison, the males only need to lie around and play! Researchers found evidence of a direct correlation between childcare and survival. When males stayed longer in the den, the cubs were more likely to survive. It's a brilliant example of how different species adapt their behaviors to suit their environments and improve their chances of survival.

Sources: Guide to African Mammal Behaviour, AfricaFreak

uMkhuze Honorary Officer: Christine Kruger

Photo Credit: AfricaFreak



HONORARY OFFICERS  
ABASEBENZI ABAZINIKELE



EZEMVELO  
KZN WILDLIFE



# From Capture to Conservation: Photography for Change

## *Young Wildlife Photographers (YWP)*



**GABBY SYKORA**  
*Founder of YWP*

In June 2021, at just 13 years old, Gabby Sykora envisioned building a community for young photographers and conservationists, and with steadfast parental support, that dream evolved into The Young Wildlife Photographers (YWP) of South Africa. What began as a small gathering of three friends has grown into a thriving community of over

850 members, united by a shared passion for nature and photography. YWP has become a dynamic platform where young, enthusiastic photographers connect, share ideas, and support each other. Through their social media presence, they offer diverse resources, including photography tips, career insights in wildlife and conservation, and articles focused on environmental stewardship. The Star Segment features interviews with leading figures in the field, such as Lauren Arthur, James Hendry, Gerry Van Der Walt, Villiers Steyn, and National Geographic Explorers Beverly and Dereck Joubert, enriching the members with knowledge and inspiration.

Skill enhancement and knowledge sharing are at the core of YWP. Members learn from one another's journeys, fostering a nurturing environment that celebrates growth at every level. The experienced, often award-winning photographers mentor newcomers, ensuring that everyone, regardless of skill, has the opportunity to develop and shine.



Their mission is to empower young photographers and nature enthusiasts, encouraging collaboration and mentorship. Young Wildlife Photographers promote ethical, sustainable conservation practices, striving to inspire action to protect Southern Africa's ecosystems. The vast community's efforts aim to raise awareness and drive real change, amplifying the voices of youth in conservation and pushing for recognition from governments and large organizations.

YWP's impact goes beyond online interactions - they host engaging social media quizzes, share tales of Ronnie the Rhino (The YWP mascot), and organize regional outings to immerse members in nature. YWP believes that true photography comes from firsthand experiences in the wild, camera in hand.



In May, YWP embarked on the journey to register as a Non-Profit Organization (NPO), and are proud to share that YWP of Southern Africa is now officially registered. This milestone reinforces their dedication to their mission, marking a significant step in efforts to support young conservationists and advocate for the natural world.

Gabby's dream has undoubtedly become a reality. Today, YWP stands as a testament to the power of youth to make a meaningful difference. The YWP community thrives on passion, creativity, and camaraderie, aspiring to leave an enduring impact on wildlife photography and conservation - one photo at a time.



Joining YWP, South Africa's fastest-growing youth photographic community, is easy and free

JOIN NOW



CLICK HERE





— TRIBUTE TO MOYA —

# A LEGEND, LOST

In our last issue, we introduced Moya, the 15-year-old beloved cheetah at Emdoneni Lodge, part of the Zululand Cat Conservation Project, unaware that it would also become his tribute. Sadly, in late October, Moya passed away. After years of struggling with severe arthritis and the toll of old age, his health could no longer withstand the strain.



Moya was more than just a cheetah; he was an ambassador for his species. Through his gentle spirit and captivating presence, he inspired countless individuals, raising awareness about the plight of cheetahs and leaving an incredible mark on all who met him. The memories of Moya, whether in quiet moments shared with visitors or in his graceful, powerful stride, will forever remain etched in the hearts of those who had the privilege of crossing paths with him. His legacy will continue to inspire and remind us of the importance of conservation, and the incredible bond between humans and wildlife.

Although Moya is no longer with us, his spirit lives on through the continued efforts of the Zululand Cat Conservation Project. We encourage you to visit the Zululand Cat Conservation Project at Emdoneni Lodge. Spend time with the cheetahs, servals, caracals, and wildcats, and help support the vital conservation efforts that continue in Moya's legacy.



[WWW.EMDONENILODGE.COM](http://WWW.EMDONENILODGE.COM)





# A MISSION OF HOPE



Wilde Tracks and Heroes of Hope Embark on  
a Conservation Adventure in South Africa



A unique team set foot in the wilds of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, united by a single mission: to protect rhinos and strengthen bonds across borders.

This was no ordinary conservation trip. Led by Wilde Tracks, a conservation-focused travel organization founded by Chloe Evans, and in partnership with Heroes of Hope, a UAE-based organization supporting children and adults with additional needs, the expedition exemplified the power of diversity and inclusion.

Supported by Wild Connection and Wildlife Solutions Africa, this mission was more than just about saving animals; it was about empowering people from all walks of life to make a difference.

Wilde Tracks, driven by Chloe's vision, operates with a deep commitment to conservation and sustainability.



Through their “travel with purpose” tourism model, the organization strives to bring participants face-to-face with the natural world in meaningful ways, aiming to inspire them to advocate for wildlife conservation and support sustainable futures for communities.

Heroes of Hope, founded by Hollie Murphy, shares a similar ethos of empowerment. As the largest sports academy in the UAE for People of Determination (PODs), Heroes of Hope serves over 800 individuals with special needs and their families.



Their programs offer diverse sporting and fitness activities, from athletics and swimming to functional fitness and tennis, fostering an inclusive community that embraces athletes of all nationalities and abilities.

For five unforgettable days, Wilde Tracks and Heroes of Hope camped in the wild, a family of ostriches their closest neighbors.



The group of five brave individuals from Heroes of Hope, alongside Wilde Tracks and wildlife experts embarked on a conservation mission to dehorn two white rhinos and fit a transmitting pod on a black rhino, vital steps in monitoring and protecting these endangered animals.

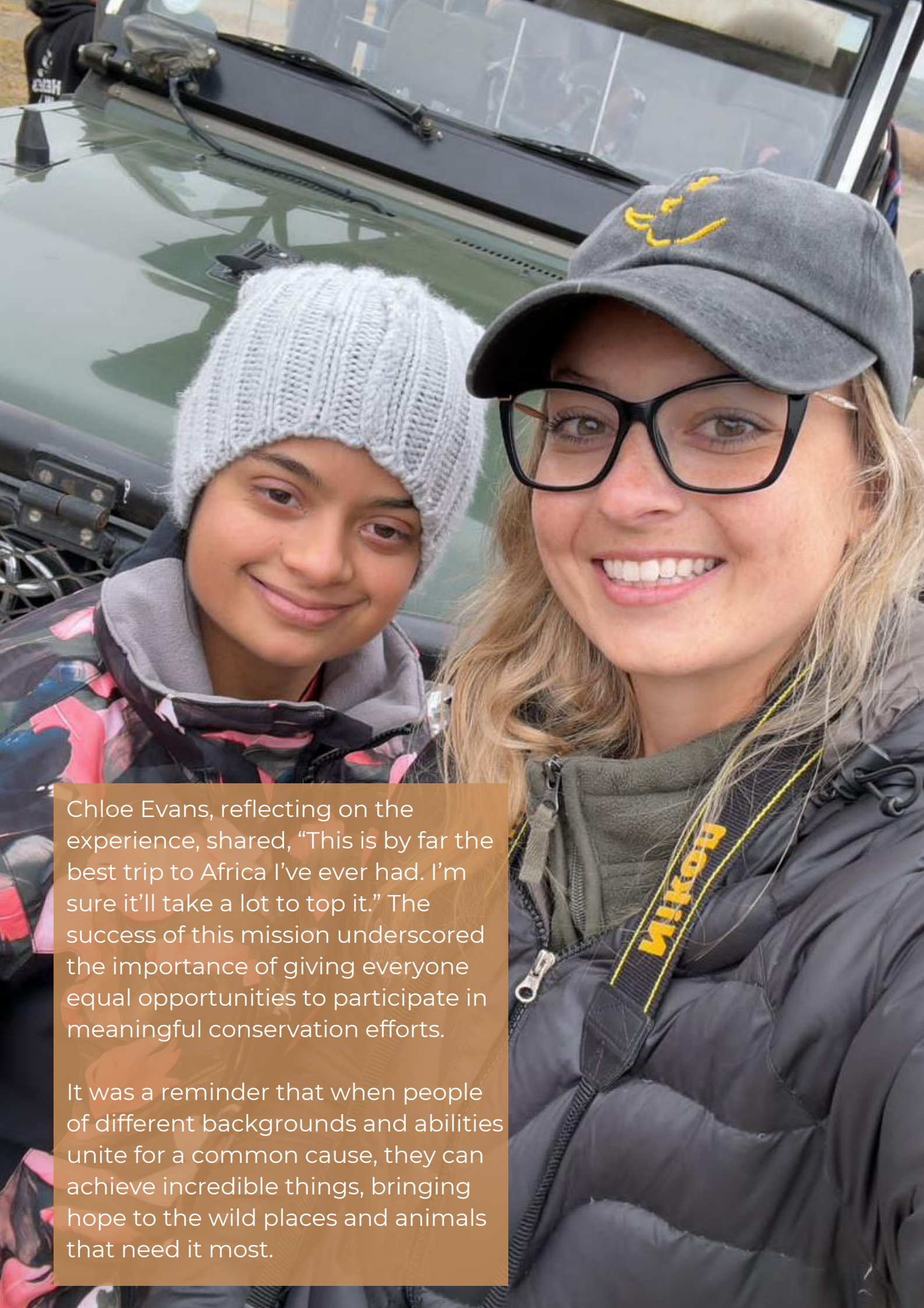
In one particularly moving moment, they dehorned a young white rhino calf that had never been dehorned before. On processing the DNA, the group and reserve management lovingly named this little calf “Hero” after Heroes of Hope and in honor of the children and young adults whose courage inspired them.

For many of the participants, it was a journey beyond their comfort zones. Living in tents, they spent their days exploring and laughing together, sharing stories, and braving close encounters with wildlife.

Each and every day brought amazing wildlife sightings, and many magical memories. For some, it was their first time away from their parents, and the experience became a profound lesson in independence and self-discovery. The trip was filled with heartwarming and emotional moments - moments of camaraderie, pride, and a newfound appreciation for the resilience of both humans and animals alike.







Chloe Evans, reflecting on the experience, shared, “This is by far the best trip to Africa I’ve ever had. I’m sure it’ll take a lot to top it.” The success of this mission underscored the importance of giving everyone equal opportunities to participate in meaningful conservation efforts.

It was a reminder that when people of different backgrounds and abilities unite for a common cause, they can achieve incredible things, bringing hope to the wild places and animals that need it most.



# EXPLORE

A male lion with a thick, reddish-brown mane is walking towards the camera. The lion's face is covered in mud, and its eyes are a striking yellow. The background is a dense, green savanna with various plants and trees.

FEATURED DESTINATION

*Luleka, Manyoni Private  
Game Reserve*



# *The Beauty of Luleka*



Luleka is nestled in the heart of the vast and awe-inspiring 23,000-hectare Manyoni Private Game Reserve, teeming with the iconic Big 5 and a wealth of other remarkable wildlife.

This pristine wilderness is also home to over 400 bird species, offering bird enthusiasts a treasure trove of avian wonders. The breathtaking Ubombo Mountains rise majestically in the distance, their rugged peaks casting a grand and timeless shadow over the landscape.

The Msunduzi River gently winds its way through the southern stretch of the Reserve, flanked by ancient Sycamore Figs and towering Fever Trees. These iconic trees, with their gnarled trunks and vibrant canopies, add to the Reserve's dramatic beauty.

With its diverse ecosystems, from dense woodlands to open savannas, Manyoni is a true haven for both wildlife and visitors alike - one of the region's most visually striking and serene locations, where nature's harmony reigns supreme.







# *Big 5 Day Safaris at Luleka*



Luleka Safaris, offered to guests staying outside the Game Reserve, invites you to step into the extraordinary world of the Manyoni Private Game Reserve, where nature's raw beauty and thrilling wildlife encounters await. With three daily safari departures, each lasting three hours, guests are transported into the heart of this pristine wilderness aboard comfortable 4x4 vehicles.

Guided by passionate experts, each and every expedition uncovers the secret wonders of the Game Reserve, offering not just breathtaking sights but captivating stories and insights into the natural world. With every step, you'll gain a deeper understanding of wildlife and nature, turning your journey into an unforgettable blend of adventure and learning.





*Birdwatching at Luleka Safaris offers a captivating experience, where nature's most beautiful and rare birds come to life. With a variety of species to observe, from the elusive Narina Trogon to the striking African Broadbill and the mighty Verreaux's Eagle Owl, every moment provides a chance to immerse yourself in the wonders of the avian world.*

Guests are guided through diverse habitats, where every corner is alive with birdsong and bursting with color, offering an enchanting, ever-changing spectacle. For those captivated by the power and grace of big cats, the Lion Focused Drives provide an exclusive, three-hour adventure dedicated to tracking the majestic lions of Manyoni. While lions are the star of the show, guests will also encounter other incredible wildlife, including the elusive leopard, cheetahs, rhinos, buffalos, and elephants, ensuring that no two safaris are ever the same.

Whether it's sipping freshly brewed coffee at sunrise as the world awakens or enjoying an ice-cold drink atop a mountain, watching the day draw to a close, Luleka Safaris offers moments of serenity amidst the thrill of the wild. If you are seeking the perfect shot for a Photography Portfolio, planning a Romantic Sunset Drive, or simply craving a once-in-a-lifetime adventure, Luleka's team will tailor each experience to turn your safari dreams into reality.







# GUIDED BIG 5 DAY SAFARI EXPERIENCE

As we entered the Manyoni Private Game Reserve, only a 15 minute drive from Hluhluwe, we were greeted by the playful antics of impalas and buffalos, their figures silhouetted against the distant mountains, still draped in the quiet hush of dawn. Driving along the pristine, well-maintained roads, we arrived at Luleka Safaris where the Guides welcomed us with warm smiles.

After a quick introduction and a brief rundown of the rules, we ventured into the grassy plains, where bursts of wildflowers added a touch of color to the landscape, offering a fresh, vibrant perspective of the Reserve. Along the way, we passed kudus, gracefully springing into motion with the rising sun,

while vultures perched on the riverbed and in the trees. The air was rich with the sweet, earthy scent of the African bush, and the symphony of birds filled the air. Our Guide asked us to remain still and speak softly as we were approaching a special sighting. My mind raced - "Could it be lions?"





I wondered, though I didn't want to get my hopes up, knowing how rare such moments can be. But as we continued on, I allowed myself to hope for a little magic - and magic it was. As we traveled along a gravel road, the river beside us caught my eye with distant hippos lazily bobbing in the water. But then, my gaze shifted, and what I saw left me utterly speechless - a figure, beige and muddy, rolling in dung. It was surreal. I turned to my partner, excitement bubbling within me, words couldn't do justice to the moment, so we exchanged a smile, both of us lost in the wonder of it all.

Raising my camera, I focused on the massive lion - a male, scarred yet regal, rolling in the dirt, completely unfazed by our presence. Suddenly, he rose, and with a casual grace, he walked directly towards our vehicle. In that moment, time seemed to stand still.

