

EXPLORING THE BUSHVELD

Sep 2022
by Vihaan Gayathri





**"WE'RE ALL CONNECTED IN THE
GREAT CIRCLE OF LIFE."**

MUFASA, THE LION KING

FOREWORD

Our trip to the Kruger was long overdue. We'd had to postpone it twice before, due to the pandemic. With all the planning that goes into such a vacation, there's always a sense of anticipation.

And this trip was no exception. Anticipation was certainly in the air. This time, Vihaan involved himself in trip planning, well in advance. Every day, he made research notes about the park - which routes to take, what we were likely to see and even where we should stop for a picnic! The payoff was evident during the trip as Vihaan emerged a more than able assistant to his dad, when planning each day's drive.

Last year, when we travelled to the Mara, Vihaan wrote his first travel memoir - "Into Africa". He's continued the practice on this trip as well. This photo-book is a version of Vihaan's trip diary. It's come alive with some editing help from his mother and photographs from his father.

We hope you enjoy exploring and learning about the bushveld through Vihaan's perspective, as he takes you through the experiences of our trip. He'll tell you about not just our sightings but also some interesting facts. Enjoy reading!

Gayathri and Sumeet
(Vihaan's parents)



INTRODUCTION

We travelled to South Africa between 3rd and 22nd September 2022. On this wonderful trip to Kruger National park with me were my mom, my dad and my sister Avni. This was everyone's first trip to Kruger and Avni's first international trip. I love going on safaris, especially in Africa. My first international trip was in 2019 to Namibia, to celebrate my sixth birthday.

My dad enjoys photography and absolutely loves these wildlife trips. He's happy to visit just about any place in Africa. My mom was on a three month sabbatical and this trip was the start of her sabbatical.

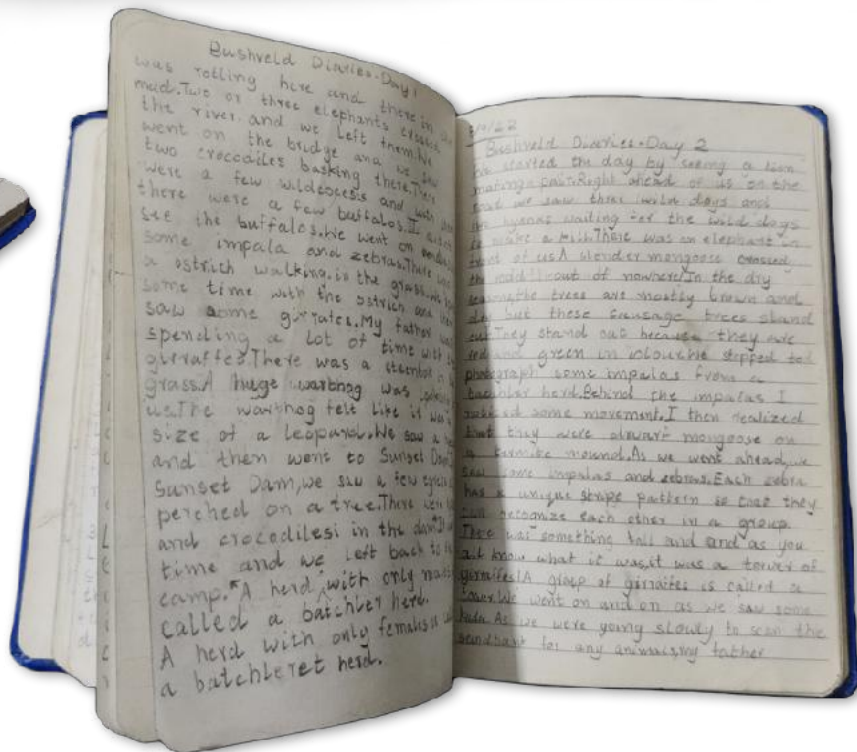
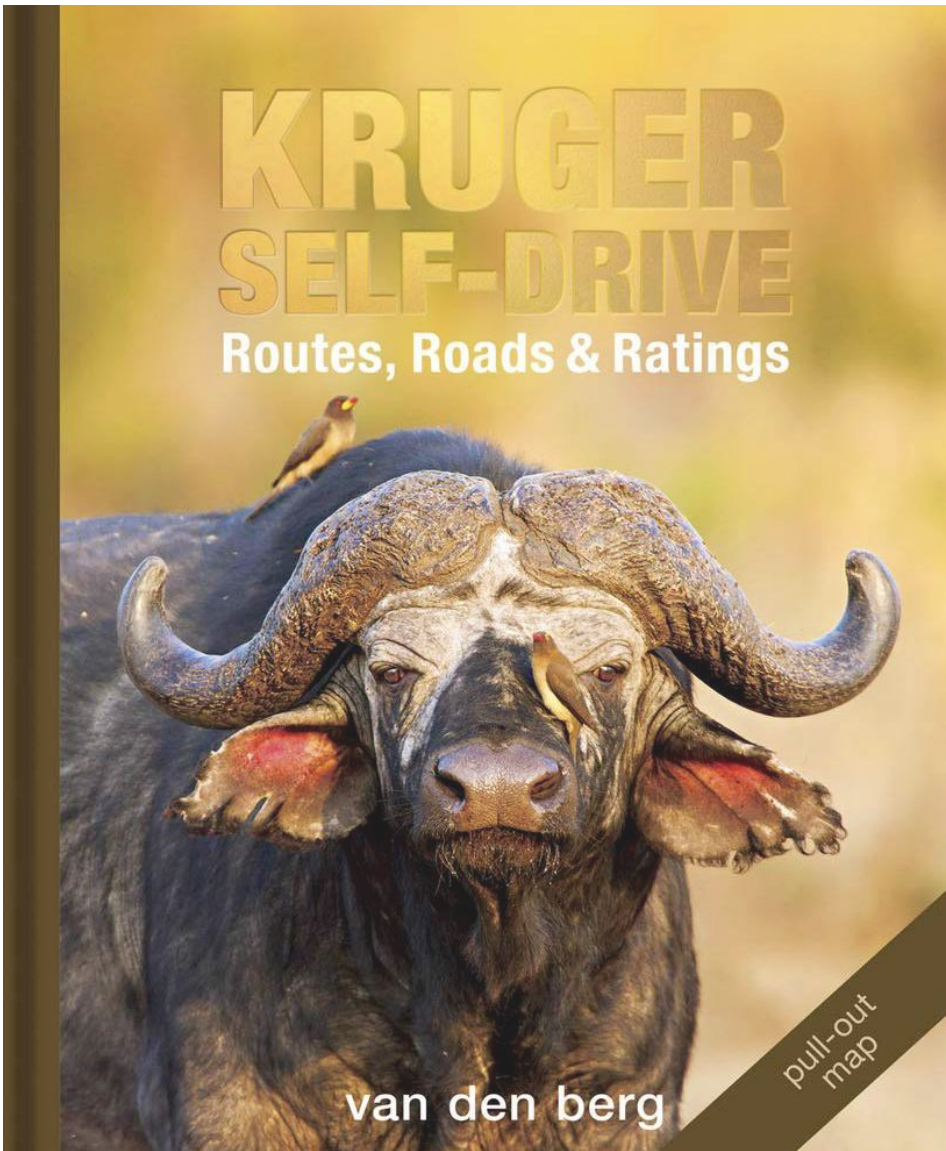
I'd been looking forward to this trip for the last several months and finally it was all happening as we landed in Johannesburg.

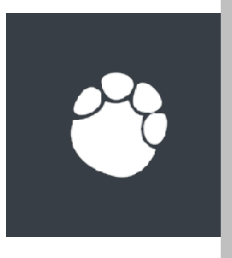
We flew to Johannesburg from Mumbai and then drove to Kruger from there, in our rented Hilux. The car was a fully equipped camping vehicle with the rooftop tents! My sister and I were so looking forward to sleeping atop the car, that we just couldn't wait for the chance. But that chance would come much later in the trip.



In this book, I'll try to cover some history of Kruger, the camps that we stayed at and why, our experiences in those three weeks, and also what I noticed of animal behaviours and their habitat. I've also a thrown in some trivia which I hope you find interesting.

If all this catches your fancy, let me also tell you about all the homework I'd done before the trip. My dad got the Kruger self-drive book. He asked me to do my own research, months before the actual trip. Every day, I spent at least 20 mins, figuring out the camps and routes around them. It helped me learn about the best habitats for certain animals and how we could make the most of our trip. I carried these research notes to Kruger and used them to plan our daily game drives. When visiting a new park, there's nothing quite like good preparation and all of it came handy.





