# ZULULAND ZULULAND

Digital Magazine

EXPLORE THE MAGICAL ZULU KINGDOM

WEDDINGS AT ZULU NYALA

Say your vows while surrounded by nature

THE HIDLI BROTHERS COALITION

> EAT LIKE A LION

FROM NETHERLANDS
TO ZULULAND

Denise Van Keulan shares her volunteer experience

Support local

The aftermath of the Zamimpilo Market fire

How you can contribute towards rhino conservation

WWW.IMVUBUCREATIONS.CO.ZA

**July 2024** 

### Editor's Note

I once read that studying Law is one of the most expensive ways to figure out what you want to do for the rest of your life. I'd be a terrible liar if I said the above wasn't true.

After years of being in the Legal Profession, I decided to risk it all and follow my passion - being in the bush.

So why did I trade my heels for safari boots you may ask? *Zululand*.

I first visited Zululand in 2022 and it changed my life. I found my purpose in nature, observing wildlife and being surrounded by the rich heritage.

Since then I have been developing my skills in wildlife photography, growing Imvubu Creations (a business inspired by the African bush) and most importantly, exploring Zululand.

**Editor-in-Chief** 



In this first issue, I will be sharing my love for Zululand, incredible places to visit and ways in which we can help #savetherhinos.

A special thanks goes out to all our contributors who have helped to make this launch special. We truly hope that you love this magazine as much as we do!

## Wild Contents

## Read till the end for an exciting opportunity!









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Book a safari with



## EVENT UPDATE

SAVE THE DATE















WOMEN FOR CONSERVATION



**26 OCTOBER 2024** 



6.5K RUN



**GET YOUR TICKET ON** 



(Includes shirt, drinks and a goodie bag)
Registrations 09:00
Walk 10:00
@ Rafikis, Hluhluwe, KZN
All proceeds go to Project Rhino.

Contact Alicha 082 340 5798 bookingszulucroc@gmail.com

**REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 30 September 2024** 









Specials:

SAB BEER BUCKET

ANY 6 DUMPIES FOR R100 **BRUTAL BUCKET** 

6 BRUTAL FRUITS FOR R140 SGL SPIRIT WITH MIX

Olof & Gordon's only

**R20** 

Thursdays 17:00-20:00



One of Africa's wildest MTB experiences, the STIHL MTB Challenge took place at the iMfolozi section of the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park this past weekend. Many participated in the event, which was a 57 km, 2 day route of beautiful views and extraordinary wildlife sightings while raising funds for conservation.

Malcolm Wallace completed the challenge and used this opportunity to raise funds for the Anti - Poaching Unit at the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park. He also secured entry into this year's Munga event which will be taking place in November and is a 120 hour non-stop Mountain Bike Race across the middle of South Africa in the summer heat.



## Click here to donate via Back A Buddy



Follow

@malcolmwallace

on Facebook for

updates on his

journey

## HELP MALCOLM RAISE FUNDS TO PROTECT OUR WILDLIFE

"Due to the extreme nature of this event, I saw it as a fitting platform to play my part in raising awareness and funds for the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park Anti-Poaching Unit. My family and I are passionate about the Park and riding for a cause close to our heart would make the reward of achieving my goal that much sweeter", he says.

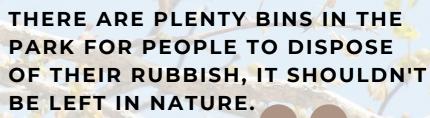
All expenses including the entrance fee of R24 900 and accommodation are covered by the Wallace family personally therefore, all donations made will go directly to the Anti-Poaching Unit to boost various activities that include Ranger Training, The K9 Unit and equipment needed to ensure they function optimally to protect our wildlife and collective heritage.

Businesses that sponsor a donation of R2 000 or more will be advertised on Malcolm's apparel while riding. We encourage all to contribute to this amazing cause!

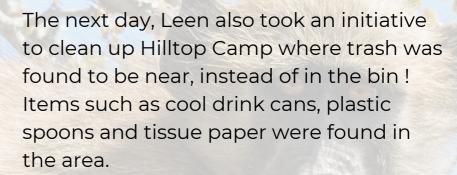
A live tracking system will be provided which enables viewers to track each rider - join for free to follow his journey into the wild!







- LEEN





The bins are enclosed and protected from monkeys and other animals that frequently scavenge through the trash - so the question that remains is why are people lazy to dispose of their trash in the correct manner?

It is our duty as visitors to keep the Park clean and preserve nature and wildlife. Tiny animals can fall victim to litter while searching for food or shade. They can often get their heads stuck inside of cans/bottles. Cans have sharp edges that can cut animals thus, it is important to discard cans responsibility. Animals can also mistake plastic items for food which can result in choking or cause fatal stomach obstructions.





#### DO NOT LITTER!

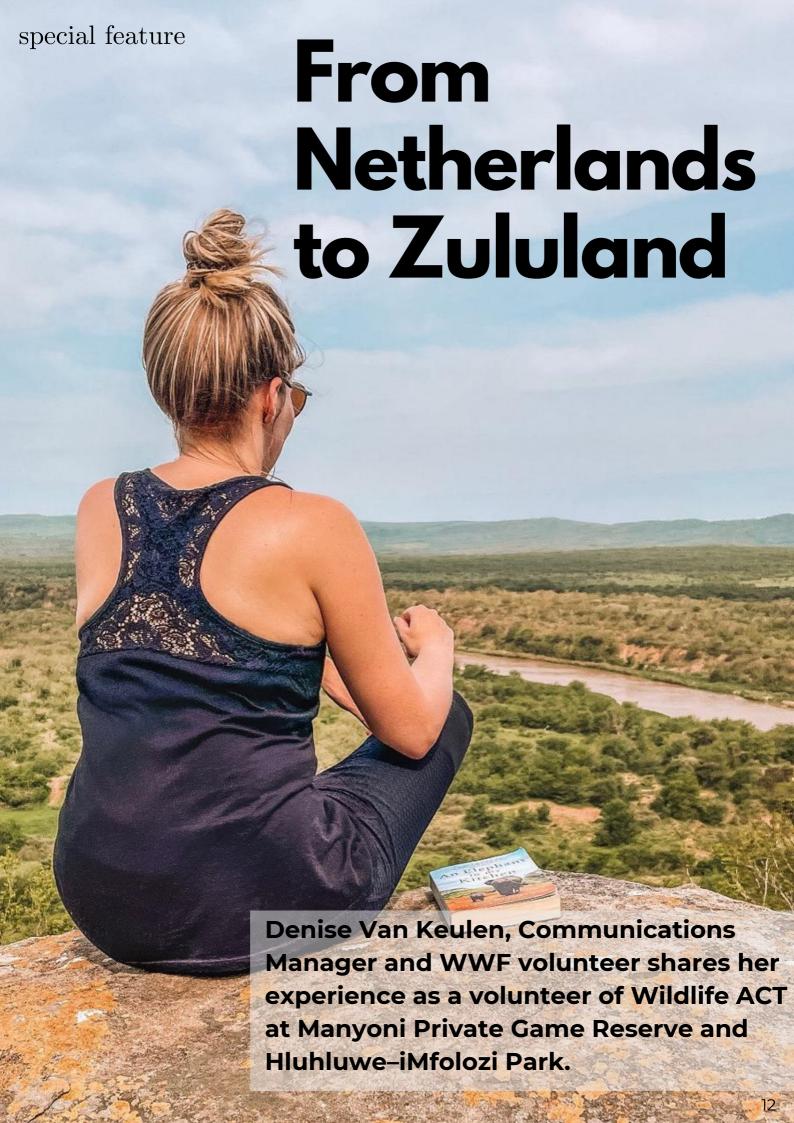
Keep picnic sites and all areas clean. Dispose of your trash in the bins provided.





What was supposed to be a tranquil sighting of a cheetah family (mother and 3 sub-adults) between 15i and 17i at the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park on the 29 June 2024, turned into a spectacle as a red Haval SUV decided to not play by the rules. While other visitors remained silently in their vehicles, observing the splendid sighting, a visitor strategically caught a glimpse of the cheetahs as they were strolling and drove his SUV off the demarcated gravel road, into the open plains for a closer view.

Other visitors mentioned that the red SUV continued to drive in the midst of the cheetahs with blatant disregard to the rule against off-roading. Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park is an ecologically sensitive area and no harm should be caused to this protected environment, thus off-roading is against the Park rules. Further, wildlife should not be disturbed in this manner. Thankfully, it was reported to the WhatsApp sightings group - however, there was no update on the matter or whether the visitor experienced repercussions. We will never know if this was complete ignorance but in any event, ignorance of the law is no defense and the The Nature Conservation Ordinance 15/1974 and the regulations state amongst others, that it is an offence to drive in an unauthorised area of the Park.



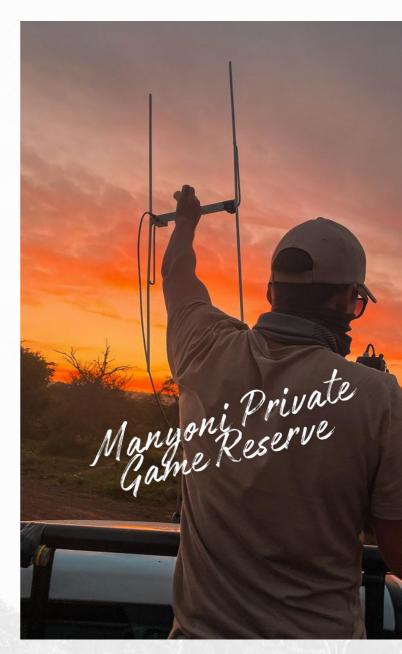


Without nature, we as humans cannot survive – but with great biodiversity comes more resilience and so, my curious mind and love for wildlife led me to South Africa. In 2024, I turned 37 years old and decided to trade my marketing job for a six week volunteer experience in Africa. Being involved in projects at sea regarding researching shark populations for two weeks was rather interesting but I also wanted to explore and study African land animals.

I was introduced to Wildlife ACT, an organisation that provides tracking and monitoring services to Game Reserves, free of charge. I subsequently joined their Endangered Species Program and knew it was a perfect opportunity to help make a difference and support their conservation initiatives. A few months later, the time had come, and I was waiting expectantly at the (very tiny) airport in Richards Bay for my transfer to the first reserve.

I met my fellow volunteers and began my journey at Manyoni Private Game Reserve. Seeing lions each day was a surreal experience. Since we stayed at a camp within the Reserve, wildlife sightings were unique and frequent. Imagine coming face to face with the King of the jungle unexpectedly from your garden? Well, that was my reality and it was definitely the most impressive staring contest I have ever had.

The focus of the program for two weeks was on endangered and priority wildlife species, including the african wild dog, cheetah, rhino, lion, elephant, leopard and vulture. We woke up early every morning and drove the 4x4 to the boma to observe how the wild dogs were doing (which were released shortly after my stay). After this, we had to locate the animals that were fitted with a collar, using a radio telemetry and record data to analyze later on. Manyoni Private Game Reserve has amazing views and intimate wildlife encounters which is ideal for wildlife photography. The experience of being a volunteer at Manyoni created memories that I will treasure for a lifetime.







The world-renowned HluhluweiMfolozi Park was next on my travel list and while I was rather unsettled due to the increase in rhino poaching incidents, I knew that I needed to help contribute together with Wildlife ACT and the WWF. It was humbling to see the rhinos, after all - this was the Reserve that saved the white rhino from extinction and now, the poaching statistics are heartbreaking. Besides the daily monitoring activities and field research, tasks vary across Game Reserves based on specific needs. I have always aspired to participate in operations where veterinarians equip animals with GPS collars. My admiration grew

when I learned that such operations were underway at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, particularly to track a large group of lions that had not yet been fitted with GPS devices. The saying goes, "this is Zululand, not Disneyland" - one must expect to be in nature making a difference, not in luxury. The iMfolozi camp is simple, but the view is marvelous. During meals, the laughter of nearby hyenas often accompanied us, and even routine activities like brushing my teeth were occasionally punctuated by the growls of a leopard. One week later, we sighted an elusive leopard and considered ourselves

to be extremely lucky as leopard sightings are very special. I have encountered various moments were I almost wanted to pinch myself to make sure I was not dreaming and those are the moments I miss the most. The lions remained elusive for about 1.5 weeks and this was a contrast to my experience at Manyoni Private Game Reserve where I saw them daily. Although a tad disappointed due to the fact that I was really hoping to be part of collaring lions, I still felt really blessed with incredible leopard, cheetah and other extraordinary sightings.

The last two days dawned, and I had already kind of given up hope to be able to witness the collaring. We had one more day ahead of us with two wildlife monitoring sessions (early in the morning and late in the afternoon) and then I would fly back to Netherlands. Full of fond memories, we sat in the open 4x4 on the second last day around 05.00 AM and drove to our last early morning coffee stop and suddenly the lions were spotted.



This was a large pride of lions (referred to as the Mega Pride from iMfolozi) and 2 lions needed to be collared by us.

Our monitor then informed the vets to confirm availability in the evening in order to carry out the collaring process. Since it was a hot day, the cats were lazy and didn't move to another location which enabled us to visit in the evening with vehicles containing veterinarians, guides, volunteers and other professionals.