*The lion's eyes locked with mine, and for a brief second, I had to remind myself to breathe.*

Then, our Guide pointed out a second lion emerging from the bush - it felt like a dream, a scene so rare and extraordinary I could hardly believe my luck. The second lion, equally imposing, walked past our vehicle, and the sense of déjà vu was thrilling, as if we were witnessing the same powerful creature twice over.

We were in awe, with the sighting all to ourselves for nearly ten minutes before other vehicles arrived. The beauty of being in a Private Reserve was that we were able to experience such moments intimately, without the crowds often seen elsewhere.



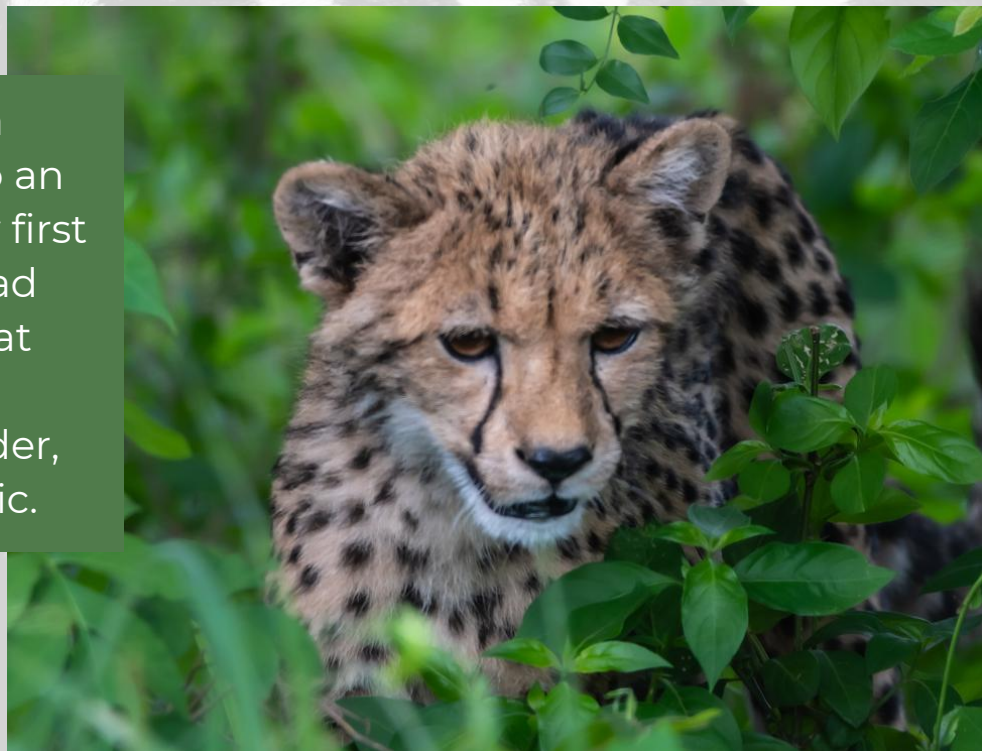
## Big 5 Day Safaris

As we ventured down a new path, our eyes caught sight of a lioness and her cub, nestled in the distance, peacefully dozing. The landscape stretched wide, offering us a rare and thrilling moment of clarity. The lioness, sensing our presence, rose gracefully, glanced our way with a quiet intensity, and then turned, her back to us - a fleeting yet unforgettable encounter, made possible by the vast terrain that allowed us such a remarkable view.



Just when I thought this great experience couldn't possibly get any better, it did. A radio crackled, and our Guide received word of another sighting - cheetah cubs. And there they were: the tiny, curious cubs, playfully exploring while their mother and other siblings napped nearby.

It was like a dream within a dream, the perfect finale to an unforgettable morning. My first safari with Luleka Safaris had given me a start to 2025 that would be hard to beat, an experience filled with wonder, beauty, and pure, raw magic.





# LULEKA HOMESTEAD



## A SELF-CATERING RETREAT

Nestled in the heart of nature, Luleka is also home to Luleka Homestead, a luxurious self-catering exclusive-use Lodge which sleeps up to 10 guests and offers an unparalleled escape surrounded by lush gardens and breathtaking riverfront views.

Immerse yourself in the serenity of the expansive decks, where you can watch nyala and warthogs graze peacefully on the surrounding lawns or simply unwind in a hammock, cocktail in hand, as you bask in the tranquility of your surroundings.



Inside, the retreat exudes comfort and elegance with lavish bedrooms, sleek glass showers, and a cozy intimate lounge. The fully equipped kitchen ensures that you can enjoy gourmet meals at your leisure, while the open air fireplace adds a touch of warmth and romance. With private game drives, the convenience of an inverter to weather load shedding and a five-bedroom en-suite, private lodge for exclusive use - Luleka is the perfect choice for the ultimate getaway. Whether you're seeking a peaceful retreat or an adventure-filled escape, this haven promises a luxurious and unforgettable experience.

*For more information, click on the website below*

[www.lulekasafaris.com](http://www.lulekasafaris.com)





# WEDDINGS

## *in Zululand*

In the heart of nature's embrace, where the crisp air and untamed beauty set the stage, bush weddings offer a unique escape from traditional celebrations.

Surrounded by sweeping landscapes, rustic charm, and the rhythm of the wilderness, couples are choosing the bush as their backdrop for a day filled with breathtaking moments.

Whether it's under the shade of ancient trees or against the golden hues of sunset, a bush wedding at *Jumeirah Thanda Safari* invites a celebration that's as much about adventure as it is about love.

*Megan & Josh*



# JUMEIRAH THANDA SAFARI

Imagine waking up to the raw magic of the bushveld – holding a warm mug of coffee as the sun rises, with the sounds of lions’ roars and birds singing as you step into your wedding day, surrounded by nature's beauty. At Jumeirah Thanda Safari, love intertwines with nature’s splendor.

Named after the isiZulu word for “love,” Thanda embodies passion, unity, and the spirit of togetherness. Imagine a luxury safari wedding, where the magic of the Big Five Game Reserve sets the stage. Zulu dancers guide you down the aisle, leading you to a serene bush setting under the ancient marula trees, where vows are exchanged beneath the vast

African skies – symbolizing a blessed union. The celebration continues with a sophisticated safari-style reception in a star-lit boma or an elegant venue overlooking the African bush.

Jumeirah Thanda Safari is the ultimate destination to honor love, marriage, and life. Couples can embrace the beauty of a traditional Zulu blessing for an authentic African ceremony.





# BAYALA PRIVATE SAFARI LODGE

Set amidst the unspoiled wilderness of Northern Zululand, Bayala Private Safari Lodges offers an extraordinary setting for a truly unique African wedding. Located on 30,000 hectares within the Big Five Zuka Private Game Reserve, this luxurious venue combines unrivaled wildlife safaris with warm, friendly service.

The stunning views of the Lebombo Mountains and the picturesque Zululand sunsets create the ideal backdrop for a romantic, minimalist ceremony beneath the iconic acacia trees at Safari Lodge, or for a grand African celebration in the heart of the bush.

*Connor & Kirsten*





Bayala creates personalized, magical weddings, ensuring each day is unique. With stunning watering holes and bush vistas, it offers exceptional photo opportunities. For a safari wedding in South Africa, Bayala blends nature's beauty with elegance.





# VENTURE INTO THE WILD

*This February, fall in love all over again at Emdoneni Lodge – where every moment feels like a celebration! Your romantic escape begins with a refreshing welcome drink that sets the tone for the day ahead. Step into nature's embrace as you explore the lodge grounds, where playful zebras, graceful impalas, and elegant nyalas roam freely, with the soothing melodies of birdsong in the air.*



For lunch, enjoy a delectable outdoor feast, surrounded by nature's beauty. As the afternoon sun warms the sky, embark on an unforgettable journey with the cat tour, where you'll learn more about the Zululand Cat Conservation.



When evening falls, the bar beckons with an array of drinks, whether you're in the mood for a vibrant cocktail or a refreshing mocktail, there's something for everyone to sip while you unwind.

Gather around the outdoor boma as night descends, where delicious food, starry skies, and the company of your loved one create the perfect backdrop for making cherished memories.



Emdoneni Lodge is also the ultimate destination for family fun and learning. With endless activities such as table tennis and darts that keep little ones entertained and engaged, it's a place where they can explore the great outdoors, discover wildlife, and learn about conservation -all while having the time of their lives! It's a getaway that's as educational as it is exciting, making it perfect for families looking to bond and create unforgettable memories.

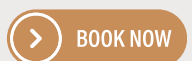


The Lodge is home to the Zululand Cat Conservation Project - this vital conservation initiative focuses on the protection and rehabilitation of endangered African cats, including cheetahs, servals, African wild cats and caracals. Guests can learn about the fascinating behaviors and conservation efforts aimed at preserving these incredible species.

The Project offers an up-close look at the cats in a safe and responsible environment, giving visitors the incredible opportunity to directly support wildlife conservation while deepening their understanding of these majestic creatures. It's an enriching experience that adds another layer to your stay at the lodge.



*If you're feeling adventurous, book a guided game drive to the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park and immerse yourself in the heart of South Africa's wild beauty. Explore the Park's stunning landscapes and encounter majestic wildlife in their natural habitat, making for an unforgettable experience.*





Emdoneni Lodge offers a variety of exceptional accommodations, each designed to enhance your stay in the heart of nature. The Deluxe Room is a spacious 64m<sup>2</sup> suite with two bedrooms - one with a king-sized bed and the other with two singles, ideal for families. Enjoy a cozy seating area, modern amenities, and a unique outdoor shower that brings you closer to the wilderness.

The standard rooms are perfect for a more intimate experience, offering 20m<sup>2</sup> of space with air-conditioning, free Wi-Fi, and coffee facilities. Guests can choose between twin or king-sized beds, with the sights and sounds of nature just outside your window.

The chalets exude an authentic charm, featuring inviting bedrooms, en-suite showers, and views of the lush garden. With split patios connecting two chalets, they offer a balance of privacy and togetherness, making them perfect for those seeking a peaceful escape.





# UNTAMED LUXURY, UNFORGETTABLE STAYS!



The rondavel, a traditional African-style unit with a thatched roof, is designed for families or small groups, offering two bedrooms with en-suite showers. Located near the pool and restaurant, this unit blends natural beauty with convenience.


For those seeking seclusion, Windfall Cottage is a spacious 200m<sup>2</sup> self-catering retreat under Marula trees. With two bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a cozy lounge with DSTV, it offers a tranquil haven where you can unwind and enjoy wildlife right at your doorstep.

*To experience all that Emdoneni has to offer, click on the website and book your stay. Dive into unforgettable wildlife encounters, explore nature's beauty, and take part in conservation efforts that make a difference. Your adventure awaits!*

[www.emdonenilodge.com](http://www.emdonenilodge.com)





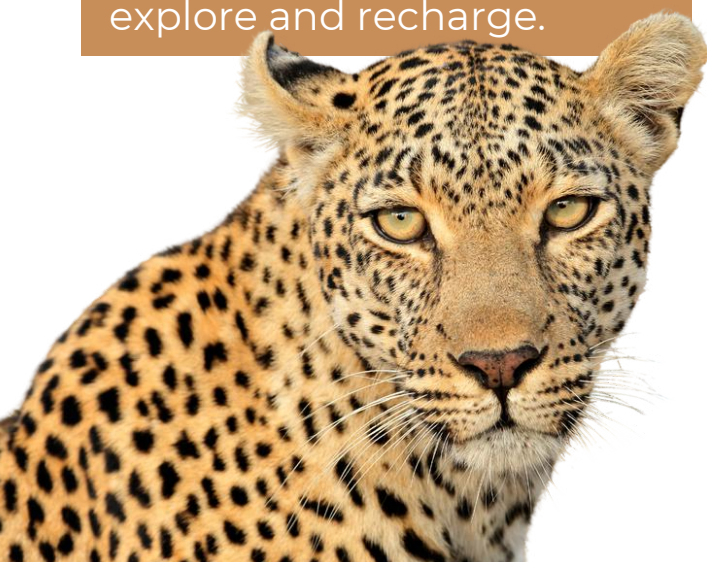


Looking for the perfect Valentines getaway? Look no further than the breathtaking Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park. Whether you're a couple seeking a peaceful retreat or craving a wild adventure, this iconic wildlife haven has something for everyone. Embark on a scenic 3-hour road trip from Durban, where every corner brings a new opportunity to explore and recharge.

## *Valentines at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park*

Spend the day exploring the Park, with options to relax at picturesque picnic sites or indulge in a delicious meal at Mpunyane Restaurant, offering panoramic views of the Hluhluwe Mountains.

Afterward, take a leisurely stroll to the curio shop for unique, last-minute gift ideas for nature lovers. The friendly, welcoming staff will make you feel right at home.



[www.kznwildlife.com](http://www.kznwildlife.com)



# Reasons to visit the Park

## **Peaceful and intimate Wildlife Sightings**

Immerse yourself in the serene beauty of the Park, where intimate wildlife encounters await. Witness the majesty of the Big 5, along with fascinating sightings of hyenas, cheetahs, wild dogs, and an array of bird species. Enhance your adventure by pre-booking a guided game drive with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, and let their expert, passionate Guides lead you through nature's wonders.

## **Support conservation and the upkeep of the Park**

By visiting Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, you're not just having a memorable experience - you're also contributing to wildlife conservation and anti-poaching efforts. Your visit helps generate revenue that supports the upkeep of the Park, maintains security measures to protect the endangered species like rhinos. Supporting the Park is a meaningful way to give back to nature.

## **A secluded retreat**

The Park offers a variety of accommodation options - Hilltop Camp, the largest in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, offers amenities like a restaurant, pool, and game drives, with both self-catering and non-self-catering chalets and breakfast included. Mpila Camp is more rustic, self-catering, and great for wildlife sightings, especially elephants and rhinos. Nselweni Bush Lodge offers a peaceful, secluded stay with river views and walking opportunities.



If you choose to stay overnight, you'll wake up to the sounds of nature each morning - whether it's the call of the rain bird or the distant roar of lions, all without burning a hole in your pocket.





## ***Enjoy a couples adventure***

Embark on a romantic safari, whether Guided or Self-drive, and immerse yourselves in the wild beauty of the Park. With a Guided Safari, learn about the delicate balance of nature as your Guide unveils the wonders of the ecosystem, while a self-drive experience offers the freedom to explore at your own pace, discovering hidden corners and enjoying quiet moments together. Both options create intimate, unforgettable memories as you connect with nature and each other in this serene, breathtaking setting.