THE PARK, ITS HISTORY, AND OUR PLAN

KRUGER BYTES

Kruger national park is about 350 kms long and 60 kms wide. It has 14 eco-zones. The park gets its name from Paul Kruger who founded the Sabie game reserve - the nucleus of the current park. Kruger's been open to the public since 1972.

Covering all of Kruger in one trip is impossible unless you plan to stay there for a few months. Some of the folks we met there - solo travellers and some families with kids, were there for over three months. And here we were, thinking 18 days is a long time!

We'd planned our stay across four camps, considering the distances and the eco-zones. Our accommodation was a fun mix across the camps. From a hut to a cottage to a bungalow to camping and sleeping in rooftop tents - my father had planned it all. I love exploring the rooms wherever we go and stay and I was excited about all these camps as well.

As you can see from the map on the right, we barely made it half way through the park during our stay of 18 days. The red line highlights the places we visited which gave us so many everlasting memories.

Let me start telling you about the sightings and the experiences I had on the trip.





FIRST CAMP, BY THE SABIE RIVER

LOWER SABIE



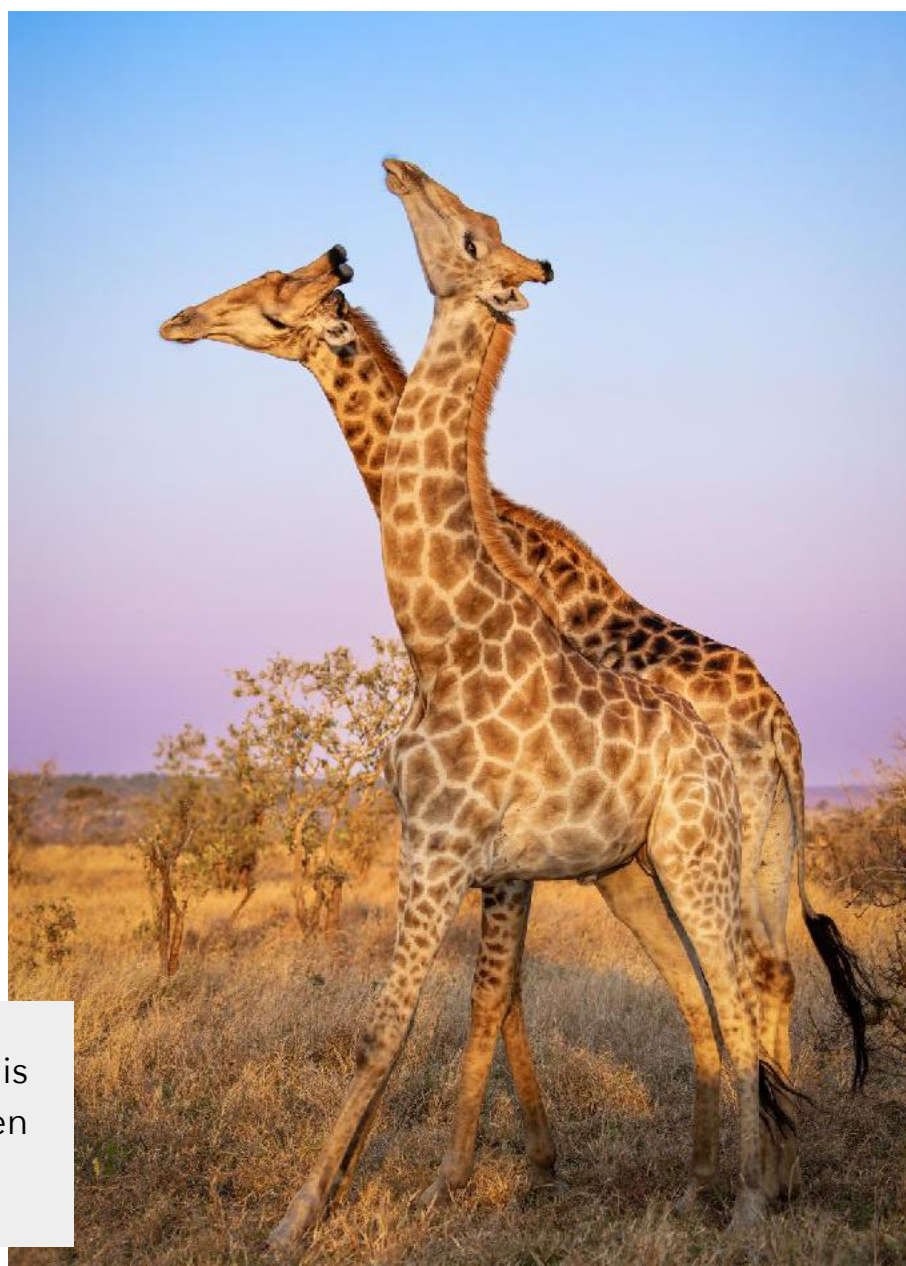
An impala and an oxpecker

Lower Sabie was the first camp we visited. We stayed here for three days in huts with a shared communal kitchen. There were elephants by the edge of the campsite - what a way to check in! A birdbath near the reception was the site for much birding action.

Amongst the top sights of that evening's drive, was a pair of necking giraffes. Before we spent some time with them, we'd had great fun watching a lilac breasted roller catch a huge locust.

DID YOU KNOW?

As giraffes grow older, their skin turns darker. This is how you can identify which giraffe is older when you spot a tower of giraffes.





Lilac breasted roller with its meal - a locust



Ibises and spoonbills at sunset

Sunset views at the “Sunset dam” near the Sabie rest camp are beautiful with scores of roosting birds. You get to enjoy nature in its loveliest golden colours.

Day 2 at Lower Sabie began with a sight of a mating pair of lions, right outside the camp gate. As we were tailing them, we realised there was more action on the same road in the form of wild dogs and hyenas.

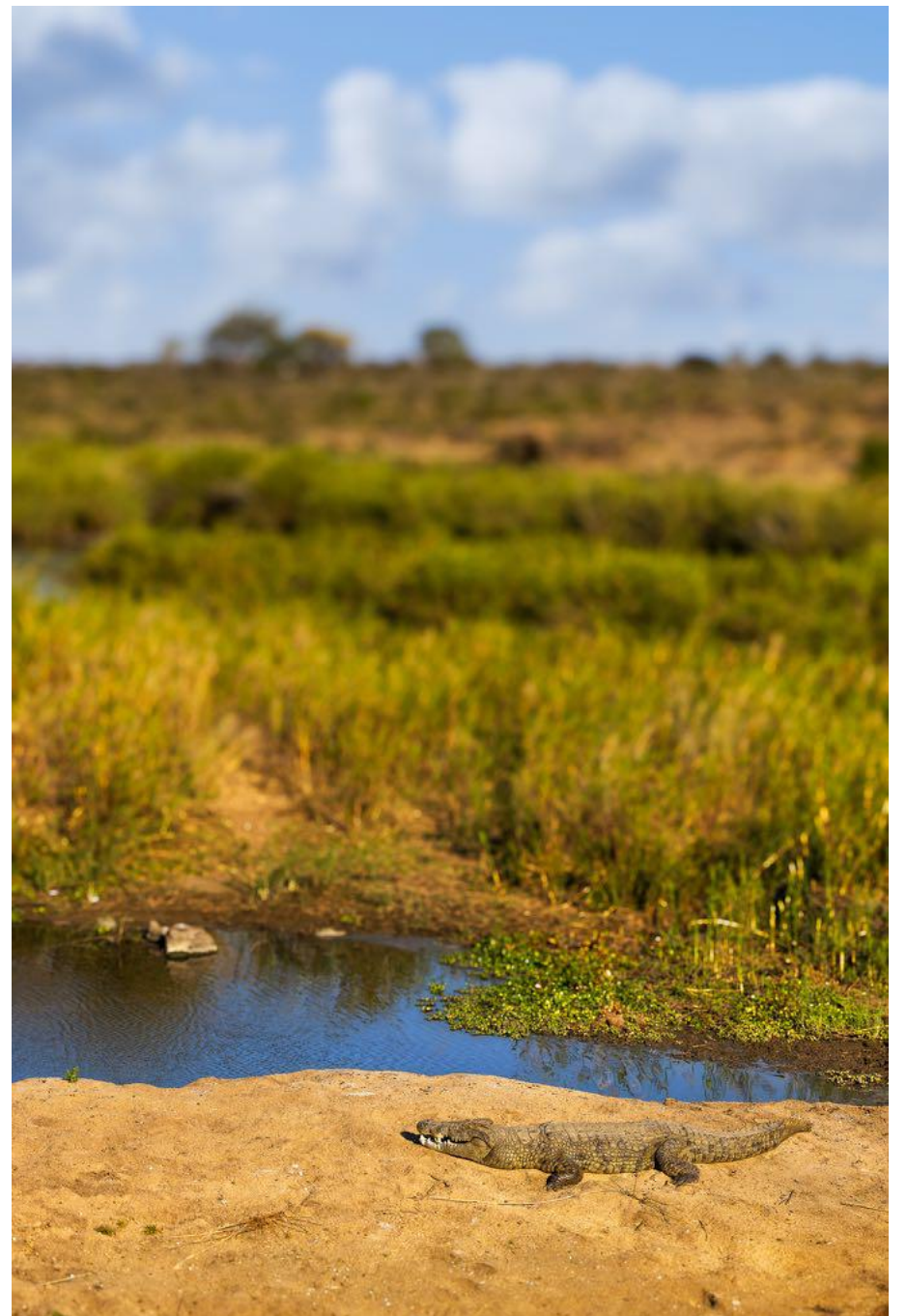
While Kruger is well known for its animals, I must mention the flora and landscapes are also spectacular here. The Sabie river and the evergreen vegetation around it make for some stunning sceneries.



