

WILD ZULULAND

Digital Magazine

WWF

*Black Rhino
Range Expansion
Project*

**YOUR
DECEMBER
GETAWAY
AWAITS**

*Browse our top
accommodation
picks*

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**A 2 NIGHT
LUXURY
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GETAWAY**

Meet Moya

*The 15 year old beloved
cheetah at Emdoneni
Lodge with Zululand Cat
Conservation Project*

**EXPLORE THE
MAGIC OF
MAKONGO
HILLS**

*Transform your space
with stunning wildlife-
inspired art from Vukari
Art!*

**WILDLIFE VET, DR JENNIFER
LAWRENCE SHARES HER
EXPERIENCE DEHORNING
RHINOS IN HIP**

***Big 5 Safari with
Heritage Tours &
Safaris***

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Oct 2024

Editor's Note

After the positive response to the first issue, I refined the second - hoping it resonates! I recently turned 30 and immersed myself in wildlife conservation at Emdoneni Lodge & Makongo Hills, discovering impactful initiatives in a beautiful setting, proving once again that Zululand is the home of wonders.

Connecting with trailblazers in conservation, such as Dr. Jennifer Lawrence, Chloe Evans, Cecillie Nel and other phenomenal women has also been a truly inspiring experience. Their unwavering commitment to conservation highlight the vital contributions women are making to the field, driving change and empowering future generations to protect our wildlife. Their passion ignites hope and reminds me of the potential we all have to make a difference.

As I embarked on a new chapter, I also experienced my deepest loss: my beloved grandmother, a curious soul who thrived on my safari tales. At 79, she journeyed through my stories of Zululand, experiencing the wild from her couch. I've discovered the most profound lessons about life and death while spending plenty time in the bush. Nature, the greatest teacher, teaching me that even amidst sorrow, "the sun will rise and rivers will flow". Life persists, and I will forever keep her memory alive in the heart of wilderness.



In this issue, we celebrate the heroes fighting to save our rhinos, uncover the breathtaking wonders of Zululand, and offer inspiration for your perfect December getaway.

None of this would be possible without our incredible contributors & the encouragement from my late grandmother. A special shoutout to everyone who shares the magazine - your support means the world!

xo, *Shenay*

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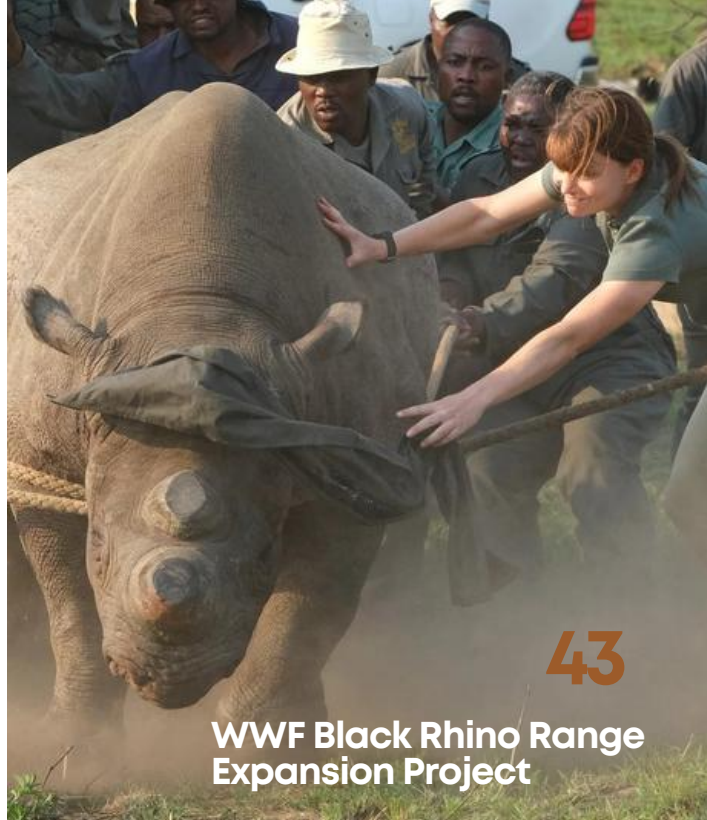
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WILD ZULULAND 2024



UNETHICAL ENCOUNTER

top story

Visitors at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park jump off at a Cheetah sighting!



DANGER

Don't try this!

What should have been a family-friendly, peaceful cheetah sighting quickly escalated into a cause for concern when visitors exhibited irresponsible and, frankly, foolish behavior during their self-drive in the Park. Westley Knight and Nicole Mercury witnessed this incident and hope that by sharing their story, they can deter future visitors from engaging in similar irresponsible behavior.

While observing the magnificent cheetah sighting, they noticed a man getting out of his vehicle and climbing on top to take pictures of two cheetahs, assisted by another male while a woman leaned far out of her window [eventually also climbing on top of the vehicle]. This reckless behavior emboldened the second and third cars to imitate them. Unbeknownst to these drivers, a third cheetah, an injured male lurked nearby, heightening the risk.

Such actions endanger both human lives and wildlife, as the stress on animals can lead to serious consequences. While self-driving in the park is a privilege, it relies on responsible behavior.

Unfortunately, many visitors disregard the needs and moods of the animals. This disregard is not isolated; for instance, some drivers rush elephants blocking the road, causing panic that can trigger aggressive responses.

"Taking selfies at the expense of safety is selfish and puts both animals and people at risk", says Westley. When they drove past the culprits and reminded them that such behavior could lead to being banned from the park, the response was a dismissive, "Oh really, thanks."

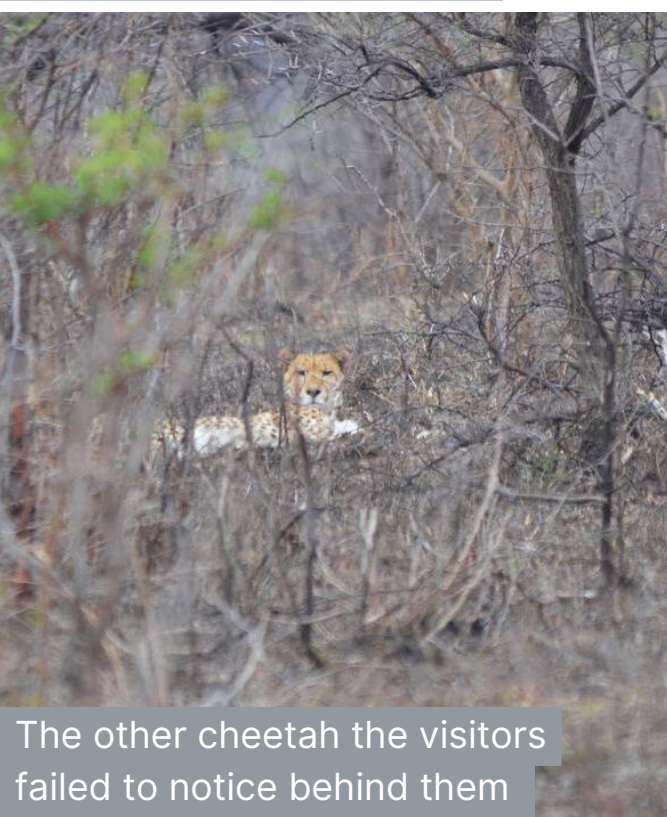




The absence of consequences for such behavior is concerning. It raises the question of whether individuals who jeopardize the safety of others should be allowed in the park at all. Nicole Mercury, a wildlife lover and mom, also shared her opinion on this matter and condemned the disrespectful behavior of the visitors. "The Park promotes a family-friendly environment, aiming to discourage zoos and educate children that animals belong in their natural habitats, such as protected game reserves. However, reckless behavior undermines this mission, teaching kids to disrespect wildlife", she explained.



A primary concern is the impact on young witnesses. Imagine a child seeing an attack or an animal harmed due to human irresponsibility. Such dangerous experiences could lead to a negative perception of wildlife, which is totally unacceptable, regardless of whether the individuals involved are locals or tourists.



Everyone needs to be held accountable for their actions. We all strongly hope that this story will encourage others to think twice and refrain from irresponsible behavior.



*Let's promote
ethical tourism*

RHINO DEHORNING EXPERIENCE

At Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park



**DR JENNIFER
LAWRENCE**

*Conservation Vet at
African Wildlife Vets*



SAVING THE RHINOS

We had the privilege to chat to Dr Jennifer Lawrence, a Conservation Vet about her role in the recent dehorning programme at the historic Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park.

Although rhino dehorning is performed as a last resort, how effective is it in preventing poaching ?

Dehorning rhino has definitely proven to reduce the incidence of poaching on reserves however isolated poaching incidents still occur. It is one of methods used to mitigate the risks of poaching.

What was your take on being part of the dehorning initiative at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park ?

Margaret Mead famously quoted “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Dehorning rhino is a complex task as the welfare of the rhino always needs to come first. The organisation required to put together such an operation is immense. It would not be possible without the committed dedication of the experienced EKZNW Game Capture team, the support of WWF, African Wildlife Vets and various other important organisations.

Each person involved has a pivotal role to play to ensure that each dehorning is smooth, efficient and quick. Working in the bush always comes with challenges and by working with an experienced team, reduces certain risks.

What did a typical day as a Conservation Vet look like with regards to the dehorning procedure ?

The Dehorning Operation consisted of skilled veterinarians, helicopter pilots and game capture & the days began early with us vets meeting to organise our drugs and equipment. At the same time the game capture team would come together and prepare their vehicles and equipment, and move out to the pre-arranged location in the park where the dehorning would take place that day.

The pilots would prepare the helicopters and depart to the location to start searching for rhino to dehorn. As vets, we were either part of the game capture teams on the ground, ensuring the health of the rhino while the dehorning took place, or we were in the helicopter darting the rhino. We were always close by in case of an emergency and if any assistance was required.

IT IS EMOTIONALLY TAXING TO HAVE TO REMOVE A BEAUTIFUL, LONG HORN THAT YOU KNOW HAS TAKEN YEARS TO GROW.



Is this an emotional experience for conservationists ?

The dehorning rhino process is definitely not something that conservationists take lightly. As much as it brought despair, it also brought a sense of ease knowing that by doing this we give that rhino a better chance at survival right now.

During the dehorning operation we rescued 8 orphans which to me was one of the most heartbreaking aspects of the operation. The ariel coverage was extensive and this allowed us to find these orphans that may ordinarily not have been found.

Is dehorning a painful experience for the rhino ?

Rhino horn is made of keratin which is no different to our fingernails or hair. The trimming process causes no discomfort to the rhino. The rhino remains healthy after being dehorned and while there is some preliminary research on how it impacts behavior, longer term research is required to fully assess how it may impact behavior.



How does it feel knowing that you play such a vital role in conservation of these incredible animals ?

Being involved in conservation is a passion that is lived through the work that we do. It becomes a way of life and knowing that there is a small chance that a difference can be made is immensely humbling and gratifying. Rhino are part our heritage and hold a deep legacy in hope and survival in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi. They remind me that despite all the challenges they have faced and continue to face, it is important to remain hopeful.

African Wildlife Vets is a non-profit organisation, and we rely solely on donations to operate. If people would like to make a difference, every donation big or small goes a long way in assisting us with what we do.

We understand that not everyone has the financial means to contribute, and therefore just raising awareness of conservation issues and the important work that we are doing is really important.

DR JENNIFER LAWRENCE



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Hluhluwe-iMfolozi
Park

*Wild
sightings*



Photography : Michelle Botha



Hluhluwe-iMfolozi
Park



Photography : Michelle Botha



Hluhluwe-iMfolozi
Park



Photography : Claire Wochnik Hallett



Makongo Hills [Ven-
Africa Private Reserve



Photography : Shenay B



Hluhluwe-iMfolozi
Park

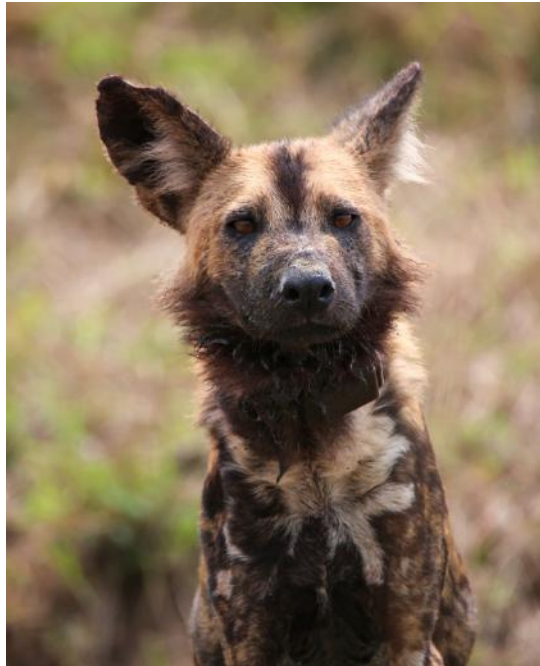


Photography : Claire Wochnik Hallett



"THE DREAM TEAM"

by Chad Smith



Much has changed in the last year within the Munywaneni pack. The highs and lows that come along with following a pack of wild dog are nothing short of an emotional roller-coaster!

Almost two years have passed since I first fell in love with a particular pack whose territory spans more than 24 000 hectares of the northern part of the Park. Since my last sighting of the five pups, three have thrived into robust young adults and are doing exceptionally well.

Learning from their fellow pack members will be essential to their survival.

However, tragedy struck when the Alpha male was taken by a lion early this year, and his successor, the Beta male, was soon also killed by pack of dispersals from the South. ”





Having lost both the Alpha and Beta males in such a short space of time left the Munywaneni pack incredibly anxious and vulnerable, and to add, both the Alpha and Beta females were pregnant at the time.

The situation worsened with further confrontations involving the dispersal males, resulting in the Beta female losing her right ear to the dominant male, and the Alpha female tragically losing her life to a vehicle on the community road. With zero hierarchy, the pack fractured - with the Munywaneni males heading south into the wilderness and the females aligning with the new dominant dispersal males.

“

During this, the Beta female had given birth to the previous Alphas pups, who sadly were not taken care of by the new males and did not survive - I believe due to them not being their bloodline.



@chadlz_smith

I hadn't received any updates on the Munywaneni males who had moved south for quite some time. However, we did hear about three females from the southern pack who had also dispersed through another path. Knowing how few of these incredible animals we have left in the wild and how vulnerable they are in small numbers only counted against them.

However, if those boys were to run into those girls - it would be a dream come true. It could form a third pack in the park. In a remarkable turn, that is what happened! A pack consisting of five males from the north (Munywaneni pack) and three females from the south (Msasaneni pack) joined forces to create what I affectionately call - "The Dream Team".

#WILDLIFE THROWBACK



The Beta female of the Munywaneni Pack suffered injuries and lost her ear due to an altercation with the dominant male dispersal earlier this year.

Nicole Mercury & her fiancé, Westley Knight are no strangers to the bush. As frequent visitors to Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, they are always eager to immerse themselves in the essence of Mama Africa.

Each trip brings a unique set of experiences, and the saying "Africa is a feeling" resonates with them every time.

However, nothing could prepare them for the haunting experience they encountered, witnessing an injured wild dog cry out in pain.



While on a self-drive at 8h, a peculiar and unsettling sound echoed from a distance, perhaps 200 meters away. Disturbed by the unfamiliar call, they grabbed their cameras and binoculars, trying to piece together the scene. Initially, one of them speculated, "It sounds like a dog-wait, it seems like its ear is caught under its collar." But that wasn't the case; the ear was completely absent, leaving them both confused and alarmed by the sight before them.

Photography: Nicole Mercury

As the wild dog [Beta female of the Munywaneni Pack] approached their vehicle, she was wailing in pain, her neck was gaping, her mouth sliced and her ear had been cleanly ripped right off. The couple grappled with a mix of compassion and helplessness.

The wild dog's suffering was a stark reminder of the harsh realities of nature, where beauty and brutality coexist. They knew they were witnessing something deeply tragic, and their instinct was to alert the sightings group as wild dogs are considered to be priority species.



Thanks to Nicole's quick alert, the veterinarians arrived on-site to treat the injured dog. Their hearts left the park heavy that day, filled with a mix of sadness and sorrow. Yet, there was a sense of confidence knowing she stood a good chance of recovery, thanks to the incredible efforts of the conservation organizations and the veterinarians. Every day, they checked social media groups for updates, and there she was, back with her pack, healing and thriving in the wild.

Although they had felt helpless in that moment, their timely report had made a difference, allowing her to receive the care she needed before vanishing into the bush. She had become a special wild dog to them, referring to her as "their dog". They took comfort in knowing she was growing stronger each day. To them, she embodied life in the African bush: a testament to strength, courage, and determination, while also reminding them that miracles can happen.



EXPLORE

THE MKUZE VALLEY WILDERNESS

FEATURED DESTINATION

Makongo Hills

ENCOUNTER NATURE'S UNPARALLELED WILDERNESS

Explore the heart of the Mkuze Valley Wilderness with an immersive, off-grid luxury safari experience that invites you to connect deeply with nature. Encounter the Big Five in their untamed habitat, where the boundaries between comfort and the wild seamlessly blend. This unique adventure offers an intimate glimpse into Africa's rich wildlife, all while enjoying the serenity and exclusivity of an unfenced retreat.