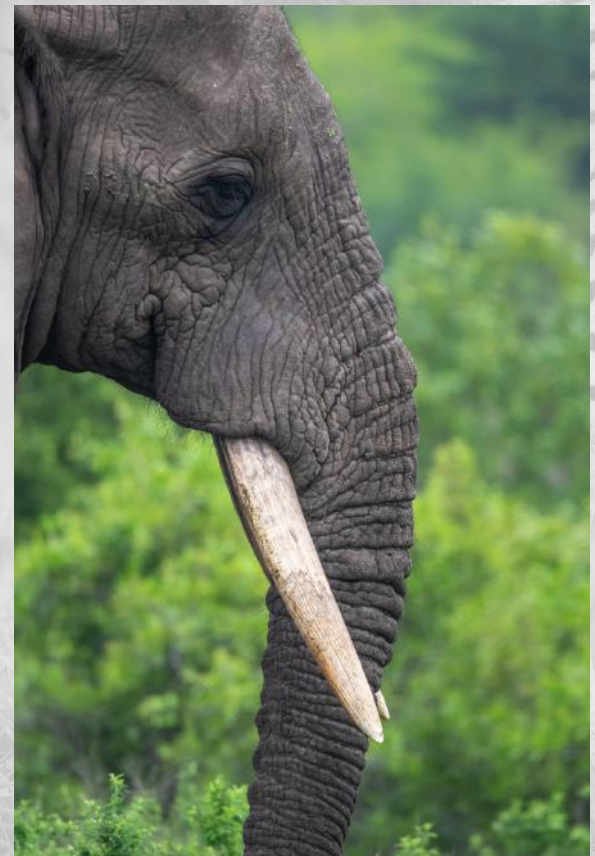


## ***Perfect weather for wildlife viewing***

While the summer heat can be intense, it brings cool afternoons, occasional rain, and a unique opportunity to witness wildlife behavior at its best. Many animals, like wild dogs, lions, and cheetahs, enjoy the cooler weather and are more active, giving you an exciting chance to see them in action - rain or sunshine! Can you imagine a more idyllic backdrop for love to bloom?

## ***Unplug and reconnect***

Escape the everyday hustle and reconnect with your partner in the serene beauty of the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, Africa's oldest proclaimed Reserve. Surrounded by nature's tranquility, enjoy quiet moments together, from wildlife sightings to starlit evenings by the campfire. With stunning landscapes, intimate wildlife encounters, and the peace of the bush, it's the perfect setting to relax, unwind, and deepen your connection in an unforgettable, romantic atmosphere.





# The Power of Nature: How Bee Propolis Enhances Insect Repellents

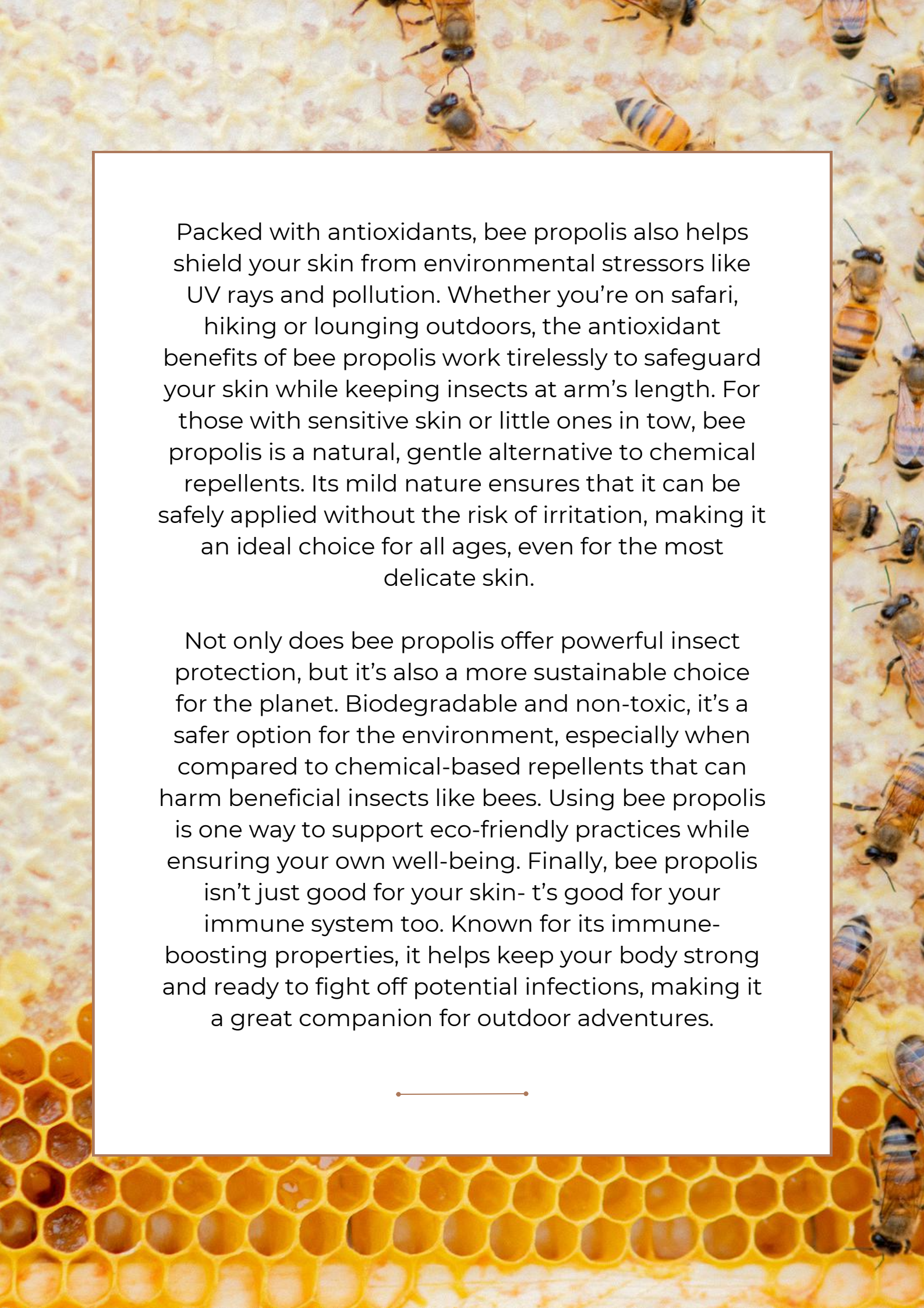
When it comes to keeping pesky insects at bay, nature offers us some of the most effective, eco-friendly solutions - and bee propolis is a shining example. This remarkable substance, crafted by honeybees from plant resins, is packed with bioflavonoids that not only help protect the hive but also offer a powerful, natural defense against insects when used in repellents.

But the benefits don't stop there. Bee propolis, brimming with bioflavonoids, acts as a potent insect repellent. These naturally occurring compounds work wonders in deterring mosquitoes and other pests, offering an alternative to the harsh chemicals commonly found in synthetic repellents. It's the perfect way to embrace nature's protection without compromising on effectiveness.

In addition to its insect-repelling qualities, propolis is known for its anti-inflammatory powers. After a bite or sting, the soothing properties of bee propolis can calm irritation, reducing redness and swelling. It's like a first-aid kit in a bottle - helping your skin recover faster while providing relief from discomfort.





The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of a honeycomb. The hexagonal cells of the comb are filled with a golden-yellow substance, likely honey or propolis. Numerous bees are visible, some resting on the cells and others in motion. The bees have characteristic yellow and black striped abdomens and translucent wings. The lighting is bright, highlighting the texture of the honey and the details of the bees.

Packed with antioxidants, bee propolis also helps shield your skin from environmental stressors like UV rays and pollution. Whether you're on safari, hiking or lounging outdoors, the antioxidant benefits of bee propolis work tirelessly to safeguard your skin while keeping insects at arm's length. For those with sensitive skin or little ones in tow, bee propolis is a natural, gentle alternative to chemical repellents. Its mild nature ensures that it can be safely applied without the risk of irritation, making it an ideal choice for all ages, even for the most delicate skin.

Not only does bee propolis offer powerful insect protection, but it's also a more sustainable choice for the planet. Biodegradable and non-toxic, it's a safer option for the environment, especially when compared to chemical-based repellents that can harm beneficial insects like bees. Using bee propolis is one way to support eco-friendly practices while ensuring your own well-being. Finally, bee propolis isn't just good for your skin- t's good for your immune system too. Known for its immune-boosting properties, it helps keep your body strong and ready to fight off potential infections, making it a great companion for outdoor adventures.

---



# Hive & Harvest

•ARTISAN COLLECTION•

## STAY BUG-FREE ON SAFARI

*Crafted with Bee Propolis, rich in bioflavonoids to support your body's natural repair process. This On-the-Go bug repellent and itch reliever shields you from bites while soothing irritated skin.*



*Perfect for quick relief and lasting comfort, this multi-purpose product keeps you bite-free and feeling great without the harsh chemicals and with a lovely scent!*



[www.hiveandharvest.co.za](http://www.hiveandharvest.co.za)



# GENTLE GIANTS

*A Deep Dive Into the World of  
Humpback Whales*







# Get to Know the Humpbacks

*The humpback whale (Megaptera novaeangliae), a majestic marine mammal from the family Balaenopteridae, is known for its striking appearance and remarkable behavior. With an average length of 16 meters and weighing between 25 and 40 tons, adult humpbacks have a large head with a pointed snout, a string of fleshy knobs, and jagged leading edges on their enormous pectoral fins.*

Their relatively narrow tail stock and broad flukes, with irregular trailing edges, make them easily recognizable. Humpbacks are dark grey on their upper bodies with a lighter-colored chin, throat, and flukes, while their undersides are often a mix of black and white. These incredible whales primarily feed on krill and small fish like mackerel and sardines, and their populations, though slowly recovering from the devastating impact of commercial whaling, remain much smaller than in the past.



Humpback whales are known for their migratory patterns, spending time near coastal areas for breeding and feeding on shallow banks, before migrating across open seas. In their pods of five to ten, humpbacks may work together to herd prey, using a remarkable technique called a "bubble net" to trap zooplankton, which they then consume.



# The Migration

*Humpback whales are known for their long migrations, primarily driven by breeding needs. As winter sets in, they leave the colder southern waters in search of the warmer northern waters, where they breed. St. Lucia is an ideal destination for whale watchers, offering nearly guaranteed sightings each season. However, the migration is not only lengthy and challenging but also dangerous, especially given the ongoing whaling activities in some countries like Japan.*

*Humpback whales are known for their playful behavior, often breaching (lifting out of the water) to eliminate parasites, communicate, or simply for fun. These magnificent creatures can live up to 50 years, and one of the longest recorded migrations was a staggering 18,840 km, an impressive feat considering their immense size and weight. Humpback whales are truly beautiful, gentle giants that never fail to captivate those lucky enough to witness them in the wild.*

## Want to experience this ?

READ MORE







# Whale Watching in St. Lucia

St. Lucia is a prime whale-watching destination. From June to November, Southern Right and Humpback whales migrate from the Antarctic to the warm Indian Ocean waters off St. Lucia's coast. This migration brings spectacular sightings of breaching whales and playful calf behavior, making it a must-see event for nature lovers.



Advantage Tours offers expertly guided boat trips that take you to the best whale-watching spots. Highly experienced guides ensure safe, eco-friendly viewing while providing fascinating insights into whale behavior and marine life. The boats are comfortable, offering great views and opportunities to see not only whales but also dolphins, sea turtles, and seabirds.

With Advantage Tours, you'll experience the awe of these majestic creatures up close, all while respecting their natural habitat. Whether you're a first-timer or an experienced whale watcher, this thrilling unforgettable adventure in St. Lucia promises memories that will last a lifetime. Book your tour today!





# Whale Watching Tips & Tricks



If you're planning a thrilling whale-watching tour in St. Lucia with Advantage Tours, it's important to come suitably prepared to make the most of this spectacular experience. You will be transported to the beach and back on the whale train. As you are launched from the beach & excitedly venture into the pristine waters to witness the awe-inspiring migration of the whales, comfort and practicality are key.

*Comfortable, warm clothing is essential for your whale-watching adventure. Even though the day may be sunny, the temperature on the water can be cooler, so layering is a good idea. A warm jacket is recommended, but don't forget your light, quick-drying clothes underneath. Life jackets for your safety are provided.*

## What items to carry

Space on the boat is limited, so pack smartly! A small, easy-to-carry backpack is ideal, and make sure it's not too bulky. For your comfort, plastic ponchos are provided. Your belongings will be safely stored in the storage compartments on the boat.

## Essentials to bring along include:

- A towel to dry off if you get splashed
- A bottle of water to stay hydrated
- A packet of biscuits or light snacks to keep you energized
- Seasick tablets if you're prone to motion sickness
- Rubber or plastic shoes that are durable and easy to walk into the sea with
- An extra set of dry clothes for after the tour, in case you need a change



# KEEP NATURE WILD



We've all been there - sitting at a picnic site at Mpila Resort or Hilltop Resort in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, enjoying the sounds of nature when suddenly, we're being watched by vervet monkeys (and even Samango monkeys) perched in the trees, eyes locked on our food. The tension builds as they drool over our sandwiches, fruits, or snacks. Time and again, we witness them swiping bananas from the car boot, snatching burger rolls from the picnic table, and even leaping into the car to steal a loaf of bread.

A guest also shared an unsettling experience at Mpila Resort, where a vervet monkey attacked her. Part of the reason the monkeys feel so comfortable around us is because, over the years, some people have been feeding them. While these mischievous monkeys might seem entertaining, feeding them is not only harmful to them but also disrupts the entire ecosystem.

**DON'T FEED  
WILD ANIMALS -  
A FED ANIMAL, IS  
A DEAD ANIMAL.**





# WHY YOU SHOULD NEVER FEED MONKEYS IN GAME RESERVES

Feeding monkeys disrupts their natural behavior. When they are fed by humans, they begin to associate people with food, which encourages them to rely on handouts instead of foraging for their own food. This not only makes them less capable of surviving in the wild, but it also leads them to approach visitors more frequently, increasing the risk of conflict. Human food is also harmful to monkeys.

They are adapted to a specific diet of fruits, seeds, insects, and vegetation, and feeding them human snacks like chips, bread, or sweets can lead to malnutrition, obesity, and digestive problems. These unnatural foods weaken their immune systems, making them more susceptible to disease, and they may even transmit illnesses to other animals and humans.

Feeding monkeys can also escalate human-monkey conflict. As they learn to associate humans with food, they may become more aggressive when they're not fed. This behavior can result in monkeys stealing food from picnic tables, cars, or even guests.

In some cases, monkeys may resort to biting or scratching, creating safety concerns for both people and animals. When monkeys rely on humans for food, it disrupts their role in the ecosystem. In the wild, they contribute to seed dispersal and pest control, but when they stop foraging naturally, they no longer fulfill these important ecological roles.







This imbalance can affect plant life and the overall health of the environment. Lastly, feeding wildlife in Game Reserves is often against the rules. These regulations are designed to protect the natural behaviors of animals, ensure their survival, and preserve the environment. Ignoring these rules can undermine conservation efforts, which aim to keep animals wild and ensure they can thrive without human interference.



The best way to help is to simply observe monkeys from a safe distance and enjoy their playful antics. If you want to make a positive impact, consider supporting wildlife conservation programs that help protect natural habitats and promote responsible wildlife viewing. By respecting rules of Game Reserves and allowing animals to behave naturally, we ensure they remain wild and free without depending on humans.





# RESPECTING THE HIPPOS ROAMING THE STREETS OF ST. LUCIA

Not so long ago, an elderly man in St. Lucia had a narrow escape after a terrifying encounter with a hippo. While filming the hippos grazing along McKenzie Street, he ventured too close for comfort. Without warning, the hippo charged, knocking him to the ground.

Luckily, before it could inflict serious harm, the animal was distracted by the loud cries and screams of onlookers, which caused it to retreat. It's believed that a single bite could have been fatal. While hippos roaming freely in St. Lucia provide an incredibly unforgettable experience for tourists and residents alike, they are still incredibly dangerous creatures.