The Sabie river



A juvenile tusk walks along the Sabie river



Look who's basking in the sun



One of the many views over the Sabie river

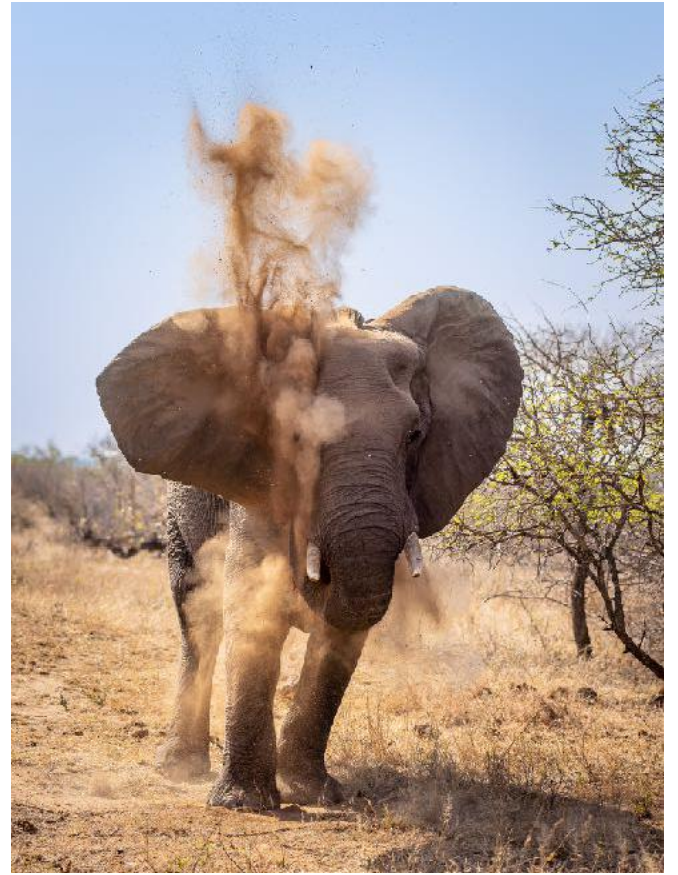
We were lucky to see the four of the African big five - lions, elephants, cape buffaloes and a leopard, within the first two days of our trip. Leopards are known to be very elusive and experts of camouflage. This leopard that we saw too, was waiting on the side of the road with just it's head bobbed up. It then crossed the road and disappeared right in front of our eyes.



Cape buffalo



A lioness



Nature's sunscreen for the pachyderm



A fleeting glimpse of a leopard as it crossed right in front of our car.

We saw several antelopes on our next drive - kudu stags, steenboks, waterbucks, nyala, bushbuck and impalas. We even witnessed two kudu stags fighting. I noticed that the smaller antelopes are always watchful and terribly skittish. Steenboks in particular. Every time my dad poked his camera out of the car window, these little fellas would bolt for their life!



Kudus fighting



Waterbuck



Bush buck



Steenbok

DID YOU KNOW?

The nyala is a spiral-horned antelope. It is considered the most sexually dimorphic antelope, meaning the male and the female look very different.



A male nyala



A handsome kudu bull in its typical habitat

The thing with these self-drive safaris is that you are completely responsible for scripting your day and your time at each sighting. You also control your breaks during the day.

Our camping vehicle came equipped with a kitchen, all basic cooking utensils and a gas stove. We'd set out early in the morning from the camp, after making and packing our breakfasts and some snacks. All this before 5.30 am! Which means waking up even earlier.

My day likes to be first out of the camp gate every single day. If it's a wildlife trip though, I don't complain!



Kruger has some great picnic sites, where you can take a break, stretch your legs a bit, strike some goofy poses, grab food or even make your own food by renting a stove. Some picnic sites have shops too. And each one has a clean restroom.

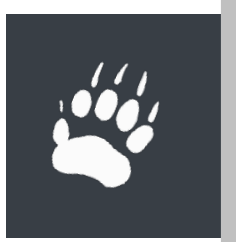




A leopard with its cub



A leopard perched on a tree



THE OPEN PLAINS
SATARA



A silhouette of a dead tree with some Egyptian geese on it at sunset

As we checked out of the Lower Sabie rest camp and drove towards Satara, I couldn't wait to see what our cottage there looked like. It turned out to be a nice little room with an outdoor kitchenette. There was a big refrigerator locked behind a wooden door. Only later did we get to know why!

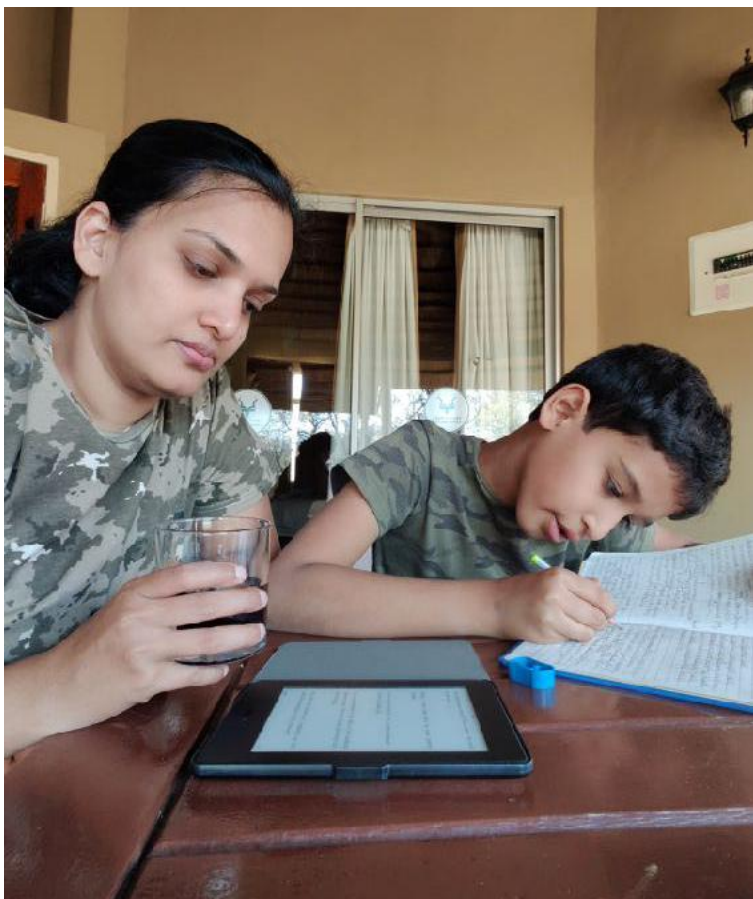
This camp is in the heart of the park with open plains all around. The area of the campsite is also huge and there are lots of trees on the campus.

I managed to find a few trees that were mentioned in the Kruger self-drive book, even collected some *toothpicks* from the devil's thorn tree. All of these beautiful patterns and colours added to the beauty of the rest camp.





Our cottage at Satara



I used the breaks in the afternoons to update my diary. The details from that trip diary made this book possible. And while I did my writing, my mom didn't miss the chance to read on her Kindle, which she carries around everywhere.