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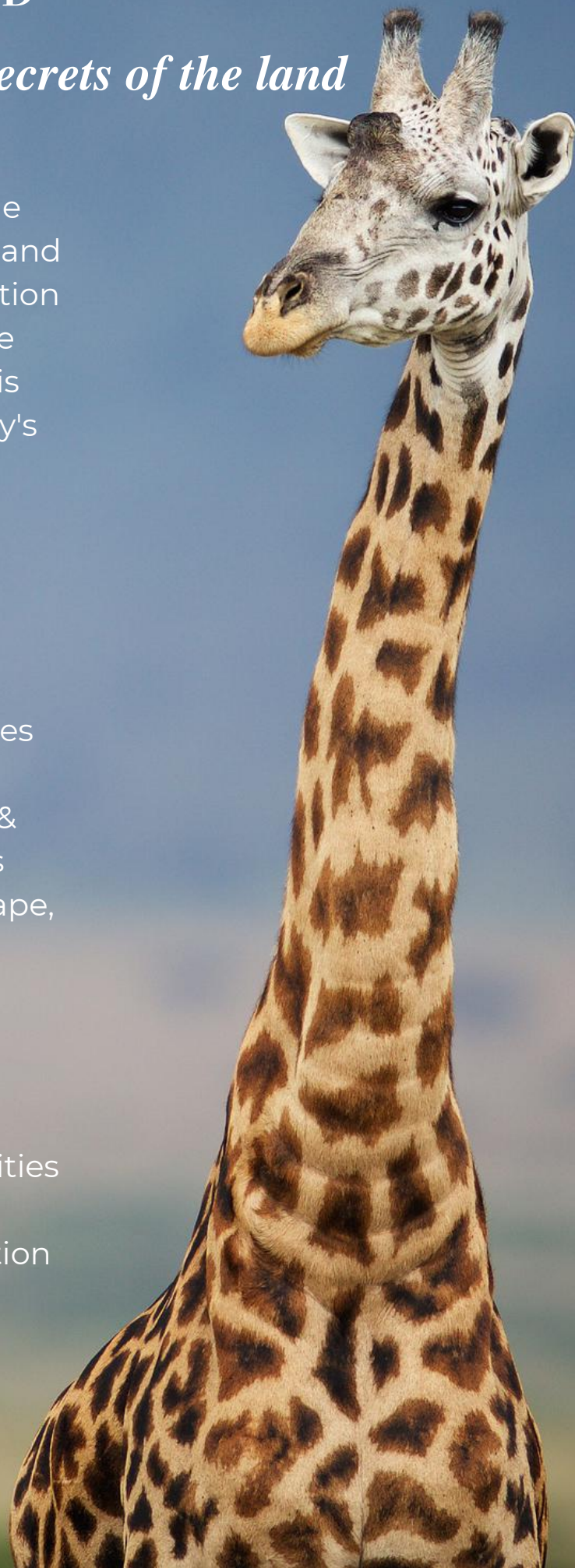


DISCOVER AN ENCHANTING ESCAPE IN THE HEART OF ZULULAND

...where the wild whispers secrets of the land

Originally a cattle ranch owned by the Maldonado family of Venezuela, the land underwent a remarkable transformation in 2017 when it was designated as the Ven-Africa Private Game Reserve. This pivotal change has allowed the family's legacy of conservation, community upliftment and respect for nature to flourish, creating a sanctuary where wildlife thrives and history echoes through the landscape.

The journey to Makongo Hills promises an exhilarating expedition, taking approximately 5 hours from Durban & 5.5 to 6 hours from Johannesburg. As you traverse this picturesque landscape, be prepared to uncover enchanting sights and experience awe-inspiring scenery that will capture your heart. Each mile along the way transforms your road trip into a delightful adventure, brimming with opportunities for discovery and unforgettable memories. Enjoy the thrill of exploration as you weave through both nature's beauty and hidden gems along the route!



Nature's raw display of beauty

Experience unforgettable wildlife encounters at Makongo Hills, where the thunderous roar of mighty lions resonates through the mountains and herds of elephants move majestically across the sprawling plains, their presence, creating a stunning display of grace and might.



Choose from beautifully appointed rooms in the homestead or rustic rondavels nestled in an indigenous garden, each named after a revered African animal. This thoughtful design infuses a sense of Africa into your stay, providing a richly curated experience that connects you deeply with the landscape and its wildlife.

STEP INTO THE UNTAMED AFRICA

For those yearning for an authentic bush adventure, Inkululeko Bush Camp is your perfect retreat. Nestled near the main gate, this expansive campsite invites you to pitch your tents, set up camping trailers, or park off-road caravans, all while enjoying the modern comforts of a well-appointed ablution block.



The thatched kitchen and dining area offer an idyllic setting for culinary creations beneath the stars, where you can savor meals while watching for the silhouettes of wildlife. As night descends, gather around the fire pit to share stories, roast marshmallows, and bask in the warmth of flickering flames.



Marvel at dazzling zebras as they guide you toward incredible predators like the iconic cheetah and spot the elusive leopard as it stealthily navigates its habitat, a fleeting glimpse of nature's most enigmatic predator. For wildlife enthusiasts, the region offers a wealth of sightings, featuring the mighty Big Five and a diverse array of animals and birds.

AN AUTHENTIC WILDLIFE ADVENTURE AWAITS YOU

At Makongo Hills, you'll discover a unique, intimate and luxurious accommodation experience, set in the heart of unspoiled African wilderness. The homestead flows effortlessly into a lush lawn, where a constant supply of tea and coffee, along with freshly baked goods, awaits you as you savor the breathtaking views of the rolling hills.

The pool deck offers sweeping panoramas, ideal for witnessing the allure of sunrises and sunsets. Unwind in the charming lapa, which transforms into a vibrant dining space or a cozy spot for fireside storytelling, sharing tales of the bush under a starlit sky.



SAVOR THE WILD: FROM GAME VIEWING TO GOURMET DELIGHTS



Guided game drives are a highlight of your stay, offered twice daily in a custom-built 4X4 Land Cruiser designed for maximum comfort and optimal game viewing.

Accompanied by an expert Guide, you'll delve into the wonders of wildlife and biodiversity, tracking animals for intimate and ethical encounters in peaceful solitude, away from the crowds.

Relish exclusive sightings and savor coffee and rusks in the heart of the bush, or unwind with refreshing sundowners atop the mountains, creating unforgettable memories amidst nature's beauty.

Indulge in a culinary journey at Makongo Hills, where the menu showcases the best of South African cuisine crafted from fresh, local ingredients. Each meal invites you on a flavor adventure, with traditional braais in the lapa that offer an authentic taste of South Africa, complemented by impeccable service and warm hospitality.

Dining here isn't just about filling your belly; it's an experience that elevates your palate. With an enticing selection of balanced meals, bush meat specialties, and indulgent sweet treats, there's something for everyone to savor. Every meal is prepared with care and passion, ensuring that each bite leaves you longing for more.



WILDLIFE AND COMMUNITY: A CONSERVATION COMMITMENT AT MAKONGO HILLS

At the core of Makongo Hills, conservation thrives as the Maldonado family embraces their role as guardians of the land, not just its owners. Their passion fuels a mission to protect this extraordinary habitat thus preserving its wonders for generations to come.

CIVA, the conservation initiative of Ven-Africa, is a non-profit organization committed to preserving and expanding the Mkuze Valley Wilderness as a refuge for native species. Their vision is to cultivate a vibrant ecosystem where wildlife thrives alongside community education, research, and development.

In their latest endeavor, CIVA has set an inspiring fundraising target of \$33,000 to support the WWF Black Rhino Range Expansion Project. This vital initiative seeks to establish new protected areas, secure essential corridors for rhino movement, and improve habitat quality, paving the way for a sustainable future for both wildlife and local communities. By supporting CIVA, one can help create a meaningful and lasting change in this extraordinary landscape.






GREEN PATHS, LASTING MEMORIES: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

At Makongo Hills, sustainability is key. The eco-friendly low-pressure gravity-fed water system, paired with a solar-powered borehole, ensures effective water conservation. Water harvesting is actively practiced through collection tanks, along with numerous water-saving techniques for gardens and accommodations.

Solar panels supply electricity to all properties, while low-energy fans and air conditioning help minimize the carbon footprint. Indigenous gardens flourish with water-friendly plants, supported by strict controls on invasive species. The community also benefits from educational initiatives focused on the identification and eradication of these invaders, fostering a shared commitment to environmental stewardship.

RECONNECT WITH *nature*

Immerse yourself in fifteen thousand hectares of untouched Africa in the Mkuze Valley Wilderness 

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Book a front row seat to nature's greatest show in the pristine waters of St Lucia. Witness the awe-inspiring beauty of the ocean's most majestic giants on a 2 hour boat tour with Advantage Tours & Charters. For over two decades, Advantage Tours & Charters have been dedicated

to offering exceptional, ethical tourism experiences in the breathtaking paradise of St. Lucia. During the prime whale - watching season, from June to November, you can embark on an extraordinary adventure of breathtaking whale sightings as they make their way through their migratory paths.

The adventure doesn't stop there, throughout the tours, you'll have the chance to observe joyful dolphin pods and immerse yourself in the vibrant marine ecosystem, experiencing the enchanting beauty of these unspoiled waters in all its glory.



OCEAN AWE AWAITS

The knowledgeable experienced team of Advantage Tours & Charters follow the highest standards of safety protocols to ensure a secure and enjoyable experience on every boat tour, making sure that you have a thrilling adventure with peace of mind. Being committed to promoting sustainable tourism ensures that all practices protect and preserve the environment at all times.



Feel the exhilaration of standing just meters from the ocean's giants. Humpback whales lead the way, but keep an eye out for minke, right, and sperm whales too.



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Whale watching St Lucia

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Indulge in our menu crafted to delight your senses and elevate your outdoor experience.



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Meet & Eat

Situated in Mckenzie Street, the heart of St. Lucia town is a must visit Cafe perfect for a lunch stop after a game drive or outdoor dinner while awaiting the hippos during their night stroll. As you step into this tranquil gem, you're not only greeted by a delightful menu but enveloped in a space where creative decor and the natural world come together in perfect harmony.



The menu is crafted to ensure a celebration of locally sourced ingredients with a hint of tradition. At Meet & Eat, freshness isn't just a promise; it's a commitment. Indulge the ocean's delights with succulent prawns, crispy, tender calamari and pristine fish, each prepared to perfection and inviting you on a culinary voyage through the sea's finest flavors.





Local is lekker



Indulge in South African cuisine

Prepare for an explosion of flavor with the Pap & Kaiings, featuring crisp fried pork belly, tomato and onion gravy (Shaba), and sweet onion marmalade, all paired with traditional maize meal porridge (pap) and a perfectly fried egg.



This South African favorite offers a harmonious blend of rich, savory, and sweet elements. After watching the sunset at the beach, enjoy a pleasant meander through picturesque streets, and let the anticipation of a delicious meal enhance your stroll.



Relish in the diverse selection that caters to every taste and preference which makes Meet & Eat unique, from the African Spice Gin infused with Africa's vibrant flavors and cultural richness to the irresistible cheesecake, featuring a harmonious blend of coconut and lemon, enriched with the sweetness of dried fruit, caramel chips, and fresh blueberries.



Start the day with a Farmhouse breakfast

Wake up to a wholesome meal combining simplicity and exceptional quality. Featuring two farm fresh eggs cooked to your preference and perfectly crisp bacon, offering a satisfying crunch and smoky flavor served with a side of toast, juicy tomatoes & chips cooked to golden perfection.



A hot cup of tea or coffee is included to round out your breakfast, energizing you before heading off to catch the nearby sightings at iSimangaliso Wetland Park or Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park. Refreshing and unique smoothies are crafted with fresh high quality ingredients that provide a boost of energy.



A Fantastic Dining Experience

Unwind with friends over cocktails and pizza, choosing from a wide variety of innovative drinks designed to refresh your palate while enjoying the vibrant atmosphere and traditional Zulu dancing parade. Share a pizza as you reflect on the days adventure, each pizza is crafted with a passion for quality, making every

bite a memorable experience. Desserts are not to be missed - the waffles and ice cream dynamic duo merges the crispy, delight of waffles with the smooth, cool indulgence of ice cream, creating a dessert experience that tantalizes the taste buds and soothes the palate. Dessert is more than just a sweet treat; it's labour of love.



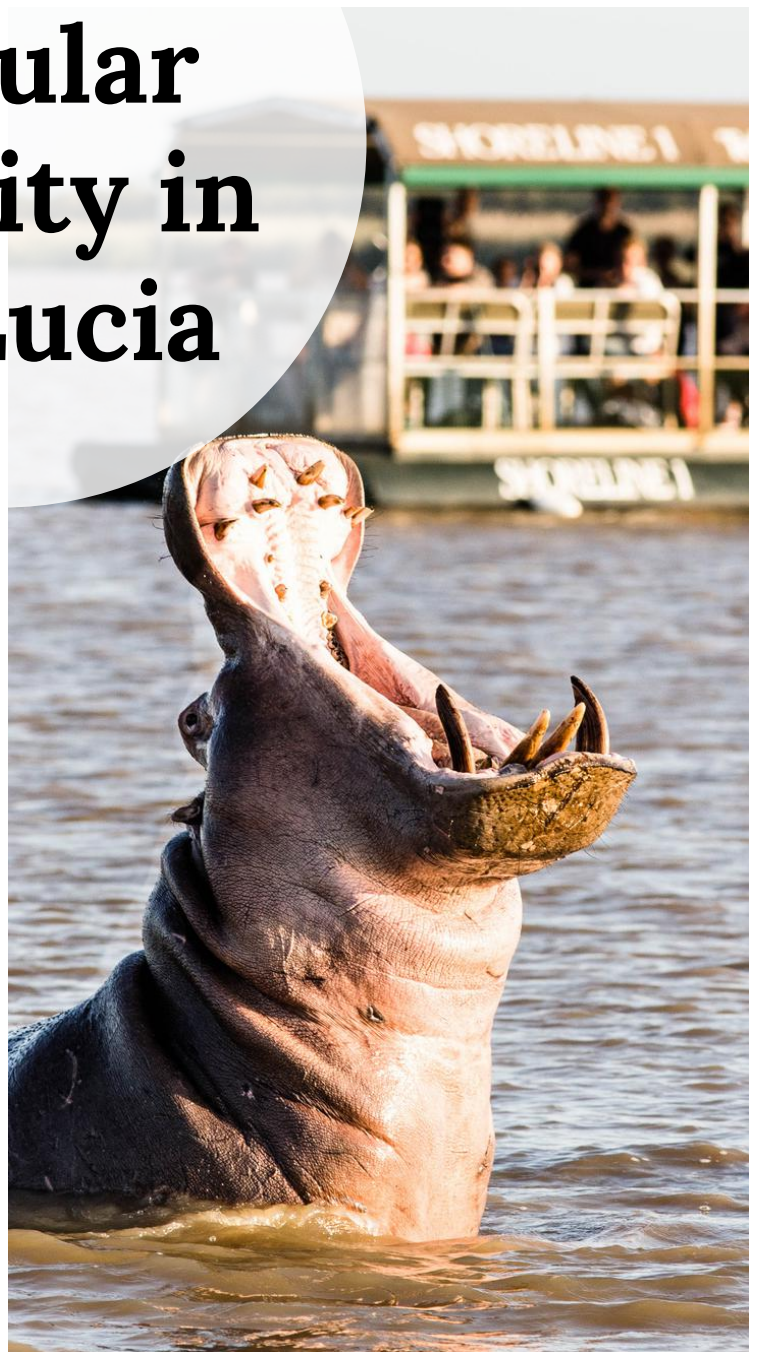
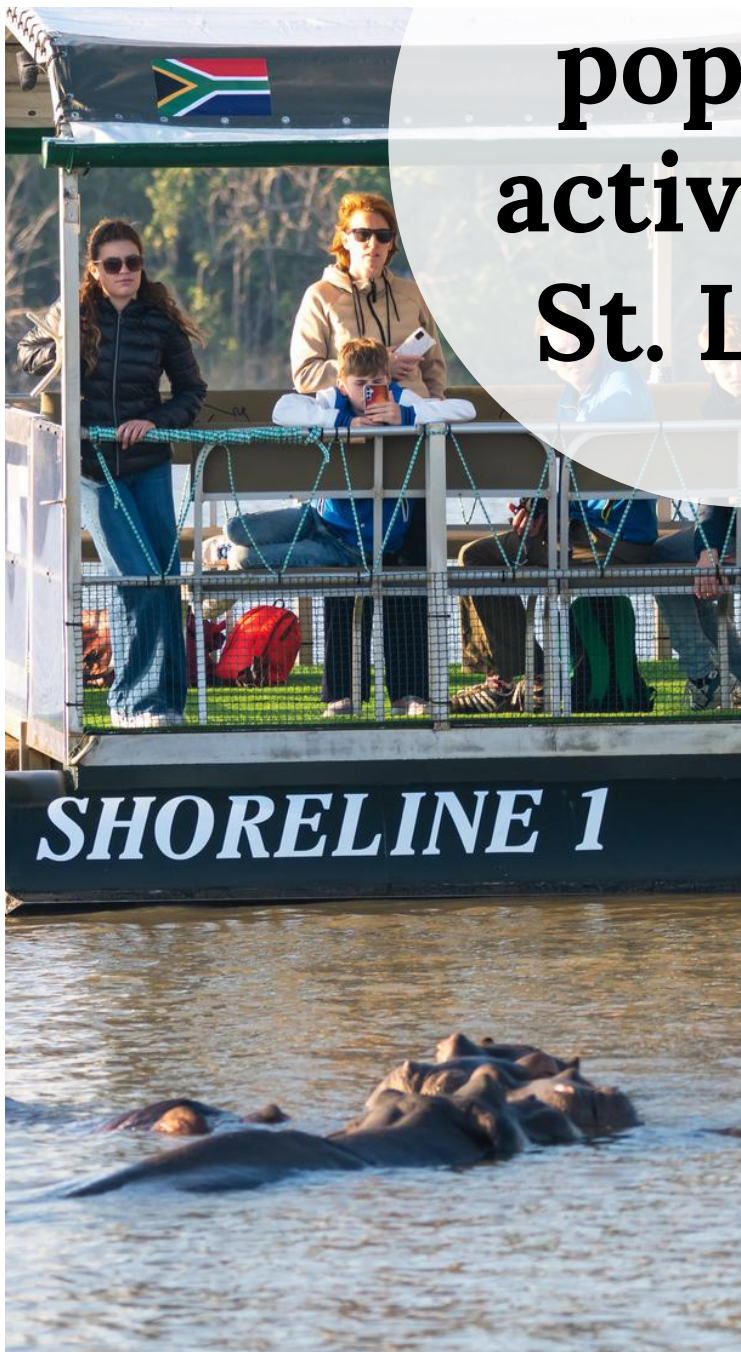
This place is a MUST visit when in St. Lucia. Absolutely beautiful scenery and atmosphere and the service is memorable and world class. We loved this place so much we ended up staying another day so we can enjoy the breakfast here. The night before we noticed this restaurant and decided to go in for dinner and the most yummiest pizza and drinks. When we returned for breakfast we wanted to try the famous Smoothies.