This incident serves as a vital reminder of the risks involved in interacting with wild animals, emphasizing our responsibility to be self aware and protect ourselves and wild animals that are only trying to survive.



Hippos are unpredictable, and despite their somewhat docile appearance while grazing, they are one of Africa's most aggressive animals.

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife has issued a strong warning for both tourists and locals to respect the presence of hippos and maintain a safe distance at all times. In St. Lucia, hippo sightings are common, but as Musa Mntambo, spokesperson for Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, points out, there are over eight signs around the town warning of their unpredictable nature.



# Tips & Tricks to stay safe



*Safety for both humans and hippos is equally important. To protect these magnificent creatures in their natural habitat, we must take precautions to avoid intruding on their space. By doing so, we help ensure peaceful coexistence, allowing us to enjoy the incredible privilege of witnessing these animals in their natural environment.*



## 1

Pay attention to hippo warning signs. These signs are placed around the town and should never be ignored.

## 2

Don't wander at night on foot. Hippos leave the water at sunset to graze and can travel up to 10 kilometers overnight, often passing through the streets of St. Lucia. They are difficult to spot at night even with a torch light, and many accidents occur when they are hit by vehicles.

## 3

Be cautious when walking or cycling between sunset and sunrise. This is when hippos are most active. Ensure any trails or activities are completed before sunset. Respect their space - During the dry months, hippos may wander into residential gardens in search of food. However, never attempt to feed them or provide them with any unnatural water sources.

## 4

Don't approach or attempt to interact with hippos. If they feel threatened, they will attack. Hippos are extremely territorial, especially around their young. Avoid the water - Hippos are fast in water and are highly protective of their territories and calves. Never venture into water where they are present.



# Tips & Tricks to stay safe 🐾 🐾

*Respecting their space not only keeps us safe but also allows the hippos to thrive undisturbed, offering us peaceful sightings in return. Let's commit to responsible and ethical wildlife encounters, respecting animals like St. Lucia's hippos to ensure their safety and preserve their natural habitats for generations to come.*



5

Don't get between a mother and her calf. This is one of the most dangerous situations, as a mother will fiercely defend her young.

6

Know the signs of aggression. A hippo's yawn is not a sign of sleepiness - it's a warning. This display of their massive, razor-sharp teeth is meant to intimidate and can be a precursor to an attack.

7

Do not disturb them, tailgate or drive too close towards them. Respect the hippos, keep your distance, and stay at least 30 meters away from them. While St. Lucia's hippos are part of the town's charm, they demand to be treated with caution and care. Always remember, you are a visitor in their wild world, and it's best to admire them from afar.

8

When admiring hippos in St. Lucia, it's important to be mindful of their comfort. Avoid using flash photography or shining bright torches/car lights directly into their eyes, as this can be disturbing to them and interfere with their grazing. Hippos, like all wild animals, are simply going about their lives, and it's crucial to observe them peacefully and ethically.





CONSERVATION

# From Tragedy to Triumph: The Story of the Zululand Rhino Orphanage

In February 2017, a chain of tragic events set the stage for an extraordinary journey of resilience and hope. When poachers attacked a regional rhino orphanage, fear of further security threats forced the facility to close its doors. The young rhino orphans, displaced and vulnerable, urgently needed a home. In a twist of fate, the Zululand Conservation Trust rose to the challenge, stepping in to take on the responsibility of providing a sanctuary for these precious survivors.

Read more →

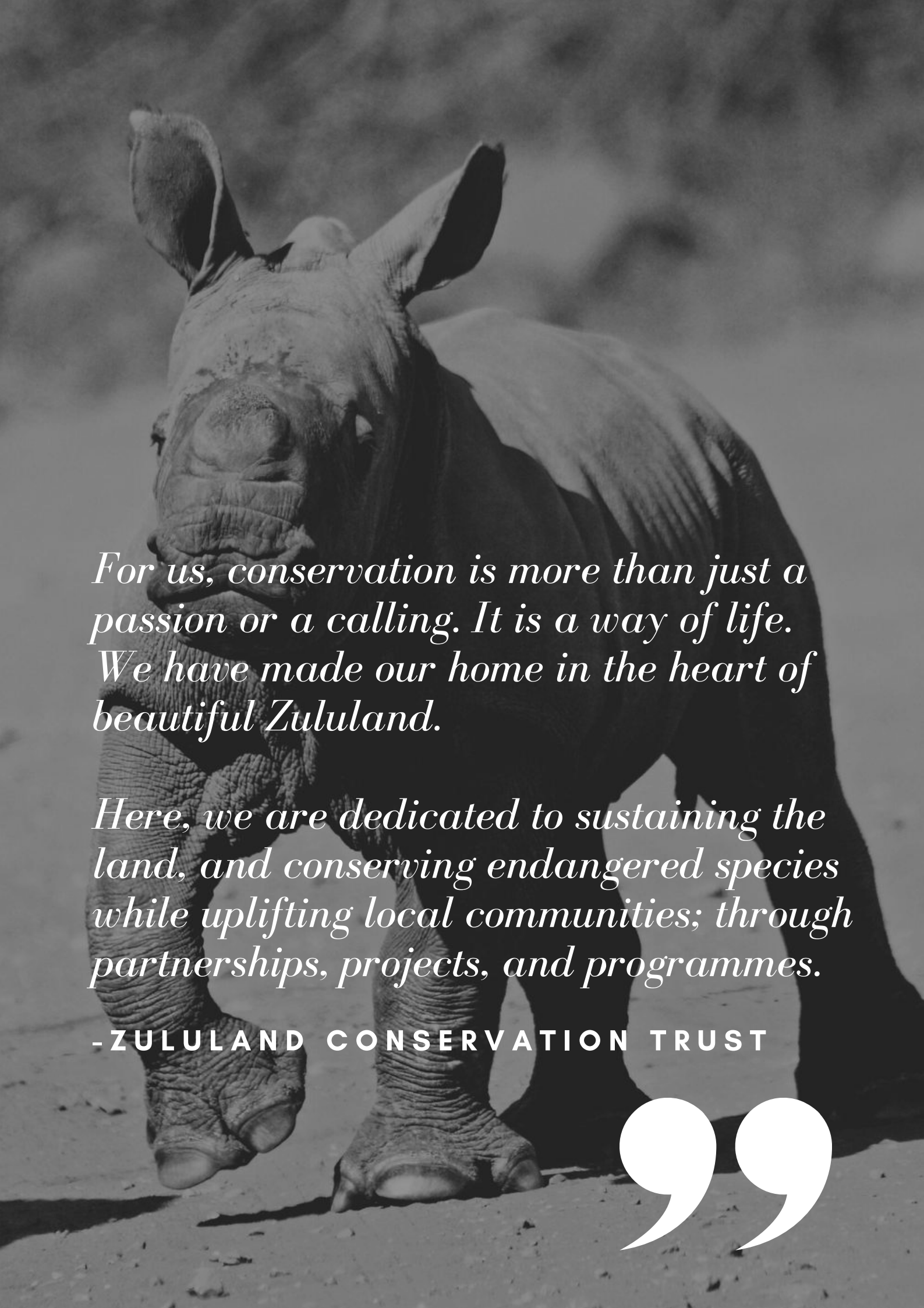


Visit their website to learn more



[www.zululandconservationtrust.org](http://www.zululandconservationtrust.org)





*For us, conservation is more than just a passion or a calling. It is a way of life. We have made our home in the heart of beautiful Zululand.*

*Here, we are dedicated to sustaining the land, and conserving endangered species while uplifting local communities; through partnerships, projects, and programmes.*

**-ZULULAND CONSERVATION TRUST**







## *About the Rhino Orphanage cont.*

With unwavering determination, the team embarked on a race against time, building a secure, welcoming environment for the orphans. Within weeks, a 3.5-hectare boma was constructed for two of the oldest orphans, Storm and Nandi.

On March 14th, 2017, the sight of the two black rhinos tentatively exploring their new safe home marked a monumental moment—a triumph of hard work, care, and compassion. But this was just the beginning. The team, fueled by dedication, turned their focus to the remaining orphans in need of constant care.

Thanks to the remarkable support of Container Conversions, a facility was quickly set up, complete with a kitchen for milk preparations and cozy sleeping quarters. By April, the two white rhinos, Makhosi and Isomiso, along with their little hippo companion, Charlie, found their new sanctuary, safe from harm.

However, just as the orphans were settling in, a heart-wrenching call came in - another young calf, this time from a neighboring reserve, had survived six days beside the lifeless body of his poached mother. Though their spaces were already filled, the Zululand Conservation Trust team didn't hesitate. They immediately began constructing a temporary living space for the tiny calf, who was named Ntoto.





# *A beacon of hope*

From the great ashes of tragedy, the Zululand Rhino Orphanage was born. But what began as an emergency response to great devastation has blossomed into a story of hope and survival.

The Zululand team remains steadfast in their mission: to nurture and care for these innocent lives, with the ultimate goal of returning them to the wild where they truly belong.



***“The only way to save a rhinoceros is to save the environment in which it lives, because there’s a mutual dependency between it and millions of other species of both animals and plants”.-***

***-David Attenborough***

In every issue, we'll spotlight the incredible work of the Zululand Conservation Trust, dedicated to both wildlife protection and community upliftment. From their Rhino Orphanage to Pangolin Rehabilitation, they lead the way in conservation.

Their leopard camera monitoring offers vital insights while the Trust's K-9 unit is also crucial in the fight against poaching, creating lasting change for both wildlife and local communities.





**Against the Odds:**

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# ***Storm's Remarkable Journey to the Wild***

Storm's journey began with hardship. Found alone in the bush at just two and a half months old in 2015, the young black rhino calf was in poor health, suffering from severe parasitic infestations and pneumonia. His survival seemed uncertain, but with intensive care and dedication, Storm stabilized and began to recover. Alongside Nandi, another orphaned calf, he grew stronger, displaying an incredible will to survive.

After a violent attack on the orphanage in 2017, Storm and the other surviving orphans were moved to the Zululand Rhino Orphanage, a secure sanctuary built by the Zululand Conservation Trust.

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[@zululand\\_rhino\\_orphanage](https://www.instagram.com/zululand_rhino_orphanage)





# *An update on Storm*



Storm's journey was uncertain, but today, he is thriving. The once fragile calf, who fought against the odds, has come a long way, showing remarkable growth and strength.

In 2015, Storm has been spotted confidently interacting with a female black rhino, a beautiful sign of his return to the rhythms of the wild. This February, sightings of Storm reveal a healthy, independent young rhino, proving just how far he's come.



Thanks to the unwavering dedication of those who believed in him and never gave up, Storm is now flourishing in his natural habitat, embodying resilience and hope for the future of his species. His story is a testament to the power of care, compassion, and a second chance at life.

## CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAUSE

Your donation supports rhino conservation by funding medical care, habitat protection, re-wilding efforts, and anti-poaching initiatives. It helps ensure a safe future for rhinos like Storm, allowing them to thrive in the wild once again.

### **Zululand Conservation Trust Banking Details**

*Details for direct deposits / efts*

Bank Account Name: Zululand Conservation Trust  
Bank Name: First National Bank / RMB (*Eft select FNB/First National Bank*)  
Branch: Florida Road  
Branch Code: 220526  
Bank Account Number: 62305315386  
Swift Code: FIRNZAJJ

DONATE





Last month, we had the privilege of visiting the Zululand Rhino Orphanage - an experience both heart-wrenching and inspiring. Hidden away in a location kept secret for their protection, this sanctuary is dedicated to the survival and recovery of orphaned rhinos. Witnessing these majestic creatures, once orphaned by the cruelty of poaching, is emotional. Yet, what truly leaves an impression is the incredible resilience they've shown, thanks to the unwavering commitment of the staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to nurture them back to health.

As the relentless heat of Zululand beat down, nothing could dampen the spirits of the baby rhinos, who eagerly anticipated their next feed. It's an orchestrated ballet of care -the feeding, the attention, the connection, all executed with precision and purpose. Each staff member is assigned a rhino, and everything unfolds with an almost rhythmic order.

**Every step, from feeding to care, is performed with an elegance that mirrors the dedication invested in these remarkable animals. It's a delicate balance between compassion and survival, between the nurturing hands of the caretakers and the dark reality faced by these animals -proof that in the battle between life and death, sometimes the greatest heroes are those who quietly work behind the scenes, one feeding, one day at a time.**





It's amazing to think about how much goes into their daily care. For example, the amount of milk needed is staggering: 2,688 milk feeds which adds up to 10,087 liters! The costs are equally impressive:

- **Milk:** R1,900 per 20kg bag, R380 per rhino per day, R11,400 per rhino per month, R136,800 per rhino per year.
- **Teff:** R130 per bale, 1.5 bales per rhino per day, costing R195 per rhino per day, R5,850 per rhino per month, R70,200 per rhino per year.
- **Lucerne:** R180 per bale, 0.5 bales per rhino per day, costing R90 per rhino per day, R2,700 per rhino per month, R32,400 per rhino per year.
- **Pellets:** R410 per 40kg bag, costing R9 per rhino per day, R270 per rhino per month, R3,240 per rhino per year.

All in all, **food costs total** R674 per rhino per day, R20,220 per rhino per month, and R242,640 per rhino per year.

Then, there are the **medical expenses:**

- Medication & sterilization: R5,000 per rhino per year.
- Basic veterinary care: R5,000 – R10,000 per rhino per year.
- Horn trimming: R5,000 per rhino per year.

All **medical costs** range from R15,000 to R20,000 per rhino per year. It's a huge undertaking, but it's clear that the passion and care shown at the orphanage are helping these rhinos overcome immense challenges. The dedication of everyone involved is truly remarkable.