Sometimes I roamed around looking for birds near our cottage. The starlings in Satara were quite brazen. They'd come home to feed on our leftovers. I also went looking for hornbills around the camp. I saw many yellow and red billed hornbills and they didn't mind when I got a few close-up images with my mom's phone.



No trip to the South African bush is complete without a braai (barbecue). Since the time my dad showed me this on Youtube, I couldn't wait to get to Kruger and try this out myself. We forgot to get charcoal and fire-lighters when we set out from Johannesburg; so we missed making the braai at Lower Sabie. At Satara though, the park shop had all it takes to make your braai.



And that's why we ended up making our first braai at Satara. All accommodations have a braai stand. We had to use some charcoal, fire lighters, twigs and dried leaves to start the fire. It takes a while for the charcoal to turn fully red and we all took turns to fan the setup.

The park shops all sorts of meat - from beef to impala and from lamb to kudu. The steaks were just epic. Cooking dinner became a family affair.

My mom's a vegetarian though, so she made do with potatoes and corn on the braai.



During dinner on our first night there, an African wild cat showed up right in front of our cottage. By the time we realised it wasn't a regular house cat, it was gone. We looked for it every night for the next 6 days but no dice! Except once of course, when we caught a glimpse of it, before it melted into the darkness.

We think it might be a regular visitor at the cottages looking for scraps of food. If you go to Satara in the near future, keep your eyes peeled and your torches on the ready.

Soon we had a mystery to solve. Every morning we'd wake up to find our trashcan upside down. We initially thought it was the monkeys but they aren't nocturnal.

And then one morning, the mystery of the upside down bin solved itself. We saw the resident honey badger move from one cottage to another, furiously emptying the bins and scavenging for food.



Speaking of food robbers, monkeys are a serious threat. Leaving the doors open or the fridge unlocked can be an invitation for these primates to ransack the place.

DID YOU KNOW?

Honey badgers are extremely dangerous animals. Their powerful claws can even bleed a lion to death.





Egyptian geese



Saddle billed stork



African fish eagle



Red billed southern hornbill



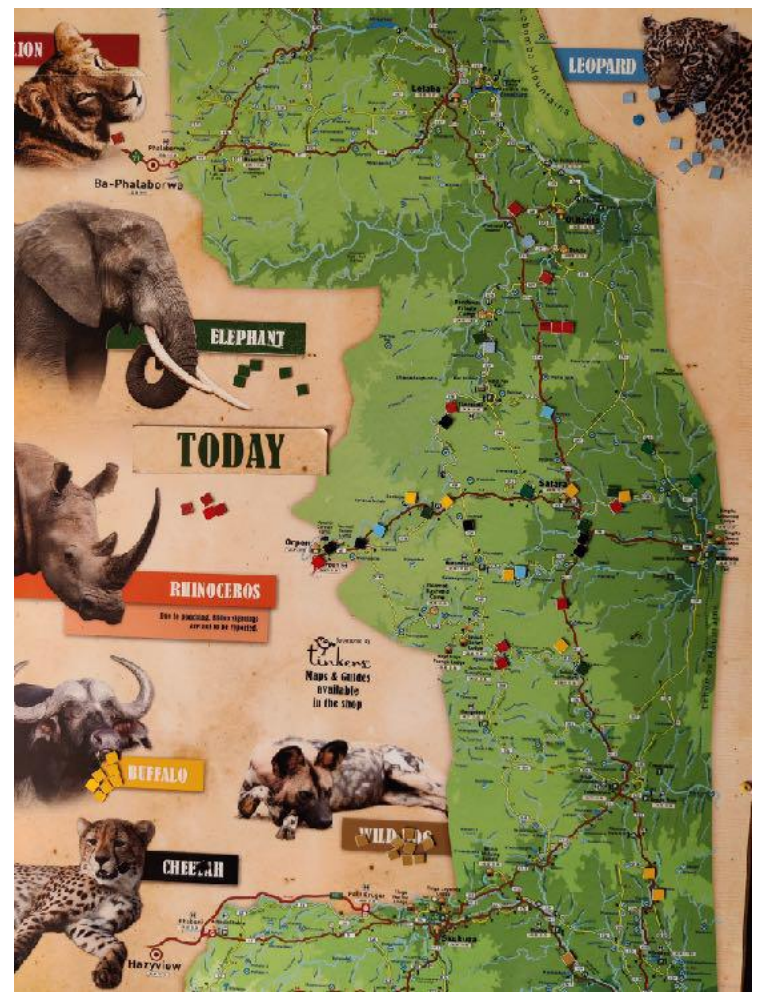
Verraux's eagle owl



Southern ground hornbill

All camps and picnics sites have a sightings board, where people help each other by reporting the sightings of the special seven. Actually, it's not all seven as the parks forbid sharing rhino sightings for fear of poaching. These boards are quite useful to plan your drives as there is not much network coverage at many places in the park. Fellow tourists and these boards are your only sources of information.

One of the lucky sightings we had at Satara was Casper - a rare melanistic lion. We saw him mating before quickly disappearing into the bushes with his companion.



The previous day, there was another pair of mating lions on a narrow bridge by the Nsemani dam. Those lions caused a massive traffic jam. We loved watching them though. The male, in particular, had a majestic golden mane.





Kruger is a fabulous place to observe elephants. They are such wonderful animals to watch and learn from. When they're in a herd, especially with little ones, there's always so much action happening all around. The adults and teenagers protect the young calves, while the matriarch always leads them around. The young ones with their tiny trunks are such a delight to watch.

My dad says if he had to spend a full day with elephants, he'd happily do so. He never gets tired of photographing these pachyderms, big or small.

These gentle giants might look intimidating when they come very close to your vehicle, but they don't cause any harm unless provoked. Just turn off the engine and stay still in your vehicle. They simply check you out and walk away. Mind your own business, and they'll mind theirs.





DID YOU KNOW?

The difference between African and Indian elephants is that all African elephants grow a tusk but in Indian elephants, only the males have a tusk. The African elephant's wide ear also resembles the map of Africa.



DID YOU KNOW?

Africa's heaviest flying bird is the kori bustard.
The heaviest flying bird in the world is the great Indian Bustard.



African white backed vulture



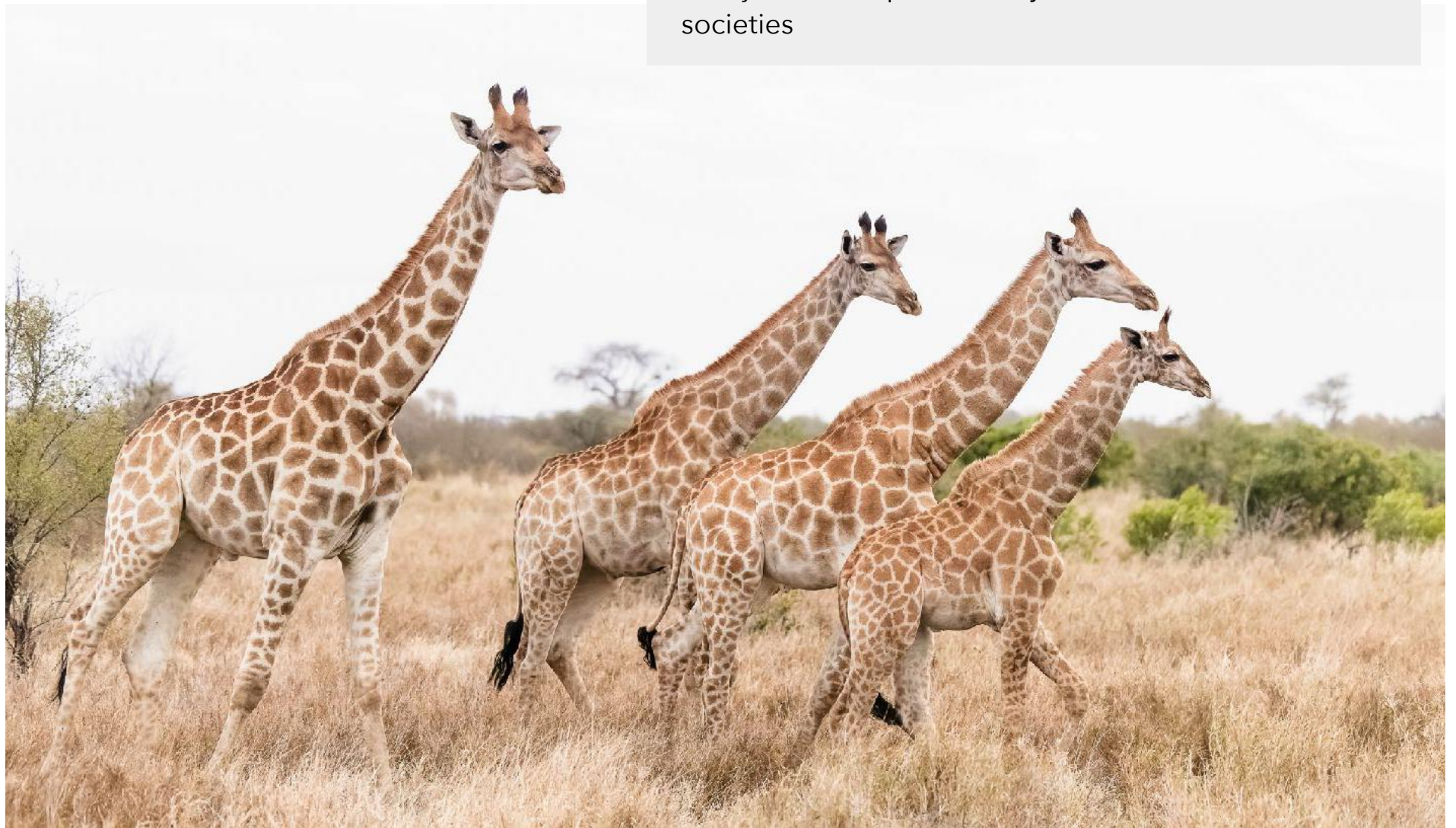
Stay still and fool your prey - a crocodile lies in wait.