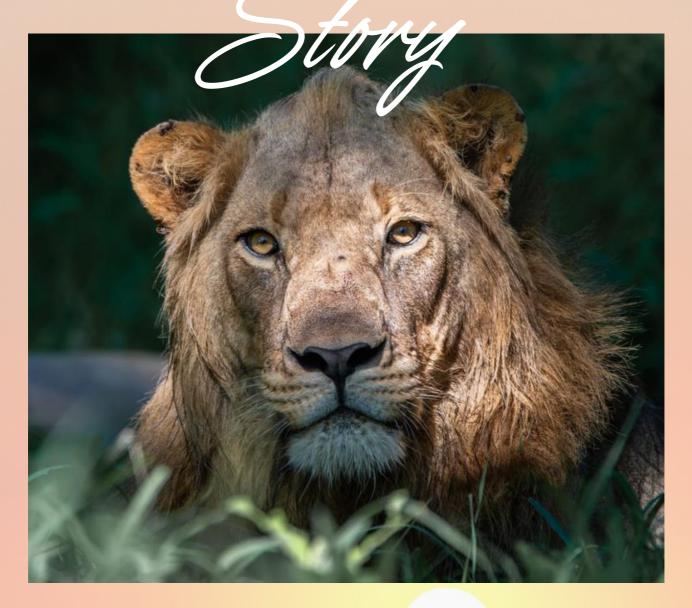


Picture this – you are in the process of collaring wild lions, surrounded by the lush bush, hearing the calls of nature while watching the orange hues of the sunset. This was spectacular!

All the volunteers had a chance to carry out a task and get hands on experience. I was allowed to alight from the vehicle and don gloves thereafter, sit besides one of the lions and assist the veterinarian to add the collar on the lion properly. This was the most amazing experience of my life and I definitely want to return to Zululand. I still miss the sounds of the bush, the like-minded people around me, the smells of nature and the special wildlife sightings. It is also great to contribute to the environment and be part of the results that Wildlife ACT achieves. Until next time...

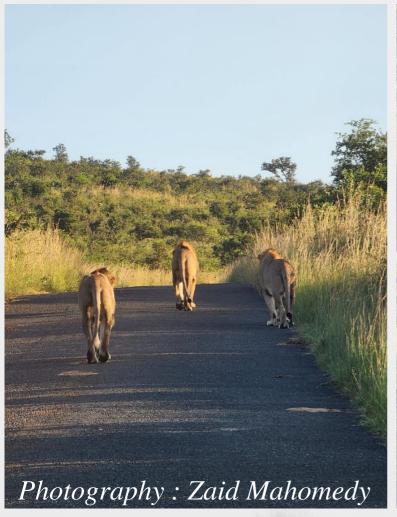
Stay wild!
- Denise Van Keulen

## COXER



#### THE HIDLI PRIDE BROTHERS

Photographer, **Joshua Kurt McNamara** captured a beautiful image of one of the three majestic lions that roam the Hluhluwe section of the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park.





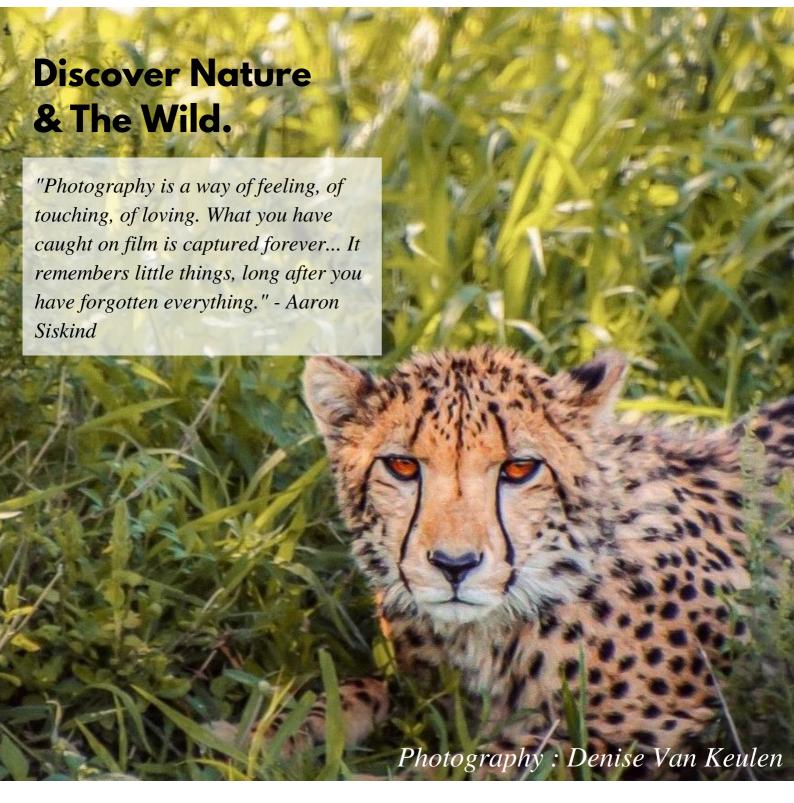


## What is a coalition and why do lions form them?

After separating from their mother, the three lions known as the "Hidli Pride brothers/boys" from Hluhluwe formed a coalition. A coalition is a group of male lions (often related but not always) that form strong bonds with one another. Coalitions can be as small as 2 to 4 lions or as large as 8 lions. It is understood that the reason for this formation

is to compete with other male lions for mates. A successful coalition results in sharing access to those mates. Young males generally leave their pride around 3 years old and when they are roughly 4 to 5 years old and in their prime, they will try to gain access to mates from other prides by challenging the other male coalitions.

## WILD SIGHTINGS









## HLUHLUWE-IMFOLOZI PARK



Noleen Clarice Turner



Bhavna Ramphal



Tianna Naidoo



Ankia Van Wyk

Share your sightings with us and stand a chance to be featured!



Musth is a biological condition in bull (male) elephants that occurs when there is a rise of reproductive hormones. The elevated levels of testosterone causes changes in their behavior and bulls tend to appear more aggressive, restless and unpredictable.

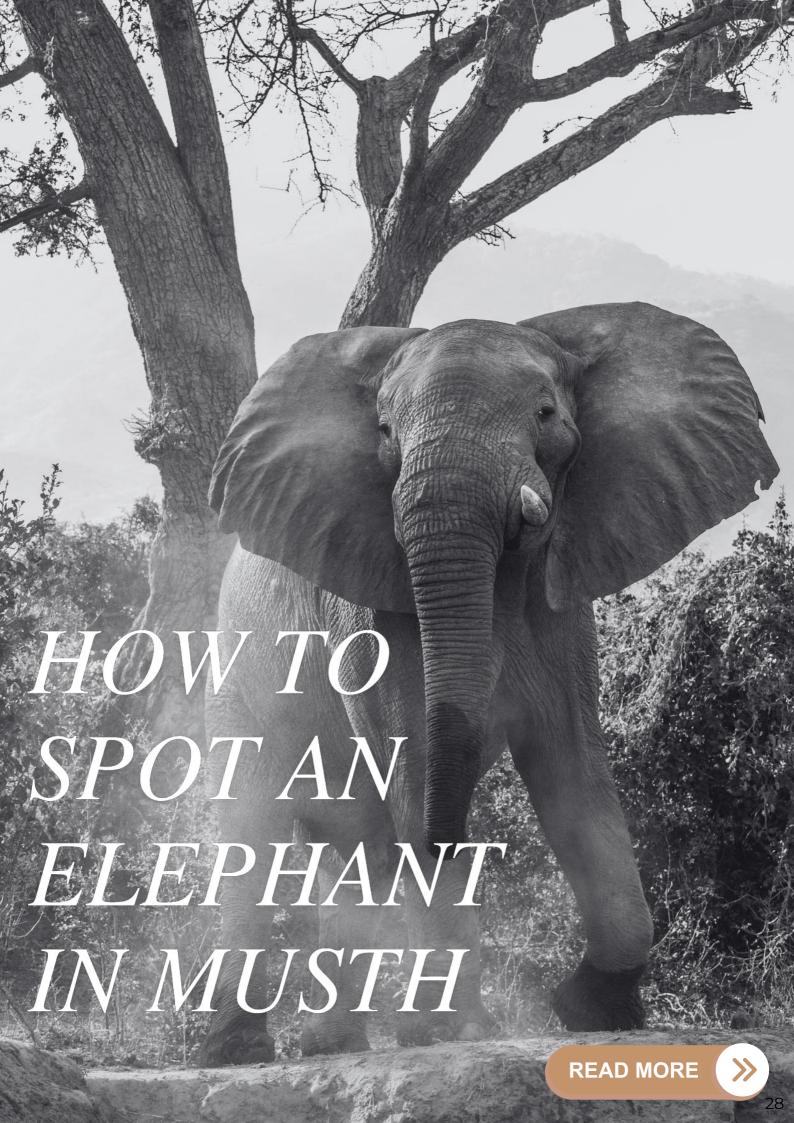


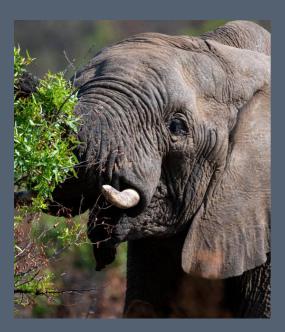
This completely natural and normal phenomenon occurs in sexually mature bulls, generally those over 25 years of age although this can vary.

Depending on the elephants body, the period of musth can last up to several months, weeks or even days and continues around the same time each year until the bull reaches between 50 - 60 years of age.

During this period, elephants have a stronger desire to mate and usually venture away from home in search of mating opportunities.







## Swelling of the temporal gland

The temporal gland is located on both sides of the elephants head, roughly level with the eyes. When the glands swell, a large amount of fluid called temporin is secreted. You will notice a stain on the entire side of the elephants face due to the secretion.

### Urine on legs

A steady dribble of urine can be seen down the back of the elephants legs. The urine usually has a strong odour. Sometimes bulls who experience musth for long periods of time may develop a "green penis syndrome" which is when a greenish film develops on the sheath of the penis caused by the constant stream of urine.



### The musth walk

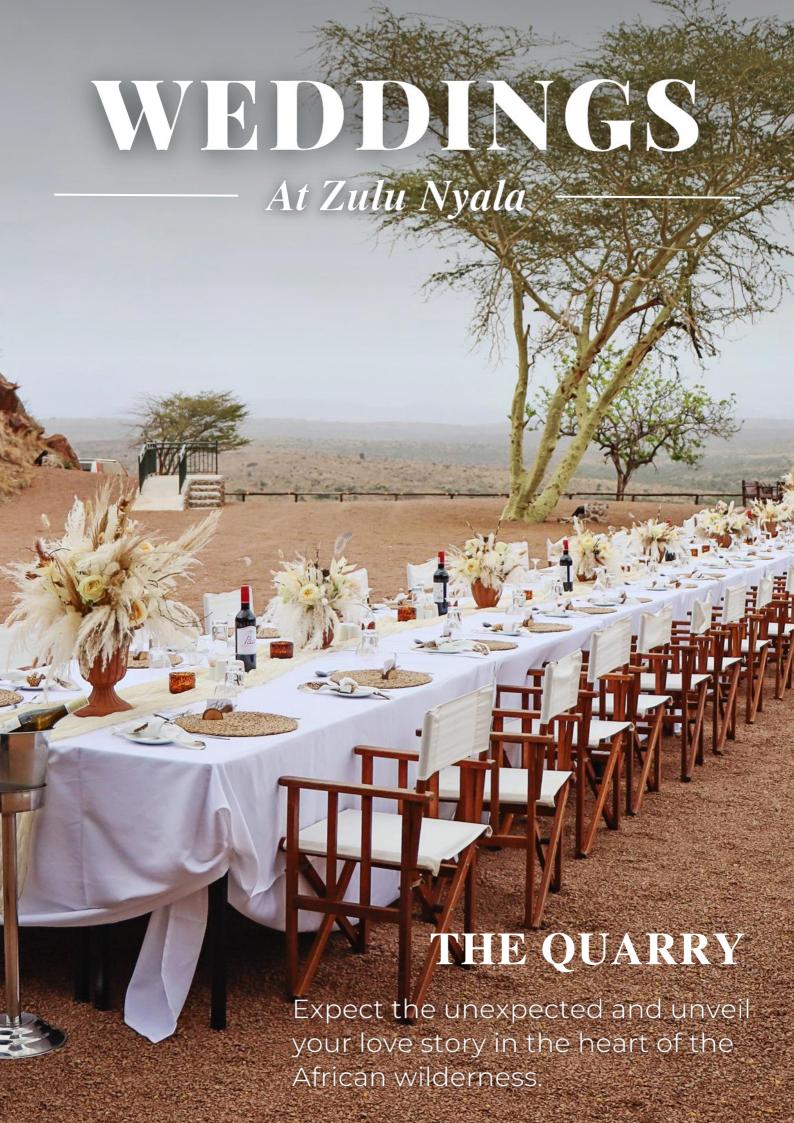


An elephant in musth will walk slowly, taking long strides while keeping their head up, chin tucked in and wave their ears.

KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE







### WILD VIEWS

For your wedding, event or function that's decidedly out of the ordinary – go wild and whisk your guests away to Zulu Nyala in unspoiled Hluhluwe, KwaZulu-Natal. If you're inspired by 'unique, magnificent, breath-taking, unbelievable, memorable and magic' – then The Quarry venue is for you!

Set deep in the Zulu Nyala Private Reserve, The Quarry is encircled by high reaching rock faces with an open view to the West adding that extra 'African-special' for magnificent sunsets and views across the reserve towards the Lebombo Mountains.







Its unique position, décor and functionality makes for stress-free entertaining with everything you need available. Clad in locally sourced rock, high quality, polished cement and gravel floor finishes, traditional artifact light fittings and wood touches all contribute to a most stylish and sophisticated, yet earth-bound environment in a setting like no other – seeing is believing!

**Inquire now** 



With expansive buffet style food serving, a large dedicated bar to stock with your requirements, three warming fire-pits, permanent dance floor and paved walkways, 'glowing' Yellow Fever Trees, and sophisticated mood lighting throughout which creates both a visual and emotional atmosphere you're sure to be enthralled and to leave having experienced the magic of Africa! Zulu dancers and singers are available to add mood, flair, and atmosphere during your reception at The Quarry. Say your vows either at the Hilltop Game Lodge facing the panoramic, open bushland to the East with tastefully decorated arch, guest seating and entrance path or at The Quarry itself.

Rangers will transport you with the game-viewing fleet from the Lodge to The Quarry for your reception if needed, further enhancing that safari-feel during the drive through the Private Game Reserve.