Honestly I've never been to a place that does such creative and tasty smoothies. Everything just keeps getting better here and we already planning to come back here to enjoy the rest of the menu. A special thanks to our waiters Sakhile & Mandisa for giving us a memorable experience. Well done guys, honestly recommend this gem for anyone visiting St. Lucia.

By Sizwe Makhaya



**Most
popular
activity in
St. Lucia**



Sunrise Hippo & Croc Cruise with Shoreline Boat Safaris



The day kicked off at 7 am at Siyabonga Jetty in St. Lucia, where we eagerly boarded our boat, greeted by the sounds of grunting hippos and the soft glow of dawn. Our knowledgeable skipper, Heynie, expertly guided us through the St. Lucia Estuary which is the largest estuarine system in South Africa. It is known for its rich biodiversity and unique ecosystems, supporting various wildlife, including hippos, crocodiles, and numerous bird species.

As we spotted a pod of hippos waking up, the sun painted the sky in brilliant shades of orange. Whether basking in sunshine or splashing through rain, a hippo and croc cruise promises endless adventures waiting to be uncovered. Heynie shared fascinating facts about hippos, while we captured stunning photos of the wildlife. We also marveled at the diverse birdlife, with the glossy black African Darter spreading its wings



while perched on a branch and then it was not long before our Skipper pointed out a baby Nile crocodile basking on the riverbank.

The beauty of Shoreline boats lies in their compact size, which allows for agile maneuvering to seek out wildlife. This design fosters intimate encounters while ensuring ample space for everyone on board, preventing overcrowding. Plus, their nimbleness means we can explore without the chaos of competing boats.

During our cruise, we encountered several hippo pods, each with its own unique personality - some grunting, others dozing peacefully. The highlight was witnessing a baby hippo bobbing up and down in the water, using its mother for support and yawning with exhaustion.



In just two hours, we gained invaluable insights from our Skipper and Guide, making the cruise with Shoreline more than just an activity. It was a profound experience that deepened our connection with nature while expanding our knowledge in a truly memorable way.

Tap the button below to reserve your boat cruise, or call the number provided. Your adventure is just a step away!

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The WWF South Africa Black Rhino Range Expansion Project (BRREP)

LEARN MORE



www.wwf.org.za

ABOUT THE PROJECT

by Ursina Rusch

POPULATION MANAGER

The WWF South Africa Black Rhino Range Expansion Project (BRREP) was established 21 years ago by Dr Jacques Flamand with the goal of increasing the range and numbers of the critically endangered black rhino. The black rhino reached its lowest continental population number in the mid-1990's when only 2500 black rhinos remained across sub-Saharan Africa. Since then, through consistent conservation efforts, this number has grown to over 6000 black rhinos.

BRREP removes black rhinos from existing populations where numbers are reaching carrying capacities and translocates them to new blocks of land where these new populations can grow, while the existing populations have more space to continue reproducing as well. BRREP has established 17 populations across South Africa and one population in Malawi, moving over 250 rhinos, over the past 21 years.



BRREP sites now make up 15% of South Africa's national herd. BRREP is housed within WWF South Africa as a project and is primarily funded by the WWF Netherlands office. BRREP is in partnership with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency that provide black rhinos for translocations to new sites, through custodianship agreements.

BRREP has also partnered with Wildlife ACT since its inception, to provide the important task of training monitors on new BRREP sites and providing post-release monitoring support after translocations.

THE ROLE OF A POPULATION MANAGER

My job as the population manager for BRREP focuses primarily on supporting existing BRREP sites with their rhinos. For BRREP as a team, the job is only half done once the rhinos have been introduced to a new site (which can be a 1-3 year job on its own!).

On introduction, the rhinos are monitored regularly by a dedicated rhino monitor employed by respective BRREP site to ensure the safety and well-being of the rhinos. Monitors gather important demographic, movement and social data on rhinos which I receive from all sites.

With this data I can then provide BRREP sites with population management assistance such as looking at rhinos requiring removal, rhino introductions, advising on monitoring techniques, data management and genetics. I also advise the conservation agencies on rhino selection to form new populations, keep track of rhino ownerships and organise meetings to bring BRREP sites and the conservation agencies together.

I'm also responsible for any scientific research happening through BRREP, providing linkages between researchers and BRREP sites and fostering relationships



I qualified with a BSc Honors Biology in Canada and a MSc Zoology from Stellenbosch University as well as a certification in Wildlife Management. The basic qualifications for a position like mine would definitely be a BSc in a biology or conservation related field, with a Masters preferable.





However, I'm very fortunate that on occasion I get to assist wildlife veterinarians or game capture teams with rhino work outside of BRREP's scope, such as dehorning operations, that allows for some extra field time.

When in the field on rhino translocations I'm usually responsible for collecting biological samples such as blood or tissue from rhinos for research and/or for genetic sampling, coordinating rhino off-takes, train new rhino monitors on data management and assist with post-release monitoring.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

A typical day is probably a lot less exciting than people think! While our BRREP team heads out into the field once or twice a year to capture and translocate black rhinos, the majority of my time is spent behind a laptop, answering emails, crunching numbers, writing reports and assisting BRREP sites. When I'm not working from home, I'm often on the road travelling to BRREP sites for meetings or providing assistance in the field.



BEING INVOLVED IN CONSERVATION



Photography: Jessica Flaherty



I ended up in wildlife conservation three years after graduating with my MSc Zoology. I had started off as an environmental consultant in the Western Cape but did not enjoy the work as much as I thought I would. After some soul searching I was drawn to wildlife conservation and I ended up completing my wildlife management qualification and interning on a small community-owned game reserve in Zululand. There I was hired on as the intern coordinator and a year later moved to BRREP where I have been ever since.

When I left the environmental consulting world, I wanted to work in a field where I could make a difference and see the positive impacts my work would have on the environment. With BRREP I'm fortunate to experience this every day – I get to see black rhino populations grow, thanks to the tireless efforts of reserve managers, rangers and rhino monitors, see black rhinos return to areas where they haven't been in decades if not hundred's of years and be part of the greater conservation community that has more than doubled black rhino numbers in the last thirty years.

ADVICE ON GETTING INTO CONSERVATION



Wildlife conservation is an incredibly complex undertaking, everything is connected. From national environmental policies, to community relations on park and reserve boundaries, to wildlife disease management, genetic management, habitat management and so much more.

Most people don't see how intertwined everything is and wonder why conservationists don't "just do X". Chances are that there are multiple forces at play that require careful consideration.

Black rhino conservation is no different and BRREP and its partner reserves and sites navigate this complex world daily, but despite the hurdles faced at times, perseverance usually pays off to further black rhino conservation goals and ensure that the species will be around for decades to come.

For anyone that would like to follow a path into wildlife conservation or management whether rhinos or another species, the work is most definitely worth it.

It is not always easy work and often involves long hours, time away from home, early mornings and sometimes late nights, but it is all worth it.

Especially at the beginning of ones career to take any opportunity coming ones way, be willing to put in the work and bide ones time. Connections and relationships are also important – the conservation world is small and knowing the right people can make all the difference to one's career!

SUPPORT THE WWF

DONATIONS WILL EMPOWER WWF TO ENHANCE ITS EFFORTS IN PROTECTING, SECURING, AND RESTORING THE COUNTRY'S MOST VITAL AREAS, WHILE ALSO PROMOTING POSITIVE CHANGES IN HOW SOCIETY INTERACTS WITH THE PLANET.

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Click here 

TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE

Wilde Tracks' Mission to Save Africa's Rhinos



LEARN MORE



ABOUT WILDE TRACKS



Wilde Tracks, founded by British national Chloe Evans, was born out of a really deep love for Africa's wildlife and an urgent need to protect it. Though based in Dubai, Chloe's passion for conservation runs through the heart of Africa.

Wilde Tracks is on a mission to safeguard endangered species and create a sustainable, fair future for African communities. Through a unique "travel-with-a-purpose" model, Wilde Tracks gives adventurous travelers the chance to actively take part in life-saving conservation projects - behind the scenes, where few ever get to go.

CONSERVATION IN THE HEART OF AFRICA

Every trip directly funds these critical projects, driving real change on the ground while offering travelers the opportunity to make a tangible impact and spread awareness worldwide. In the past 14 months, Wilde Tracks, working alongside Wildlife Solutions Africa's Dr. Ryan Van Deventer and Wild Connection, has helped dehorn and tag 18 white rhinos and 4 critically endangered black rhinos across KwaZulu-Natal.

As poaching continues to push these majestic creatures to the brink of extinction, dehorning has become a vital defense. By removing the horns, rhinos become less valuable targets, significantly reducing the threat of poaching. These efforts are not just numbers; they are battles in a war to keep an entire species from vanishing.



Conservation isn't just about wildlife - it's about people, too.

Wilde Tracks and their partners are committed to working closely with local communities, supporting outreach programs that inspire future generations to protect their natural heritage.

Conservation and community go hand in hand, and by investing in both, Wilde Tracks are laying the foundation for a future where animals and humans can coexist and thrive.



By connecting passionate travelers with hands-on conservation efforts, Wilde Tracks not only protects endangered species but also ignites a spark of awareness that ripples across the globe. Each rhino dehorned, each community engaged, represents a victory in the battle against extinction and a step towards a harmonious future. Through its efforts, Wilde Tracks reminds us that we are all responsible for our planet's future, and that even the smallest actions can have profound impacts.



Get involved!

More thrilling opportunities are ahead. Wilde Tracks are opening up new trips to the public: from 1-8 June 2025, a family-focused adventure from 10-16 August 2025, and another public trip from 16-22 August 2025. The more hands involved, the more animals we can save. Together, we can turn the tide for Africa's rhinos.

 info@wildetracks.com



SPRING SAFARI

checklist

CLOTHING

- ☐ Lightweight pants
- ☐ Breathable neutral colour shirts
- ☐ Light jacket or fleece
- ☐ Comfortable & durable shoes or boots
- ☐ Quick dry underwear or socks
- ☐ Swimwear if your Lodge has a pool
- ☐ Wide brimmed hat for sun protection
- ☐ Beanies or caps for windy days
- ☐ Floral flowly dresses for safari dinners
- ☐ Light or silk pajamas for long stays
- ☐ Scarf for breezy days

ACCESSORIES

- ☐ Sunglasses with UV protection
- ☐ Binoculars to spot wildlife
- ☐ Camera with extra batteries
- ☐ Sunblock with high SPF
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Mini travel hair straightener/curler
- ☐ Animal theme jewellery
- ☐ Hairband for windy game drives
- ☐ Mini durable crossbody bag

OTHER

- ☐ Reusable water bottle
- ☐ Travel sized toiletries
- ☐ Reading material for downtime
- ☐ Personal medication
- ☐ Basic first aid kit
- ☐ Travel insurance details
- ☐ Copies of important Travel documents
- ☐ Phone charger

SELF DRIVES

- ☐ Car charger for cellphone/camera
- ☐ Layers for varying temperatures
- ☐ Comfortable durable shoes for driving
- ☐ Spare tyre, jack & basic repair tools
- ☐ Trash bags for waste disposal
- ☐ Wet wipes & sanitizer
- ☐ Rhino card where applicable
- ☐ Travel pillow & blanket for comfort

TRAVEL

Inspiration



Photography : Pramod Morar

The Jozini Dam, near Jozini and Mkuze in northeastern KwaZulu-Natal, was originally called Pongolapoort Dam due to its location on the Pongola River. The gorge it sits in was formed by the river cutting through the Lebombo mountains.

Model : Taryn Valerie
Photography : Lorenzo Adams



Wild
STYLE

This ensemble is ideal for an upscale luncheon at a high-end Game lodge, blending refined elegance with a touch of adventure. When it's time to set off on your game drive, effortlessly switch from heels to stylish, sturdy sandals, add a wide-brimmed hat, and you're all set for an unforgettable African escapade.



Model - Taryn Valerie

Photographer - Lorenzo Adams

Outfit - YDE

Shoes - Aldo

TRADITIONAL FASHION



Heritage month in South Africa is a celebration of the country's diverse cultures and traditions. It encourages people to embrace their roots and promote unity through the rich tapestry of customs, languages, and histories that make up South African identity. Mpho & friends proudly honor their heritage by donning a vibrant, traditional outfit that radiates color and culture.

MEET *Dumi*



Dumi Mbatha grew up in Jozini, a picturesque town nestled along the main route to Mozambique. Surrounded by the untamed beauty of nature, the grandeur of the Big Five, the shimmering expanse of the dam, and the rich tapestry of Zulu culture, his childhood was deeply intertwined with the region's vibrant spirit. His passion for nature blossomed during school trips to Mkuze Game Reserve, where each visit deepened his connection with the wild landscapes and diverse wildlife that shaped his early years.



He spent seven years working as a Guide at And Beyond Phinda, where he gained invaluable experience navigating the wild and enriching his vast understanding of nature's intricate balance. From there, he moved to Thanda Private Game Reserve and Manyoni Private Game Reserve, where he honed his skills in catering to tourists and crafting exceptional luxury guest experiences and At Heritage Safari & Tours, the largest tour company in St. Lucia, he interacted with a diverse array of tourists and guests, deepening his knowledge of wildlife within the World Heritage Site and at the renowned Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park.



The Beginning of a Legacy: Where Every Journey Becomes a Story.

In 2018, Dumi established Dumi Legacy Tours, using the insights he gained from top lodges to create extraordinary experiences for his guests.

Dumi Legacy Tours provides a range of tailor-made packages from Half day & Full Day iSimangaliso Wetland Park and Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park tours, to Sunset iSimangaliso Wetland Park tours with sundowners and Bayete Zulu ethical and educational elephant interactions. Each package is designed to deliver an exceptional and unforgettable adventure with a difference.



What makes Dumi's tours truly exceptional is that he personally guides each adventure himself, ensuring a unique and immersive experience. This approach allows guests to experience his passion firsthand, as he keeps the tours engaging with his insightful facts and captivating safari stories.



Discover the Dumi Legacy experience



082 049 7714



tours@dumistluciasafari.co.za



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Click here 



BOOK YOUR SAFARI NOW

Join us on Safari and witness the diverse wildlife and beautiful sunsets in iSimangaliso Wetland Park and majestic Big 5 in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park.

Meet Rambo & Rachel, the free roaming rescue elephants of Bayete Zulu!



CLICK HERE FOR MORE

For More Information :

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DUMI LEGACY
• T O U R S •



SUNSET SAFARI SUNDOWNERS

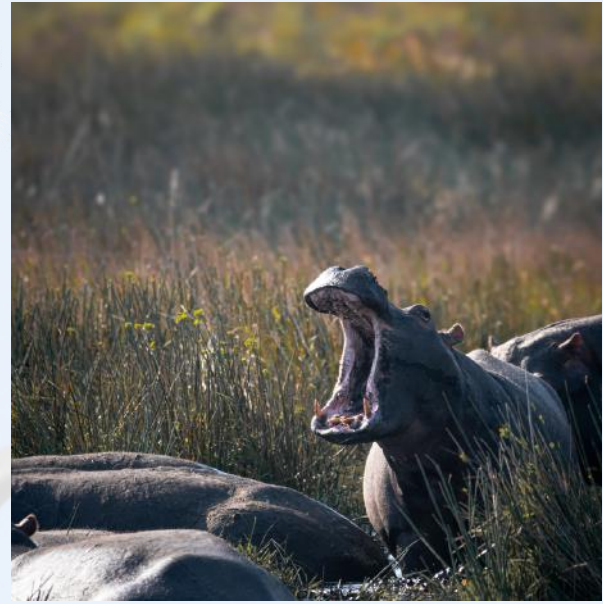
iSimangaliso Wetland Park

BOOK NOW



THE DUMI LEGACY

Difference



We experienced a fantastic sunset game drive at iSimangaliso Wetland Park with Dumi and his team, where we were delighted by stunning views of the famous hippos in their natural habitat. Dumi took the time to educate us on hippo behavior while they were basking in the sun, providing fascinating insights into their activities and interactions.

It was incredible to observe the hippos both in and out of the water, especially as they yawned, displaying their impressive jaws and teeth. Afterward, we headed to Catalina Bay lookout point to witness the magical sunset over Lake St. Lucia. As the sun prepared to make its grand exit, we savored a delightful platter of fresh biltong, crisp wine, and chocolates adorned with personalized wrappers, adding a special touch. Toasting to the breathtaking sunset, we felt incredibly fortunate to have enjoyed such a uniquely intimate safari experience.



READ MORE





After sundowners, we made our way back to the gate, passing Missions Rocks while keeping our fingers crossed for any leopard sightings. Unfortunately, the elusive cat eluded us that evening. However, with Dumi's extensive experience in locating exceptional sightings, we're eager to return and hopefully spot a leopard along with other fascinating creatures in iSimangaliso Wetland Park.

Days after the tour with Dumi, the memory that lingers is the sheer joy we had. The experience was incredibly interactive, and the atmosphere was nothing short of electric. This is precisely what Dumi aims to achieve - crafting a journey that, like a legacy, remains etched in your memory long after the adventure ends.



Follow @dumilegacy on
Instagram

[CLICK HERE](#)

To learn more about Dumi Legacy Tours



Story time

By Peter John [Du Preez]

UNYIELDING STRENGTH OF THE BLACK RHINO



Somewhere in Africa

© 2024, Peter John

WHEN NATURE SURPRISES: THE THRILL OF AN UNEXPECTED RHINO SIGHTING!

The Black Rhino is a seldom seen denizen of Zululand. It is most often associated with fleeting shadows and thick scrubland. On this particular day, our guide had been struggling to find anything of note. A few Impala, a dazzle of Zebra, lots of elephant spoor and the odd bird came to observe the tourists in their boredom. One of our group emitted light snores, obviously unimpressed with the early morning and lack of entertainment. I felt sorry for the guide. He was trying very hard. We learned about three types of dung beetles, the different flora that fed all the magnificent animals, yet the animals themselves remained unseen, unnoticed or just plain un-present.

In the guides desperation he started going faster. He had heard over the radio that there were lions in a particular area and wanted to get there to at least restore some credibility to this haven of wildlife. Then just like that, without fanfare, without a momentous entrance applause this young male Black rhino stepped out of a thicket and caused us to stop suddenly. The jerking motion of coming to a halt causing even the sleeping passenger to jerk awake. Fortunately before he could utter surprise his partner shushed him. There was a large shrub obscuring our view, and I could see the guide was nervous to move us into the clearing.