Have you seen how oxpeckers ride on the back of animals? They pick fleas and insects from the animal's body. This serves a dual purpose of feeding the oxpeckers and keeping the animals' body clean.



DID YOU KNOW?

A groups of giraffes is also called a tower or a journey. And just like elephants, they too live in matrilineal societies



I referred to elephants as the gentle giants earlier. But this does not mean that they don't brawl! At times, there are serious fights with one another in a herd. One evening we were witness to not one but two such fights. This pair kept moving while fighting and got within an arm's distance of our car. But of course, they never troubled us even a wee bit and moved away from us while still fighting.

DID YOU KNOW?

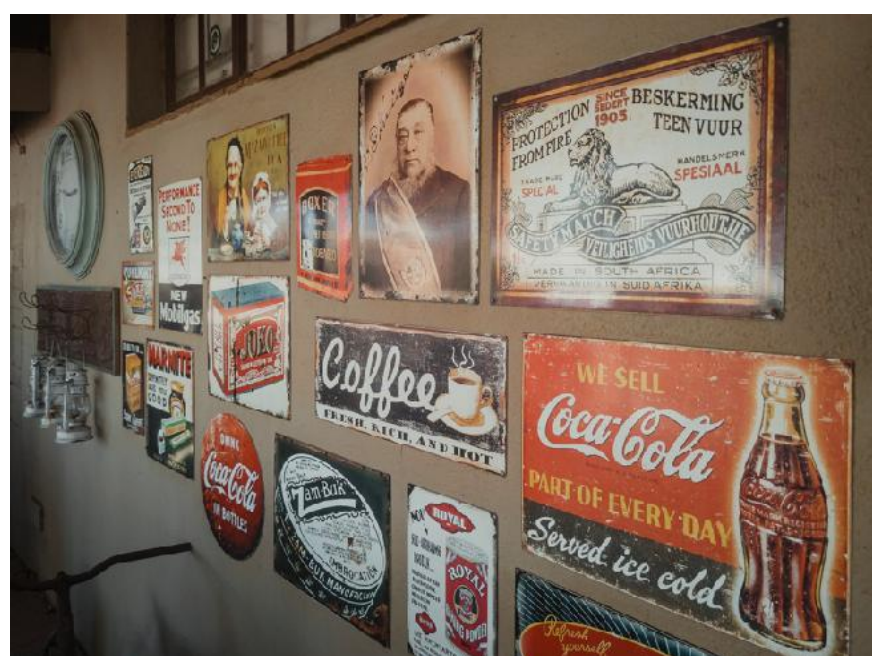
An elephant's trunk has 40,000 muscles. No wonder they also use it to fight!



Driving on new routes and seeing those wonderful sights, keeping an eye out for birds or smaller animals on the sides kept us very alert. But there were times when tiredness took over. Getting up every day at 4.30-5am isn't easy! So we'd doze off on the car seat. There were also a lot of times when my sister and I kept fighting over silly things but that's what got both of through the day at times 😊



Our breaks at the picnic sites were much needed to stretch our legs after hours of sitting in one place. This was also the time when we got some "human" photos.





The Muzandzeni picnic site



Tshokwane trading post



Lunch gazebo

At the Timbavati picnic site, while sipping coffee, we saw a pair of squirrels. When we observed them for a while, we saw them mating. It reminded me to pay attention to everything in the bush. Often in the quest to see the big animals, we miss the small ones right in front of our eyes.



By now we'd spent 10 days in Kruger and had witnessed the weather change quite a bit. Some days were so hot that even the locals were complaining. But one evening promised some respite with dark clouds rolling over. As we set out from camp, we got the news of a lion with a kill nearby. As we reached the spot where the lionesses were feeding on a zebra carcass, the rain picked up.



With about 20 cars on the road, one of the lionesses walked up, having had her share of the kill. She then settled down right in the middle of the tarmac and started licking off the rainwater on the road, oblivious to all the vehicles around her. Just lion things, eh?



Speaking of animal behaviours, I feel they are, at times, so similar to us. There's always that warm and fuzzy feeling within me, a sense of security that I feel when I'm with my mom. Going by what I saw in the wild, our four legged friends seem to be no different.

DID YOU KNOW?

Elephants must feed for 16 hours to sustain their bodies.



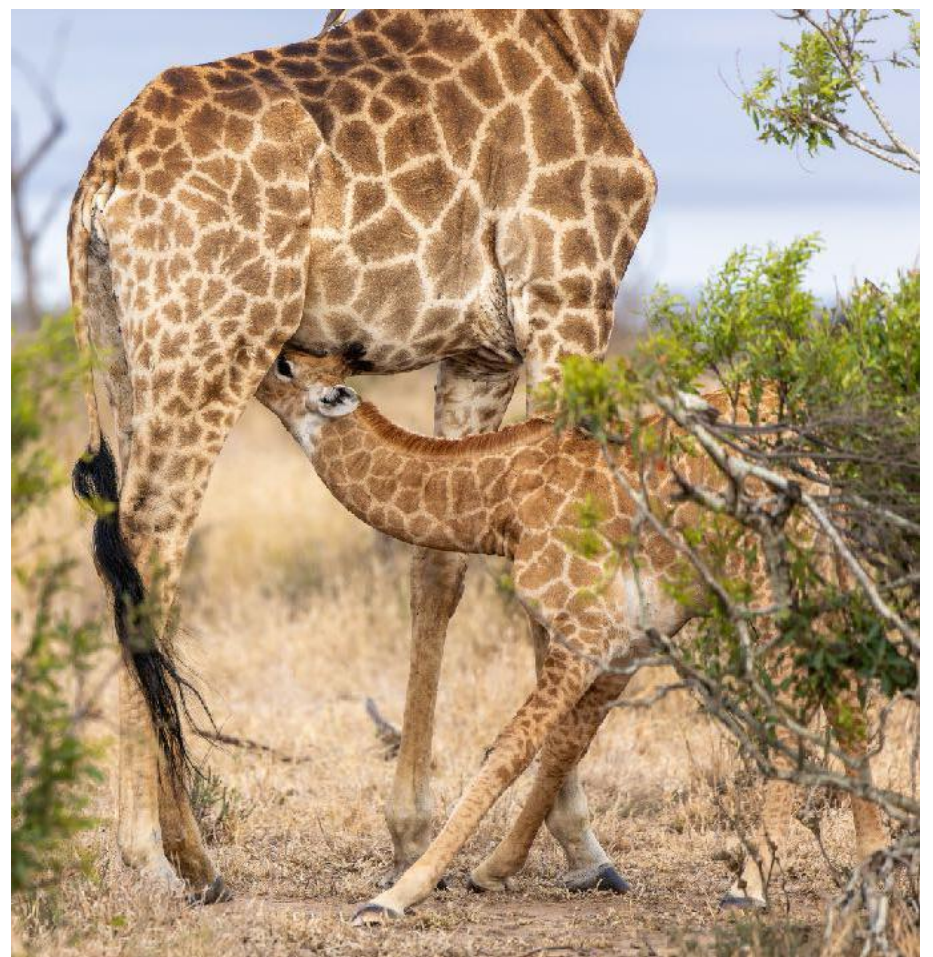
An elephant calf suckling from its mother