## LUXURIOUS

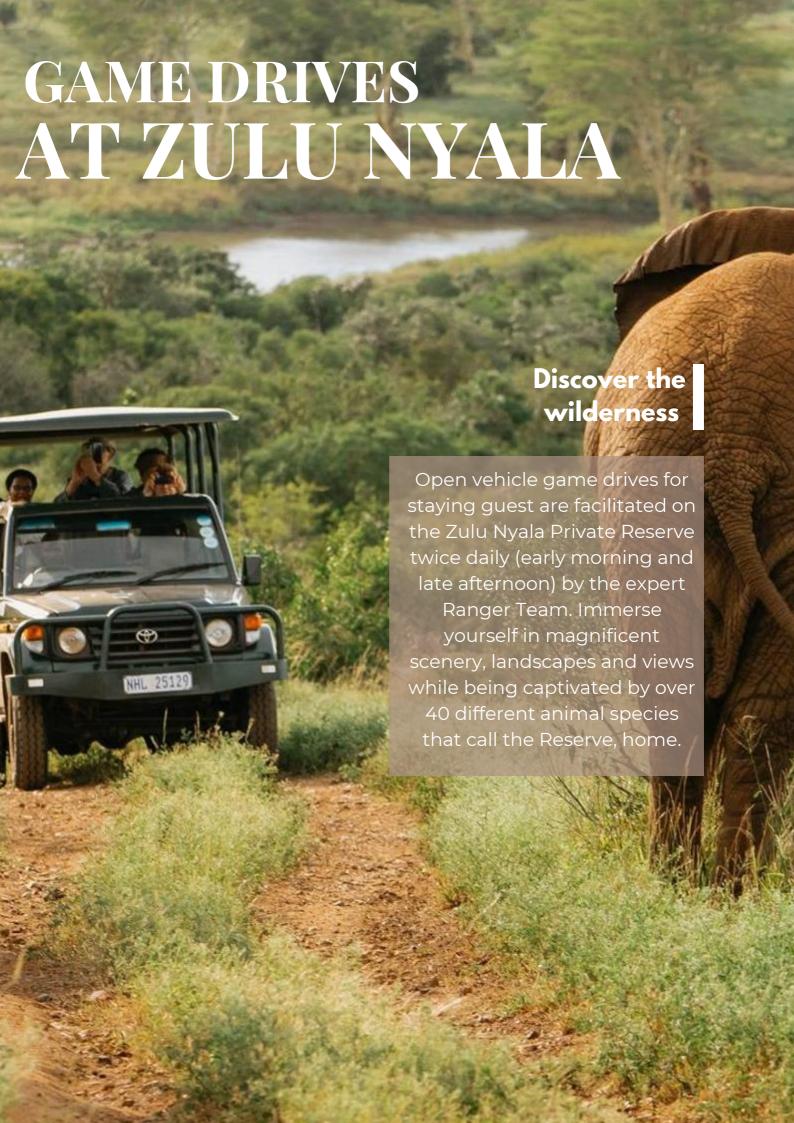
# Bush stays

Choose between the Zulu Nyala Game
Lodge, a haven of tranquillity nestled
hilltop high or the Heritage Safari
Lodge including Hemingway Tented
Camp. The selection of various
accommodation options cater to every
guest's needs. From comfortable
Standard Rooms and tents to luxurious
Honeymoon Suites and spacious Family
Rooms, each abode provides a peaceful
retreat amidst the beauty of the African
bush.











## Conferencing at Zulu Nyala



Whether you wish to treat business guests to an authentic African experience, host a conference or create a memorable event, the Zulu Nyala Game Lodge, based inside the Private Game Reserve and Heritage Safari Lodge located adjacent outside the same reserve, have the resources to accommodate almost any requirement.

With various function areas, fully equipped conference rooms, breakaway areas, team-building activities, ample accommodation, inviting common areas such as lounges, decks, pubs and dining areas to enjoy the fine cuisine, Zulu Nyala has everything you need to make business a pleasure.







### Experience the Magic of Africa

Zulu Nyala offers facilities and activities that will make your stay unforgettable. Stay fit and strong while on Safari with the fully equipped complimentary gyms available at the lodges.

Cool off and unwind at the swimming pools, a refreshing oasis amidst the African wilderness. The restaurants offers buffet style meals and fully stocked bars with Zulu entertainment every night at the Heritage Boma Restaurant.

A Traditional Cultural Village is located on the Heritage Safari Lodge property for an interactive and educational experience, note bookings are essential.

For more information, visit the Zulu Nyala website! www.zulunyala.co.za



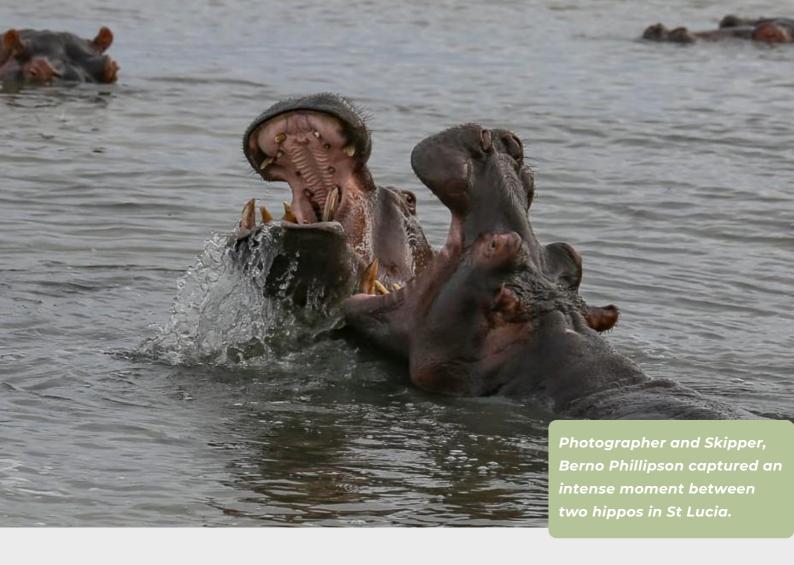
PICTURE PERFECT

Enjoy storytelling through wildlife photography

Photographer

### BERNO PHILLIPSON

@valhallaphotography1



## RIVER HORSE BATTLE

In the musky waters of the Estuary, two hippos square off in a primal dance of dominance. As the territorial dispute brews, they clash while each massive jaw snaps, the sound of grunting echoes and water splashes in the air. It's no secret that hippos are regarded as aggressive (cute, but aggressive).

Hippo fights generaly occur when two males compete for territory or mates. Weighing about three tons, a full grown male hippo will bare his teeth, warning anyone who dares to approach his territory. If his opponent doesn't back down, loud grunts are followed by charging at each other.



## EXPLORE

FEATURED DESTINATION

Ngweni Railroad Brewery & Cafe





## BUSH ESCAPE

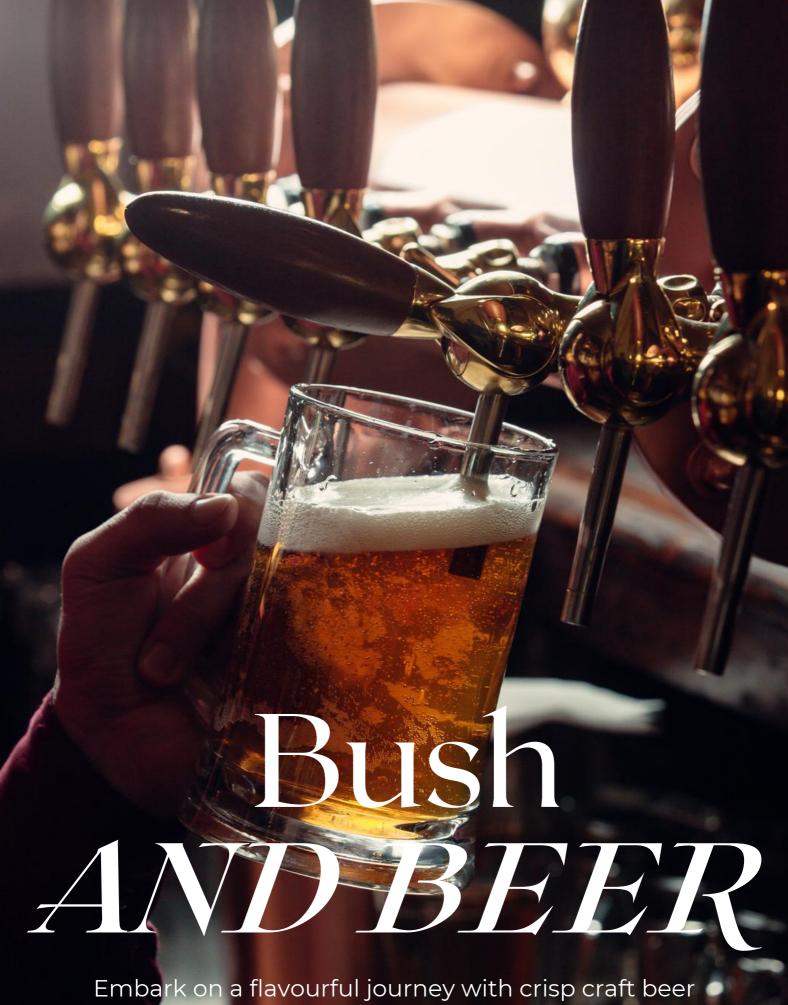
Located at Ilala Weavers in
Hluhluwe lies a hidden gem - a
quaint brewery and café that emits
a sense of warmth and authenticity.

From snack platters to delicious mains, each dish is freshly prepared and each bite is an invitation to embark on a scrumptious adventure like no other. The atmosphere is electric and filled with cheer, it truly is a perfect place to pause, reflect and experience local culture. Enjoy a catch up with friends or relax after a long day of sightseeing, the vibrant ambience will make you never want to leave.

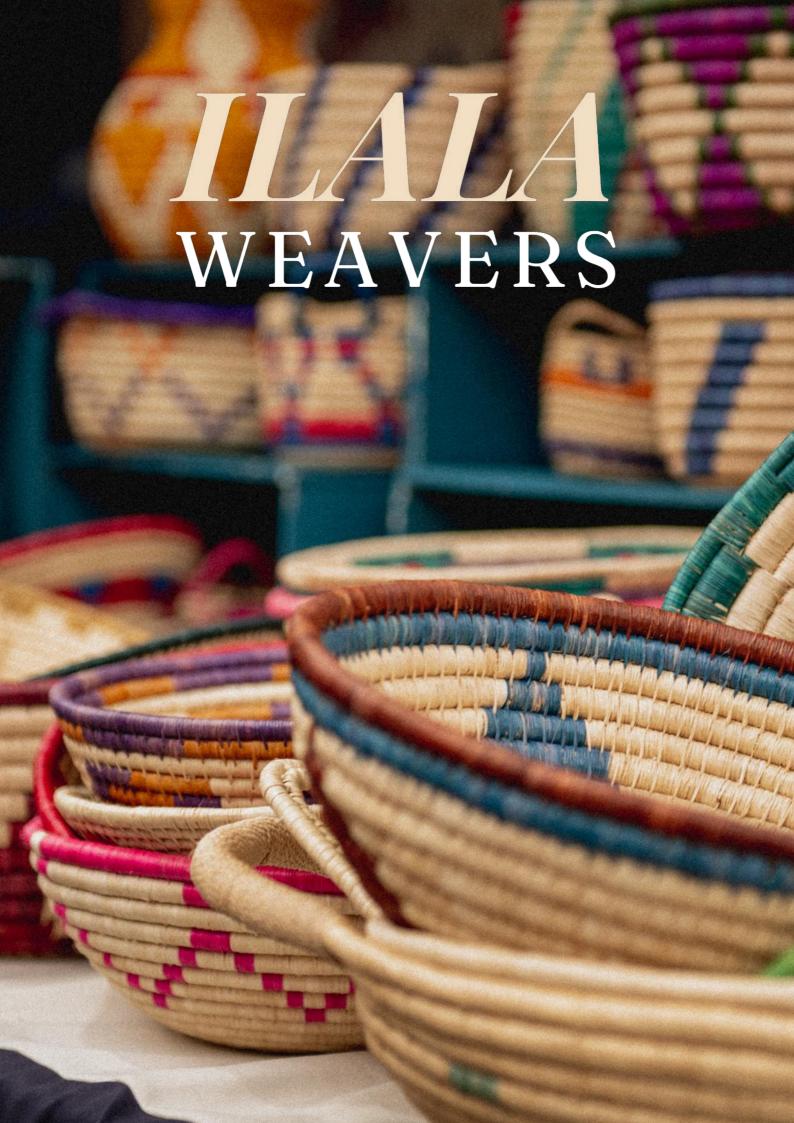
There is much to do such as taking a stroll in the lush garden or shop handcrafted traditional Zulu baskets made from indigenous raw available materials while waiting for your meal, served with a smile!







Embark on a flavourful journey with crisp craft beer bubbling with a refreshing symphony of flavours. Raise a glass and savor the artistry behind each pour.









# A FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS SITUATED IN THE TOWN OF HLUHLUWE

The passion began in the early 1970's, when two friends developed an interest in Zulu handcrafts after visiting a pension pay-out day in one of the outlying areas of northern Zululand.

It is a charming place to visit, with its huge graceful fever trees and interesting crafts.

In this age of modern technology and mass production, it is a joy to see and feel the dignified elegance and beauty of a rich Zulu heritage that has become a collectable artform, preserving an age-old tradition proudly safeguarded and handed down through the generations.





Every basket is made by hand, using indigenous raw materials, and the type of basket varies from area to area, depending on the availability of raw materials, and the use to which the basket is to be put. It can take up to one month to produce a medium-sized basket that will be unique in size, shape, pattern, weave and colour. A true collector's item indeed!