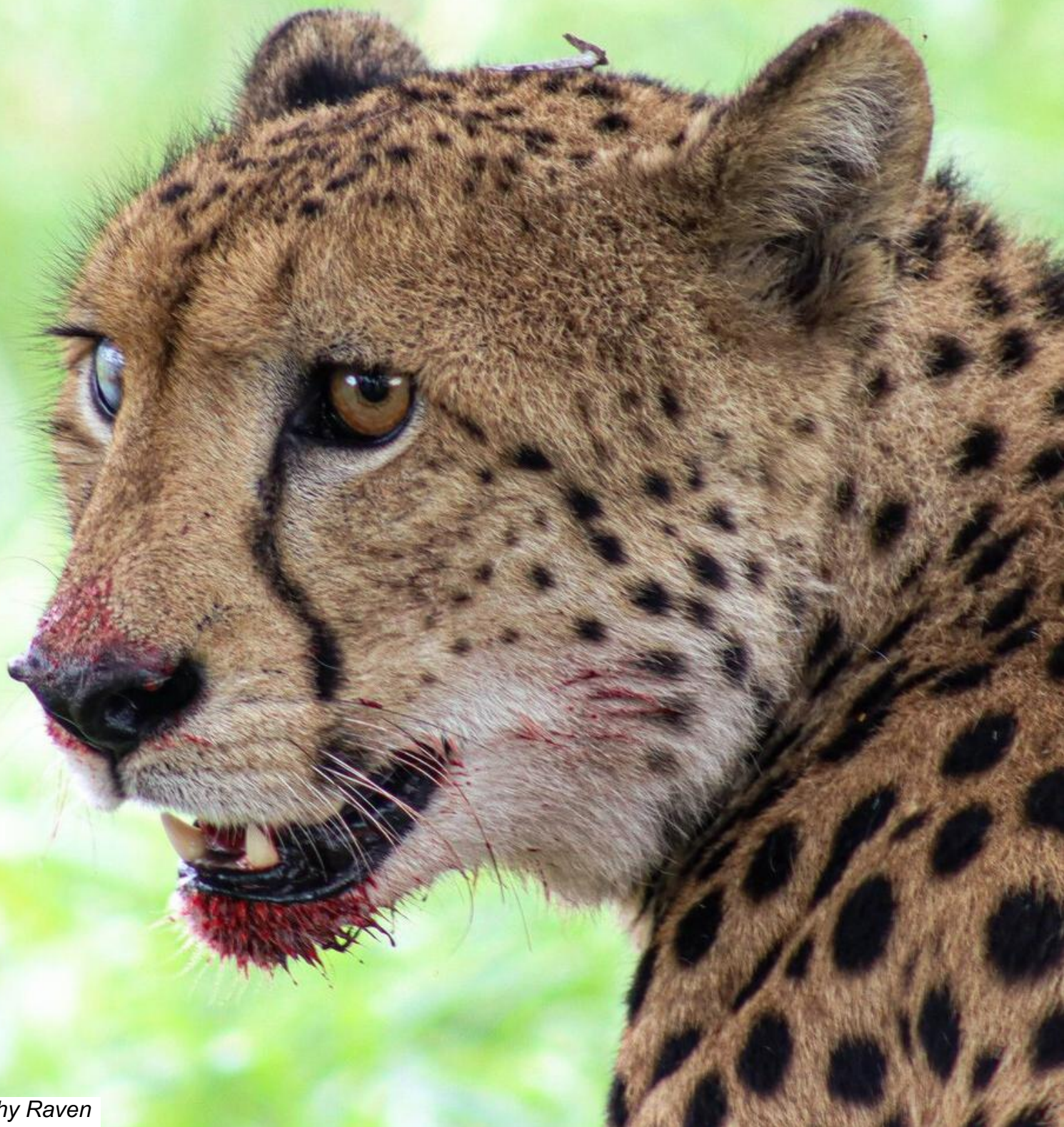
LEARN MORE 



wildlife careers

# BEYOND THE SAFARI

THE REALITY OF GUIDING



*Timothy Raven*





We're going beyond the safari to explore the true essence of Guiding - a life filled with both breathtaking moments and challenging realities. It's not just about spotting lions or stunning sunsets; it's about the grit behind the passion, the tough days in the bush, and the human side of those who live and breathe wildlife. Guides are more than just experts in the wild - they're humans too, facing exhaustion, tough decisions, and unexpected challenges. But it's these very struggles that make the victories sweeter.

## DON'T GO IN WITH ROSE-TINTED GLASSES



In this section, we're pulling back the curtain to reveal what life as a Guide really entails: the highs, the lows, the triumphs, and the struggles. It's time to recognize that behind each and every unforgettable safari experience is a Guide who's putting their heart into their passion.

Whether it's the reward of sharing the beauty of nature or the weight of long hours in sometimes harsh conditions, it's all part of the journey.



For those dreaming of a career in Guiding, we're here to show both sides of the story. The adventure, the hard work, and the real impact. So, if you're ready to step into the wild, know what you're getting into - it's a life-changing path, full of both challenges and incredible rewards. Embrace the good, the bad, and everything in between.





# Our INSPIRATION

*Timothy Raven takes us on a transformative journey from the retail world to the wilderness, inspiring others to connect with nature and embrace the wild.*



**The spark in my life had arrived the day I saved an African wildcat.**

Watching her live a phenomenal life and seeing people learn about her and her species was incredible. She became an ambassador for her kind, and that's when I realized I had a gift for teaching people about the natural world.

**The pivotal moment of change started during my quarter-life crisis at 30.** Working in Retail Management felt like a dead-end job, and I was very deeply unhappy and disconnected from everything. I knew I had to return to nature to figure out what I truly wanted. After training to be a Guide, I began to see my potential, and now, it's a blessing. I would still choose this path, but I wish I had found it earlier to experience even more.

**A blend of both passion and hard work is crucial to becoming a Guide.**

Passion will only get you so far, just as hard work alone isn't enough. I'm obsessed with nature, and wildlife is my calling, I really love it but I've worked tirelessly to get where I am today. We only know so much, so to truly excel, you have to keep working to fill in the gaps.

For example, when guests ask insightful questions, as a Guide, you need to back up your answers with knowledge, and that's where your hard work shows. In my free time, I read plenty of books, watch documentaries, and do research to stay educated.

*Tim's African Wildcat* ➡







**Passion is what drives me when I'm out in the bush.** Seeing something as simple as an impala excites me, and guests feel that energy become contagious. From there, you move on to rare species and more. I've had guests who were more intrigued by the medicinal value of plants than by seeing elephants, which was fascinating to witness. Having both elements, passion and hard work has shaped me. With ADHD, I didn't think I could work hard or focus, but Guiding captivated me. Finding the right balance is key to becoming great.



**This job can be brutal; the hours are long and demanding.**

What keeps me going is seeing my favorite pride of lionesses' or the cheetahs. It brings a sense of peace, and I can calm down and detach from everything. When you're in nature, the world just stops. There are no problems, and life becomes easier to cope with.



## **Conservation is a big part of my passion for wildlife.**

Knowing that I'm making a difference, helping endangered species thrive is humbling. It strengthens your resilience as a Guide. Making a difference isn't easy; you have to keep fighting for it. Animals teach you valuable lessons, like the lion cubs I've observed. They show that tough moments can either make you or break you if you let them. Embracing your inner animalistic side increases your resilience.



You have to accept that as much as you love these animals, nature can be brutal and unfair. The best way to cope? Enjoy the moment, love in the moment. Their memory lives on in my heart and the photos I took. Losing animals you love is painful, but it teaches you to accept the circle of life and mortality. It teaches you so much about yourself, and I cherish all the bonds I have with the animals.

*'When you get tired, you wake up the next day and keep going. You don't just quit because things get tough; that would destroy your purpose. Animals are a reminder to keep going, no matter what.'*

## **As Guides, we're often told not to form bonds with animals, but it's difficult not to.**

When you spend so much time with them, you get attached. You learn their behaviors, their mannerisms, and you see their playful side. It's incredible when they trust you. I was obsessed with particular lions and spent hours learning about them. They would come close to the vehicle, and we built a bond. Then, after about six or seven months into my Guiding career, they passed away, and it shattered me.







**The reality is that one wrong move with animals like lions can lead to injury or worse. It puts a lot of pressure on you.**

The hardest part, for me, is dealing with language barriers. Guests come from all over the world, and when English isn't their first language, you have to adapt. Google Translate becomes your best friend. The long hours are mentally exhausting, and sometimes, people clash in the same environment. You need to learn how to manage conflict.

**The unpredictable side of the job is that no two guests are the same & that adds to the challenge.** Safety is always a concern in the bush, especially when something like a pride of lions walks by during the guest's sundowners. Whether it's wild animals or people that add to the unpredictable nature of this job - I have learnt that you can't take things personally in this job, or it will break you.

**There are moments when you feel overwhelmed and want to give up, but then nature seems to know exactly when you need a boost.**

Sometimes it's a dominant bull elephant coming up to the vehicle or a cheetah with one eye getting close to us. There's something magical about seeing a lioness playing with sticks or young leopards resting in trees. As much as we see the ferocity of nature, we also witness its beauty and humbleness. Nature is a coin with two sides, and the pros and cons balance out.

**I've had some very dangerous encounters.** Once, while setting up for breakfast, I walked behind the vehicle and saw a lioness on a kill. She roared and growled, however, thankfully, she stayed calm, and our guests had an incredible sighting. Another time, I had a very close encounter with a bull elephant in the bush during sundowners.



It's a bit nerve-wracking, but you trust your instincts and stay calm. Elephants have this unspoken judgment - they assess you to see if you're a threat. I've also been chased by a troublemaker elephant, only for the matriarch to step in and chase him off.



That was humbling. We also spent two hours stuck behind a breeding herd of elephants on a mountain pass. I had to calm the guests, and the matriarch protected us by pushing another elephant into the bush. Nature will humble you -complacency in this line of work can be dangerous.



**My future goal as a Guide is to become a Professional Guide.** It requires more studying and practical experience, which is my current focus. I've always dreamed of running an animal rehab center for wild cats and dogs -rehabilitating wild cats and giving them a forever home if they can't be rewilded. I'm also focused on obtaining my professional field guide qualification, learning more about wildlife photography, conservation, animal behavior, and helping endangered species.

**My advice to anyone that wants to follow this path is - chase your dreams, it's never too late.** I found the courage to pursue mine at 30, and two years later, I haven't looked back. Life is amazing. The reality of this job is often romanticized. You think you'll just drive off and see incredible wildlife, but that's only the tip of the iceberg. As a guide, you're always learning. When you're not guiding, you're helping around the lodge, hosting guests, setting up trail cameras - there's always something to do.





**Expect long hours. My day starts at 4 a.m. and ends at 11 p.m.** You just keep going. If you have a passion for wildlife and making a difference, the long hours and tough moments will be worth it. There will be days you question whether you're in the right job, but nature will remind you that you are. Just keep fighting.

Don't go in with rose-tinted glasses - you should expect the unexpected. It will be a rollercoaster, but the best one. Reach out to guides, ask for advice, and learn about different reserves and lodges. Guides are humble and honest, and their advice can help you decide if this path is for you. Never give up, find a good mentor, and you'll be great.



Follow Tim on his journey into the wild heart of Zululand





# START YOUR DAY THE HERITAGE WAY!

When the sun rises a little earlier in St. Lucia, you know it's time to greet a new day full of promise. The mornings are quieter, save for the rustling of the lush greenery and the occasional sight of warthogs trotting through town, making their way to the best grazing spots. And for those lucky enough to be staying at Heritage House, it's not just the scenery that gets you excited - it's the breakfast.



The Stay & Safari option at Heritage House is a delightful escape for couples and families alike, blending comfort with adventure. Imagine this: you wake up from a peaceful night's sleep, refreshed and ready to start your day.

You can either venture out on the exciting Heritage Tours Guided Safari to the legendary Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park or take a more leisurely approach with a relaxed breakfast by the pool, enjoying the beautiful, tranquil surroundings before heading out to explore iSimangaliso Wetland Park.







The best part? You get to curate your own breakfast experience. The night before, simply choose what your heart desires from a tempting array of options, and Bonita, the ever-smiling House Manageress, along with the dedicated kitchen staff, will take care of the rest. Whether it's fresh fruit salad, creamy yogurt, or a classic cereal, your morning will begin with refreshing cold options that cool you down in the tropical heat. And then, as you settle by the pool, soaking in the view and the birdlife, your hot breakfast is served, straight from the kitchen to your table.

My personal favorite? The scrambled eggs, so soft and fluffy, paired with crispy bacon, perfectly baked beans, and a golden hashbrown that's bursting with flavor. Add some slices of warm toast and a cup of rooibos tea or coffee, and you've got a combination that's both comforting and satisfying. At Heritage House, it's all about the fresh, high-quality ingredients and the personal service that makes you feel more like family than a guest. From the moment you arrive, you'll understand why this place is often described as a "home away from home" - but better.



[BOOK NOW](#)





# *Meet, eat, and make memories*

If you're looking for the perfect spot to catch up with friends or family over the festive season, where good vibes, aesthetic beauty, and delicious food come together, then look no further than Meet & Eat.

From the moment you step through the door, the welcoming ambiance enchants you.

Thoughtfully curated spaces, with tasteful décor and charming paintings adorning the walls, set the tone for a memorable dining experience. Every detail, from the unique finishing touches to the friendly faces behind the counter, ensures that you'll feel right at home. We had the pleasure of visiting Meet & Eat before embarking on our adventure to the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, and it completely exceeded our expectations.



The moment we entered, we were greeted by friendly, attentive staff who made us feel like we were long-time regulars. The Manager, Chris, was particularly delightful - his cheerful, welcoming presence set the tone for a relaxed and enjoyable start to the day. It's no wonder that Meet & Eat has earned such a loyal following; the service here truly feels like a reflection of the care that goes into every aspect of the business.

For breakfast, we decided on the farmhouse special, and wow, were we truly impressed. The portion size was more than generous – crispy, delicious bacon paired with fluffy eggs, golden toast, and crispy chips.





The meal was satisfying in every sense, and if you need that early morning pick-me-up, you can't go wrong with a cup of rooibos tea or coffee. The warm, hearty meal was the perfect start to our day. As we waited for our food, we couldn't help but take in the surroundings.

The café's interior is a visual treat, with paintings that invite curiosity and make you want to linger a little longer. Stepping outside, we discovered even more to love: a relaxing lounge area perfect for unwinding, a kid-friendly space designed to keep the little ones entertained, and photo-worthy paintings that make every corner Instagram-worthy.



The best part, though, was the vibe - it was as if the world slowed down for just a moment. What truly sets Meet & Eat apart is the atmosphere. There's a tranquility about the place that makes it feel like an escape from the busyness of everyday life.

Despite being located on McKenzie Street, just a stone's throw away from nearby amenities and accommodations, the vibe here feels calm, almost like a hidden oasis. Whether you're looking to catch up with friends or enjoy a peaceful meal alone, there's a sense of serenity that makes this place feel special.

As we sipped our tea and enjoyed our meal, we couldn't help but think of how the experience felt like more than just a stop for breakfast - it was a moment of connection, a time to unwind and enjoy the company of those around us.



**FOLLOW US**





# A PLACE WHERE EVERY MEAL FEELS LIKE A CELEBRATION.

*It's places like Meet & Eat that remind you of the beauty of slowing down, savoring the little things, and taking the time to appreciate the moments that matter. If you're looking for a spot that combines delicious food, stunning aesthetics, and a vibe that leaves you feeling refreshed, Meet & Eat is the place to be. Trust us - once you experience it, you'll want to return again and again.*



063 930 7287



ST. LUCIA

70 Mckenzie Street





# *Indulge in Tranquility and Elegance*

*Accommodation at Manor House features two spacious, family-friendly suites, each designed for maximum comfort.*

The suites include a main bedroom with a double bed and a connecting room with two single beds, making them perfect for families or small groups. Relax in the well-appointed bathrooms, complete with a bathtub, shower, and complimentary toiletries. Each suite offers modern amenities such as air conditioning, a TV, and a dedicated workspace to ensure your stay is as convenient and comfortable as possible. Start your day with a delicious breakfast served in the elegant dining area, and later unwind in the cozy in-house bar and lounge.



For those who prefer to relax outdoors, enjoy the swimming pool or the BBQ/braai area, ideal for a laid-back evening. Manor House also offers complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi and secure parking, making it easy to stay connected and relaxed throughout your visit.

Beyond nature, the town offers a variety of dining options, local boutiques, and charming coffee shops, ensuring all your needs are met during your stay.