A young baboon sitting safe with the mother



Hyena with pups



A giraffe with a young calf



A zebra with its foal



Natal spur fowl



Red crested korhaan



Black crane



African harrier hawk



Swainson's spur fowl



Common ostrich



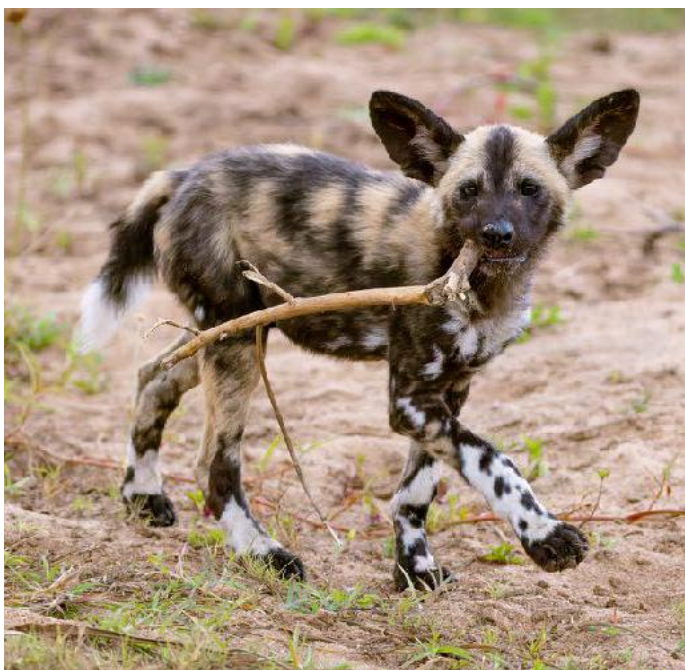
Cape vulture



Bateleur eagle



As we were heading to our next camp Skukuza, we stopped on the way to see some wild dogs sleeping a little off the road. It was a hot afternoon, we thought they might not move around much and so we decided to check into the camp and come by in the evening. When we came back to the same place, the couple of wild dogs that we saw earlier were still laying in the grass, not doing much. Within half an hour, though, things went into a frenzy. We realised it was a huge pack of about 35 including the pups. The pups were all over the place, running and playing around, grabbing whatever they could find in their mouths and play fighting. They were by the sands on the side of the bridge and needless to say, things were not easy for vehicles on that narrow bridge.







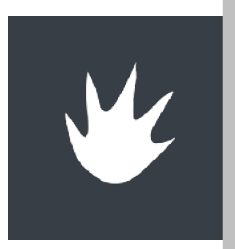
1 Little bee-eaters



2 Crested barbet



3 White-fronted bee-eater



AT THE HEADQUARTERS

SKUKUZA





The Elsie Clarke guesthouse

This spacious, standalone,
two-bedroom,
accommodation was our
home at Skukuza rest
camp.





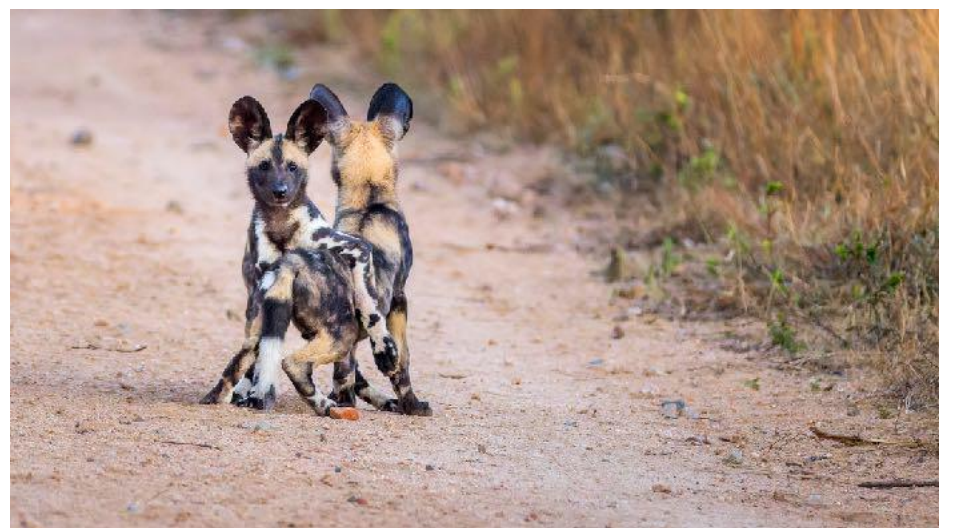
We probably had the best sighting of our lives right after checking into Skukuza. That pack of 35 wild dogs, with 18 pups was pure magic.

The next morning we decided to head to the same place where we'd left the wild dogs the previous evening and we weren't disappointed. The big pack was out in the open, the pups jumping and playing around with full energy. The adults in the pack seemed to be moving in on a hunt, leaving the pups with a couple of sub-adults.

Do you know how the wild dogs feed their pups? It's by regurgitating. Regurgitation is the action of bringing swallowed food up again to the mouth. The adults leave pups behind when they go on a hunt. If they make a kill, they eat right there and come back and regurgitate food for the pups. Since they've already chewed up the food, it's easy for the pups to process as well.



PLAYTIME WITH FRIENDS IN THE WILD





While we were driving around, we got to know of a hyena den from one of the tourists and decided to go check out the den. The den was a dry culvert which the hyenas used to keep their pups safe.

DID YOU KNOW?

Hyenas are fiercely matriarchal and matrilineal. Only the dominant female can have pups. She calls all the shots!



Spending time at the den, observing the pack keenly, taught me some interesting things about their behaviour. The pups were upto some mischief and the adults and elder siblings disciplined them more than once. They did so by snarling and by shoving, catching and biting.

And here I was, thinking that only human kids got it from their parents for behaving badly!



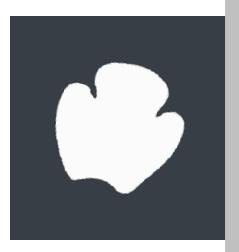
On one hot afternoon the three of us decided to stay back in the camp and chill while my father drove out. When in the wilderness, nothing can keep him away from the wildlife. Even if he isn't a 100%, he'll still go, do the game drives and come back and rest.



That morning as we were waiting for the gates to open, one of the fellow tourists told us there's a porcupine around the campsite at Skukuza. So my mom, sister and I went looking for some porcupine quills. My sister got one immediately but I had to wait for another day to find one!

Before that we took some time to visit the post office at Skukuza and to drop off a bunch of postcards for our near and dear ones. We carefully selected wildlife themed postcards, put our messages on them and affixed one big 5 animal stamp on each of them. We hope some day they'll make it to their destinations safely :)





THE HILLS AND THE VALLEY

BERG-EN-DAL



A view from the Lake Panic hide

Our last destination in Kruger was Berg-en-Dal. The meaning of Berg-en-Dal is "mountain and valley". True to its name, the place has some of the most stunning mountains that make for a picture perfect scenery. The weather during our stay was also beautiful.



Berg-en-Dal campsite also marked the most exciting part of our trip - camping and sleeping in our rooftop tents. We didn't have a room, so the car was our abode for the next 3 days. To add to the experience, one night it rained cats and dogs. We could hear the pitter patter of the rain on our tents all through the night.