A wide range of handcrafted
African curios from décor items
to jewellery can also be found at
Ilala Weavers. Ilala Weavers
continues to support the local
crafters, enabling them to
weave their magic, and
allowing locals and tourists to
find that perfect Zulu craft
piece to adorn their home.

### LARGEST COLLECTION OF TRADITIONAL ZULU BASKETS

Feel the mystery and essence of Africa with a wide variety of Zulu baskets, each one unique and lovingly hand-stitched.







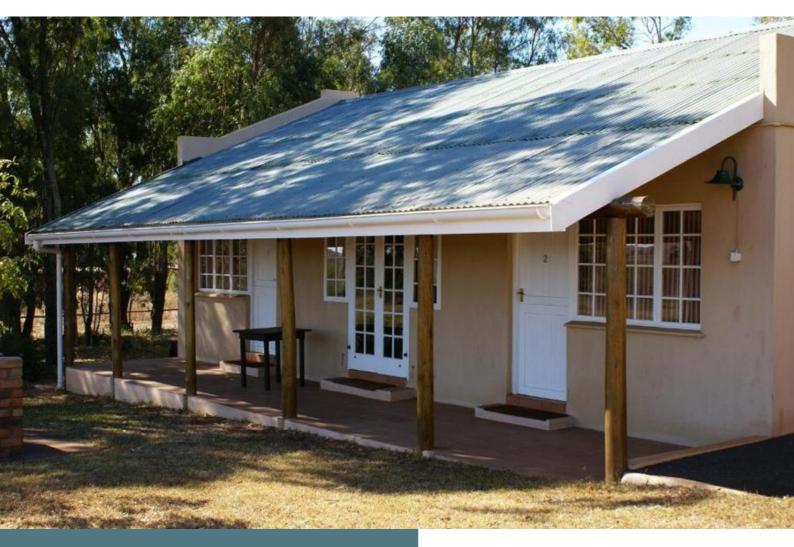




Back in 2005, Brad Pitt visited Ilala Weavers. He was part of the entourage visiting the area courtesy of the American Embassy in Pretoria which was documenting the Aids crisis in Zululand for USA TV.







### HLUHLUWE COUNTRY COTTAGES

Enjoy a serene oasis amdist the hustle and bustle of the agricultural and tourist hub on a picture sque farm just a kilometer away from the vibrant Hluhluwe village.

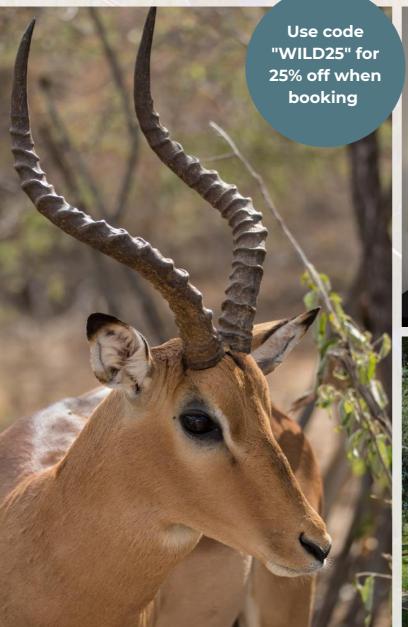
Situated on a fenced Game
Sanctuary bordered by the
Ngweni River are Hluhluwe
Country Cottages, rustic and
homely cottages cradled by the
gentle embrace of nature.
As you leisurely stroll on the
Game Farm, you will feel a
sense of tranquility enveloping
you. The clear blue winter skies
and crisp air make it an ideal
time for outdoor activities.

You can spot a different variety of antelope on the Game Farm or take a drive to the renowned Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park for a Big 5 experience.

## Surround yourself with nature

Unwind in authentic bush style at the Hluhluwe Country Cottages, where every detail is crafted for ultimate comfort. From country-style earthy interiors to picturesque surroundings, indulge in an unforgettable nature retreat.

Stay in cool and comfortable airconditioned rooms, where relaxation
meets simplicity. Enjoy a refreshing start
to the day with tea and coffee making
facilities while watching the magic of
dawn unfold. After a tiresome day of
adventures, unwind at the pool before
returning to your daily
serviced room.









ACCOMMODATION: Airconditioned bedrooms en-suite with tea/coffee facilities. Ala carte restaurant on site open 7 days a week including dinner. Self catering option includes an open plan kitchen/dining/lounge and braai facilities · Swimming Pool

Tel: 081 417 6666 · Cell: 082 494 1047











Situated at Ilala Weavers, on the Hluhluwe Rhino Route. We bring you a unique experience like no other in the area.



Our Tap Room in the brewery opens at 10am and has a full bar with a great selection of craft beers and beers on tap. Full glass panels allow for uninterrupted views of the beer brewing equipment or enjoy your favourite sport on our big screen television.



Beer tasting available, choose from a selection of Lagers, Ales, a Cider or an Alcoholic Ginger Beer.

Café Menu includes: Pizza, burgers, seafood & steaks



OPEN 8H00AM - 20H30PM

: 079 646 1189 🖂 : info@ngwenibrewery.co.za



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# THE DAWN OF THE AFRI-MYTHIC GENRE

Tales of Africa

Vukari awakens the Spirit of Africa through art, using ethically harvested hides from Nguni Cattle. Each bespoke piece blends myth, culture and legend, showcasing the richness of African tradition in vibrant colour and technique.





We embrace the enchantment of the wilderness, harnessing our inspiration to unlock an artistic realm of unique creations. We seek to breathe fire and life into African folktales and legends, inviting you to be mesmerised by the charm of traditional culture and embark upon a journey into the untamed beauty of Africa.

www.vukari.com



### **66** Community project

We were born into rural communities it is there where our identities were nurtured. Now, as providence favours our pursuit, we seek to give back to those communities. The focus of our project is to uphold the quality of the Nguni Cattle, an indigenous breed of cattle that form the lifeblood of the amaZulu people. In our drive to improve the quality of their cattle and maintain the purity of the Nguni bloodline, we sponsor the donation of top-quality bulls into rural communities. Further in our chain of support, we buy our ethically sourced hides from these communities.





And through the creation of our art, we provide employment. Each piece of art showcases these colourful hides, thereby creating the awareness of this beautiful breed, which in turn underscores our drive to keep their bloodline pure. For this reason, we say, "Each art piece that we create is an ambassador for the beautiful and colourful cattle of Zululand." The seed of Vukari's community spirit was sown by its founder, Barry Leitch, who embarked on such projects from the age of 20. Today, at 71 years old, he continues to do so with unwavering momentum.

























# ABOUT HERITAGE TOURS & SAFARIS

A family hands-on Safari Tour Operator with the focus on making guests feel like family. Heritage Tours & Safaris was officially established in 2003 by wildlife enthusiasts, Quentin and Mandy Muir with the emphasis on offering service-related safaris in St. Lucia.

The company understood aspects of what guests preferred while visiting the area and provided high standards of service and extremely well qualified game rangers - all embodying a passion for wildlife and conservation.

To date, Heritage Tours & Safaris is the largest privately owned Safari Tour Operator in the area offering an all inclusive experience with open vehicle safari game drives, transfer vehicles and a 4 star Bed & Breakfast.



### **Explore our heritage**

Join us on an exhilarating open safari vehicle game drive into the HluhluweiMfolozi Park or Isimangaliso Wetland Park. We have more than 20 years of experience in creating memorable moments for our guests on our exclusive safaris.

### A luxury experience

With a fleet of open game drive vehicles and closed air-conditioned luxury game drive vehicles we can accommodate any request big or small. Heritage Tours & Safaris delivers superior service, reliability & value for money safari excursions.



### At Heritage House B&B

Rather than just a convenient place to sleep, At Heritage House offers the ideal Stay & Safari Option, comfort, world-class service, and an active concern for Wildlife.











### A unique stay in the heart of St. Lucia

At Heritage House sets the mood beautifully - whether its relaxing alongside the swimming pool or enjoying the peace and tranquility of the outdoor lounge or ending the evening in the African-Colonial style lounge. In the mornings, continental and English breakfasts are served next to the pool. Five luxury en suit rooms are tastefully decorated that reflect our Heritage. All have air conditioning, quality linen, a safe, complimentary WIFI and DSTV. This charming and upmarket home offers you a true escape while in South Africa's very first World Heritage Site.

**BOOK NOW** 

www.atheritagehouse.com

## HIPPO & CROC BOAT SAFARI









Shoreline Vessels have been custom-built to the exact needs of visitors to the area, the deck of the Shoreline vessels has optimal viewing space ensuring you awesome photographic opportunities. The vessel has a shallow draft with minimal impact on the environment. All of the guides/skippers have numerous years of experience and therefore an exciting and informative trip is guaranteed.

The St Lucia Estuary is the largest estuarine system in Southern Africa and measures an astonishing 350 square kilometers, which falls within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. Some other wildlife may be also encountered while out on the Hippo & Croc Boat Trips and include the likes of Buffalo, Water Buck, Elephants, Leopard, African Fish Eagles, Malachite Kingfishers, Water Monitors and many other species.



+27 35 590 1555



www.heritagetoursandsafaris.com







Photography: Shenay Bhodraj

# how can you help?

The Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, the Park that saved the white rhino from the brink of extinction took the initiative to dehorn their rhinos. The "Rhino Devaluation Operation" was funded by the WWF and carried out by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and Wildlife ACT.

Whilst Organisations are playing their part to help save the rhinos, it's important to contribute to the cause. So what can we do to assist?

Raise awareness - knowledge is power! Educate others on the plight of the rhino due to poaching. Technology has become incredibly significant in today's world so use it for good and help spread awareness on social media.

Donate to conservation
organisations like Project
Rhino KZN, Wildlife ACT, The
Zululand Conservation Trust,
WWF, Save The Rhino
International or directly to the
Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park's AntiPoaching Unit.

Engage in responsible
tourism - when posting
images of rhinos on social
media, ensure you do not
share the exact location or
visible marker which will allow
poachers to easily track the
rhino. Use images that are at
least a few days old (remove
geotag). Some sanctuaries
prohibit taking images or
posting it on social media - be
sure to follow the guidelines
of a specific organisation.

# how can you help? Pt.2

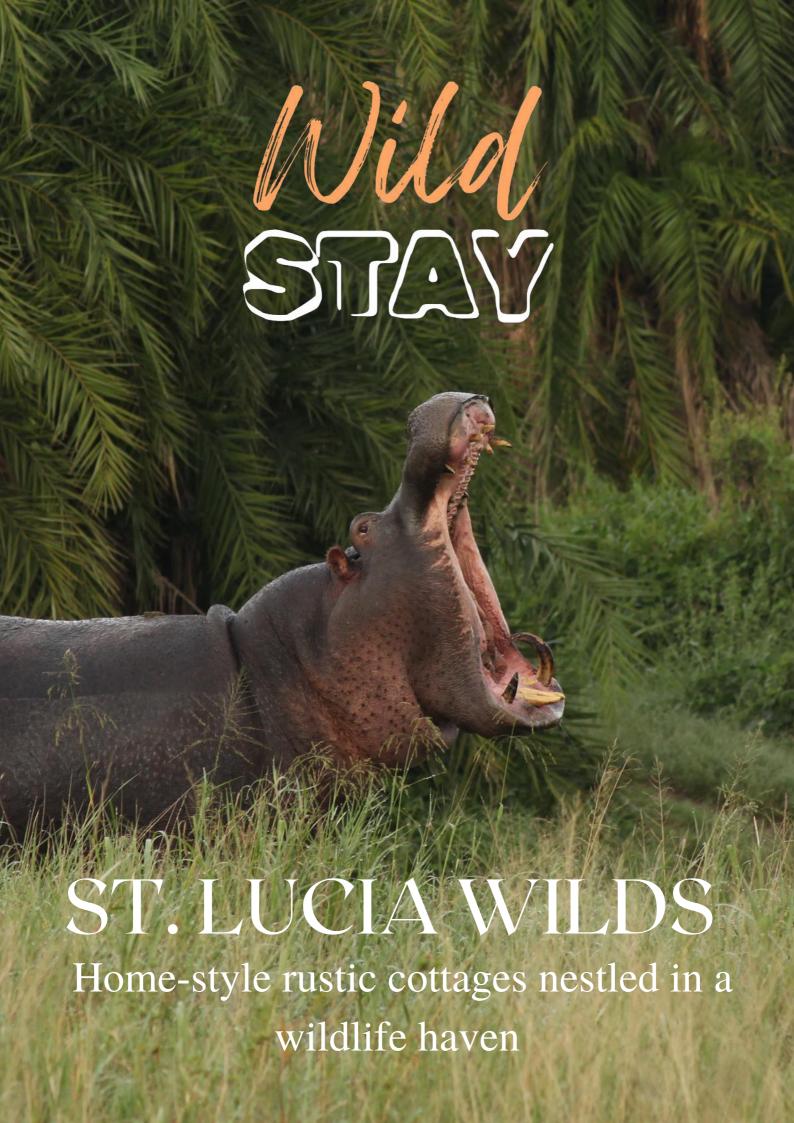
**Make conscious consumer choices**- avoid purchasing items that are made from rhino horn or any illegal wildlife products.

Support businesses that donate a portion of their proceeds towards conservation. Help save wildlife by purchasing gifts for yourself or loved ones, with a good cause in mind such as Stay Wild SA, Down To The Wire and Imvubu Creations.



307 rhinos, which is 60% of the total poaching losses for 2023 occurred in The Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park.

INTERESTING FACT





# HIDEAWAY INAWILDLIFE FRIENDLY GARDEN



The Wilds is perfectly situated at the tranquil end of Mckenzie Street in St.
Lucia enabling guests to take an evening stroll in search of the resident hippos after experiencing a vibrant dinner atmosphere at the wide variety of local restaurants.

A walk-in Fine Art Gallery and Craft Room with selected handmade crafts for sale can be found on the property. Visitors can also explore their artistic talent at the Art Bar.



Immerse yourself in a rustic reverie with beautiful sounds of nature and a stay that envelops you in a warm embrace.