*Whether you're seeking adventure or relaxation, Manor House offers the perfect setting for your St Lucia getaway.*

[Click here to book now](#)



# ST. LUCIA PALMS:

## *A relaxing Escape in the Heart of a World Heritage Paradise*



Situated in the vibrant heart of the renowned iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site, St. Lucia Palms Holiday Units provide the perfect escape for travelers looking to immerse themselves in nature, culture, and relaxation. Located just a scenic two-hour drive north of Durban or an hour from Richards Bay airport, these well-appointed self-catering units offer a comfortable and convenient base for exploring one of South Africa's most spectacular regions.

Guests at St. Lucia Palms will find themselves within walking distance of a range of local shops, charming restaurants, and inviting cafes. The holiday units are fully furnished, thoughtfully equipped, and serviced daily, ensuring that every need is met with ease.

*Each unit features ceiling fans for comfort, with the option for air conditioning, while free WiFi ensures guests stay connected throughout their stay.*

*With an emphasis on comfort and utmost convenience, St. Lucia Palms is designed to offer a stress-free experience from the moment guests arrive.*


*Click on the button below to make a booking!*

**BOOK NOW**







# COOK, RELAX AND EXPLORE



For those seeking adventure, St. Lucia Palms provides an extensive range of tours and activities. The on-site booking office makes it easy to arrange thrilling game drives, fishing expeditions, lake cruises, and seasonal experiences like whale watching or turtle tours.



The property offers both 4- and 6-sleeper self-catering units, each complete with an outdoor patio, BBQ facilities, and access to a refreshing swimming pool. These units are perfect for families or groups seeking both privacy and comfort while being just moments away from the vibrant town center.



The location of St. Lucia Palms offers unparalleled access to a variety of world-class experiences. A mere 2 kilometers from the Indian Ocean, guests can enjoy whale and dolphin watching boat cruises on Lake St. Lucia with hippo and crocodile sightings, and nearby game parks like Cape Vidal. Guests can enjoy hiking, kayaking, cultural visits, deep-sea fishing, and thrilling night drives. With its perfect mix of relaxation and adventure, St. Lucia Palms is the ideal base for an unforgettable holiday.





# SAFARI SERENITY

*Explore iHlozi Bush Lodge:*

A 4-Bedroom exclusive retreat offering  
seclusion, luxury, and breathtaking views in  
Hluhluwe.





Hidden within the heart of Kuleni Game Park, iHlozi Bush Lodge stands as a tribute to the wild, where the rhythm of nature dances with the elegance of handcrafted luxury.

As you drive through the gates of this Private Game Reserve, the air is infused with the earthy fragrance of the African bush, and towering trees weave their branches above the sandy path, gently guiding you into the soul of the wilderness.

The moment you arrive at iHlozi, a wooden boardwalk invites you to step closer, leading you toward an imposing wooden door, a threshold that promises a world of wonder. Inside, you are greeted by the majestic presence of hand-carved giraffes, elephants, and the mighty Big 5 - each sculpture more lifelike than the last, as though these magnificent creatures are waiting to welcome you with open arms.



The beautiful glass doors stretch wide, blurring the line between indoors and the untamed beauty of nature just beyond. The kitchen is a place where exquisite flavors meet unforgettable memories, bringing people together over food, drink, and a laid-back ambiance that soothes the soul.



The kitchen's crown jewel is a stunning tree bark pendant, hanging from the ceiling, bathed in the soft glow of downlighters, creating an atmosphere where every meal becomes an intimate communion with the bush. Modern cabinetry wraps around the space, fully equipped for everything from an elegant dinner to a spirited braai in the outdoor area, where the sound of crackling flames becomes part of the lodge's symphony.



A gas stove ensures you're never at the mercy of power outages, while a separate washing area makes everyday life here effortless. The lounge, a cozy haven, feels like it's been woven from the very fabric of nature. Rich in detail yet airy and spacious, it offers the perfect spot to watch the wonders of the bush unfold. Open the doors wide, and suddenly, the wilderness flows into the room, blending the indoors with the vast African landscape.



You might find playful impalas grazing in the afternoon light, while a kingfisher perches delicately on a nearby branch. As dusk falls, mongooses scurry across the boardwalk, and the symphony of the bush fills the air - a gentle reminder that you're immersed in something truly extraordinary. But it's the dining table that steals the show. At first glance, it's just a beautiful wooden table with a sleek glass top, but beneath the surface, an incredible secret lies hidden.





Intricately hand-carved 3D depictions of the Big 5 animals rest under the glass, their details so lifelike that they seem to leap to life in the light. The chairs are equally mesmerizing, each one carved with a different animal: lion, leopard, rhino, buffalo, and at the head of it all, a proud elephant standing sentinel, its carved form commanding attention.

This is no ordinary decor - it's a manifestation of the owner's deep love for Africa's wildlife and a celebration of the artisans who breathe life into each piece. It's a space where the passion for the wild, the spirit of craftsmanship, and the luxury of nature come together beautifully.

At iHlozi, the fusion of modern comfort with the artistry of Africa creates an atmosphere that feels like a dream - a place where time stands still, and the wild becomes a part of you. A stay here is not just a visit; it's an experience that leaves a mark on your heart, forever tied to the untamed beauty of the African bush.





On either side of the main living area, two enchanting bedrooms await, each a peaceful retreat, while a cozy TV room stands ready for unforgettable family movie nights. The heart of this oasis, though, lies in uThando - the main bedroom, a sanctuary of space and serenity.



A grand bed draped in a soft mosquito net evokes a sense of elegance while protecting you from the night's wandering creatures, all while embracing the luxurious essence of the bush. Beside the bed, wooden cupboards whisper of rustic charm, providing a perfect place to keep your belongings tucked away.



Every comfort is at your fingertips, from air conditioning to a hairdryer, a dresser, and most enchanting of all, the large glass door that opens to a personal deck.



As you step out and take in the rhythm of nature, where trees sway gently in the breeze, the simple act of observing reminds you how truly blessed we are to coexist with the earth.



A clever net ensures that no unwanted creatures wander in, allowing for the most peaceful night's sleep you can imagine. Beyond the bedroom, an experience like no other awaits in the bathroom - a bush lover's dream come true.

At its center, a majestic tree trunk stands, both a striking centerpiece and a practical holder for towels and clothes. Nearby, an indulgent indoor jacuzzi beckons, perfectly positioned by a sliding glass door that opens up to the trees outside.





As you sink into the warm embrace of the jacuzzi, the world melts away, and you are transported into nature's arms. If you thought it couldn't get any better, it does. A private outdoor shower, elevated on a tree, invites you to bathe under the open sky, wrapped in nature's embrace. This isn't just a bathroom - it's a journey to the heart of the wilderness, where every moment feels like an amazing celebration of nature itself.

Whether you choose to unwind by the tranquil outdoor pool, explore the walking trails of the Game Park or embark on an adventure to nearby gems like False Bay Game Reserve, Mkuze Game Reserve, or Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, iHlozi is the perfect base for your journey. After a day of exploration, indulge in a dining experience like no other, with seasonal catering options available - ensuring your taste buds are as satisfied as your sense of adventure. For a quick delicious takeaway, visit Delish Restaurant and The Olive Branch Cafe nearby.

## ***Valentines Day Special***

This Valentine's, iHlozi offers the perfect romantic escape for two. For just R 6000, couples can enjoy a two-night stay in a beautifully appointed room, designed for comfort and tranquility. Each morning begins with a delightful breakfast, while every evening is crowned with a romantic dinner, all part of this special Valentine's package.

Whether it's relaxing together on the private deck or immersing yourself in the stunning natural surroundings, this is the ideal setting for love to flourish. With everything taken care of, couples can focus on what truly matters, cherishing each moment together.



***Ready to book your perfect getaway? Just click on the website below to get started!***





# *The Journey to Zululand*

## **Places to stay & visit en-route Zululand**

As you journey toward Zululand, why not take the scenic route and explore a few hidden gems along the way? From the vibrant cultural stops to stunning natural wonders, there's plenty to discover before you even reach your final destination. Whether you're drawn to historical landmarks, wildlife adventures, or breathtaking landscapes, the path to Zululand is filled with exciting opportunities to enrich your trip.



Thula iNyoni, Richmond, KZN





Thula iNyoni, nestled on Mona Glen Farm in Richmond, KZN, has been a Walsh family cornerstone for over 50 years. Now home to four generations, the family grows sugarcane, raises cattle, manages timber, and harvests macadamias, all surrounded by lush Indigenous forests. The cabin area offers a tranquil retreat, blending nature, history, and family tradition in a stunning landscape.

The cabin's design and decor, along with its unique outdoor facilities, draw inspiration from Tyron Walsh's travels through Africa's wild camps and lodges. His passion for nature and birdlife is reflected in every perfectly handcrafted detail at Thula iNyoni. This vision began during the COVID-19 lockdown, evolving between his field-guiding career, and was completed upon his return to the family farm.





# A rustic CHARM



Nestled in nature, Thula iNyoni offers a peaceful retreat in a rustic self-catering cabin. The cozy bedroom with a crackling fireplace sets the tone for relaxation, while the kitchen, equipped with essentials and solar-powered appliances, ensures a hassle-free stay. Thoughtful touches like fresh linen, towels, firewood, and 10 liters of water make for a comfortable and memorable getaway.

Step outside and embrace the beauty of nature with a variety of outdoor activities. Hike or bike along scenic trails through lush forests and thriving macadamia orchards, or enjoy a peaceful moment fishing in the serene farm dam.



Enjoy some friendly competition with a round of golf at the nearby Country Club, or head to Tala Game Reserve for a memorable wildlife adventure. After a day of exploration, relax in the outdoor braai area or prepare a delicious meal on the gas stove in the comfort of your cabin.

For a truly immersive experience, refresh in the outdoor shower or soak in the bath beneath the trees, surrounded by nature's sounds. Birdwatchers can unwind in the private bird hide, offering a peaceful spot to observe the diverse local birdlife in its natural habitat.

*To reserve your getaway in this hidden natural paradise, simply click the link below.*



[www.thulainyoni.co.za](http://www.thulainyoni.co.za)





# A DAY OF ADVENTURE:

## *The Ultimate Big 5 Safari at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park*

Get ready to immerse yourself in the wild beauty of Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park on a once-in-a-lifetime experience with our Six On Safari Full-Day Big 5 Tour. This thrilling 8.5-hour adventure is the perfect way to explore South Africa's oldest game reserve, famous for its rich biodiversity and Big 5 sightings.

### What's Included?

- **All-Inclusive Safari Experience:** Enjoy a hassle-free journey where each & everything is taken care of. From gate and conservation fees to a delightful bush breakfast, we've got you covered.
- **Traditional South African Braai BBQ:** Feast on a mouthwatering braai BBQ, complemented with fresh salads and refreshing beverages, making this day not only an adventure but also a culinary delight.

READ MORE







- **Open Game Drive Safari Vehicle:** Travel in comfort on our specially designed open safari vehicle with roll-down canvas sides, ensuring you have the perfect vantage point for spotting game.
- **Certified Rangers:** Our expert rangers, each a registered and certified game ranger with a Professional Driving Permit (PDP), bring years of knowledge to ensure an unforgettable experience.
- **Binoculars Included:** Each guest receives a pair of binoculars, enhancing your wildlife sightings and ensuring you don't miss a moment of action.

### Why Choose Six On Safari?

At R1900.00 per person, this incredible package offers unbeatable value. Whether you're spotting the majestic lions, elusive leopards, or the powerful elephants, every moment on this tour is an opportunity for awe and discovery.

Contact us today via WhatsApp at **+27 64 037 6415** to book your spot.

Prepare for a day of adventure, wildlife, and memories that will last a lifetime at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park!

**BOOK NOW**







# Accommodation in the heart of paradise

Discover African Thistle, your serene 2-bedroom retreat in the heart of St Lucia, where adventure meets comfort. Perfect for families or groups of up to 5, this secure haven is just a stone's throw from the UNESCO World Heritage Site of iSimangaliso Wetland Park.

Embrace the tranquility of nature as you step into an inviting space surrounded by lush foliage. The master bedroom boasts a luxurious king-size bed, while the second room is perfect for kids, featuring a single bed and a cozy bunk bed. A stylish bathroom with a shower awaits to refresh you after a day of exploration.

Unleash your culinary creativity in the open-plan kitchen, fully equipped with modern appliances, including a stove, oven, large fridge-freezer, and all the essentials.







# Sustainable Living



Enjoy family movie nights in the comfortable lounge, complete with Netflix and free Wi-Fi, all powered by reliable solar energy. Step outside to your private braai terrace and unwind in the tranquil patio garden.

The complex also features a communal swimming pool, perfect for a refreshing dip, along with convenient parking for one vehicle. At African Thistle, the perfect getaway awaits!

Book your stay at African Thistle now and immerse yourself in the beauty of St Lucia.

+27 74 021 6710

africanthistle@gmail.com

Click here

**BOOK NOW**





# SUMMER AT ZULU NYALA



Zulu Nyala Game Lodge, Hluhluwe



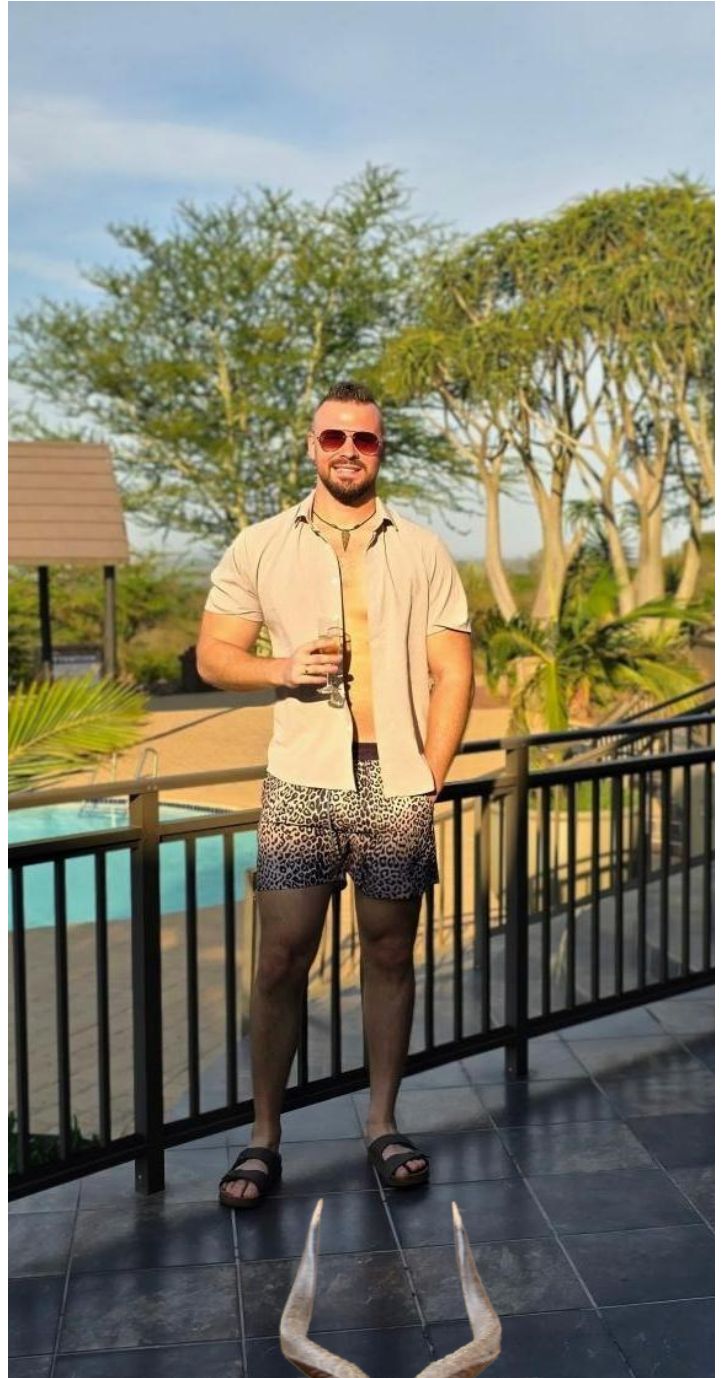
# SAFARI

# ESSENTIALS



Set in a breathtaking landscape, Zulu Nyala offers an unforgettable safari experience. Home to the elusive Nyala antelope and over 40 wildlife species, it's a true haven for nature. Expert guides lead thrilling open-vehicle safaris, offering close encounters with majestic creatures like the African elephant and elusive leopard.