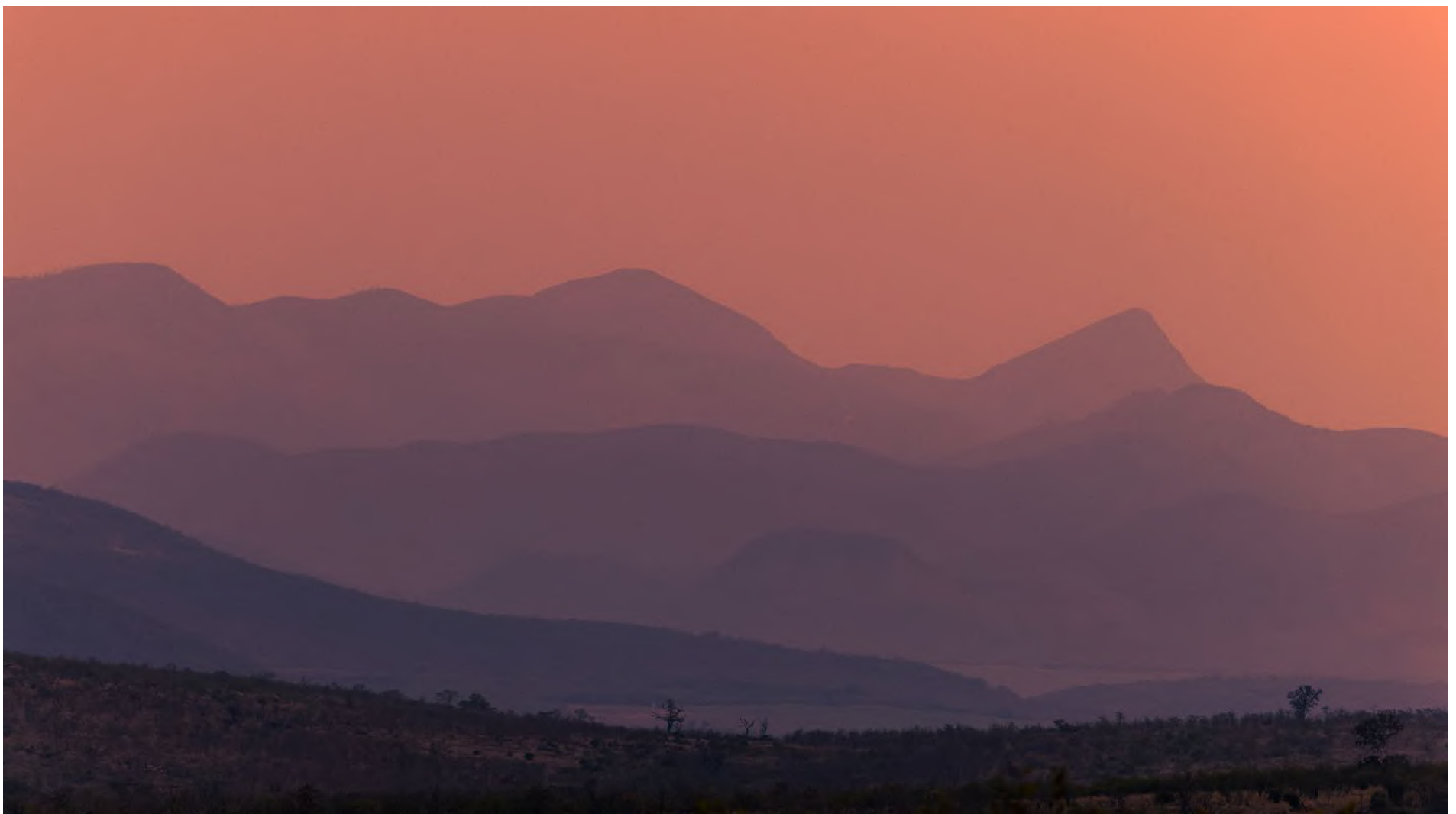
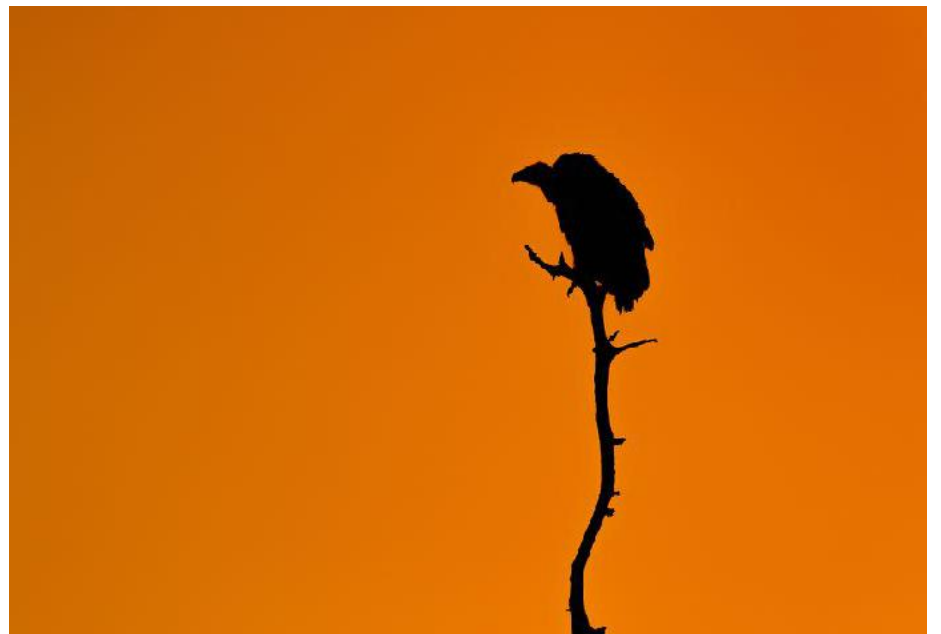
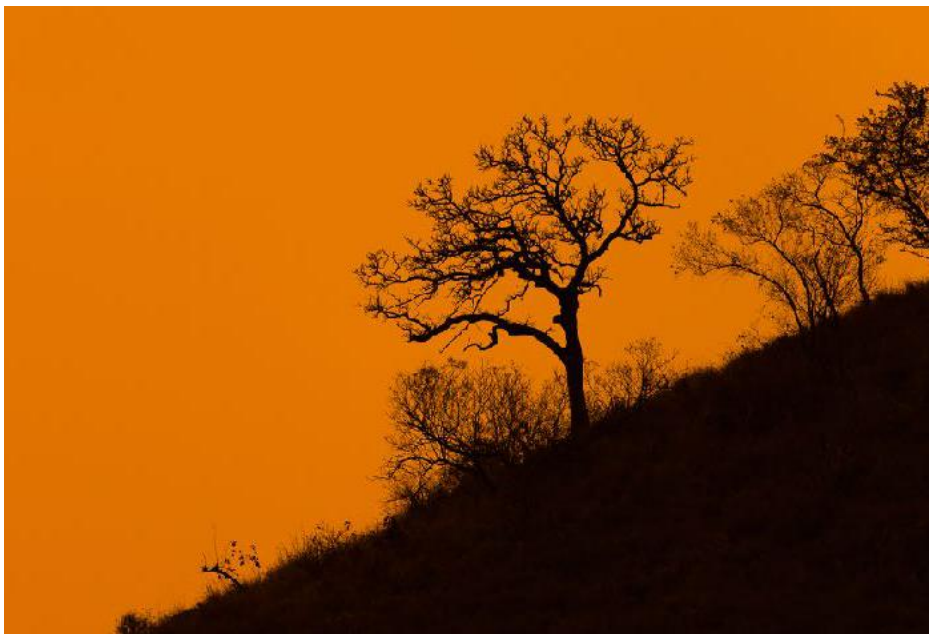
The Berg-en-Dal camp has a lovely rhino trail, going all around the camp with some interesting questions for us to ponder about as we walk along.

There's a rhino museum near the camp reception, where you can get to know a lot more about rhino history, biology and some interesting facts about rhinos.



With just three days to go before our Kruger trip came to an end, I was keen to see as many new animals as possible. I was hoping to see a Roan or a Sable antelope. They are incredibly rare and a sighting you should prize over even a leopard! But then again, as my dad says, somethings must wait for the next time. We didn't see the Roan or the Sable, but our trip was far from over.

Before I narrate the rest of my story, I must tell you about how spectacular the Berg-en-Dal area is. The landscape of this region is straight out an art lesson. The beautiful layered mountains, the green fields below made for some great sunrise and sunset views.






By the way, have you ever heard of sausages growing on a trees? Well, you'll find them in Kruger :)

The Kigelia tree, is also known as the sausage tree because its fruits look like giant sausages. The fruits of this tropical, African trees seem to be a favourite amongst baboons and vervet monkeys.




A pied kingfisher with a black and white patterned body and a long, dark beak is perched on a thin reed. The background is a soft-focus field of tall, golden-brown grasses.

1 A pied kingfisher waits
for its breakfast

A brown-headed kingfisher with a grey head, white underparts, and a bright red beak is perched on a thorny, light-brown branch. The background is a blurred green forest.

2 A brown headed kingfisher
bides its time for its next meal

A malachite kingfisher with vibrant blue and green plumage and a red beak is perched on a thin, green reed. The background is a dark, out-of-focus forest.

3 A malachite kingfisher
balances itself on a thin reed

Has there been a time when you took a wrong turn and stumbled upon something unexpected but wonderful? We had one of those moments when we were on our way to Stevenson Hamilton's memorial. I'd read that those rocky areas were great habitats for the klipspringer and despite looking out so keenly on scores of rocky terrains we failed to spot a klipspringer. And then we realised we'd missed a turn and were on a completely different dirt road. But guess what! Half a mile onto the dirt road, we got the news from a car in the opposite direction that there are some lions with a giraffe kill. So the wrong turn wasn't all that bad, eh?