The uniquely decorated rooms offer tranquility from the noisy outside world and embodies the spirit of Africa.



### A tropical garden

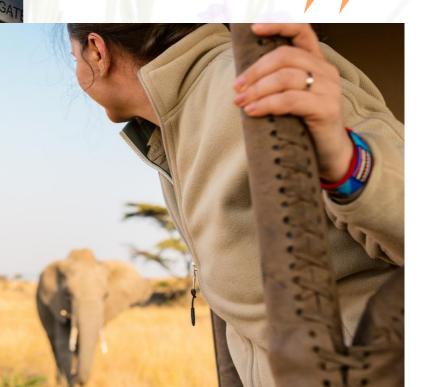
Imelda and her family are nice and care of any need you may have. Really close to the forest, the lake and the beach. Perfect location to be for some days of snorkeling, whale watching, safari, boat cruise on river or just relax.

### **BOOK NOW**

www.stluciawilds.co.za



083 707 0435



## WILD TASTE



## Enjoy bush friendly meals

You don't have to compromise on being a foodie just because you're in the bush. Our budget friendly, quick & easy recipes are perfect for those who prefer to cook up a storm while catching some lekker sightings.





This simple but delicious dish can be served hot or cold. The peri peri flavour is perfect for winter safari trips!

#### Ingredients

- Penne Pasta 400 g
- Chicken breast 400 g (cut in cubes)
- Ina Paarman peri peri cook & coat sauce
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- A teaspoon of minced garlic
- Diced bell peppers
- Cherry tomatoes
- Salt & pepper to taste

#### Method

- 1. Cook the pasta in a large pot of salted boiling water until al dente. Drain & rinse to avoid excess starch and set aside.
- 2. In a separate pan, heat olive oil, saute onions, minced garlic, bell peppers and add the chicken breasts to cook. Salt & pepper to taste can be added (only a tad, since the sauce contains both). Add the sauce and stir well.
- 3. Once the chicken is cooked, add to a large bowl & toss in the pasta with cherry tomatoes.



## Rosemary lamb chops

Enjoy a delicious delight that meets the aromatic essence of fresh herbs. Perfect for a skottlebraai or an open flame braai in the bush!

#### Ingredients

- 400 g Lamb chops
- · A few sprigs of rosemary
- 1 teaspoon chilli & garlic paste
- Salt & pepper to taste
- Paprika (optional)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil

#### Method

1. In a bowl, mix together olive oil, chilli & garlic paste, salt & pepper, rosemary and paprika. Rub this mixture evenly over both sides of the chops.

- 2. Place lamb chops on the braai for 3-4 minutes per side or until they reach your desired level of doneness.
- 3. Remove chops and leave them to rest for a few minutes before serving. This helps redistribute the juices and ensures tenderness.





## TASTE OF THAI



Embark on a delectable adventure with authentic cuisine, unforgettable taste and Asian grace.





# ABOUT THE LION DIET

You may already know that lions are hyper carnivores and must eat meat to survive, but did you know that drawing inspiration from their diet may benefit us too?

The Lion Diet is a meat-based eating pattern that focuses on eliminating most ingredients from the diet to identify potential food sensitivities.

It was originally created by
Mikhaila Peterson, a lifestyle
blogger and podcast host who
claims she was able to improve her
health by making these changes
to her diet.



"YOU MAY NEED TO FOLLOW
THE DIET FOR SEVERAL WEEKS
BEFORE STARTING TO ADD
FOODS BACK INTO YOUR DIET"
SAYS PETERSON.

According to her website, those who follow the Lion Diet have reported improvements in energy levels, mental health, and symptoms of digestive and autoimmune conditions.

## CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!

Pharmacist, Megan Lake and her fiancé Entrepreneur Josh Watson who are also incredible wildlife Photographers & nature enthusiasts decided to embark on the Lion Diet journey.





The diet consists of eating meat of basically any ruminant animal and includes salt and water. Megan keeps it real and says she is a coffee lover and doesn't restrict her coffee intake!

In just 3 weeks she noticed fat loss and disappearance of eczema. The most phenomenal change she recorded is a reduction of inflammation.

The couple has been eating steak, mince, drywors, biltong, lamb chops and skilpaddjies for 30 days and were amazed at how easy it was to cut out foods they initially thought they couldn't live without.







## Meet Kayla & Benton

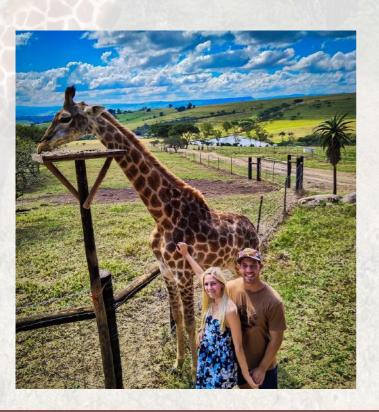
a couple that found love in the bush and united by a rescue giraffe



We are both incredibly passionate about the bush and love to travel.

### We would love to know more about how you guys met

Ben and I met through a giraffe named Emily that he rescued and raised as his own. Emily had been born prematurely and since her mother was unable to lactate, she needed to be bottled fed and hand reared. The story of the rescue was quite popular on the farm I reside on so when I realised that the "new guy and the giraffe" was going to be living on the farm, I was eager to meet them. Benton took me on a walk with Emily and since then, we have a special bond with her.







## You both seem to really love nature. What inspired this?

I have lived on a farm my entire life and grew up in nature. This always surprises people because I'm a Psychology Student, Entrepreneur, Professional Model & Fire Dancer so I look very much like a "city girl" but I actually love being in the bush and don't mind getting all muddy and dirty.

Benton is a qualified Ranger and Farm Manager who also grew up in the bush so it's something we can bond over.

84



### What was your recent trip to Zululand like?

We offer private custom safari tours and recently took a couple from the UK for a 5 day trip to Zululand. Benton plans the trips and provides an educational experience for the guests because of his knowledge and skills as a Ranger. We visited the Endoneni Cheetah Sanctuary which was awesome because we got to see the wild cats. A serval even came up to me and nudged my leg, that was really sweet.

Since we are the designated 24 hour guides, we took our guests for dinner at the St. Lucia Ski boat club and then gave them a local experience of a traditional braai. We walked on the beach and boardwalk at night, spotting some cool bird life and animals.

We couldn't leave without touring Isimangaliso and snorkeling at Cape Vidal Beach. The highlight of St. Lucia was seeing a herd of elephants crossing the main road and the matriarch being very territorial. It was a crazy experience but we always observe elephants from a safe distance and give them their space!





#### A visit to the world renowned Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park was also on your itinerary. Did it meet your expectations?

## What advice would you give couples going on safari together?

Don't be on your phone. Other than taking photos, put your phone away and spend time with your partner and connect with each other through nature.

Benton and I connect so well and we are extremely happy when we are in nature.

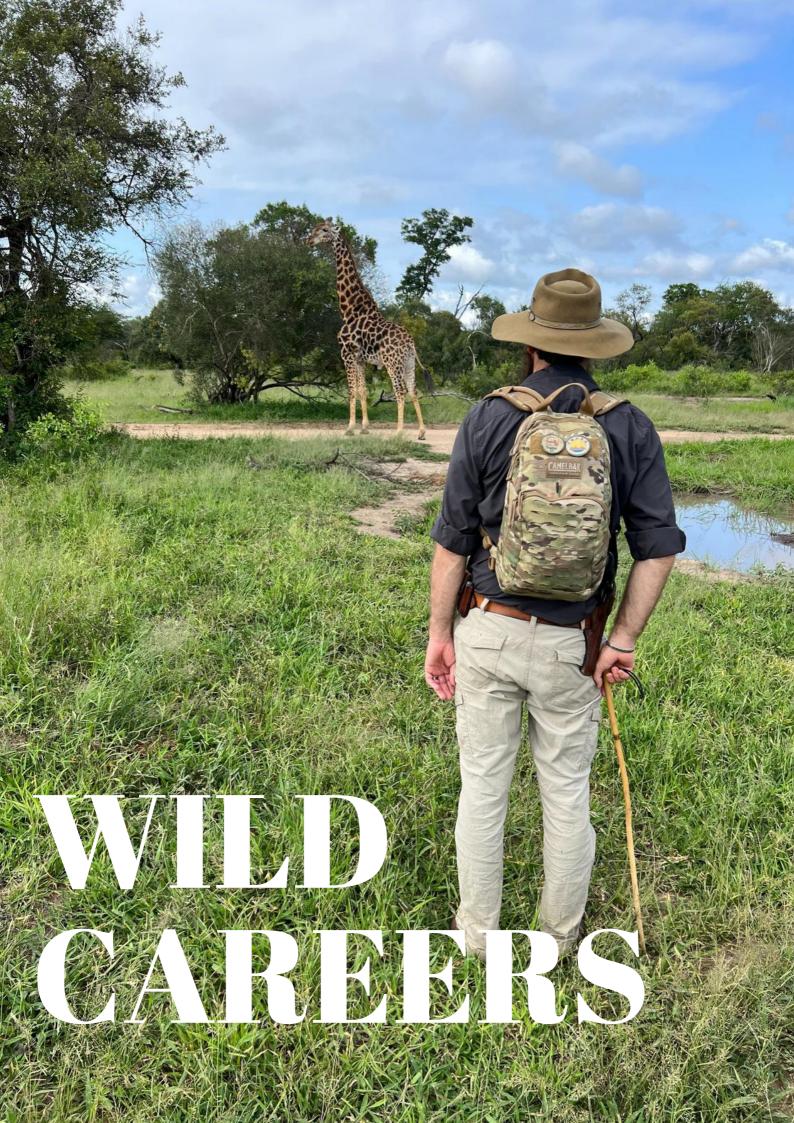
Many people don't appreciate nature and yet it's so out of this world! Give your full attention to your partner while in nature and allow yourself to be humbled by mother nature herself.

We stayed at Hilltop Camp for 3 days and toured both the sections of the park. We enjoyed the buffet breakfast, having our own braais and seeing 4 of the big 5. Our core memory is the experience we had at Ubhejane hide.

We could hear elephants in the distance so we decided to wait 2 hours until they showed up to the waterhole. It was one of the best experiences in my life, they were about 200 elephants interacting with each other. The little elephants learning how to use their trunks for the first time was adorable. It was such a humbling experience and something that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

Join Kayla & Benton on a bespoke safari experience





## FOLLOW YOUR OWN TRAIL

Awaking at 5 am to begin work seems rather daunting for people, especially if they lack the sight of a deep orange sky coupled with the roaring sounds of nature and not forgetting, lions! For Nature Guides employed at Lodges and Bush Camps, the morning ignites a sense of passion and we are thrilled to see what the day has in store for us. After we encounter our colleagues who have become friends at the Lodge, we engage in conversation regarding the possible sightings our guests can expect for the day. We pay attention to the sounds of the bush, hearing lions calling, leopards vocalising, elephants trumpeting, birds singing as all sorts of life start to awaken. This incredible experience allows us to focus and reminds us why we immensely love what we do.

#### My career as a Guide

I began my career as a Guide when I was 21 years of age. The Guides who trained me had a massive impact on my goals and I aspired to be like them.

Networking is a great idea as you are able to meet people who influence you, resulting in gaining mentors and role models. Mentors are important to Guides, they teach and motivate Guides to learn and practise the craft of Guiding.



Hi! I am Jack Hutchinson, a FGASA SKS DG Trails Guide Mentor, I help young Guides with attaining their hours and encounters for their Trails Guide qualifications. I teach guides about safety on bush walks with guests, how to carefully approach animals and provide a great holistic guided experience on foot. I am based in the Thornybush Nature Reserve and have been employed at The Thornybush Game Lodge for the last 10 years. During my experience as the dedicated Trails Guide for the Lodge, I accompany guests on bush walks in the morning and afternoon.

#### My Mentor & Inspiration

Bruce Lawson is my role model - he is a Trails guide and trainer in the Northern Kruger. Bruce has a reputation of being a remarkable Guide and great mentor. After meeting him, I was certain that I wanted to train and teach Guides walking and tracking. He motivated me to walk more and spend my free time in the bush. practising tracking and birding.





#### My goals

I believe that in life, it is so important to always be goal driven. I still have goals to achieve and my next step is to attain FGASA Scout. which is becoming a Senior Tracker and eventually becoming a Cybertracker Evaluator - ambitious but

#### A day in the life

achievable!

After feasting on delicious meals, guests are keen for bush walks and are thrilled to burn some calories, even though we only walk an average of 5 km. We start by having some coffee then proceed to chat about the walk to inform quests about safety and other important aspects.

During a walk we pause to interpret the bush, tracks and signs along with bird calls and look for animals to view on foot. The experience of being able to walk in the bush and the unexpected adventure it brings makes sighting animals, a bonus. A walk is a much slower approach to being in nature and you become part of an ecosystem rather than viewing it from the safety of a game viewer.



There are no marked trails or routes to take, we saunter in the wilderness and let nature direct us. We do not simply walk through the bush as we will miss the subtleties that nature is communicating. 89

## My advice to other Guides

Trail Guides, although it is a long road, it will make your career worth it. Popular and leading Lodges long for Guides who can professionally accompany guests for walks. The Trails Guide qualification makes a Guide very employable. Get out there and keep walking! We are fortunate to live in a place surrounded by nature and beautiful wildlife that people dedicate their entire lives to be part of.

## What you need to begin your trails journey

You need to have achieved the Apprentice Field Guide NQF2 qualification as a self study guide or be on course with a FGASA endorsed training program with a Training Provider. Comply with all legal requirements (CATHSSETA) as well as all FGASA membership requirements.

You also need to have the done following:

- 1. First Aid Level 1 Certificate, currently valid
- 2. The FGASA Trails Guide theory exam
  - 3. The FGASA Advanced Rifle Handling
- 4. Tracker qualification (this can be achieved during the apprentice program)

## For more detailed information, visit the FGASA website on www.fgasa.co.za

Jack also provides mentored hours for FGASA Apprentice Trail Guides that require hours. This package is R1500 p.p per night and includes the bed, meals, rifles, 1 on 1 and mentoring.