“

BLACK RHINO
ARE SKITTISH,
CANTANKEROUS
AND NOT
COOPERATIVE
WITH TOURISTS.
THIS IS KNOWN.
HOWEVER FOR
SOME NEBULOUS
REASON, ON
THIS DAY, THE
GOD'S SMILED
ON US.

The young Black Rhino continued to move into the clearing where he nibbled on young thorny shrubs that barely stretched to his knees. My first instinct was to identify him as a white rhino, because it looked like he was grazing, but upon closer inspection I noticed the triangle lip and that he was browsing on the small shrubs at his feet.

We coasted to where we could all see him more clearly and he stood, in the open, unimpressed and uninterested. His only focus being the next mouthful. It was a glorious sighting where he graced us with his presence for a good ten minutes. His head turning to observe us every time the radio squelched or a camera clicked too exuberantly. I managed to get a few shots, with this being the best. Before we drove off, the clients were much more animated. Our collective belief in the reserve restored.

“

I GLANCED BACK AT THE
MAGNIFICENT BEAST AND
WONDERED WHEN WE
WOULD SEE THEM WITH
HORNS AGAIN, OR IF THIS
WAS THE NEW REALITY AND
FUTURE GENERATIONS
WOULD ONLY KNOW THEM
WITH CUT-OFF-HORN SNUB
NOSES. DONE FOR THEIR
OWN PROTECTION. I
DEARLY HOPED IT
WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE SO.

PETER JOHN [DU PREEZ]

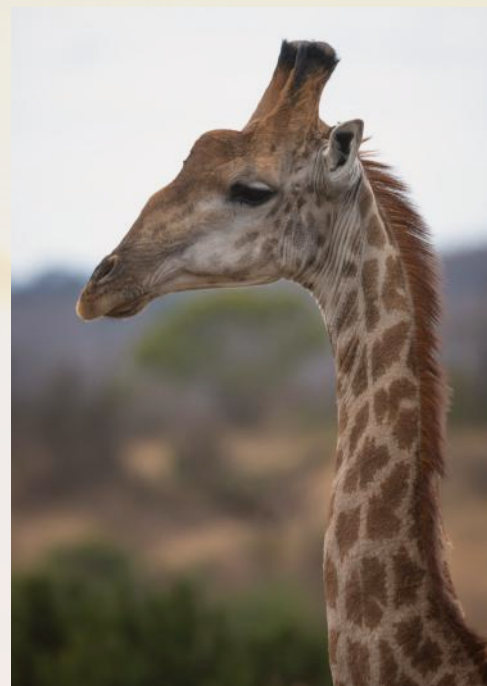
Author & Photographer

Experience the magic of Makongo Hills



Read more about my adventure





My love for Zululand runs deep, and my recent adventure in the captivating Makongo Hills only deepened that connection. The magic of Makongo is simply unforgettable. From the moment we entered the private reserve, we were greeted by a large buffalo herd - majestic mothers, playful calves, and formidable males with towering horns, all framed by the lush rain-soaked landscape. Despite the heavy rain and the need for a 4x4 in the harsh weather conditions, we relied on our trusty BMW X1 to carry us on our journey, and it took us far - until we found ourselves mired in the soggy earth. Our Guide, Tim, kindly towed us to the lodge with the open Toyota 4x4 landcruiser

safari vehicle, braving the downpour. Though the reserve was unfenced and I had the lovely task of "keeping an eye for lions nearby", we felt 100% completely safe with our Guide by our side. Upon arrival, Casey, the Assistant Lodge Manager, and his warm team enveloped us in true local South African hospitality. After shedding the chill with hot towels, we then savored freshly brewed coffee and muffins, gazing out at the breathtaking Maqongqo Hills as our itinerary was unveiled. Lunch was a feast fit for kings - a mouthwatering platter of venison sosaties, warm bread with salted butter, vibrant salads, and an array of fruits and chocolates for dessert.



The afternoon unfolded in tranquil bliss, allowing us to unwind in the inviting homestead before retreating to our room, Idube. Adorned in a zebra theme, this sanctuary featured a sumptuous king-sized bed, an expansive ensuite, and a private deck overlooking the rolling hills. The Wi-Fi became an afterthought; the symphony of nature was our true connection. Dinner was a heartwarming celebration of flavors - an impala potjie that melted in my mouth, accompanied by rich gravy and fresh veggies, followed by heavenly homemade brownies.



Awakening the next day, we fueled up with hot tea and coffee before embarking on our morning game drive. Dressed in ponchos, we set out into the wilderness, and though the rain fell steadily, it only heightened our sense of adventure. Our Guide led us to stunning giraffe sightings, and when the weather turned rough, his adaptability shone as he made sure we were transported safely back to the lodge for breakfast as we patiently awaited the rain to subside.



Back at the lodge, a hearty breakfast awaited - fluffy scrambled eggs, flavorful bacon, grilled mushrooms and golden toast. Fueled up, we embarked on another quest, eager to spot the newly introduced male cheetah. When we finally found him, he was a mesmerizing sight, fiercely consuming his impala, his intense gaze created an unforgettable moment etched in our minds.



The excitement continued as we stumbled upon two lionesses on our return, igniting our hearts with thrill. Welcomed back at the lodge with warm towels, we enjoyed a leisurely lunch at the lapa, where the view mirrored the richness of our meals. The Assistant Lodge Manager was ever-present, checking in on us and fellow guests to ensure everything ran seamlessly. With his exceptional interpersonal skills and knack for managing the lodge, he truly made our stay memorable.

As dusk fell, we set off for a sundowner safari, popping open sparkling wine atop a mountain, surrounded by stunning vistas. The highlight of the evening was a delightful bush braai, hosted by our Guide, showcasing a feast of traditional South African dishes, from succulent steaks to savory pap and chakalaka. Sharing stories around the fire with fellow guests created an unforgettable sense of community.

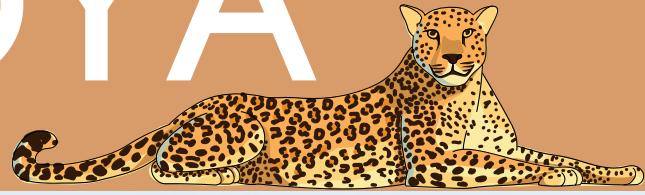


After a restful night's sleep, we rose early to witness the sunrise paint the mountains, heading out for another game drive. Sipping the special Amarula coffee beneath an ancient Sycamore Fig tree, we marveled at a distant herd of elephants and the lone bull that lingered behind, a perfect moment in the wild. The journey wouldn't have been the same without our Guide - his boundless enthusiasm and vibrant spirit brought our adventures to life, and his deep understanding of wildlife truly captivated us.

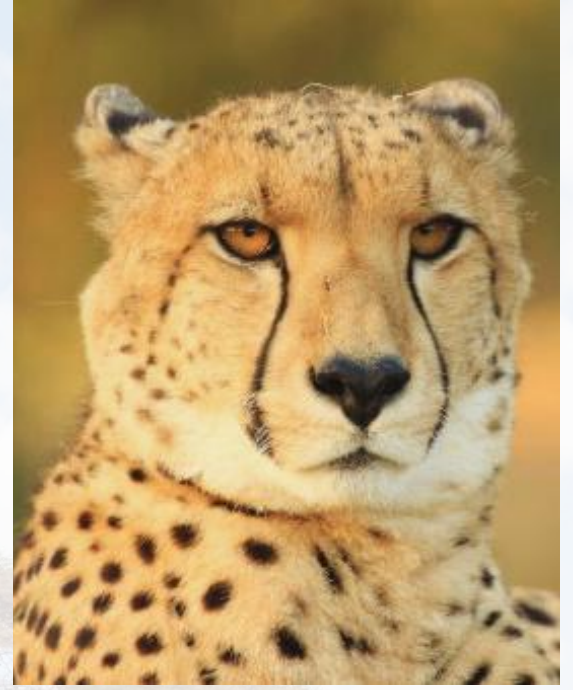
Saying goodbye to the incredible staff felt like parting from family. At Makongo, I left a piece of my heart, forever enchanted by the magic of this extraordinary journey through nature's wonderland.



MEET MOYA

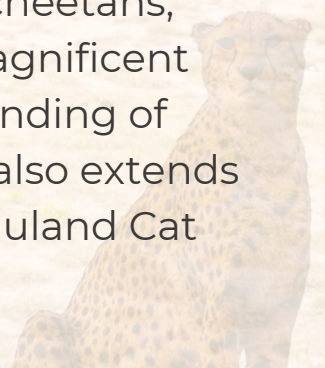


Moya, the male ambassador cheetah at Emdoneni Lodge with Zululand Cat Conservation project, is a striking example of the beauty and majesty of his species. His sleek, golden fur is adorned with distinctive black spots, and his muscular build and long legs speak to his incredible speed and agility.



Moya's piercing amber eyes exude intelligence and curiosity, reflecting his gentle and inquisitive nature. As an ambassador cheetah, Moya holds immense value in raising awareness about the plight of his species and the importance of conservation efforts. Moya helps to educate and inspire people about the challenges facing cheetah populations in the wild.

By serving as a living example of the beauty and grace of cheetahs, Moya fosters a connection between humans and these magnificent animals, encouraging a deeper appreciation and understanding of their role in the ecosystem. Moya's role as an ambassador also extends to promoting the conservation work being done at the Zululand Cat Conservation project.



The Nel family ♡



By showcasing the efforts to protect and preserve cheetahs and other cats, Moya helps to highlight the importance of conservation initiatives in safeguarding endangered species and their habitats.

Through his presence, Moya serves as a powerful advocate for his species, leaving a lasting impact on all who have the privilege of meeting him and learning about the conservation efforts at Emdoneni Lodge with Zululand Cat Conservation Project.

Moya, meaning "wind" in Zulu, beautifully captures the cat's swift agility - he runs with the grace and speed of a gust, embodying the very essence of the breeze.



Adopt a cheetah in your name or a loved one's name and play a vital role in protecting these magnificent creatures in South Africa. Your support can help ensure their survival and preserve their natural habitat.

[CLICK HERE TO ADOPT MOYA](#) ➞

A UNIQUE FAMILY BOND: MOYA, OUR 15-YEAR-OLD CHEETAH

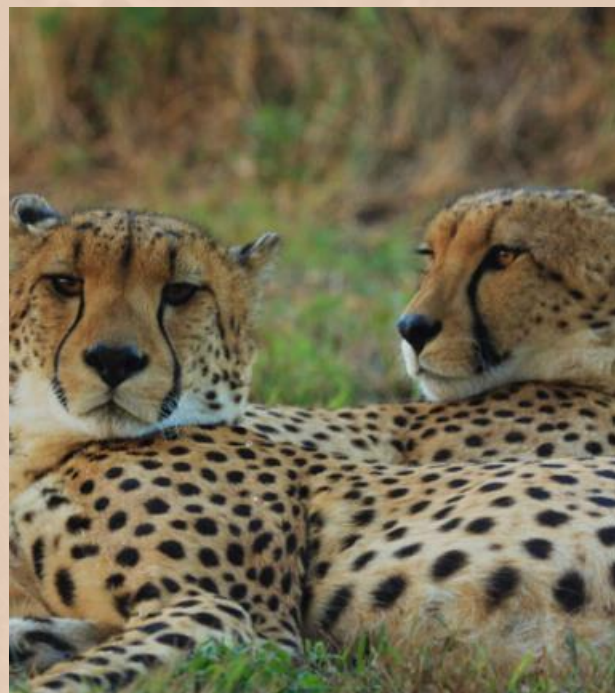
by **Cecillie Nel**

In a heartwarming tale of companionship and love, our family has been blessed with the presence of Moya, a 15-year-old cheetah who holds a special place in our hearts. Moya is not just a pet; he is a cherished member of our family, bringing joy, wonder, and a sense of connection to our household.

Having Moya as part of our family has been an extraordinary experience. His majestic presence and playful nature have enriched our lives in ways we never imagined. From his graceful movements to his affectionate demeanor, Moya has captured our hearts and created lasting memories that we will always treasure.

As we reflect on the years spent with Moya, we are grateful for the unique bond we share with this magnificent creature. His presence has brought us closer together as a family, fostering a sense of unity and love that is truly special. Caring for Moya has been a privilege, and we are honored to have him as a part of our lives.

Beyond the joy Moya brings to our family, we also recognize the importance of conservation efforts and education surrounding cheetahs.





Through our experiences with Moya, we have gained a deeper appreciation for these incredible animals and the need to protect their natural habitats. ”

As we continue our journey with Moya, we look forward to the adventures and memories that lie ahead, grateful for the blessing of having such a remarkable creature as part of our family.

In sharing our story of Moya, we hope to inspire others to appreciate the beauty of wildlife and the meaningful connections that can be formed with animals. Our 15-year-old cheetah has taught us valuable lessons about love, compassion, and the importance of cherishing every moment spent with those we hold dear.



A magical encounter with Moya

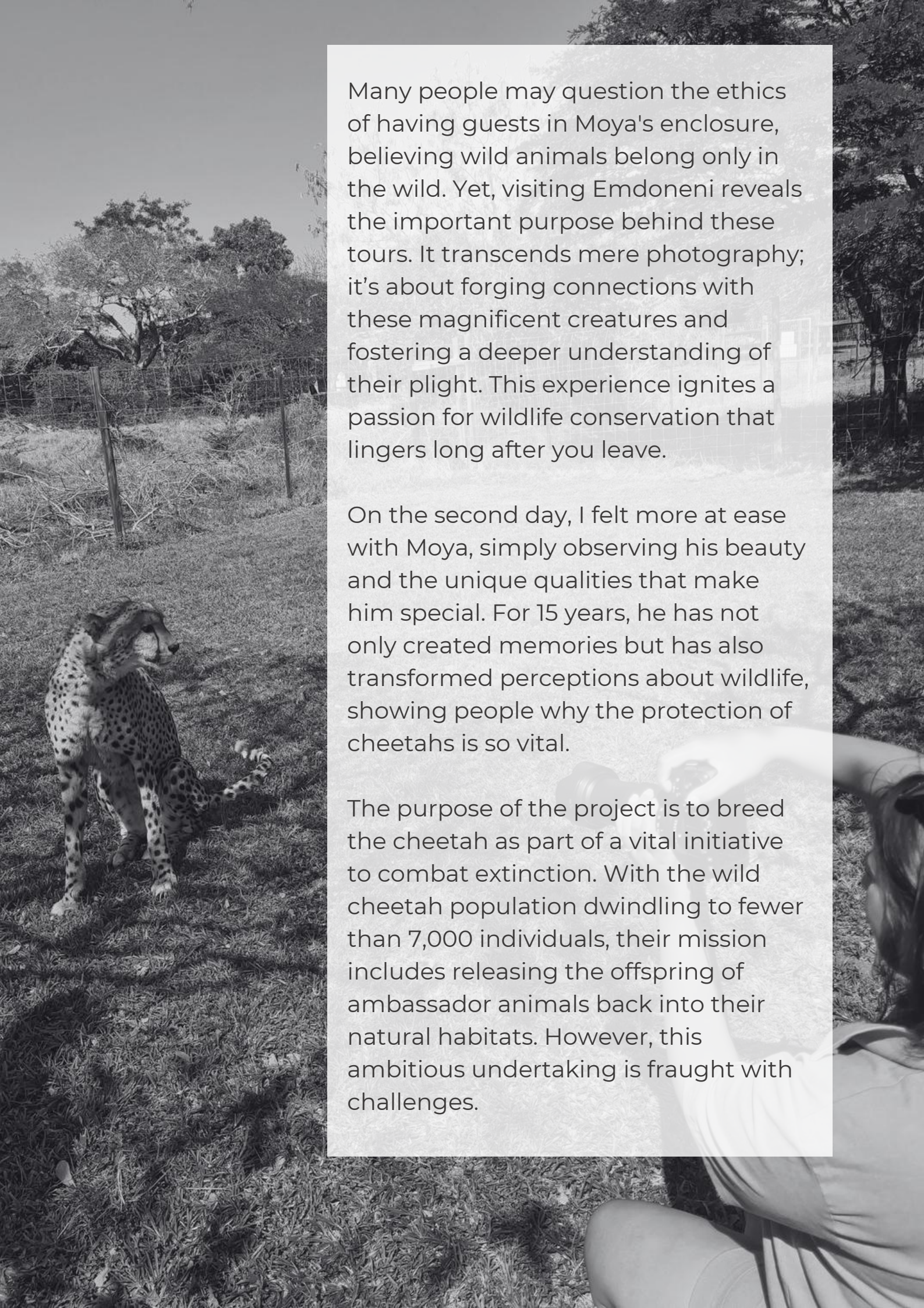
During my recent visit to Emdoneni Lodge with the Zululand Cat Conservation Project, I immersed myself in the world of endangered cat species. It was essential for me to be at a place dedicated to conservation, where I could grasp the complexities of animal care - beyond mere captivity.



One cat, in particular, captured my heart: Moya, a stunning 15-year-old cheetah. On a private tour with Sanele, an incredibly passionate and knowledgeable Guide, we met Moya in an expansive enclosure designed to mimic his natural habitat. There he sat, a striking embodiment of grace and strength. Encountering a cheetah up close is profoundly different; though habituated, he retains his wild instincts, reminding us to respect his space.



As I took photos, Moya stirred from his rest, approached me, and gently brushed against my side before settling down beside me. His presence was incredibly overwhelming, creating a serene moment where everything else faded away. I felt a deep connection, an emotional stillness that left me in awe. Surrounded by the dedication of the Nel family and their conservation efforts, I was filled with gratitude for this experience.

A cheetah is sitting on the left side of the image, facing right. It is in a grassy enclosure with a wire fence and trees in the background. The cheetah has a spotted coat and is looking towards the right. The background shows a natural habitat with trees and a fence line.