*Ludovick Bertrand* effortlessly demonstrates how to safari in style, combining a classic short-sleeve neutral lightweight shirt with leopard print shorts for a chic and comfortable poolside look. Paired with sunglasses and sandals, this ensemble is perfect for relaxing under the sun. When it's time to embark on an adventure and get up close with the Big Five at Hluhluwe -iMfolozi Park, simply button up the shirt, swap the sandals for closed safari boots, and you will be ready to explore the wilderness in style.



Click here for more info - [www.zulunyalaco.za](http://www.zulunyalaco.za)





## *Summer slumbers, bush dreams*

### *Experience Comfort and Luxury with Gawjus-ly Slumber-Wear*

Made from 100% organic cotton, each set is designed in France and crafted in India to provide the ultimate in softness and comfort. The relaxed, three-quarter sleeve top offers a loose, flexible fit, while the elasticized, straight-cut pants ensure a personalized fit for every body type.

Perfect for lounging or sleeping, these pajama sets come in a matching drawstring bag for easy storage and travel. Whether at home or on the go, Gawjus-ly slumber-wear keeps you cozy, chic, and comfortable from day to night. Treat yourself to the luxury you deserve - because comfort never goes out of style.



### *Explore the pristine beaches of St. Lucia with pool-side sophistication*

GLODINA  
BLACK LABEL



The Pool Stripe towel range combines classic design with functionality, making it ideal for families or establishments. Made from 100% combed cotton, these soft, absorbent towels feature superior dyes for lasting colour and a timeless stripe pattern.



VISIT [WWW.LULULUV.CO.ZA](http://WWW.LULULUV.CO.ZA)



# *Nurture your body & nourish your home with Lululuv in St. Lucia*


*Glow through your summer African safari with skin that's as radiant as the savanna sun*

Stay beautifully moisturized under St. Lucia's summer sun with Pepper Tree Marula Oil Body Butter. This luxurious body butter, enriched with a rich Shea Butter base, is expertly blended with Marula and Vitamin E Oils to deeply replenish and hydrate the skin.

A gentle massage leaves skin feeling soft, looking radiant, and nourished from head to toe, ensuring a silky-smooth glow all day long.



*Visit the store for more*

 Shop 5, Corner Dolphin & Mckenzie Street, St.Lucia, 3936

  
PEPPERTREE  
LUXURY BATH & BODY  
Cape Town

## *Savor the scents of the African Wilderness*

Transform your living room into a tranquil oasis with the soothing aroma of Africa's wild beauty. This 200ml scented candle captures the essence of vast open spaces, wildlife, and the spirit of adventure. With a burn time of 16 hours, let its gentle fragrance transport you to the heart of the African landscape, inspiring peace and well-being with every breath.



\* SHOP NOW \*



# WILD CAMPING



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Photography : @keepingupwiththejacobs\_sa

## **An unforgettable moment: Finally getting to meet the Lions of Hluhluwe-iMfolozi**

It's that time of year once again - the perfect moment to unwind as 2024 comes to a close. A chance to enjoy some quality time with yourself and your loved ones before diving back into the hustle and bustle of everyday life. If you've been following our adventures, you likely already know our favorite spot to relax and recharge.

Yes, you guessed correctly, we were at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Reserve, and this time, we were truly spoiled. It was a very hot weekend, but the animals didn't seem to mind the heat at all. As we transitioned into the summer season, we had to adjust our setup to stay comfortable. During the winter, we keep three blankets and a heated blanket in the camper, along with a mini gas heater, which we use depending on where we're staying. The Midlands in Pietermaritzburg or the Drakensberg can get quite chilly, so it's essential to be prepared.

In contrast, KZN summers can be scorching, so all the blankets and heaters are packed away, and we store them at home. We replace them with a light duvet and pack our rechargeable mini fans and a portable air conditioner to help keep cool. During our weekend in Hluhluwe, temperatures soared to 38 degrees.



Without a pool to cool off in, staying in camp became unbearable. Fortunately, our trusty ice-filled bucket to dip our feet in was a real game-changer. We ended up spending most of our time driving through the park, where we could escape the heat and enjoy the air-conditioned comfort of our vehicle. Even with the sweltering heat, we were fortunate enough to spot so many animals, and we crossed an incredible sighting off our bucket list! Before I tell you all about our experience, let me remind you that we've visited the reserve countless times over the past two years. Yet, despite our many trips, we've never been lucky enough to spot the majestic creature we often refer to as the "King of the Jungle" - the Lion. Can you believe that? After so many visits, we still hadn't seen one.

Leading up to this trip, we'd heard that the lions had been spotted on the iMfolozi side of the reserve. We were thrilled, but also realistic, knowing that lions don't stay in one place for long. They travel vast distances, either hunting or patrolling their territory. On the day we arrived at Hluhluwe, we received an update that the lions were still in the area. We were staying at Nyalazi Campsite, so our plan for the day was to enter from Memorial Gate and make our way to Nyalazi Gate.



Unfortunately, this meant we wouldn't have time to go to the iMfolozi side. That night, we couldn't stop thinking: had we missed our chance? The next morning, our game plan was simple: wake up early and head straight for the iMfolozi side, where the lions had last been spotted.

As we made our way up the winding road, our eyes were scanning the surrounding greenery. Slowly, we approached the top of the hill, and then we saw it - several cars had stopped. We couldn't see anything yet due to the rocks and trees blocking our view, so we patiently waited for the other vehicle to move.





Then it hit us - we had arrived at the famous "Pride Rock." This was the iconic rock formation from The Lion King, where Simba was held up by Rafiki. It was home to the King and his pride. We had often driven past this rock, daydreaming about what it would be like to see a lion sitting there one day. As the vehicle ahead of us pulled away, we crept up the hill, finally able to see past the trees. And there they were - not one, but two stunning lions, side by side, taking shelter from the heat in the shade of the rock. It was like a scene straight out of a Disney movie -our dream had come true! We turned off our engine, and the reserve felt quiet around us. We watched them panting gently in the shade, trying to stay cool. We could've watched them for hours, but soon more cars started to gather, so we reluctantly moved on.

But as we were leaving, we saw something incredible: one of the lions had made its way to the top of Pride Rock. There he was, lying majestically with his back to us, gazing out over the horizon. It was the ultimate sighting—truly unforgettable. For us, this was an incredibly special moment. While we've seen lions before, this was the first time we'd encountered them during a self-drive with Bhejane. This experience is something we'll cherish for years to come.

It's worth noting that, according to the WWF (World Wildlife Fund), lion populations are declining due to habitat loss and human-wildlife conflict. It's vital to recognize and share how important lions are to the ecosystem. They help regulate populations of herbivores, which in turn helps maintain the balance of plants and grasslands. So, if you're ever lucky enough to witness a lion sighting, take a moment to truly appreciate their beauty. Their presence is a powerful reminder of nature's wonders and the importance of preserving it for future generations.

**UNTIL NEXT TIME**  
*Connor, Kirsten & Bhejane*







**SUMMER  
CAMPING  
EDITION**

## **GEAR THAT KEEPS UP WITH YOUR ADVENTURE**

Unleash the Ultimate Camping Adventure with  
MEERKAT Outdoor Gear by Bushtec



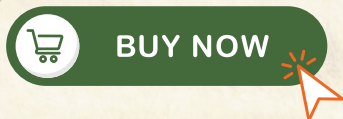
[www.meerkatoutdoor.com](http://www.meerkatoutdoor.com)





# Embrace the Wild, Traverse the Terrain

*Inspired by the resilience and adaptability of the Meerkat, MEERKAT by Bushtec is the ultimate companion for outdoor exploration. With a focus on reliability, durability, and style, the brand crafts gear that thrives in any environment. Known for its precision-engineered adventure tents and equipment, Meerkat has become a trusted name for those who seek adventure without compromise.*



Weighing in at just 3.85 kg, it folds effortlessly into a compact shape (96 × 25 × 24 cm) for easy storage and transport, so you can take it anywhere. Whether you're camping in the wild or just lounging in the backyard, this chair is always ready for action.

With built-in cup holders to keep your drink steady and a side storage pouch for your magazine, phone, or snacks, it's all about keeping your essentials close while you relax.

Plus, it's backed by a 3-year warranty, ensuring it'll keep up with you through countless adventures. And when you're done, simply slide it back into the included carry bag and store away.

## BEST BUY SPIDER CHAIR

Meet the outdoor chair that effortlessly blends strength, style, and convenience - designed for those who refuse to compromise on comfort or practicality. With a weight of 3.85 kg, it's surprisingly light yet sturdy enough to hold up to 150 kg with ease.



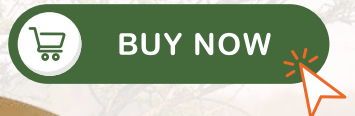


## SAFARI BOW TENT

a fortress in the wild

This tent is your ultimate shelter for rugged outdoor escapades, built to offer both comfort and resilience. Weighing 26.05 kg and packing into a compact 117 × 36 × 29 cm size, it's easy to transport and set up, yet spacious enough to accommodate all your needs with its generous 240 x 240 x 185 cm interior. Suspended on a spring steel frame, this tent boasts a 300 gsm Ripstop canvas top that's as durable as it is breathable, while the 550 gsm PVC floor keeps you dry and secure.

Roof vents provide airflow, and windows with mosquito gauze ensure a bug-free experience. The extended verandah offers extra shelter, and the waterproof, UV-treated fabric stands strong against the elements. For added convenience, an electrical inlet makes it easy to power up, while the heavy-duty zipper and sturdy stakes guarantee security. With a built-in ground sheet and carry bag for easy transport, this tent is ready for any adventure. backed by a 12-month warranty for total peace of mind.



Trust me,  
you're safe  
here





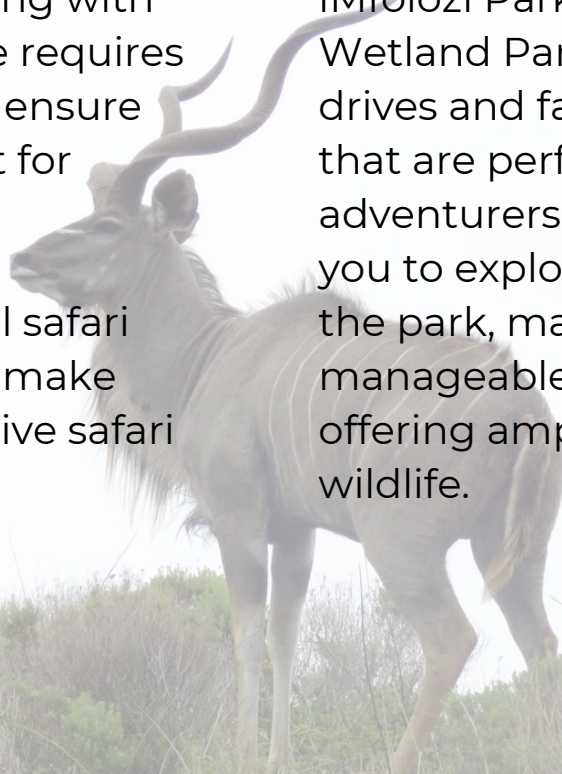
# SELF DRIVE

## safari with kids

Embarking on a self-drive safari in Zululand, South Africa, is an exciting opportunity for families to experience the beauty of the wild. For parents traveling with children, this adventure requires thoughtful planning to ensure safety, fun, and comfort for everyone.

Here are some essential safari tips to help your family make the most of your self-drive safari in Zululand. ➡

When planning a self-drive safari, it's important to select a park or game reserve that is suitable for families. Parks like Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park and iSimangaliso Wetland Park offer shorter game drives and family-focused activities that are perfect for younger adventurers. These locations allow you to explore smaller sections of the park, making the experience manageable for children while still offering ample opportunities to see wildlife.







When it comes to your vehicle, opt for a spacious 4x4 with child safety features like booster seats and child locks. Vehicles with pop-up roofs offer excellent wildlife viewing and ventilation. Don't forget to bring window shades for sun protection and sunscreen for everyone. During long drives, pack easy-to-eat snacks like fruit, trail mix, and granola bars to keep the kids satisfied and hydrated with plenty of water.



To keep kids entertained, bring safari-themed activity books, puzzles, or wildlife bingo cards and encourage them to spot animals, marking them off their checklist. Sharing interesting facts about the wildlife can also make the experience more educational. Always keep windows closed and doors locked while driving, and teach kids to stay inside the vehicle and respect wildlife by not approaching or feeding animals.





# *More tips for self-drives with kids*

Game drives are best during the morning or late afternoon when animals are more active. Make sure to plan frequent breaks to stretch and enjoy snacks, while keeping an eye out for wildlife. As the weather in Zululand can vary, packing layered clothing for the family is essential, along with basic comfortable shoes for walking and getting in and out of the vehicle.



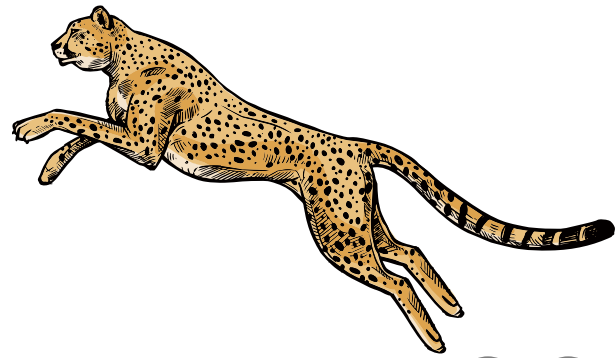
Finally, it's important to be flexible. If the kids are enjoying a drive, feel free to extend it, but if they're getting restless, take a break. The key to a successful safari is embracing the wild experience, making memories, and enjoying the adventure together as a family. With careful planning and a focus on safety and comfort, your self-drive safari in Zululand will be an unforgettable family experience.