## BEAUTY IN THE BUSH

## DRY SKIN ON A WINTER SAFARI?



The last thing you want to worry about while watching a winter sunset is flaky skin!

Start by using a gentle, hydrating cleanser then use an alcohol free toner to restore the PH levels of your skin. Once you have toned, add a moisturising serum or facial oil (we recommend squalene for sensitive skin) that will leave you looking like a glazed donut. We aren't done just yet! Don't forget to lock in all that moisture with a nourishing moisturiser that contains SPF.

Dry skin develops when your skin loses water too quickly and becomes dehydrated. Avoid itchy, red and scaly skin on safari by using a body oil and a creamy body Lotion that moisturises deeply to help relieve dry skin, protecting and nourishing it for up to 72 hours after application.



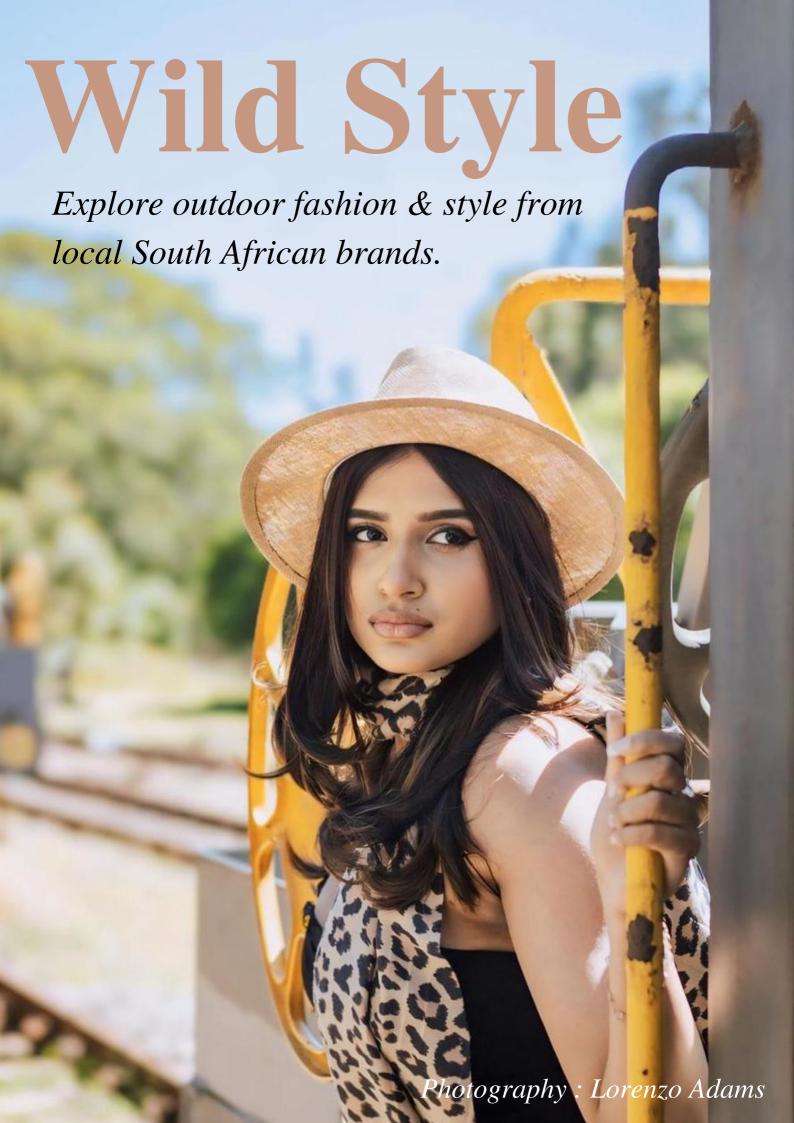
R 111.00

Available from Clicks

#### R 129.00 Available from Fundamentals or Takelot











Diane Naidoo, Attorney and Fashion enthusiast on a guided game drive at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park.

# CHIC & CLASSIC

Winter safari fashion offers endless opportunities for creativity! Try mixing neutral and patterned pieces together, like pairing a striped fitted dress with a sleek cropped jacket or layering a sweater over a dress for an effortless look. Remember, layering is a perfect way to stay warm and also an opportunity to show your unique style by combining different pieces in interesting ways.

Shop the look Jacket and dress - Mr Price Handbag -Truworths

## SAFARI FASHION

our inspo for the month

Fashion is a great way for people to express themselves and showcase their individuality. Being on safari is no exception and fashion enthusiast, Diane proved that you can actually blend comfort and style together especially at Africa's oldest proclaimed Reserve.



# THE BEAUTY

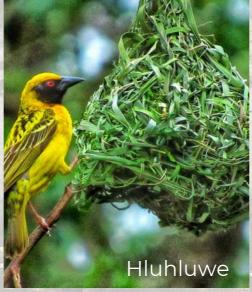
TRAVEL INSPO

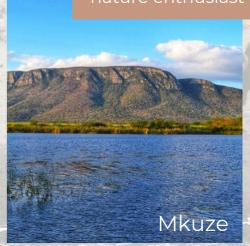
of Zululand











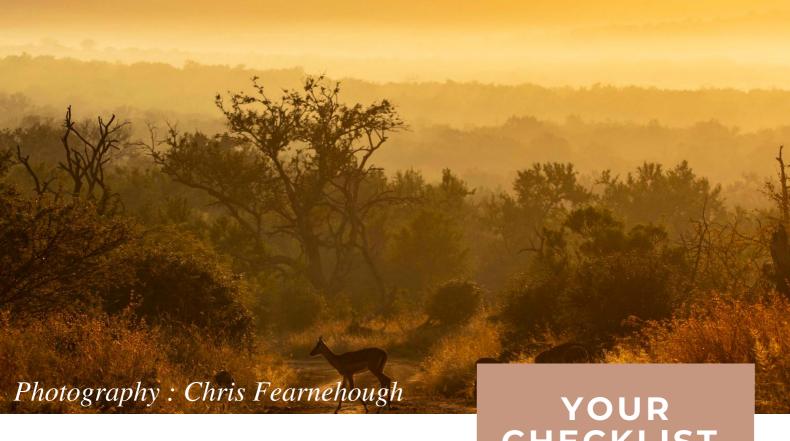
Photographer &

## WINTER SAFARI



As the winter sun cases a golden glow over the vast mountains of Zululand, wildlife sightings become frequent due to the cooler, drier whether.

Photography: Chris Fearnehough



### WHAT TO PACK FOR A WINTER **SAFARI**

Guided game drives usually take place in the early morning or late afternoon which can be a tad chilly during winter. Temperatures rise during midday which means layering is your best friend!

Most safari lodges offer laundry services so don't overpack. If you prefer a self-drive safari, remember to wear comfy clothing and pack a light throw for that crisp afternoon breeze.

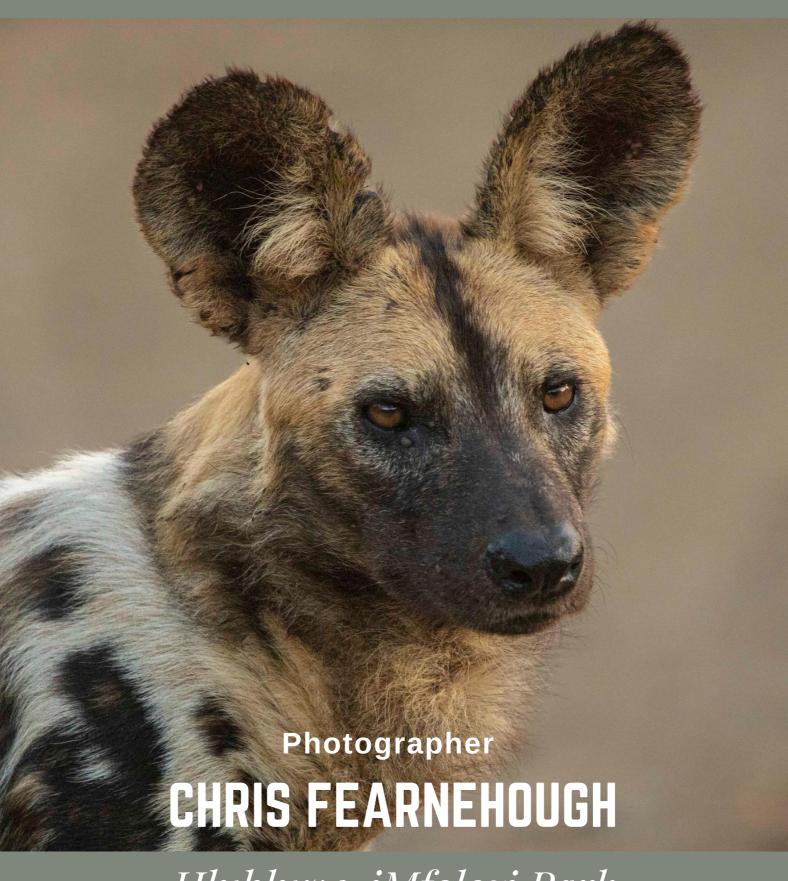
## YOUR CHECKLIST

Warm jacket Lightweight sweatshirts Flannel PJ'S Polarized sunglasses Wide brim sun hat Lip balm/lip oil Hydrating skincare Padded parka jacket Scarves **Beanies** Gloves Windbreaker jacket Long pants Comfy closed shoes Warm socks Sunscreen

Don't forget your binoculars, camera products.

## WILD GALLERY

SEE THE BEAUTY OF ZULULAND THROUGH A DIFFERENT LENS



Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park

## TOP SIGHTINGS

Wildlife, Landscape and Travel Photographer, Chris Fearnehough from England shared his gallery from his latest trip to Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park with us and it's guaranteed to take your breath away.

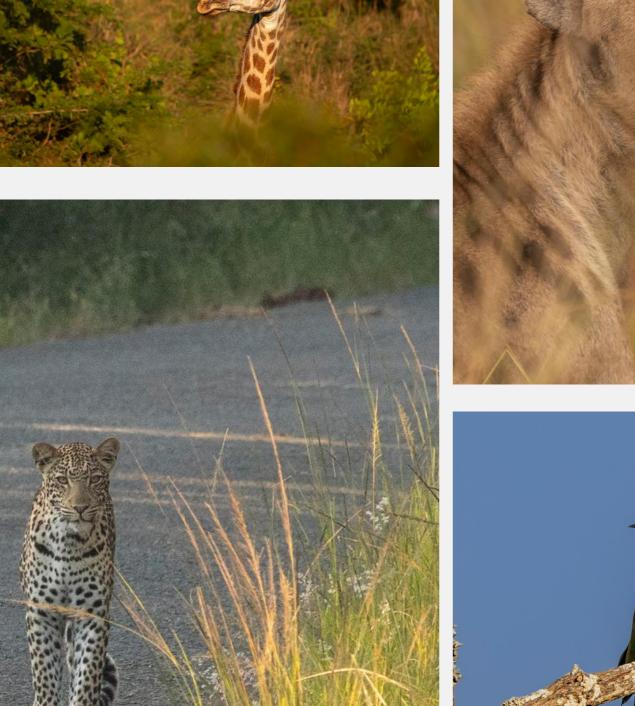




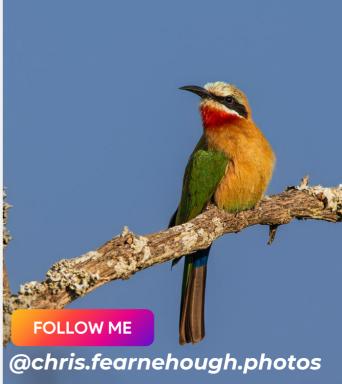












DISCOVER
Tranquility



#### **EMBRACE THE WILD**

And retreat to nature's sanctuary

# Private paradise in the heart of Zululand

COMFORTABLE SELF-CATERING
ACCOMMODATION ON A PRIVATELY
OWNED GAME FARM LOCATED 18
KM OUTSIDE HLUHLUWE.

The farm is the ideal destination for guests seeking a tranquil getaway in natural surroundings. This beautiful home comprises of 2 air-conditioned cabins nestled on the banks of a lake.

Immersed in nature's embrace, every detail is designed to offer a transformative experience, where guests reconnect with themselves and the natural world in perfect harmony.









Outdoor toilets, a fully equipped kitchen, a patio with an option of a rolled down canvas for cooler days, a boma and a jetty make Sunset Plains perfect for a serene retreat in nature.

Outdoor activities offer a plethora of adventures and experiences that will connect you with nature such as trail walking amidst the beautiful wildlife, kayaking, mountain bike riding, game drives and bass fishing.



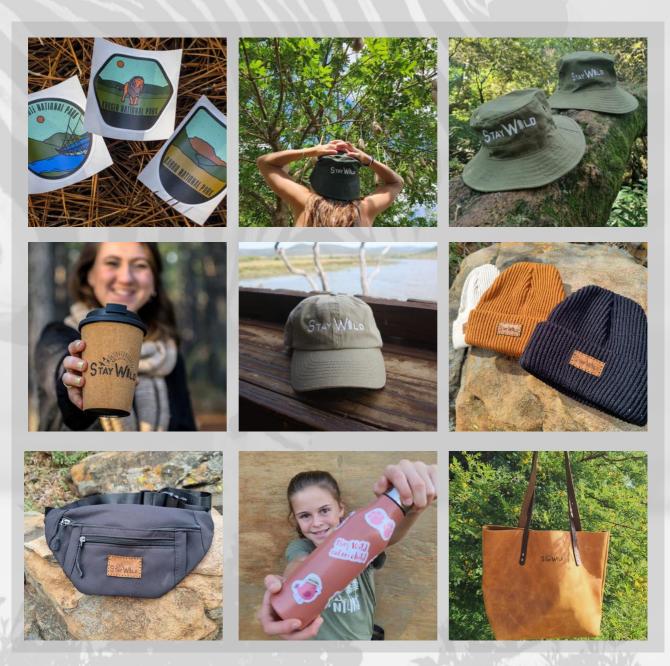




Our mission is to inspire a love and appreciation for nature so that we can preserve it for future generations.