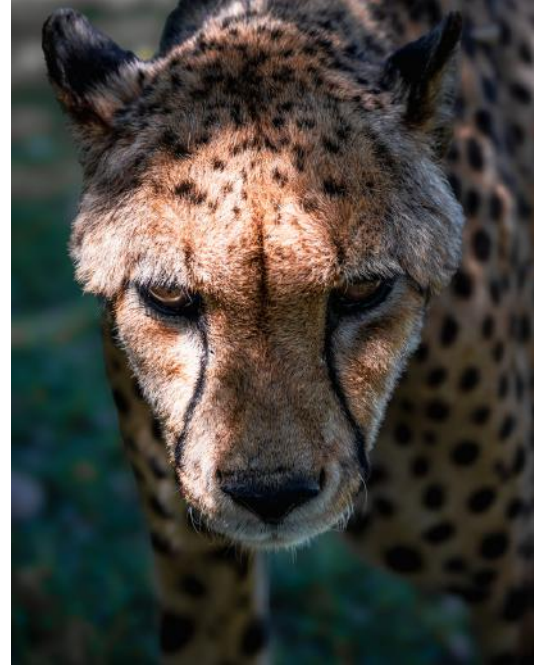
Many people may question the ethics of having guests in Moya's enclosure, believing wild animals belong only in the wild. Yet, visiting Emdoneni reveals the important purpose behind these tours. It transcends mere photography; it's about forging connections with these magnificent creatures and fostering a deeper understanding of their plight. This experience ignites a passion for wildlife conservation that lingers long after you leave.

On the second day, I felt more at ease with Moya, simply observing his beauty and the unique qualities that make him special. For 15 years, he has not only created memories but has also transformed perceptions about wildlife, showing people why the protection of cheetahs is so vital.

The purpose of the project is to breed the cheetah as part of a vital initiative to combat extinction. With the wild cheetah population dwindling to fewer than 7,000 individuals, their mission includes releasing the offspring of ambassador animals back into their natural habitats. However, this ambitious undertaking is fraught with challenges.

Research indicates that about 70% of male cheetahs born in captivity are sterile, and females can be notoriously selective when it comes to choosing mates.

Despite these formidable hurdles, the project remains undeterred. They believe that with dedication and innovative strategies, they can contribute to the survival of these remarkable animals, embodying the spirit of resilience and hope in the face of adversity.



Visitors are invited to view only the the ambassador cats. This policy reflects the projects commitment to local and international animal welfare standards, ensuring the safety and well-being of both animals and visitors. It is believed that every animal deserves a life free from fear, which can arise from close encounters with unfamiliar humans.

In their rewilding efforts, cats being prepared for release remain out of public view. They deliberately avoid human imprinting, as this can lead animals to bond more with humans than with their own species. This approach helps prevent the development of problematic behaviors in animals once they are returned to the wild.



The bush has become my sanctuary, a place where the presence of wildlife eases my anxiety and ignites a newfound purpose. Witnessing the dedication of families like the Nels, who tirelessly commit themselves to animal welfare, fills me with admiration.

While it's easy for outsiders to judge, few truly understand the immense dedication, financial sacrifices, and emotional resilience needed to sustain a successful cat conservation project. I believe that Emdoneni Lodge and the Zululand Cat Conservation Project are exemplary in their commitment to legal and ethical conservation practices. But don't just take my word for it - visit Emdoneni and encounter this transformative experience.



Writing this piece brings back deep feelings of gratitude as I reflect on the incredible connection I felt with these animals, especially as their numbers dwindle due to poaching, human-wildlife conflict, and habitat destruction.

We all have a role to play in conservation. Begin by educating yourself, planning a visit to Emdoneni, and discovering the incredible efforts being made for cheetahs and other African cats. Share what you learn; every small effort contributes to a larger impact. Together, we can make a significant difference in the fight for wildlife conservation and create a sustainable future for these majestic creatures. Let's unite in this mission, for every action counts in preserving our planet's incredible biodiversity.

A TRUE SANCTUARY THAT CARES FOR WILDLIFE

We do not promote captivity of wildlife unless it is for great conservation value. Emdoneni Lodge upholds a strong commitment to wildlife conservation, supporting captivity only when it serves a significant conservation purpose. The Zululand Cat Conservation Project focuses on rehabilitating sick and orphaned cats while enhancing the populations of cheetahs and other cats. The lodge's educational programs feature ambassador cats that cannot be reintroduced into the wild, ensuring ethical interactions - visitors engage through observation only, adhering to all established guidelines.

WWW.EMDONENILODGE.COM

FreeMe wildlife

WILDLIFE RESCUE & REHABILITATION FACILITY

In our journey to deepen our understanding of wildlife, we discovered FreeMe Wildlife - a dedicated rescue and rehabilitation centre that not only cares for animals but also fosters a profound appreciation and understanding of our natural world. Their work inspires a compassionate connection to wildlife and the environment.



The facility operates as a professional wildlife rehabilitation centre that strictly adheres to a 'hands-off' philosophy, ensuring that patients are not tamed, petted, or habituated during their recovery. This approach preserves their natural instincts and behaviors, free from human interference.

Public viewing of wildlife is not permitted, and staff interactions are kept to a minimum in order to prevent any unnatural reliance on humans, safeguarding the rehabilitation and reintegration process into their wild habitats.

In partnership with stakeholders like Wild Tomorrow, which focuses on securing land for wildlife conservation, FreeMe Wildlife is actively engaged in species reintroduction programs alongside local Nature Reserves and Conservancies.

We had the privilege of meeting Wade and Tammy from FreeMe Wildlife to learn more about their remarkable efforts and share their mission. Their deep passion fuels a strong commitment to exceptional wildlife care and their dedicated, outstanding staff consistently goes the extra mile to ensure every creature thrives. During our visit, we adhered to their strict policies aimed at minimizing human contact, which is essential for giving the animals the best chance at survival upon release. One inspiring story we encountered was that of five black-backed jackal pups. Rescued as tiny infants after a compassionate local discovered they were being sold as "domesticated dogs," FreeMe Wildlife sprang into action. The team began the challenging rehabilitation process and maintaining minimal human interaction to foster the pups' natural instincts.



Every day, the pups are moved to an outdoor enclosure that mimics their natural habitat. The dedicated staff employs thoughtful strategies to encourage exploration and self-sufficiency, such as placing quail eggs in weaver nests for the pups to discover and providing their first taste of real meat [a bush buck leg]. Each step is meticulously planned to ensure that when they are ready to return to the wild, they can thrive, hunt, and survive on their own.



Rescued jackal pups

An eland calf, battling severe hypothermia, was discovered in an old plantation and brought to FreeMe Wildlife by kind hearted individuals. After being warmed in a cozy, naturally simulated environment and assisted by a heater, it took time for the calf to recover and regain her strength. As she grew stronger, the team introduced a bottle holder to her enclosure to ensure she formed a bond with the bottle rather than the staff, adhering to their principle of avoiding any taming or interaction. Once she was comfortable with the bottle, she was moved to a larger area to allow for exercise and natural behaviors.



FreeMe Wildlife is committed to maintaining the calf's wild instincts, ensuring that when she is ready, she can be successfully reintroduced into her natural habitat. It's inspiring to witness such a genuine organization that rigorously follows protocols to support the rehabilitation of these animals.



FreeMe Wildlife operates without charging for its services, relying entirely on the generous support of the public to sustain its mission. Their dedicated team runs the centre day and night, ensuring they remain open year-round to care for compromised wild animals, regardless of the costs involved. The continued existence of FreeMe Wildlife is a testament to the unwavering support from the community.

While enjoying a hot cup of coffee, we had a fascinating conversation with Tammy about the crucial role FreeMe Wildlife plays in providing SANBI with valuable species DNA, helping to protect and celebrate South Africa's diverse ecosystems.

Zululand Elephant Project

FreeMe Wildlife is embarking on a monumental journey to guide a fragmented herd of 15 elephants back to the safety of the Royal Jozini Game Reserve in Eswatini. This initiative marks the beginning of an ambitious vision: a Trans Frontier Park that will span the border between South Africa and Eswatini, creating a sanctuary for expanding elephant populations while seeking new homes for them.

In collaboration with the Royal Jozini Game Reserve and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, FreeMe Wildlife is implementing a contraceptive program to manage breeding until relocation can occur. The project unfolds in phases, with funding secured for phase 1 - the safe transport of the 15 elephants - thanks to the generous support of Animal Survival International. This organization is also funding a helicopter survey to assess all elephants in the reserve, a crucial step for planning subsequent actions.

Phase 2, with an estimated cost of R3,000,000, focuses on constructing a robust fence around the Pongola Nature Reserve to secure the South African border of the future park. This barrier is essential for safely managing elephant and big game populations until the existing border fence can be dismantled. Phase 3 will involve capturing and relocating excess elephants to suitable reserves, ensuring that 30 elephants remain in the Trans Frontier Park.

This inspiring project unites two nations and numerous stakeholders with a shared mission to protect these magnificent creatures. Those moved by this cause are encouraged to support their efforts by donating to the 'Elephant Fund,' helping to turn this vision into reality.



www.freemewildlife.org



BE CAUTIOUS OF ANIMALS WHEN DRIVING



While immersing ourselves in the inspiring initiatives of FreeMe Wildlife, Wade arrived at the centre with an armadillo. Tragically, it was not alive, serving as a stark reminder of the ongoing struggle between humans and wildlife. A kind soul discovered an armadillo lying injured by the roadside, a victim of a careless vehicle strike. After scans revealed a severed spinal cord, the FreeMe Wildlife team faced the heart-wrenching decision to gently euthanize the creature.

As I stood by observing the armadillo, my heart ached. This was my first encounter with an armadillo and witnessing its lifeless form, a casualty of human negligence, feels incredibly unjust. We share our world with wildlife, and it's crucial that we learn to coexist harmoniously. Let this serve as a call to all: as we navigate our roads, let us remember that animals share our environment and deserve our vigilance. If you encounter an injured creature, please reach out to dedicated organizations like FreeMe Wildlife for assistance.



A RUSTIC RETREAT

Bush getaway

In the heart of Hluhluwe lies Ngweni Private Game Farm, a tranquil retreat featuring a selection of charming cottages and an off-grid campsite.



Our top pick is the Weltevreden Cottage, a delightful two-bedroom self-catering cottage perfect for both quick getaways to Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park and extended stays while exploring nearby attractions like False Bay, Mkuze, or St. Lucia. This spacious, rustic cottage feels like a true home away from home, featuring a private entrance, ample parking, and a large outdoor area with seating ideal for a braai under the starlit sky or early morning coffee while admiring the diverse range of succulents in the garden. The open-plan kitchen, complete with an island and all the necessary self-catering essentials, makes meal preparation a pleasure.

Ngweni Private Game Farm



The cozy lounge is perfect for relaxing and planning your next adventure.

On the farm itself, you can enjoy nature walks, cycling, fishing, birdwatching, and picnicking by the scenic dam as the sun sets. Surrounded by lush greenery and a variety of wildlife including elegant Nyala, curious wildebeest, large herds of impala, and vibrant kingfishers - this setting is truly magical.

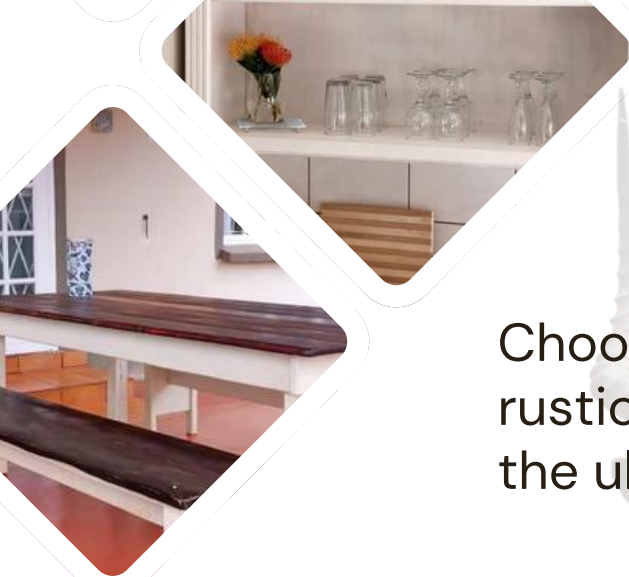


TIMELESS TRANQUILITY

The main bedroom, tastefully decorated with inspiring quotes, rustic furniture, and warm linen, offers a cozy retreat with an en-suite bathroom featuring a shower. For families with little ones, there's a thoughtfully included cot in a separate space. On hot summer days, the air conditioning ensures a cool and restful sleep. The main bathroom, located in the passage, boasts a luxurious tub and large shower for a relaxing end to your day. The second bedroom, with two single beds, is spacious and well-appointed, making it ideal for families.

Serviced daily and with the host, Wessel Els ensuring every guest's comfort, Ngweni Private Game Farm provides unmatched top hospitality. Whether you're a first-time visitor or looking to skip the self-driving, the host can assist with game drive bookings for the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi, Mkuze, or St. Lucia. The immaculate cleanliness and exceptional hospitality at Ngweni guarantee that once you stay here, you'll return not just as a guest, but as a friend.





Explore Hluhluwe

BOOK NOW

Choose from one, two, or three-bedroom rustic cottages or an off-grid campsite for the ultimate nature getaway.



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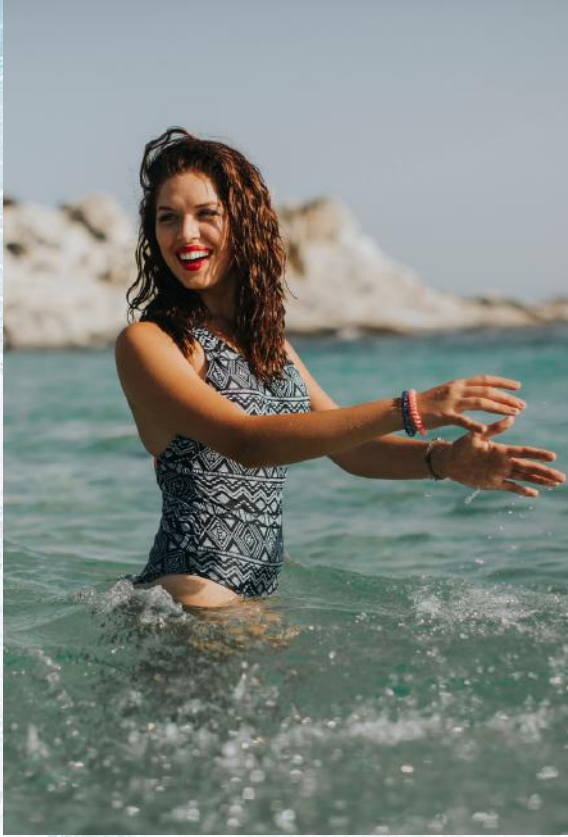


ngwenifarm@gmail.com



SAFETY TIPS

Swimming in St. Lucia's unprotected beaches



assess your swimming abilities

Before entering the water, evaluate your skills and the conditions. Remember, the sea can be more challenging than a pool.

rip currents

A rip current is a powerful channel of water flowing away from the shore. If you get caught in a rip, do not swim against it; you'll tire quickly. If you can stand, wade instead of swimming. It is advised to swim parallel to the shore to escape the current, then head back to land and signal for help by raising your hand and shouting.

avoid tidal risks

Stay informed by checking the tide tables before heading out. Be aware and keep an eye on the tide's movement while enjoying the beach.

emergency assistance

Alert someone or call 112 or 063 699 2722 (NSRI Station 40 St. Lucia) for the coastguard if you are in trouble or you see someone in trouble.

stay safe and enjoy the pristine waters of St. Lucia !

FLAMINGO LODGE



Flamingo Holiday Flats, nestled on St. Lucia's main street, offers a perfect blend of convenience and comfort. Just a stroll away from local restaurants and attractions, this double-story retreat features two-bedroom, self-catering apartments with an open-plan kitchen and lounge, plus a private patio with a BBQ/Braai overlooking the swimming pool. Ideal for exploring iSimangaliso Wetland Park or Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, the spacious, clean apartments are well-equipped for your stay.

Enjoy the ease of daily housekeeping, prepaid air-conditioning, and ceiling fans for summer, and cozy blankets for winter. And don't miss the unique experience of spotting hippos strolling down the main road at night. Whether you're a couple or a family, Flamingo offers a delightful and practical getaway.



At Flamingo Holiday Flats, guests can enjoy a peaceful night's sleep, perfect for gearing up for an early safari, thanks to the noise policies designed to ensure tranquility. Ansie, the friendly front desk manager, is always ready to assist with any needs, delivering exceptional service.



NEW UPGRADES, ENHANCED STAY

Prepare for an upgraded experience at Flamingo Holiday Flats! With new management at the helm, we're rolling out exciting enhancements, including fresh linens, a stylish new paint job, and smart TVs for top-notch entertainment. Book your stay now to enjoy the best that St. Lucia has to offer and be among the first to experience our revamped accommodations.



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info@flamingoholidayflats.co.za



BOOK NOW

WISTICKERS

WHAT I SAW TODAY

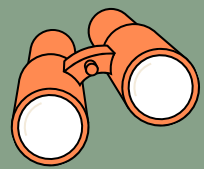
Wistickers are magnetic car 'stickers' that show other people what you have seen on safari.



See the full range of animals and packs here

www.wistickers.com

MEET THE MAGNATES



By Kirsten Jensen

A few years ago, I was on safari in Kruger, and I noticed the buzz around the picture boards at the rest camps. Everyone wanted to know who had seen what that day and where. It got me thinking. What if there was a way to showcase your “finds” of the day on your car for everyone to see. Wistickers was born.

I had the name - What I Saw Today Stickers. WISTICKERS! Now how to develop the idea into a reality?

*what inspired
us to start
Wistickers?*

I knew exactly who to approach and Katie and Sue were sold on the idea from our first meeting over tea and toasted sandwiches.

Katie Lund is our amazing artist and illustrator. Using her own extensive experience from camping and traveling in the bush with her family, she instantly understood just what we needed and how to create the right balance of cute and iconic.

She perfectly captures the essence of every animal, and as we expand our menagerie, the safari illustrations just go from strength to sublime.



WISTICKERS
WHAT I SAW TODAY

[Click here](#)



SHOP LOCAL

*We believe in the power
of imagination and
sharing* ”

Sue Shrimpton brings her background in graphic design, marketing and networking. She introduced me to the concept of the “Hairy Audacious Goal”! She is responsible for our incredible logo, copy and branding. We frequently bounce ideas off each other and have now formalized our partnership in the newly formed company Wot I Saw.