# DUMA (2005)

Family/Adventure · 1h 40m

Set in South Africa, a young boy named Xan finds an orphaned cheetah cub, Duma, whose mother was killed by lions. Despite initial hesitation, Xan's father, Peter, agrees to let him raise the cub. Over the years, Duma becomes part of their family, but as he nears adulthood, Peter insists Duma must return to the wild. When Peter dies suddenly, Xan, with his mother, moves to Johannesburg, bringing Duma along. Chaos ensues as Duma causes trouble in the city, prompting Xan to fulfill his father's plan: to return Duma to his native home in Botswana.



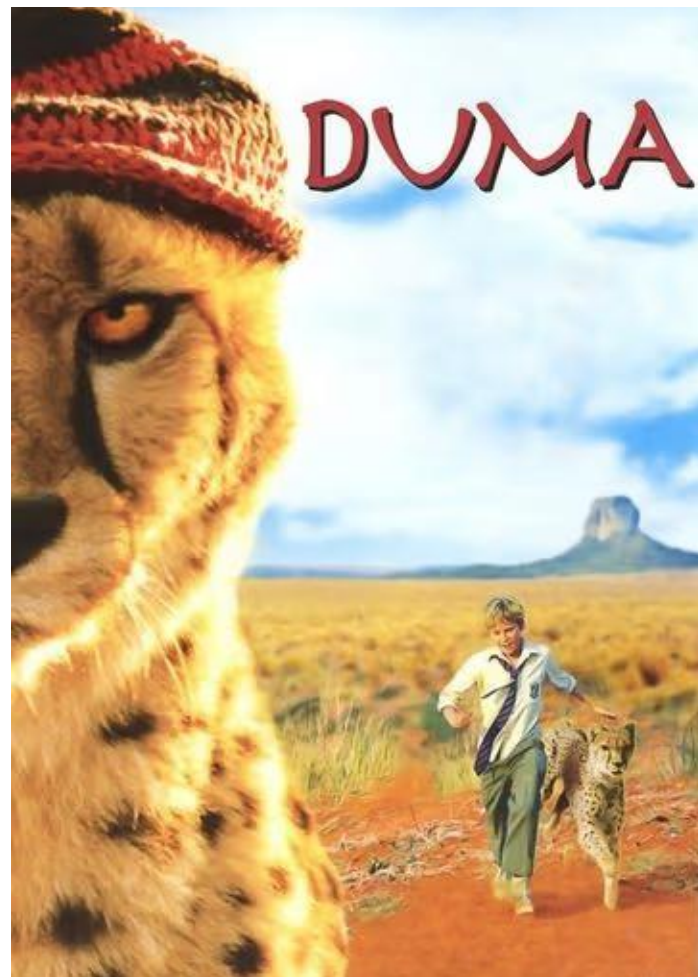
*This may be one of the most emotionally resonant films I have ever seen.*




*There is some beautiful scenery in this movie, the story is heartwarming and the ending is incredibly emotional and bittersweet yet still weirdly heartwarming. Duma is adventurous, it's exciting, it's sad. Duma, in my opinion, deserves more attention.*



Xan embarks on a daring journey through harsh deserts, the Okavango Delta, and the Erongo Mountains with Duma and a mysterious drifter named Rip. Along the way, the trio faces dangerous wildlife, survival challenges, and unexpected twists, including Rip's battle with illness. Eventually, Xan reaches Duma's home, where the cheetah reconnects with another wild companion.

In a bittersweet moment, Xan bids farewell to Duma, realizing it's time for his friend to live the life he was meant to. The film ends with Xan reunited with his mother, having grown through an unforgettable adventure. The lesson of Duma is about the importance of freedom and letting go. It shows that love means allowing others to fulfill their true potential, even when it's hard, and highlights the bond between humans and nature.



|   |                    |        |
|---|--------------------|--------|
|  | IMDb               | 7,1/10 |
|  | Rotten Tomatoes    | 95%    |
|  | Common Sense Media | 4/5    |







# STICK TO WHAT'S WILD

*Wistickers came to life during a safari trip in South Africa, sparked by the idea of creating a collection of animal-themed magnets that could be displayed on your vehicle.*

This fun concept turns your safari experience into an interactive I-Spy game for wildlife enthusiasts and travelers alike. Designed with nature lovers and collectors in mind, Wistickers blends creativity with functionality while empowering local artisans through every sale.

Each magnet serves as a meaningful keepsake, capturing the essence of Africa and allowing the magic of the continent to be shared around the globe.



**Decorate your fridge with these unique magnets and turn it into a vibrant display of memories, all while having a one-of-a-kind souvenir from your adventure.**



**Use it as a coaster to protect your drinks. With each sip, you can relive the adventure and add a unique touch to your space!**



**Record your safari sightings and proudly showcase the animals you've encountered. It's all about sharing the adventure with others.**





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[www.wistickers.co.za](http://www.wistickers.co.za)





# Who Spot What?

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## **A GAME FOR SHARP EYED SAFARI SPOTTERS. WHO WILL SPOT WHAT FIRST?**

**Who Spot What** is a game that can be played between individuals, teams or whole vehicles.

The first person or team to spot a new animal gets to put that Wisticker on their car door. Animals are awarded points depending on how difficult they are to spot.

At the end of your Safari drive you can add up your Wisticker points and see who is the winner!

Download and save the points card so you can play on the move!





## Who Scored What?

| 10 POINTS   | 5 POINTS  | 2 POINTS   |
|---|---|--|
| leopard<br>porcupine<br>black rhino<br>white rhino<br>cheetah<br>wild dog<br>brown hyena<br>black backed jackal<br>steenbok | buffalo<br>spotted hyena<br>eland<br>gemsbok<br>giraffe<br>hartebeest<br>lion<br>lioness<br>meerkat<br>mongoose<br>sable<br>ostrich<br>elephant | vervet monkey<br>baboon<br>warthog<br>zebra<br>scrub hare<br>impala<br>hippo<br>kudu<br>crocodile<br>waterbuck<br>blesbok<br>bontebok<br>springbok<br>wildebeest |







# Personalised Products



If you're searching for the perfect personalized gift that speaks volumes in detail, craftsmanship, and heartfelt service, look no further than Nikki's Creative Crafts.

As a passionate wildlife enthusiast and skilled craft lover, Nicole infuses each creation with her love for nature and artistry. Every item is more than just a gift; it's a labor of love, designed with care and tailored to reflect your unique taste.

Whether it's a special keepsake or a one-of-a-kind masterpiece. Nicole's dedication shines through in every detail, making her creations truly unforgettable.

From custom stickers that represent your brand with flair, to personalized high quality designs that bring your creative vision to life - Nikki's Creative Crafts has you covered. Whether it's for your business, a fun project, or a special gift, each sticker is crafted with care, turning simple designs into vibrant expressions of individuality.



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LOCAL**



# MKUZE GAME RESERVE IS A LITTLE GEM OF A RESERVE IN NORTHERN ZULULAND -



Full of surprises around every corner, with many distinct biomes that cater for the variety that is Africa's wildlife.

My favorite photo depicting a cautious family of white rhino edging out of the bush, while approaching a waterhole was taken at KuMasinga Hide watering point. The hide itself is almost exactly in the middle of the reserve within the beautiful sand forests, one of several habitats that Mkhuze's remarkable diversity presents. The reserve itself stretches from the slopes of the Lebombo mountains down to the Mkhuze river, which meanders into wetlands and pans, including the large iNsumo pan. The reserve is also part of the greater iSimangaliso Wetland Park and a wide variety of vegetation types cater to a diverse cross section of KwaZulu-Natal's wildlife.

To experience Mkuze, means access to the sand forests, grasslands, and woodlands you would expect in most of KZN, including acacia savannah, but the riverine forest is perhaps the most unique with the majestic sycamore fig forest along the banks of the Mkuze river. While all these habitats present unique fauna and flora, there is one uniting factor where everything diverges and that is at watering points.

The KuMasinga hide is well placed, the hide itself stretches over a watering hole allowing visitors to view game almost at water level while at their most vulnerable. I remember my first impression was that it wasn't a watering hole at all, but a huge mud hole. Then upon closer inspection I realized that water was indeed present, but not a lot. The time of year had a lot to do with that, since it was early spring, and summer rain had yet to make its way to Mkuze.

Naturally, the little water that was present was an extremely valuable resource for the animals lives and was highly contested. Some of the animals travelled many kilometers to slurp from the muddy puddles, while churning up the sludge for others to drink later. It was a humble reminder of how fickle life is and how precariously on the edge of a razor these animals lived. I remember there seemed to be an hierarchy. As if the animals had set a timetable for access. Nyala, the first to arrive, timid steps and cautious glances. Gentle souls, they sipped delicately from the edges of the mud pile.





Sometimes pressing the advantage between droves of doves and the odd warthog. The only times the warthog moved was to find a log to get a good scratch. After the Nyala came the wildebeest. A trickle at first. Their jouncing heads moving to a rhythm only they knew, but as they neared the mud patch, that beat grew to a crescendo, with snorts and grunts to add to the beatbox tune. Calves bleated, tempers flared and their stick legs began to churn the mud. The water, ever elusive, gained in consistency and viscosity.

It came to pass that the later arrivals would have to go deeper and deeper just for that serendipitous sip of aqua liquidium. Zebra arrived shortly after and their boisterous antics forced the wildebeest to move off. The amount of available water becoming less and less. The tension ratcheted and stallions enforced their will. Teeth and hooves flying. Between the MMA cornucopia, a few kudu snuck in between to gather mouthfuls of muddy sludge. Their distrustful glances centered on the hide and the scent of people in the air.

It took a long while before the animals moved off, but eventually the waterhole was empty again. Just as I was about to give up my observations, someone whispered and pointed. I turned my head, wondering what I would see, when slowly, one apparition defined into a rhino, and then two and so on until five could be seen whispering through the trees. Their movements slow and graceful despite their bulk. They edged out to the watery mud pile. Then squelched through it to where they could drink deeply. There must have been ten people in the hide at this point and not a single person made a noise or moved, so spellbound were we by these incredible behemoths that had just appeared like ghosts from the bush.





Must read

# Zeena's Journey

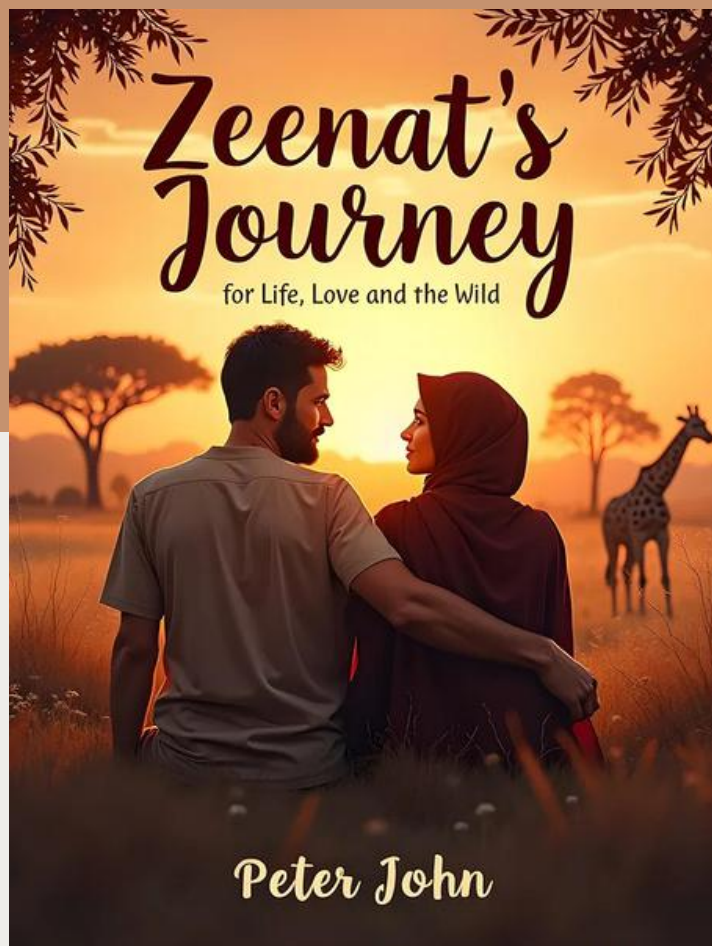
For life, love and the Wild

*When recently divorced Muslim mother Zeena books a five-day safari in South Africa's wilderness, she's seeking an escape from her carefully ordered life – not a whirlwind romance with her ruggedly handsome Afrikaner guide, Andries. But fate has other plans. Their cautious attraction explodes into desperate survival when a bull elephant in musth attacks their camp.*

*As dawn breaks over the African bush, Zeena must find courage she never knew she had: performing emergency medical procedures, handling a high-powered rifle, and facing down one of nature's most dangerous creatures. All while trying to ignore the growing realization that she's falling for a man who represents everything her traditional community warns against.*

*Set against the raw beauty of the African wilderness, this cross-cultural love story challenges preconceptions about faith, family, and finding love in unexpected places. As Zeena navigates between her religious convictions and her heart's desires, she discovers that sometimes the greatest journeys are the ones that lead us back to ourselves.*

*Perfect for readers who loved "The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency" and "Out of Africa," this debut novel weaves together thrilling wildlife encounters, tender romance, and one woman's quest to define herself beyond the boundaries others have set for her.*



READ MORE







## Zulu Dance: A Legacy of Strength and Unity

At the Memorial Gate of Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, a group of young Zulu boys stands tall, ready to showcase their heritage. Dressed in traditional attire with fur draped around their necks, wrists, and legs, they look powerful and connected to the land. Holding shields and standing proud, they honor the strength and bravery of their ancestors. As the drums begin to beat, the boys spring to life. Their feet pound the ground in perfect rhythm, their bodies moving with energy and grace.







They leap into the air, twirl, and stomp, each movement telling a story of strength, unity, and honor - deeply rooted in their Zulu culture. With each beat of the drum, they bring their history to life, showcasing the power and beauty of Zulu traditions.

In that moment, the boys aren't just dancing - they're preserving the past, celebrating their heritage, and sharing the strength of their people with the world.

## *Help the kids continue their passion*

By supporting their cause, you play a part in keeping Zulu culture alive for future generations. These young dancers are available for private shows, bringing their talent and spirit to your event.

Your support helps ensure that their traditions endure and that they can continue to share the vibrant energy of their culture with everyone they meet.

”

**"Zulu dance is the heartbeat of the community, where each step unites us in celebration and pride."**

LEARN MORE







# THE RETURN OF THE ZAMIMPILO MARKET



*The vibrant market, built and run by local women, was tragically consumed by a devastating fire in early May of last year. Since then, countless organizations, including our Magazine, our kind sponsors, and the DICE Community Upliftment in Empangeni, have rallied together, offering support in the form of food, clothing, funding, and blankets.*



*Despite the overwhelming loss, the women's resilience has shone through—never once wavering in their determination to rebuild. KZN Cogta MEC, Rev. Thulasizwe Buthelezi, proudly unveiled the Zamimpilo Market and Craft Centre, a shining beacon of community empowerment and development.*



*With support from KZN COGTA funding and the UMhlosinga Development Agency, acting on behalf of UMkhanyakude District Municipality, the market's revitalization has provided traders with modern, dynamic infrastructure to showcase and store their products. This transformative space is not just a market—it's the heart of a thriving local economy, built by the hands of those who believe in progress and community.*

Images by UMhlosinga Development Agency





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*Say 'I do' surrounded  
by nature's embrace.*