We provide outdoor clothing and accessories, create awareness about non-profit organisations that takes care of wild animals and share our outdoor adventure pics taken across our beautiful continent.

# STAY W\*LD GIFT GUIDE

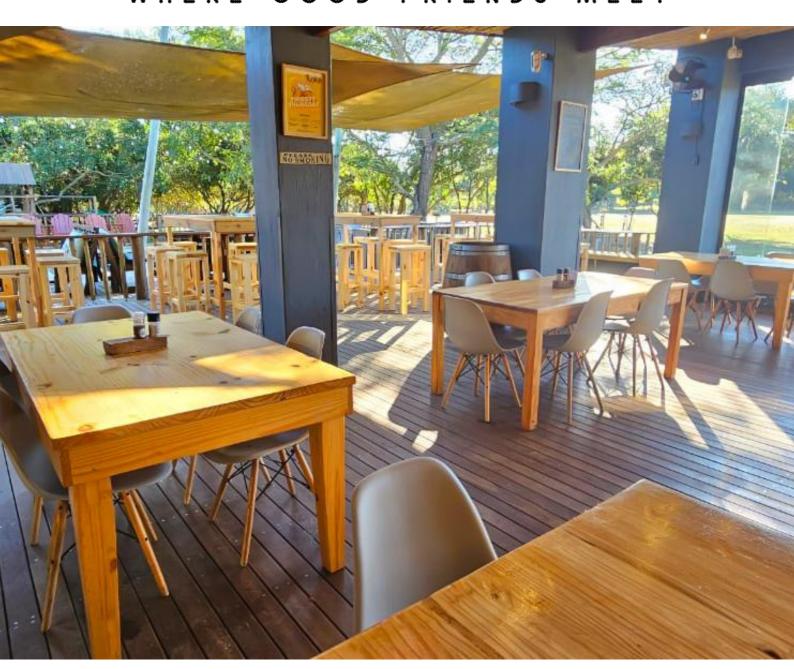


Visit our online shop today



Scan the QR code

# Rafikis WHERE GOOD FRIENDS MEET



#### Family friendly

An adventure for all ages, where everyone's taste buds are delighted!



087 092 8973

#### Vibrant atmosphere

Where every meal dances with vibrancy and laughter fills the air.

@rafikis



#### **Activities galore**

Endless activities for the whole family to enjoy and explore!

## The ultimate culinary adventure

Located off the R22 at Zulu Croc amidst the African bush lies a vibrant, family friendly restaurant where every bite promises new flavors and memorable moments.

The restaurant's décor echoes the calm and natural theme of the bush with a modern twist - sleek wooden tables are softly illuminated by the glow of the winter sun and earthy tones invite a warm atmosphere. Breathe in the fresh air as you choose between a delicious seafood platter for two, a succulent lamb shank in a bed of creamy mash with perfectly roasted vegetables or opt for a fresh sushi platter as the briny freshness of the ocean, the faint hint of wasabi, and the earthy warmth of toasted sesame awakens your palate.

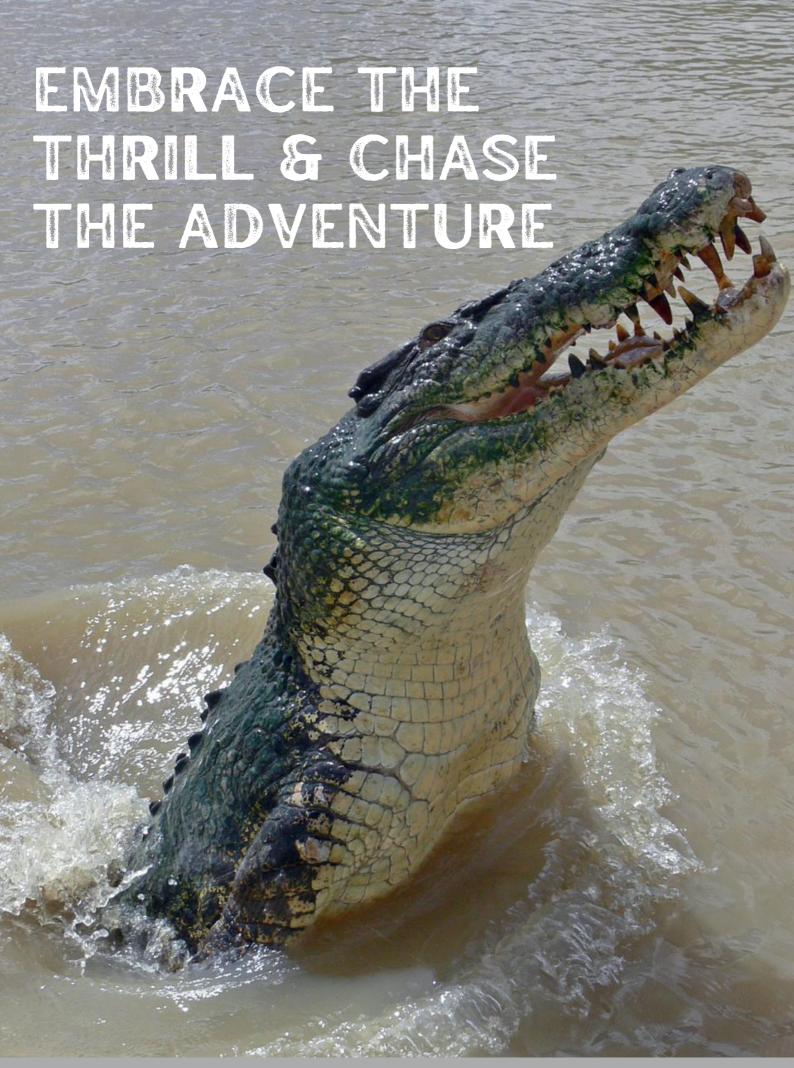
Rafikis blends tradition with innovation as dishes are crafted to ignite your senses. From Quiz Night Specials to Thirsty Thursdays Beer, Cider & Gin selections - the restaurant is a perfect spot to catch up with friends or grab a delicious breakfast before a game drive.

Keep it local & lekker, watch the Rugby game live on the big screen while enjoying a towering juicy burger that defies convention. Relish in a scrumptious patty nestled between soft toasted buns, crisp lettuce leaves, ripe tomato and a creamy slice of cheese - a journey where culinary creativity meets pure delight.









WWW.ZULUCROC.CO.ZA







Unleash your wild side at
Zulu Croc and view a variety
of crocodile, spiders, snake &
iguanas. From educational
talks by enthusiastic Guides
to mini golf, game drives
and an animal farm, fun is
guaranteed for the entire
family. Grab a bite to eat at
Rafikis restaurant after
completing the awesome
activities!

### OPENING HOURS

shop@rafikis.net.za | 🕓 082 045 1647 | 👽 087 092 8973



Monday & Tuesday 08:30-16:30

Wednesday to Saturday 08:30- 20:30

Sunday & Public Holidays 08:30- 15:30

#### ZULU CROC

Monday to Friday 08:00-16:00

> Saturday 08:00- 17:00

Sunday 08:00-15:00





"If children grow up not knowing about nature and appreciating it, they will not understand it, and if they don't understand it, they won't protect it, and if they don't protect it, who will?"

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

## Self drive safari



creative

Φ

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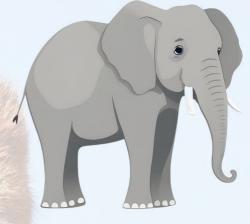


Thinking of going on safari but your kids don't meet the minimum age requirement for the guided game drives or you simply prefer the self-drive experience but don't know how to navigate it with kids? We got you covered.

is y

Since a self-drive lacks the knowledge that a qualified Ranger provides on a guided drive, mom or dad - you have to play Ranger for the day. Education is essential especially for developing young minds. You will find a page on basic facts about common animals that you will see on safari and will enable you to have your moment to shine when you finally spot that animal. Throw in some quizzes at the end to keep them entertained!

# Animal Facts for



ELEPHANTS ARE THE LARGEST LAND ANIMALS. THEY CAN SWIM AND USE THEIR TRUNKS AS A SNORKEL WHEN CROSSING RIVERS.

A GROUP OF RHINOS ARE CALLED A "CRASH". THEY ARE ENDANGERED BECAUSE OF HUMANS POACHING THEM FOR THEIR HORNS.



THE GIRAFFE IS THE TALLEST LAND ANIMAL. THEY ARE RUMINANTS AND HAVE A STOMACH WITH FOUR COMPARTMENTS THAT DIGEST THE LEAVES THEY EAT



A GROUP OF ZEBRAS CAN BE CALLED A DAZZLE. THEY USE THEIR STRIPES AS CAMOUFLAGE WHEN THEY ARE IN A BIG GROUP TO CONFUSE PREDATORS BY MAKING IT HARDER TO PICK OUT AN INDIVIDUAL ZEBRA TO HUNT.

A LIONS ROAR CAN BE HEARD UP TO 8 KILOMETERS AWAY. THEY ARE GOOD CLIMBERS AND CAN BE SEEN ON TREES SEARCHING FOR PREY.



01

Safety first! Remember to stay in your vehicle at all times unless you are at a designated spot that allows you to leave the vehicle. Teach kids about the basic rules of having a safe safari experience, this will ensure they grow up learning about situational awareness, respect for wildlife and others at Game Reserves. Do not allow kids to stick their head/arms out of the window/sunroof.

02

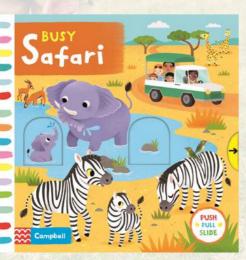
Ensure you pack plenty of snacks, water, and perhaps some treats that your kids enjoy. Safari self-drives can be long, and having snacks on hand can prevent hunger-induced meltdowns. Create your own mix with a variety of nuts, dried fruits (like raisins, apricots, or cranberries), and some chocolate chips or M&M's for a sweet treat.

03

Allow kids to use binoculars to spot wildlife from afar and cameras to capture their favorite moments. Disposable or child-friendly cameras can be particularly exciting for them. Make sure kids are comfortable with appropriate car seats or booster seats for their age and size. Consider bringing cushions or pillows for added comfort during the drive.

### BUY NOW

#### **CAMPBELL BUSY SAFARI BOARD BOOK**



- Exciting new title in the Bestselling Busy Book
   Series, with push, pull and slide mechanisms
   throughout
- Over four million Busy Books have been sold in 26 different languages
- · Great for early learning
- Perfect to share with little animal-lovers who love to play as they read



The centre offers interactive exhibits, feeding shows, and a chance to learn about these ancient creatures. A curio shop and tea garden is also situated at the centre.



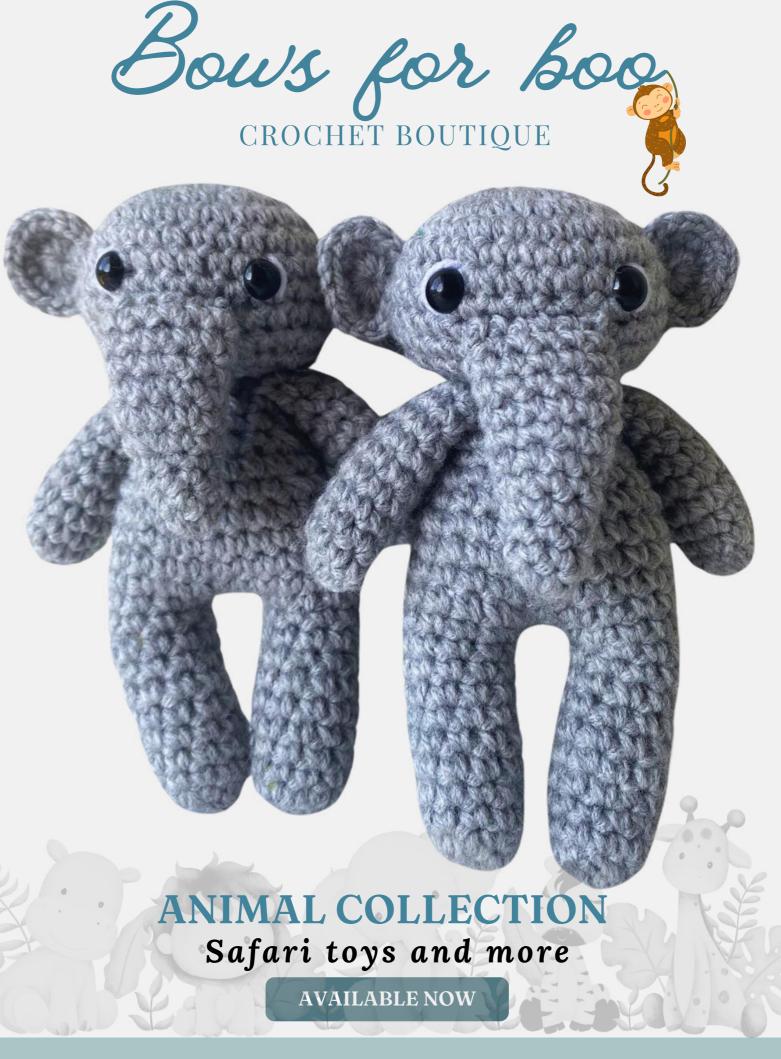
The Crocodile Centre was first established to conserve the diminishing numbers of Nile crocodiles.

## **KID FRIENDLY IDEA**

The Crocodile Centre St. Lucia is situated at the entrance to the Eastern Shores of the Isimangaliso Wetland Park, St Lucia. The Centre provides an educational experience for kids as they get to learn about the different species of crocodiles.