I take care of the business side of things. It has been the most wonderful adventure so far learning how to start a business, finding magnet manufacturers and creating fun Instagram reels, just to name a few. I know we have a great product but getting them out there for the lodges, parks and people to see is more complicated than I imagined!



It has been three years since we first put this idea on the table over tea and the Wistickers' team are excited to have orders coming in and our brand gaining traction. We love that our magnets are ecofriendly, durable, reusable and 100% made in South Africa. One day Wistickers will be a household name.

Going on Safari? Have you packed the Wistickers? We will be in every National Park rest shop and curio store. That is our Hairy Audacious Goal!

WILD KIDS



BUSH BEADS BY SOPHIA

Jewellery that connects you to the Wild

Sophia's venture into entrepreneurship mirrors the influence of the inspiring figures in her life. Her mother, Kayleigh Huysamen, embodies a contemporary superwoman.

Juggling various projects, homeschooling, creating and self-publishing children's books, and overseeing her social media endeavors, Kayleigh has been a powerful role model for her daughter. Following her mother's lead, Sophia has translated her own interests into a business that is both impactful and aesthetically pleasing.



**IN THE HEART OF
THE ZULULAND
BUSHVELD,
SOUTH AFRICA,
AN INSPIRING
YOUNG GIRL IS
MAKING WAVES -
NOT JUST WITH
HER CREATIVITY,
BUT WITH HER
COMMITMENT TO
CONSERVATION.**

At just 11 years old, Sophia Huysamen has launched her own business, Bush Beads, a jewellery line that blends vibrant colours, playful designs, and a deep love for nature, wildlife and birds. Bush Beads stands out for its unique connection to South African wildlife and landscapes.

Sophia's designs are bright, fun, and full of life, often inspired by the colours of local bird and tree species. Her belly beads, worn around the waist with a bikini on the beach or shorts in the bushveld, are particularly unique, showcasing her flair for creating pieces that resonate with her surroundings.



Balancing schoolwork and her business might seem like a challenge for someone so young, but Sophia handles it with ease. As a homeschooled student, she has the flexibility to pursue her passion for beading in the afternoons, often while listening to audiobooks or watching tutorials to refine her skills. Her dedication to learning new techniques has allowed her to constantly evolve her designs, keeping Bush Beads fresh and exciting.

But Sophia's business is about more than just creating beautiful jewellery. Growing up in a household where both parents are deeply involved in the wildlife sector, conservation is a cause that comes naturally to her. A percentage of her profits goes towards conservation efforts, a testament to her commitment to preserving the natural world she loves so much.



Adventure in Every Detail, Beauty in Every Bead



FOR THE LOVE OF CONSERVATION

Sophia's hard work and passion have not gone unnoticed. She is the youngest entrepreneur to be invited to feature her products on the Local is Lekker ZA website, a significant achievement for someone her age. She has also been invited to sell at various markets, where her bright smile and infectious enthusiasm draw in customers of all ages.

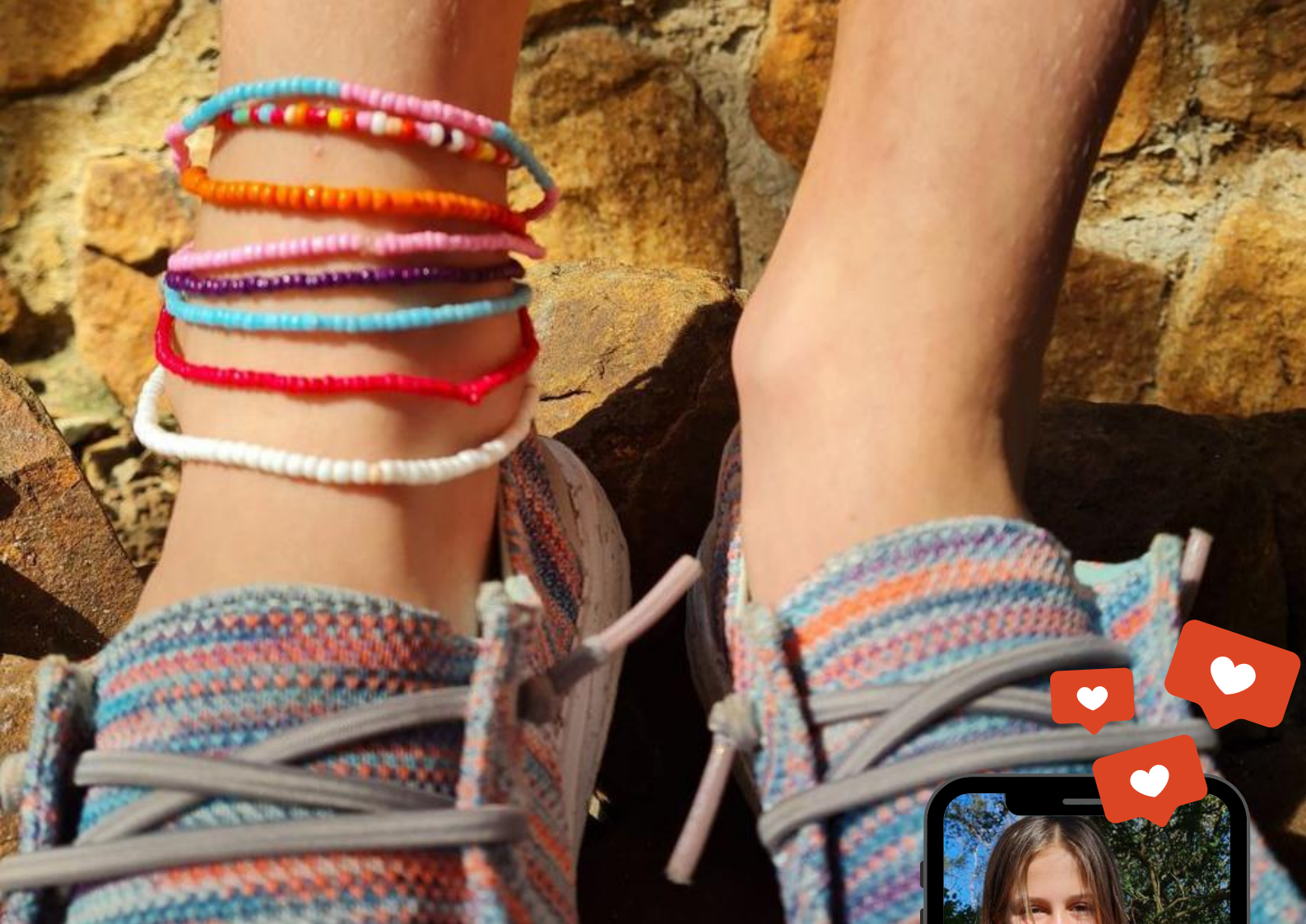
Looking to the future, Sophia has big dreams for Bush Beads. She hopes to grow her business to the point where she can employ local women to help with beading, creating jobs and further contributing to her community.



She also wants to inspire other children to follow their dreams, showing them that with the right support and attitude, age is no barrier to success. Sophia's story is a reminder of the power of passion, creativity, and a giving heart.

Whether she's promoting family time, living for Jesus, or making a difference through her business, Sophia Huysamen is a role model for any tween or teen looking to make their mark on the world - one bead at a time.





SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Show your support for Sophia and her business, Bush Beads, by following her journey on social media. Dive into her passion for the bush and conservation, and explore her unique products available for purchase below. Your support makes a difference!



@wildlysophia /@bush_beads



SHOP NOW

Wisticker Wiz!

TRAINEE SPOTTER QUIZ 1

1. How many horns does a White Rhino have?
2. What is a herbivore ?
3. Give another name for a "Painted Dog" ?
4. What does an Aardvark eat?
5. What land animal has the biggest teeth? (not tusks!)
6. Does an elephant drink through its trunk?
7. Why do baboons sleep in trees?
8. Name the second biggest cat in the world?
9. Can the Bat-eared fox fly?
10. What is a male Elephant called?
11. What does nocturnal mean?
12. True or False : Bats are only found in Africa?
13. Do mammal babies drink milk?
14. What is the world's largest antelope?
15. Can Hyenas chew through bones?
16. What are baby meerkats called?
17. Can a Giraffe jump over small bushes?
18. Can lions swim?
19. Where does a terrestrial animal live?
20. Can a Giraffe clean its ears with its tongue?



ANSWERS

1. two 2. a plant eating animal 3. Wild Dog 4. ants and termites 5. Hippo 6. no, it sucks up water the squirts into its mouth 7. for safety 8. the Lion 9. no 10. a Bull 11. active at night time 12. FALSE 13. Yes 14. the Eland 15. yes 16. pups 17. no, they can't jump at all 18. yes 19. on the ground 20. yes, it can be up to 50cm long

Wisticker Wiz!

EXPERT SPOTTER QUIZ 1

1. What is the collective noun for Zebras?
2. Which lions usually hunt in the pride?
3. What colour is a Hartebeest?
4. Are Cheetahs nocturnal or diurnal?
5. What is Africa's slowest antelope?
6. How does the Sitatunga escape from danger?
7. What colour spot does the Small-Spotted Genet have at the end of its tail?
8. What is a diurnal animal?
9. Does an Elephant have good eyesight?
10. What are the spots on a Leopard called?
11. How wide can a Hippo stretch it's jaws: 90°, 120° or 150°?
12. What are the knobs on top of a giraffe's head called?
13. Where does an arboreal animal live?
14. Who has longer tusks; a Warthog or a Bushpig?
15. What is a group of vultures in a tree called?
16. How many hours a day does a Giraffe sleep?
17. Which type of Rhino is most aggressive?
18. What is a group of Cobras called?
19. Which animal is the closest living relative to the Rock Hyrax or Dassie?
20. Name the small five.



ANSWERS

1. a dazzle 2. the females 3. reddish brown 4. diurnal 5. the Eland 6. it runs into deep water 7. white 8. active during the day 9. no 10. rosettes 11. 150° 12. ossicones 13. in the trees 14. the Warthog 15. a committee 16. an average of 2 hours 17. the Black Rhino 18. a quiver 19. the Elephant 20. Elephant Shrew, Buffalo Weaver, Leopard Tortoise, Ant Lion and Rhino Beetle

RELAX AND UNWIND

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SAVORING ZULULAND: ONE BITE AT A TIME

Exploring the breathtaking landscapes of Zululand is truly rewarding, especially when you encounter its incredible wildlife. However, when temperatures hit 35 degrees, the thought of firing up a skottle braai for lunch can feel daunting. That's where the Olive Branch Café comes in, conveniently located in Hluhluwe. Housed in the town's first brick building, the Olive Branch Café is a charming spot with a rich history.



Our culinary experience



Upon arrival, we were warmly welcomed by the owners and in the midst of our engaging chat, we couldn't wait to uncover more about the cafe's charm. We decided to sample both the beef and chicken burgers, served with crispy, golden crinkle-cut chips. As our meal was being crafted, I took a moment to soak in the delightful menu and the cafe's adorable ambiance. Rumor has it the coffee is legendary - count us in for a taste when we return! The chicken burger featured a tender, crumbed patty topped with fresh lettuce, creamy cheese, and perfectly sautéed onions that added a lovely kick.



The beef burger, equally succulent, combined ground beef with savory sauce, cheese, and bacon - an absolute winner! As we ventured to the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park for a sunset game drive, I couldn't resist devouring my burger on the way. It was incredibly satisfying, perfect for refueling before our wildlife adventure. We were treated to a captivating sight of lions, first dozing peacefully, then stirring to hunt.



For dinner, we placed a private order, enjoying a rich mutton curry served with rice and salad, alongside a delicious mutton bunny. The curry was bursting with flavor, enhanced by aromatic spices and generous gravy, while the fresh bread in the bunny was a comforting touch. The following day, we opted for chicken biryani, and it did not disappoint. Every flavor melded beautifully, accompanied by fresh dhal and salad.

We wholeheartedly recommend the Olive Branch Café to anyone visiting Hluhluwe. With its diverse menu ranging from gourmet meals to authentic Indian cuisine, there's something for everyone. All dishes are prepared fresh, and they also offer frozen meals that are popular with locals.

The standout aspect of our experience was undoubtedly the service. The owners' friendliness and kindness make it a place you'll want to return to. Having access to freshly prepared meals before or after a safari is a game changer, saving you from a cooking hassle in the bush. You can find the Olive Branch opposite Hluhluwe Primary School. Be sure to check out their contact details!



@theolivebranch_hluhluwe



074 255 2576



Delight in a sweet escape

IN THE HEART OF ZULULAND

Crafted by nature, perfected by passion - Hive & Harvest's artisan chocolate slabs are a celebration of the beauty and bounty of Zululand. Cecillie Nel, the visionary behind the brand, embodies a deep commitment to conservation. Her love for nature inspired her to relocate a thriving bee colony rather than eliminate it, leading to the establishment of over 70 hives on her family farm, each producing honey infused with care.



I first experienced the dark chocolate macadamia nut slab while relaxing in a hammock at Emdoneni Lodge on a sun-drenched afternoon. As a dark chocolate lover, I was eager to dive in but paused, captivated by the stunning packaging that felt like a work of art.



Irresistibly scrumptious, creating a delightful, tender sensation with every bite.



guilt free indulgence

When I finally unwrapped it, the chocolate revealed a perfect balance of sweetness and bitterness - 100% sugar-free, it was a deliciously healthy treat. The creamy richness of the chocolate blended harmoniously with the perfect crunch of handpicked macadamia nuts. Then came the milk chocolate macadamia nut slab, and I was smitten.

This indulgent treat, gluten-free and free from artificial ingredients, melted effortlessly in my mouth, creating a luxurious experience. Each bite burst with flavor, perfectly complemented by the satisfying crunch of macadamia nuts, unleashing a luscious, buttery richness that caressed the palate in a wave of smoothness. Made from ethically sourced cocoa, it transformed chocolate into an exquisite, wild adventure.





EAT LOCAL, LOVE LOCAL: HOME-COOKED DELIGHTS OF ST. LUCIA

Experience the vibrant flavors of St. Lucia and its surroundings with fresh, locally sourced ingredients crafted with care. Savor delightful dishes like biryani and tasty snacks such as samosas. Elevate your visit with authentic local cuisine!



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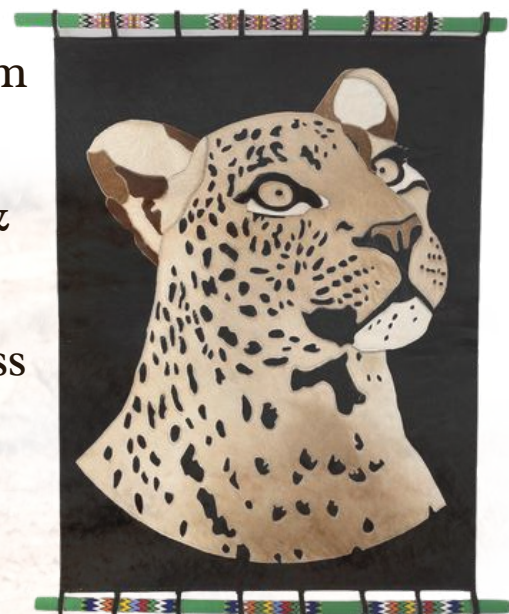
UNIQUE AFRI -
MYTHIC ART
STYLE





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www.vukari.com



HOME DECOR



ENHANCE

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with terrariums.

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scan for website





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Have you been searching for the perfect gift for overseas friends and family who miss South Africa?

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Bring a piece of SA to their doorstep! Explore our collection today, and choose from an African shape or Protea shape collage.

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GUARANTEED**

BIG 5 GUIDED SAFARI EXPERIENCE

with Heritage Tours & Safaris 🐾

Awakening at 4 am to the distant calls of hippos At Heritage House, St. Lucia was nature's way of crafting the perfect prelude to the day. The sounds of nature floated through the spacious luxurious room and as I reluctantly pulled the crisp blanket away.

I was embraced by the winter chill, prompting a layered safari attire to be picked out. As we stepped out onto the entrance, we were greeted by Jabu, our friendly Guide who advised us to swiftly enter the vehicle as there might be hippos nearby [we spotted a few taking a stroll the previous night].



With warm blankets draped over our bodies, we headed towards Nyalazi Gate. You know what they say, the early bird catches the best sightings! Roughly an hour later, we entered Nyalazi Gate and as Jabu opened the hatches, we were exposed to the first light of the day that illuminated the savanna landscape of the iMfolozi section, while we witnessed grazing herds of buffalo and dazzle of zebras in anticipation of the safari adventure ahead.

Call it intuition if you must, but after our Guide, Jabu provided us with a brief introduction to the history of the Park, something definitely promoted us to delay our breakfast stop

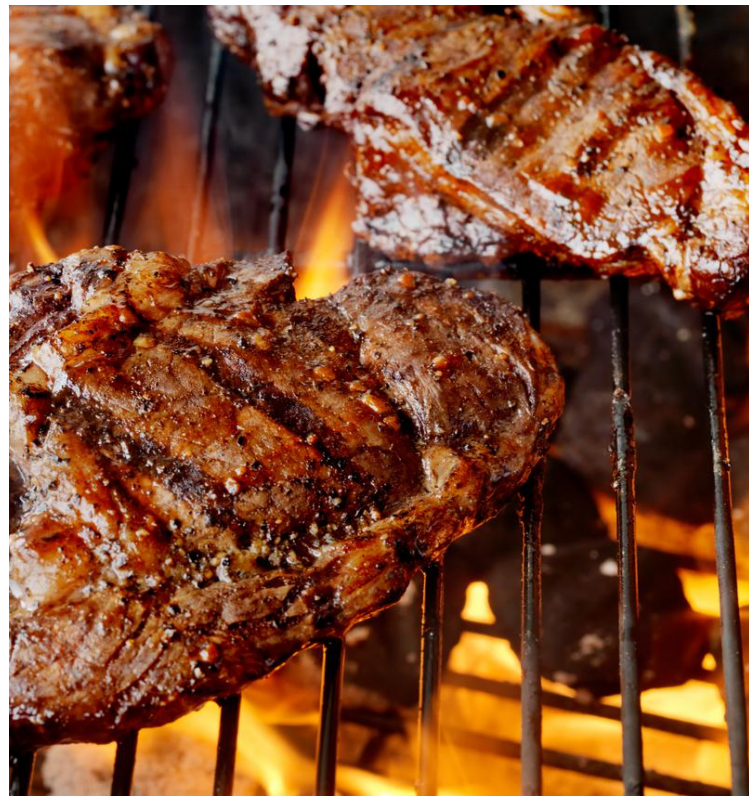
We expressed our excitement to see the big Cats, but being regular safari goers, we understand that each sighting is the luck of the draw. As we entered 14 i, a kind staff member of Ezemvelo advised our Guide of a cheetah sighting nearby. As we approached 15 i, we spotted a cheetah family along with two other private vehicles observing the sighting. An important perk of being on a guided Safari? The height of the vehicle - we were able to enjoy a non obstructed view.