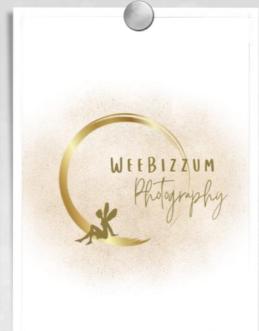




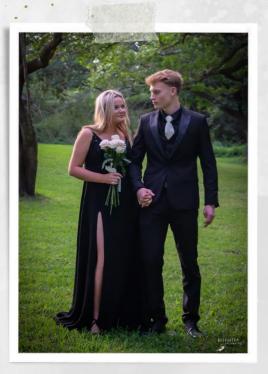












CAPTURE

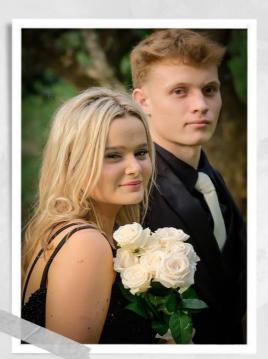
YOUR MOST PRECIOUS Moments

**BOOK A PHOTOSHOOT** 

074 021 6710









## St. Lucia







tough as a Rhino

Perfect for camping & overlanding

RELAX WITH THE RAUTENBACH'S

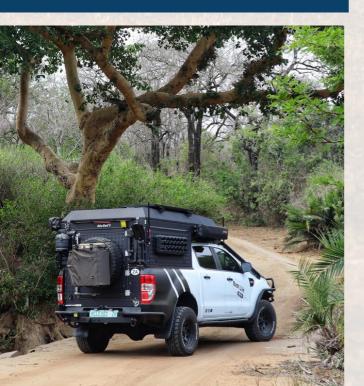
Wild Hearts, Adventurous Souls



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We have travelled to many places within Zululand and across our borders, but the place that holds a very special place in our hearts is Hluhluwe – iMfolozi Park.

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# Welcome to our Bush Life in Africa

We are Connor and Kirsten, a couple driven by a shared passion for adventure and the great outdoors. Our trusty companion on this exhilarating journey is Bhejane, our rugged and reliable Ford Ranger. Overlanding has become our way of life, allowing us to explore breath-taking landscapes and connect with nature in its purest form. Join us as we navigate through diverse terrains, embrace new challenges, and create unforgettable memories with Bhejane leading the way.

Our adventure with Bhejane is a testament to our dedication, time, and effort. When we began our camping lifestyle, we started with just a nylon tent and a cooler box. As we camped more frequently, we continuously adapted and upgraded our camping setup to better suit our needs and comforts. Today, Bhejane stands as a fully equipped and reliable companion, reflecting the countless hours and resources we've invested to make every journey memorable and enjoyable.

Our current camping set up, our mini home on wheels as we call it, is the Alucab Canopy Camper, which fits onto the back of our Ranger - with a custom DIY interior storage/ living area, as well as a pop-up roof which has ample sleeping space.



Its design offers excellent protection against the elements and ensures a quick and easy set-up, allowing you to transition smoothly from driving to camping.

Bhejane is equipped with 110 litres of fresh drinking water which also allows us to shower and wash dishes. A 165 litre diesel tank gives us over 1000 km of range.

A full 12v off grid electrical system and 2 x fridge/freezers are included, totalling to 105 litres of space.

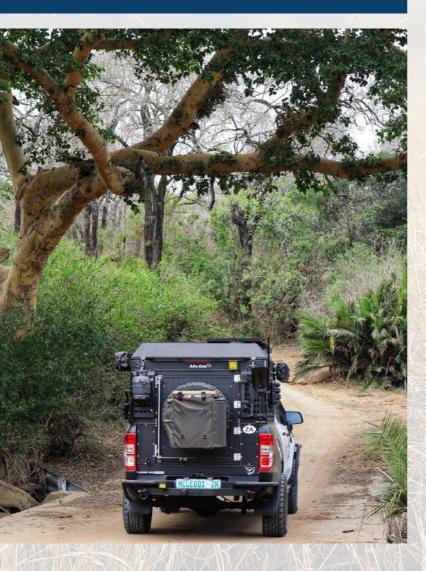
We visited Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park 32 times in 1 year. The thrill of sighting different wildlife to tick off our sighting list, keeps us coming back, with each visit being a unique experience of its own. Our favourite campsite in Hluhluwe is Nyalazi Campsite – where we got engaged, just less than 5km from the Nyalazi gate.

It is a beautiful little campsite that overlooks the Park. We have sat many afternoons in our camping chairs and watched a variety of animals as the sun goes down. It's not only the bush that we seek. We have travelled to many places within Zululand such as Kosi Bay, Maputu Land, Black Rock, Banga Neck, Lake Sibaya, Bonamanzi Game Reserve and cape Vidal to name a few.

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# BHEJANE WOULDN'T BE COMPLETE WITHOUT SOME OF OUR FAVOURITE ADDITIONS





- 1. GripMax R/T Tires, A-Line Rims, IronMan Suspension and Front Runner RoofRack as well as all our wheel alignment from Tiger Wheel n Tyre
- 2. Viper Performance Exhaust, which helps with overall performance and delivers an awesome sound!
- 3. Roar X spotlights which turn night into day
- 4. M Tech Communications Whips, which allow us to communicate further from remote places
- 5. Flex Adventures 12v fridges/freezers that keep our food fresh and drinks cold while out on our adventures
- 6. Adventure X batteries which provides us with 300 amps of lithium power. This allows us to stay off grid for longer periods of time
- 7. 4x4 Assist canvas products which include our bin bag, arm rests and dash cover allowing us ample storage space and comfort while travelling
- 8. On Point Welding and Assembly who have always brought our custom vision to life, which includes our roof tray, BushLife-Bar drinks holder and modifications to our bar work
- 9. Cays Designs who has done all our custom vinyl and wrapping of Bhejane, to make her look as good as she does





As we continue this journey with Bhejane, our beloved Ford Ranger, from our humble beginnings with a nylon tent and a cooler box to the immersive experiences in Hluhluwe, where our engagement unfolded, every moment has shaped our understanding of nature's beauty and resilience. Join us as we continue to navigate the rugged terrains, forge unforgettable memories, and embrace the transformative power of the wild.

## UNTIL NEXT TIME,

Connor, Kirsten & Bhejane





CAMPING MADE EASY

## We share your passion for the outdoors



www.bundutec.co.za

## BunduTop

The tent boasts entry from any side, giving you 360 access and view. The roof of the BunduTop is a raw aluminium sheet to ensure maximum heat reflection and is the main reason you can sleep comfortably cool inside, even in direct sunlight. The frame built into the bottom of the tent provides additional strength and makes it versatile to mount. It can be bolted directly to your load bars or roof rack. The tent has been tested extensively in various locations and weather types.





## Added Room

The BunduAnnex (Added Room) follows the same product guidelines as the BunduTop – ease of use.

What is included?

1 x Long Rope Guide Extrusion

2 x Short Rope Guide Extrusion

2 x Rods

1 x Round Tube

1 x BunduAnnex Roof

Side Panel Optional

The BunduAnnex offers a private entry to your tent and keeps off the rain. It has openings on each side at the top which due to it's nature cannot be permanently closed.

The side panel used to enclose it is a basic design that offers privacy and ventilation. It was also designed to be easy to use and remove and does not offer any luxurious trimmings, but rather a straightforward design with utility in mind.

The BunduAnnex comes in a standard size and a custom size for longer BunduTops.



height to the slope of the roof to give better water drainage and prevents large pockets of water collecting on top of your awning.



## BunduSuite

The BunduSuite can be used as a standalone dressing room for your privacy needs, or in conjunction with the BunduAnnex for a fully closed entrance to your BunduTop.

It is nearly double the width of the cube, offering an annex to your BunduTop.

Specs

1.2m (47 inches) x 2.1m (82 inches), +/-5.5kg (12 lbs)



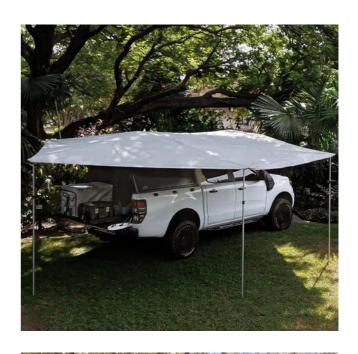
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We have a profound passion for wildlife photography and are avid nature enthusiasts. Through wildlife photography, we bring storytelling to life and share our experiences in the wild which enables us to form a connection with people all over the world who share a similar sentiment for nature. In our Ford Ranger, we have created countless unforgettable memories. From dirt roads, winding gaps and jolted tracks in the wilderness, our vehicle has poven reliable, leading us to the bush and back each time, with remarkable moments we will always treasure.

Our BunduAwn from BunduTec has provided us with an enhanced outdoor experience. The simple set up and take down is perfect as it grants us more time to unwind and absorb nature. It's as easy as 123! Unzip & loosen straps, walk it out and anchor. Wherever our adventure takes us, the BunduAwn always ensures we are shaded, refreshed and at ease.











"The Wilds Guesthouse is a self-catering guesthouse with the option for breakfast at an extra cost. There are braai facilities, but the rooms do not lend themselves to meal preparation. There is a communal swimming pool. The hosts are very hospitable and caring. The guesthouse has a great location, it is close to town and Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park. There is secure parking, WiFi and a television in the room. The rooms are clean, comfy, and beautifully decorated. However, the self-catering preparation space is limited and noise policies should be more strict".

#### - Noleen Clarice Turner

In this section you will find:
Honest reviews by guests to help you make an informed decision about booking accommodation.

## MPILA & MKUZE

"The two bed chalets at Mpila are lovely. They have the essentials such as a fridge, stove, kettle and necessary utensils. The tents offer a better bush experience and are well equipped. A private braai area is also located on the property. The electricity goes off at 10 pm and is switched on at 6 am. There is a gas system for the hot water and stove. There are aspects of the camp that need to be maintained.

Mkuze has a variety of tents, chalets, rest huts and a camp site which are all fantastic. There is power all day and night. Hides are excellent and beautiful. There is also an eatery (Rhino - dino) where you can have a simple meal, note food hours are limited".

#### - Priscilla Blunt

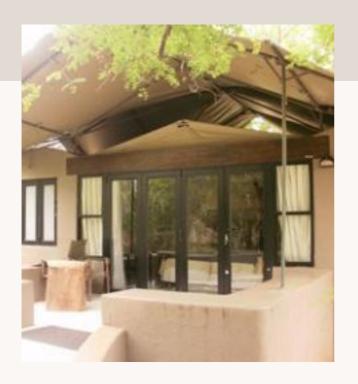








Send your review to INFO@IMVUBUCREATIONS.CO.ZA



"Approximately 5 km off the main road into the bush lies Nselweni bush camp. It is a tented camp overlooking the river. Some units have river views and there is a viewing deck overlooking the river for those who do not have views from their tents. A wonderful spot to sit and have a sundowner in the evening. The tents are surrounded by lovely bush with buck, warthog and other creatures you see from the comfort of your veranda. Each tent has a bathroom en suite as well as a fully equipped kitchen.

## NSELWENI BUSH CAMP

The tent has massive folding doors opening up to the veranda and all tents are wheelchair friendly. The camp is fenced to keep large animals out and the rest are able to roam about. Not a good idea to sleep with your doors open. We had hyena walking past us during the evening".

#### - Merle Zulberg



"Nselweni was a 8/10, it's modern luxury camping, always had hot water and the shower was amazing. Being surrounded by nature was a nice experience and the only downfall was that electricity went off at 10 pm and returned at 5 am".

#### - Tiana Naidoo

## COMMUNITY NEWS





## The aftermath of the Zamimpilo Market fire

On 8 May 2024, a fire broke out at the Zamimpilo market situated in eMfekayi, Mtubatuba. It was reported that the generator had exploded and destroyed the items sold by about 150 local women.

The market was established by the women who faced economic difficulties after their husbands lost their jobs in the mine. The women sold fresh fruit and African curios which helped them generate an income and support their families.

Our organisation began to collect gently used clothing, blankets, non-perishable food items and cash donations to help the women in their plight. Shortly, we began to receive assistance from generous individuals, organisations and businesses that offered to join the donation drive.



The Zamimpilo market before the fire







## Local Zamimpilo women & families aided by The DICE (Do I Care Enough?) Community

Piles of clothing, shoes and blankets were donated by DICE to the Zamimpilo women affected by the fire. Overwhelmed by the generosity, the women began to feel a sense of hope knowing that they have the support of their local community to assist them in their plight. The mission of DICE, a charity arm at the Zululand Observer is upliftment of the people of Zululand regardless of race, creed or colour through the promotion of peace, stability and reconstruction.

The Zamimpilo market is a platform for economic women empowerment and an immense loss was suffered due to the fire. Receiving a heartfelt support from the community has given the local women strength to keep fighting their battle. We are grateful to the Empangeni and surrounding community who collected donations and assisted in transporting same. A true testament to the fact that when women support each other, incredible things happen!



#### Fresh fruit

A wide variety of farm fresh fruit is available from juicy oranges to delicious queen pineapples.

## +27 73 108 7935

## Handmade baskets & curios

The talented locals displatheir unique handmade items- perfect as home decor or souvenirs.





## SUPPORT LOCAL

SMALL BUSINESSES



Supporting local businesses helps create jobs, keeps money circulating within the community, and contributes to a vibrant local economy.



## COMPETITION

If you are a ranger or work in conservation, tell us about your story in a comment on this post and we will choose a lucky winner to receive a unique art piece titled "Rhino Mother & Baby"





Honouring World Female Ranger Week



#### How to enter:

- Leave a comment and briefly tell us a story about your experience in conservation
- Follow our page on Instagram @vukari\_art, or on Facebook @vukariart
- Like this post
- Tag a fellow ranger or conversationalist in the comment

Winner will be announced on 31st July. We look forward to reading your entries!