In awe, we watched the cheetahs feast on a young impala. Their strong jaws seamlessly tore into the prey, crushing the bones as blooded stained their faces and the sun's rays enveloped them, bathing their bodies in warmth and casting elongated shadows behind them. This was a reminder of nature's raw power. We departed the sighting with an immense sense of joy and came accross a freshly dehorned female rhino with an adorable calf before heading off to Sontuli Picnic Site for our breakfast stop.



We were served piping hot coffee/tea, freshly baked muffins, creamy yogurt, crunchy granola and a sweet fruit salad which left us feeling energized and ready to immerse ourselves in the untamed home of the Big 5. Along the way we spotted lions majestically lounging on the riverbed at the 17 i viewpoint and a breeding herd of over 100 elephants as they searched for water - the sight of their powerful journey captivated against the backdrop of the vast savannah.

For lunch, our Guide Jabu treated us to a traditional South African braai, where where sizzling steaks and smoky aromas blend with the symphony of the wild, creating a feast that's as memorable as the adventure itself.



Delicious sides such as a vibrant salad with a tropical hint and my favorite, the creamy pasta salad which recipe is cherished by the Muir family, owners of Heritage Tours & Safaris.

The meal was concluded with crackers that paired perfectly with cheese, adding a final touch of savory simplicity. With feelings of gratitude and hearts full of content having experienced the days wonders and witnessing the Big 4, we headed back to St. Lucia. The only drawback? That we had to bid farewell to the Park [until next time].

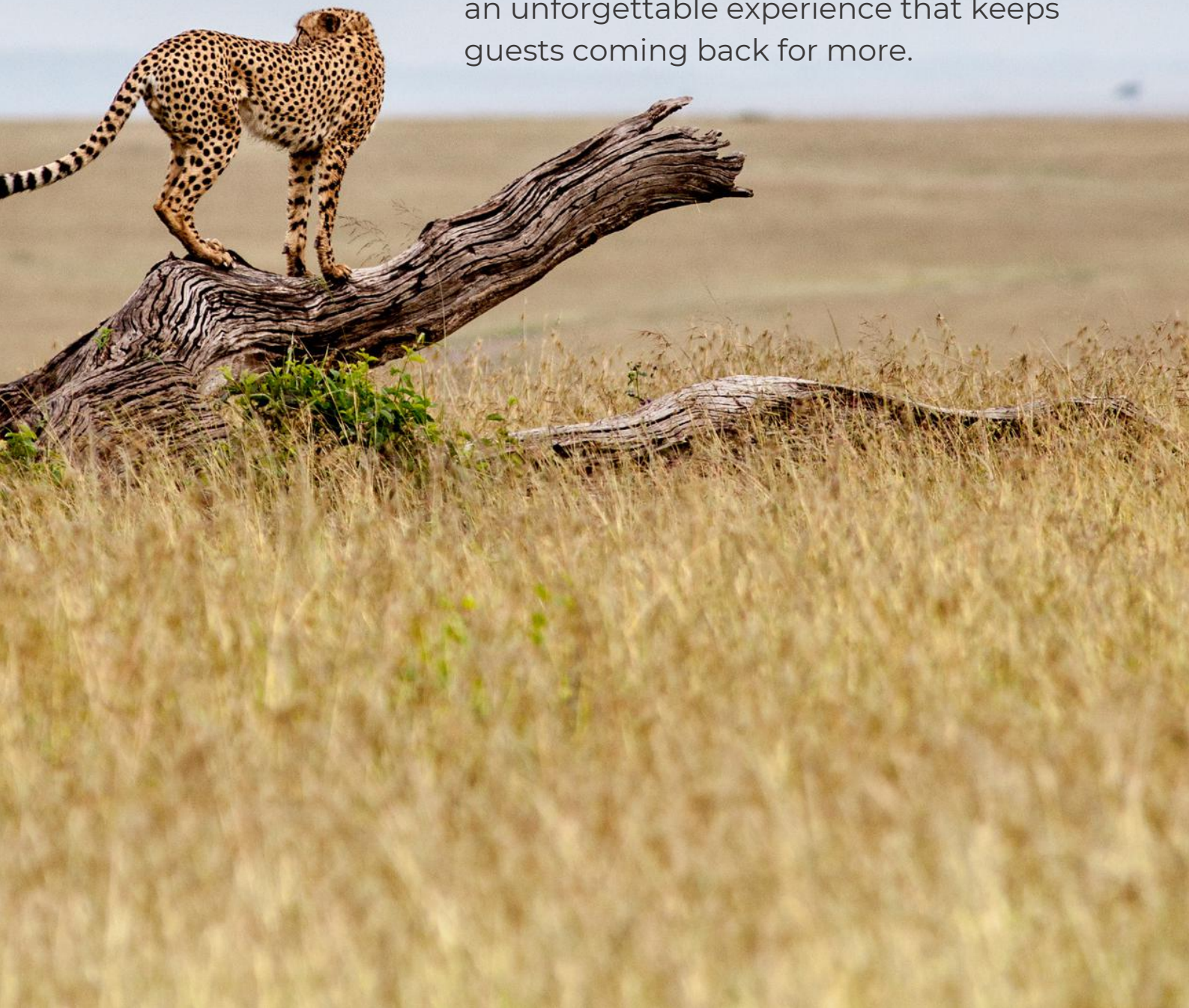
Do you want to explore the World renowned Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park?

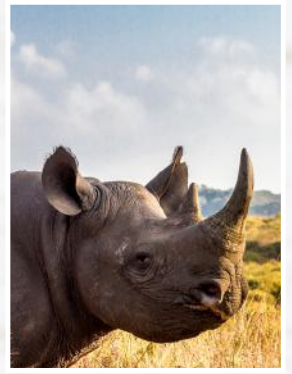


What sets Heritage Tours & Safaris apart as the perfect choice?

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A full-page photograph of a woman with dark, curly hair, wearing a long white lace dress and a choker necklace. She is standing in a savanna environment, leaning against a large tree trunk on the left and holding the tusk of a large elephant on the right. The elephant's head and trunk are prominent on the right side of the frame. The background shows green grass and trees under bright sunlight.

MEET SHASKIA JOHN

*Ecologist, Lecturer, Wildlife
Photographer, Actor,
Illustrator & Influencer*

What inspired you to become an ecologist?

From the time I was just a tiny tadpole, I was mesmerised by the wonders of nature. My childhood dream was to be a forensic entomologist at the ripe old age of 6 - think of it as a bug detective. But as I grew, my fascination shifted from insects to the intricate dance of ecosystems. I fell head over heels for the complex relationships between critters and plants, especially in the watery worlds of rivers, wetlands, and estuaries.

What qualifications did you obtain?

I kicked off my academic adventure with a National Diploma in Nature Conservation, then leveled up with a Bachelor of Technology in the same field, diving deep into invasive species and aquatic ecology. Now, I'm wrapping up a Master's of Applied Science in Nature Conservation, focusing on chemical pollutants and how humans impact aquatic ecosystems. And just when you thought I was done, a PhD is on the horizon!



Tell us about your journey into this field like, and how long did it take you?

I began my undergraduate studies in Nature Conservation in 2016, a three-year odyssey that blended two years of theory with a full year of hands-on bush experience. I crossed the graduation stage in early 2019, then jumped straight into a two-year BTech program, emerging victorious in early 2021. Now, I'm deep into my Master's, exploring aquatic ecology at a catchment level with a focus on human impacts. It's been an 8-year marathon, and I'm still sprinting!

Have you faced any challenges in this field?

Being a woman and a person of colour in this field is a bit like being a unicorn - rare and magical. Conservation is slowly inching towards inclusivity, but it's historically been a white, male-dominated realm. And let's just say, some folks aren't too thrilled when you start shaking things up with new ideas for better environmental management and long-term sustainability goals.



Tertiary education is not always accessible for all people, but to be taken seriously, you have to have multiple academic qualifications backing up your ideas.

What does Shaskia's future goals look like ?

Next up is a PhD - because who needs free time, right? I also want to keep using my social media platform to spread the word about conservation, building a future-focused audience that's as passionate about sustainability as I am, and hopefully inspiring them to pass that spark along.

What was a memorable experience that you will cherish forever?

Where do I even start? From being mock-charged by an elephant bull in musth (one of many close calls that always give me a new appreciation for life), to reeling in monster tigerfish, tilapia and barbel within Kruger National Park—while some hippos and crocodiles watched on (hopefully impressed).

And then there was that time tracking a black rhino on foot in the Kalahari, only to witness it greet another rhino with what can only be described as a tender kiss. I've also gotten to witness rhino-dehorning and track and monitor a newly released pangolin (I cried when I held it). Nature really knows how to keep things interesting.

Any advice to others that want to make an impact?

When you find something that sets your soul on fire, don't just sit back and admire the flames - grab hold of it and run with it. Passion is your compass and the fuel that keeps your engine running, so let it guide you and make sure you have a full tank!



Shaskia in her element



We would love to know what a day in your life looks like !

Fieldwork days kick off bright and early and can stretch late into the night depending on the mission. The night before, we hatch our game plan, and at dawn, we're off to our sampling sites. We collect everything from plants to invertebrates, sometimes even non-lethal vertebrate samples, identify them, and maybe even freeze them on site before heading to the lab for analysis and data crunching.

On non-fieldwork days, I switch gears to my role as a lecturer at Tshwane University of Technology's Faculty of Science, Department of Nature Conservation. Then, my day is a mix of writing scientific articles, lecturing, handling admin tasks, and creating social media content for both my scientist account and wildlife photography account—never a dull moment!

—————

Follow my adventures



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CAMPING MADE EASY

Step into the wild and embrace the great outdoors with camping tips for beginners

KEEPING UP WITH BHEJANE

The perfect home on wheels - after all, home is where you park it!



EXCLUSIVE

OUR JOURNEY WITH OUR JIMNY

**Exploring the
unknown with a
splash of yellow!**

We are Mohammed and Taleah Ally, born, raised, met, and married in KZN, South Africa.

We'd like to think that our adventure started when we met each other, but truthfully, it only began on the 27th of November 2021 when the keys to a pre-loved Suzuki Jimny were dropped into our hands after years of prayer, hard work, and lots of patience waiting for it to be available in kinetic yellow (this was a non-negotiable).

The Jimny may be small but it is certainly more than capable of conquering everything a bigger 4x4 can do and more.



Still unnamed, our Suzuki Jimny has inspired a love for off-roading in us both. Through countless adventures, we've put our trust in our Jimny and were never disappointed.

Our proudest moment occurred on one of our first off-roading adventures with our friends. We encountered a steep, mud-laden hill that halted every 4x4 vehicle before us.

Fully capable drivers and their machines were trying their best to conquer this challenge, but eventually needed the assistance of a winch to pull them up. The Jimny, however, glided up the hill unassisted on its first attempt, through the mud and through the cheering of onlookers, emerging as a victorious underdog and sealing its place in our hearts forever.



If we didn't have our Jimny, we would have never made it up the treacherous Sani Pass, through the roads of Lesotho to Maletsunyane Falls, where we got engaged. We even had our Jimny with us on our wedding day at Tala Game Reserve, capturing the essence of the adventurous couple we are.

Having our Jimny there for our big moments made them even more special as it reminded us of our journey together, our hard work, and what we could accomplish together.





JIMNY IN ZULULAND

We have embarked on countless expeditions across KZN, South Africa, and neighbouring countries like Lesotho, Swaziland, and Mozambique. Each journey is even more memorable than the last, and each time we learn to appreciate our little 4x4 a bit more.

Game-viewing is one of our favourite pastimes. We love the thrill of driving through game reserves and parks to see which animals and birds we can spot. We had been to Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park several times before getting our Jimny, but we somehow failed to find any rhino. The very first time we did a self-drive in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park with our Jimny, we finally spotted a crash of rhinos on one of the gravel roads that we were previously forced to skip. Once again, we were thrilled that the Jimny had made it possible for us to have that experience.



We understand that game can sometimes be very shy towards people and cars. They often run away from the loud roars of the 4x4 engines even while idling. This is no problem for the Jimny, whose little engine makes the softest purr, allowing us to quietly watch the game from a close distance without disturbing their natural environment.



Every Jimny can be modified and built to suit its owner's style and needs. Here are some of the extras we have added to ours:

- 40MM suspension lift kit. This is a must to clear rocks and other objects that could damage the undercarriage. It also adds to the stability of the vehicle and supports any additional payload.
- All Terrain Tyres. These on-road/off-road tyres are perfect for the tar and gravel roads of game reserves like Hluhluwe-iMfolozi. They also deliver exceptional toughness, durability, and traction.
- Wind deflectors. These aesthetically pleasing additions change your vehicle's aerodynamics, causing the outward draft of your vehicle around the product. It also kicks out rain, snow, and even dirt.
- Seat covers. These protect the upholstery from spills, scratches, and stains, and prevent crumbs and debris from dirtying the Jimny's original cloth seats.
- Centre console storage tray, cup holders, and door grip storage pockets. Extra storage inside the vehicle is always helpful.
- Rear cargo net with tie-down rings. This really keeps our things in-place and secure while bundu bashing.

Roof Rack. It's nice to have the option of strapping luggage, tools, and other items to the roof when the small trunk has reached its capacity.

- Rear ladder. Because we need to have some way of accessing all that storage space on top!
- Jimny ladder and fuel can combo. This offers an extra 7.5L of fuel to get that extra distance when a petrol station is too far away. The ladder can also be used to mount other accessories, like recovery tracks.
- Branch deflectors. We use these to push away branches from the windscreen while navigating through thick bush.

All's well that ends in adventure.

We know that we may not be as experienced or as well-equipped as other off-roading and over-landing rigs out there, but what we do know is that this is who we are meant to be and this is the vehicle we were meant to have.



Our journey with our Jimny has only just begun. There is still so much of beautiful Zululand to explore, so many adventures to go on, and many more modifications, and additions to make to our Jimny.

We are excited for what the future holds, and can't wait to share it with you as we go along.

See you
SOON,

Mohammed, Taleah, and the little Jimny that could.



CAMPING

for beginners



camp, connect &
create memories!

A Guide to Your First Outdoor Adventure

Camping is one of the most rewarding ways to connect with nature, enjoy the great outdoors, and take a break from the hustle and bustle of daily life. If you're new to camping, the idea of sleeping under the stars might seem a little daunting, but with the right preparation, it can be an experience you'll never forget.

Here's a guide to get you started, including the pros and cons of camping, and why our trusty camping vehicle, Bhejane, equipped with a camper, is the perfect companion for our adventures.





WHY GO CAMPING?

Camping offers a unique blend of adventure, relaxation, and a chance to unplug from technology.

Whether you're looking to escape into the bush for some solitude or bond with family and friends around a campfire, camping has something for everyone.

Want to know if camping is for you ? Check out the following pro's and con's.

PROS

Connection with Nature: Camping allows you to immerse yourself in nature, whether it's waking up to birdsong, stargazing at night or learning about different animals.

Building relationships: This is a great opportunity to connect with friends, family and your children.

Affordability: Once you have the basic gear, camping can be a cost-effective way to travel and experience new places.

Flexibility: You can tailor your camping experience to your preferences, whether that means remote and wild adventures or a comfortable stay at a campsite with amenities.

Physical Activity: Hiking, swimming, trail runs, and other outdoor activities are often a big part of camping, which can be great for your physical health.

Digital Detox and improve mental health: Being away from technology can be a great way to refresh the mind and soul.

CONS

Weather Dependency: Rain, wind, or extreme temperatures can make camping uncomfortable or even dangerous.

Lack of Amenities: Depending on where you camp, you might have to do without electricity, running water, and other comforts of home if you don't have your vehicle rigged up for off grid camping.

Insects and Wildlife: Bugs and wild animals are part of the outdoor experience, but they can be a nuisance or a safety concern if not properly managed.

Preparation and Gear: Camping requires planning and the right gear, which can be an investment in time and money.





Essential Tips

1. Start Simple: Choose a campsite that's not too far from home and has basic amenities like restrooms and running water. This will make your first camping experience more comfortable.

2. Gear Up: Essential items include a tent and mattress, sleeping bag, camping stove, cooler box and a first-aid kit. Invest in quality gear that will last through multiple trips.

3. Plan Your Meals: Preparing easy, packable meals ahead of time can save you from stress and keep you well-fed during your trip.

4. Check the Weather: Always check the forecast before heading out and pack accordingly. It's better to be over-prepared for various conditions.

5. Leave No Trace: Respect nature by following the Leave No Trace principles - this means cleaning up after yourself, staying on trails, and being mindful of wildlife.



For us, camping is more than just a hobby - it's a lifestyle. That's why we rely on Bhejane, our camping vehicle equipped with a canopy camper, to make our adventures as seamless and enjoyable as possible. Living in KZN comes with unpredictable weather and we wanted a set up that would allow us to get away from the elements. Because its just the two of us, we didn't need much space, and we didn't want to have to tow a caravan, purely because we wanted the freedom of being able to hit any dirt road.

We always said that maybe one day if we decide to have children, we will start looking for an off road caravan of sorts, as there are some pretty nifty off road caravans that have come into the market that have caught our eye. But for now, our set up is perfect. The canopy camper is built to withstand the toughest conditions, from torrential rain to blazing sun, ensuring we stay dry and comfortable no matter where we go. The camper is designed with a modular system that allows us to customize the setup to fit our needs, whether we're going on a weekend getaway or an extended expedition.

We are able to get away from the blazing sun by opening up our 270-degree awning. If we are remote and need a shower, we are able to pop open our shower cubicle and enjoy a nice hot shower! The camper allows us to have a lounge area that doubles up as our storage area. The bed can be pushed up to the roof for extra space to eat, sit and change into our clothes. With its easy setup and integrated storage solutions, the canopy camper makes camping stress-free, allowing us to spend more time enjoying the outdoors.



Bhejane, paired with the camper, handles off-road terrain like a pro, giving us the freedom to explore remote and rugged destinations that are off the beaten path.

For us, Bhejane isn't just a vehicle - it's our home on wheels. The combination of the canopy camper and Bhejane's reliability gives us the confidence to explore new places, knowing that we have everything we need for a comfortable and memorable camping experience. Camping is an adventure that offers endless possibilities, whether you're a seasoned outdoors person or a beginner. With the right preparation and the right equipment, your first camping trip can be the start of a lifelong love affair with the great outdoors. And with Bhejane by our side, we're ready to embrace whatever comes our way.

UNTIL NEXT TIME,
Connor, Kirsten & Bhejane



relax in
NATURE



Ubuhle Bemvelo Mobile Spa at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park



Unwind and relax while you're on safari! Ubuhle Bemvelo Mobile Spa was established in 2021 by Queen, an experienced and dedicated Massage Therapist with 9 years of experience in the field, working with luxury lodges such as Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge & Thonga Beach Lodge.



The Spa is committed to offering a space where guests can escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life and reconnect with nature while indulging in self-care. By providing free training to the local youth, Ubuhle Bemvelo Mobile Spa plays a vital role in job creation for the Zululand Community.



From soothing body massages and revitalizing facial treatments to invigorating body scrubs, every experience is designed to refresh your spirit. Allow the tranquil sounds of nature to enhance your relaxation as you embrace the ultimate pampering in this breathtaking setting.

BOOK NOW



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Reviews



I found the full-body massage on the cottage steps exhilarating, with the untamed beauty of Africa just an arm's reach away. My husband, Peter was thrilled, it was a revitalizing experience that melted away the aches from our long drive, leaving us refreshed and ready for a lively braai.

Jenny & Peter



READ MORE 



The upper body massage I received by the Ubuhle Bemvelo Mobile Spa while staying at Nselweni bush lodge in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park was absolute perfection. The skilled therapist firmly targeted all my tense areas, leaving me feeling relaxed and rejuvenated. I can't recommend it enough - definitely a 5/5 experience!

Louann Smith



MPILA EXPERIENCE

By Rowena Sharney Chetty



As someone who is passionate about wildlife, the greatest gift to me is to be surrounded by what captivates my heart - 'the wild' and there's no better way to do that then planning a trip to one of the oldest nature reserves, Hluhluwe- iMfolozi game reserve. As a frequent day visitor, I could not wait to celebrate another birthday in the heart of Zululand. I previously stayed at Hilltop Resort but this time around, I was keen to give Mpila resort a try, so with one call to Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife reservations, my stay at Mpila for a 2-bed Self-catering cabin was booked for my partner and I. Adventure awaited!



We entered through Nyalazi gate and made a brief stop at the Centenary Centre where we viewed the lovely handmade crafts by the locals and grabbed a bite to eat at the take-away. Centenary Centre is definitely a must stop for souvenirs. Thereafter, thrilled about the adventure ahead, we made our way to Mpila Resort. We were so impressed on how beautiful our cabin looked with impalas roaming freely at our doorstep, it's truly an amazing sight to soak in.

We entered our cabin to an open plan kitchen, two single beds joined and a space to dine with a cute wooden table and chairs. Our beds were dressed neatly, with mosquito nets and a ceiling fan above the beds which I am sure is much needed in the summer time. Towels and toiletries were included in the bathroom. The kitchen was fully equipped with everything that we needed for our stay (Fridge, two plate stove, kettle, utensils). After unpacking, we were ready to explore the iMfolozi side with a quick stop at the Curio Shop for some snacks before heading on our self game drive.

Our goal was to see the 'Big Five', we experienced a few sightings warthogs, different species of antelope, zebras casually crossing the road, a herd of wildebeests, giraffes and rhinos grazing. As the sun was setting turning the winter sky into a dusty orange, we made our way back to Mpila resort to settle in for the night. A few steps from our cabin, we had our own braai area which was so convenient for us to prepare supper. Nothing warms one's heart like watching the winter sunset whilst sitting around a cozy fire with your loved one listening to the sounds of nature.





We also had a midnight surprise of a Hyena calling, with much excitement I had to take a peek through the window but unfortunately it was too dark to see. The next day, bright and early we were greeted by Monkeys in front of our cabin, they watched us as we headed off with coffee in our flasks to spend the day at Hlulhuwe side. We had beautiful sightings of zebra's and buffalos on our way to Hilltop where we indulged in lunch at the restaurant while witnessing a herd of buffalos grazing. After our delicious meal, we made our way to the beautiful curio shop for snacks, and enjoyed our ice cream with a picture-perfect view at Hilltop.

Thereafter, we headed back on our journey to try and find the big five and we were so close. We stumbled upon a herd of majestic elephants, their presence left us in awe. As our day was coming to an end, making our way to memorial gate we got to see a few more rhinos and lastly, a lioness! This concluded our visit as our hearts were overwhelmed to see FOUR out of the BIG FIVE animals at Hlulhuwe-iMfolozi game reserve. Although, I'm definitely on a mission to spot a leopard on my next visit!

Until next time!



DACAR RALLY, ST LUCIA

by Nicki Kemp

The annual DaCar rally took place in St. Lucia on Saturday, September 28, 2024, attracting both locals and visitors. The day kicked off at Caltex Park with a vibrant market featuring various craft and food stalls. Registration for the 12 competing teams began at 1 PM, with participants comprising of adults and children showcasing their homemade vehicles. Organizer and local businesswoman Lindi Van Der Merwe officially opened the event.

Before the main races, local bagpiper Ruan Kemp, a 14-year-old student from Grantleigh College, entertained a lively crowd on McKenzie Street. The day also included a skateboard race, won by local teen Josh Strydom in 44.34 seconds, and an electric wheelchair race featuring Brian and Tannie Marie. Midway through, the trolley dash was won by Dunlop, completing the course in 103.34 seconds.



The highlight of the day was the main race, where Stefferari defended its title with a record time of 42.50 seconds. Martini Porsche followed in second place at 45.97 seconds, while KwaSuzu secured third at 47.71 seconds. The event continues to grow each year, benefiting the town greatly. The organizers work tirelessly to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.





The atmosphere was alive with rhythm and joy at the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park on Heritage Day. The ladies from Hilltop Camp, in their traditional attire performed vibrant dances, reflecting the rich cultures of their communities. Each outfit was a beautiful representation of their cultural heritage, adorned with intricate patterns and accessories. They highlighted their ensembles with handcrafted jewellery which represents a rich tapestry of cultural heritage and artistic expression.



It also plays a significant role in rituals and celebrations, connecting individuals to their cultural roots. Each lady at Hilltop always brings her own unique charm, and as you return frequently, you'll discover their delightful personalities. Their warm and friendly nature adds a touch of magic to the parks experience.



THE STIHL IMFOLOZI OUTRUN EVENT

Total funds donated over the last 3 years = R 1 210 000



iMfolozi
Game Reserve

WHAT IT IS LIKE
BEING A MARSHAL
AT THE OUTRUN >

By Ashleigh Porton



Trail running for conservation

Wildlife & nature enthusiasts gathered at the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park to run/walk through trails situated in the iMfolozi section with the purpose of raising funds for conservation.

Let the marshaling begin !

The trip began with a grand welcome from the elephants at the Nyalazi Gate entrance. After a swift sign-in and a memorable photoshoot with the elephants, we headed to set up the camp at the Runners Village. Once the set up was completed, we meandered through the area, taking in the incredible sights while collecting our braai packets. Next, we then gathered for the essential safety briefing at the STIHL tent followed by the Marshal meeting where we were advised on our designated spots for the next mornings first run. After a marathon of vital administration tasks, we immersed ourselves in the

the beauty of the wild, hearing the distant calls of wildlife echoing in the background as we retired early for the night. The next day, we rose at 5 am, kicking off the morning beneath a blanket of stars, eager to reach the check point before the sun crested the mountains. The first set of Runners sped through swiftly, racing 18.5 kms for conservation, safeguarding the rhino's and for numerous other causes for the Park. Managing the flow of the event, providing assistance when needed & cheering on the Runners



energized and inspired us to fully appreciate the beauty of nature with a game drive before heading to the celebration at the Runners Village. Witnessing dehorned rhinos for the first time was emotionally taxing even though dehorning was initiated as a last resort to curb poaching.

As I reflected on the day, watching the Runners race for conservation ignited a spark of inspiration within me to participate in the Outrun next year to raise funds for the APU.

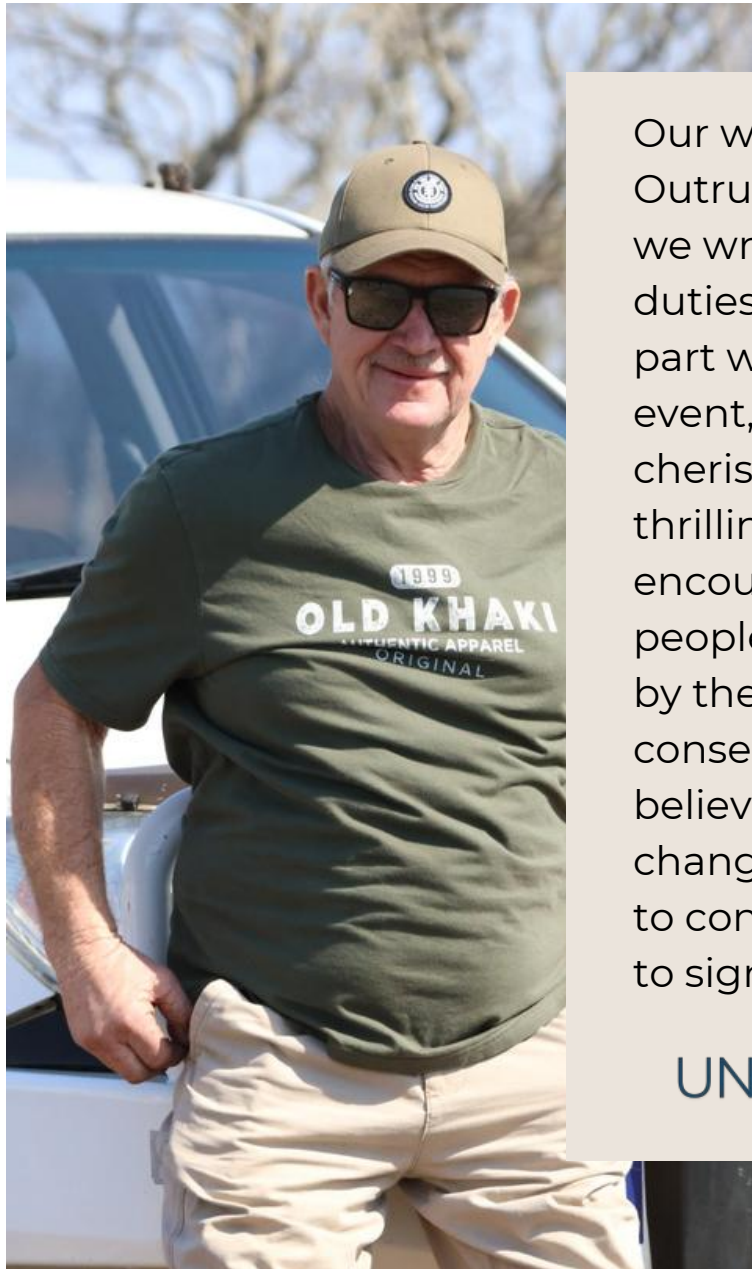
We concluded the day watching the sunset paint the sky while catching up with friends & family, creating memories that will linger long after the day ends.



Day 2 began with the sun's first light accompanied by coffee and rusks amidst the tranquil bush. Stationed next to the Game Capture area, we witnessed an Nyala Bull attempting to make his way into the area, adding a touch of wildlife intrigue to our morning as we waited for the participants of the 10.5 km race. It was heartening to see everyone from Honorary Officers, Staff to Volunteers participate in the open race for the day - making a tangible impact through their support. Despite having enjoyed the Gin on the previous night, everyone was remarkably refreshed and ready to take on the day, a true testament to the dedication for wildlife conservation.

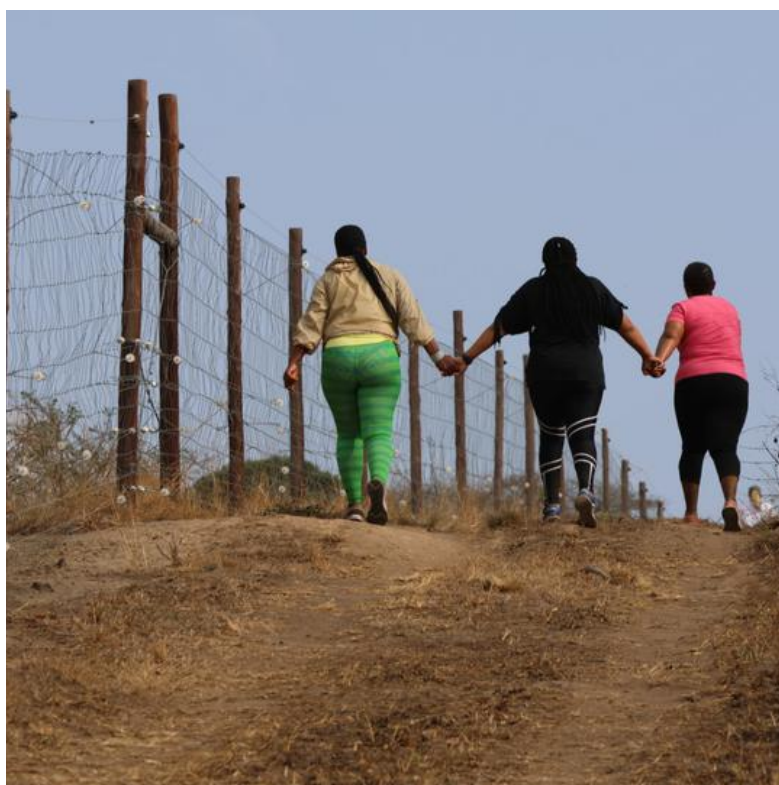


2024 OUTRUN



Our weekend at the Outrun drew to a close as we wrapped up our last duties and prepared to part ways until the next event, carrying with us the cherished memories of thrilling intimate wildlife encounters, meeting new people and being inspired by the commitment to conservation. I truly believe that minor changes in our approach to conservation can lead to significant impacts.

UNTIL NEXT TIME!



Photography: Ashleigh Porton

Black rhino sighting

by Charmaine Adam

My family and I are avid nature lovers and frequent Zululand visitors, always on the lookout for beautiful moments in the wild. On one particularly hot day, we were incredibly fortunate to encounter a rare sight: a majestic Black Rhino bull wallowing in a mud hole. To my surprise, he remained calm, allowing me ample time to capture a series of stunning photos.

Typically, these magnificent creatures are skittish and shy, but this bull seemed unfazed. He indulged in his mud bath for a good ten minutes before gracefully rising and rubbing against a nearby tree. This unforgettable experience has become one of my most cherished memories of this endangered species.



Celebrate with Care: Fireworks Aren't Worth the Scare

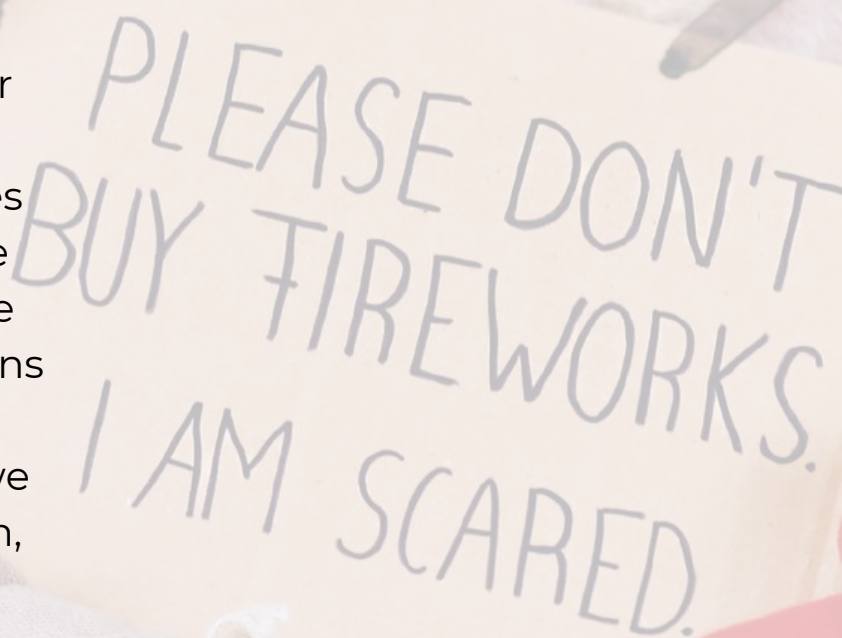


*Be a guardian
of the wild*

As Diwali, Boxing Day and New Year's Eve approach, let's choose love and compassion over fireworks. Wildlife thrives all around us, even if we can't always see them.

From tiny critters to soaring birds and graceful four-legged friends, they all feel the horrible impact of fireworks. Let's remember that the unseen lives in our world deserve our protection, too. Fireworks disrupt the natural world, startling animals and throwing off their routines. The loud noises mimic a sudden storm, causing stress and confusion.

Bright flashes can disorient nocturnal creatures, and leftover debris can contaminate their habitats. Plus, the risk of wildfires from stray sparks endangers the homes of wildlife. This is a gentle reminder to keep the celebrations peaceful for all living beings. By celebrating without fireworks, we contribute towards conservation, protecting all wildlife.



PLEASE DON'T
BUY FIREWORKS.
I AM SCARED.

Competition time



In celebration of 22 years of Wild Adventures, we are giving away a

2 NIGHT LUXURY SAFARI GETAWAY IN ZULULAND

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MORE DETAILS IN CAPTION



*Includes a couples
Photoshoot*

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