We saw three male lions feeding on the giraffe carcass. This was the first time I saw a dead giraffe in the wild.



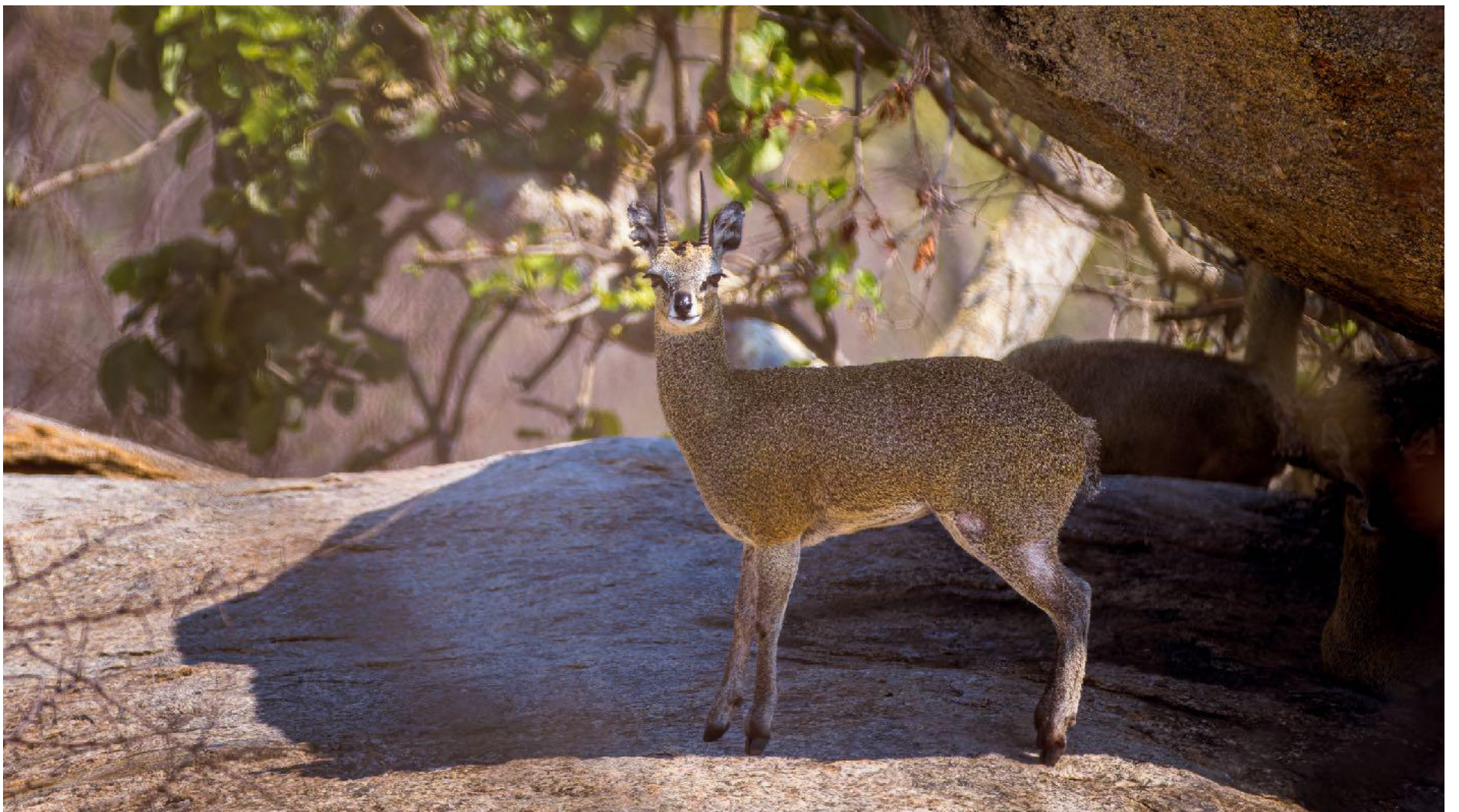
Soon after the lions with giraffe carcass sighting, when we drove up to the Stevenson Hamilton memorial, we finally managed to spot klipspringers - not one but two of them.

Klipspringers are small, sturdy antelopes with short and coarse fur. They are usually found in rocky terrain or hilly areas.



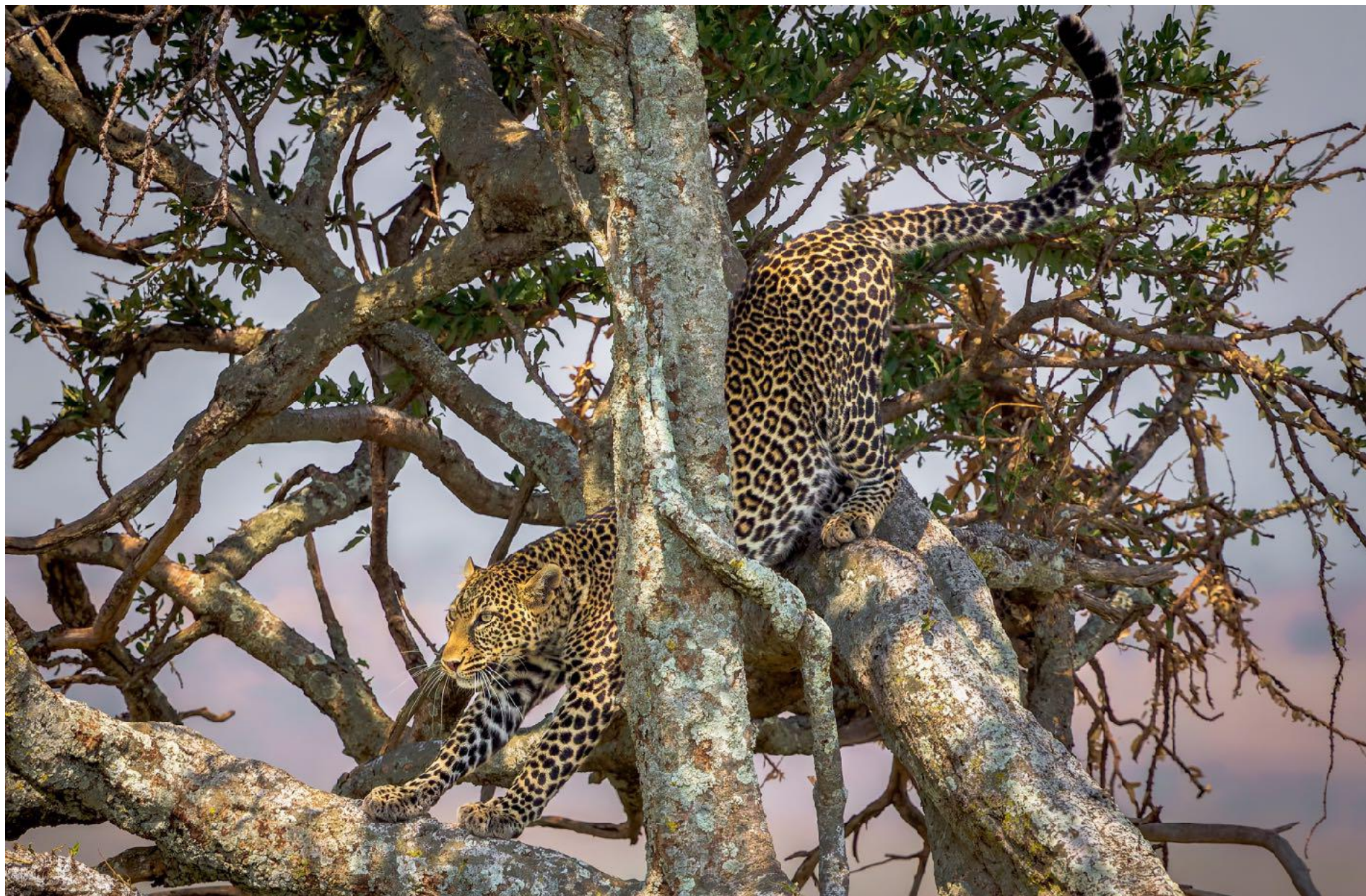
DID YOU KNOW?

The klipspringer walks on the tips of its cylindrical, blunt hooves which enhances its grip and enables it to climb rocky surfaces.

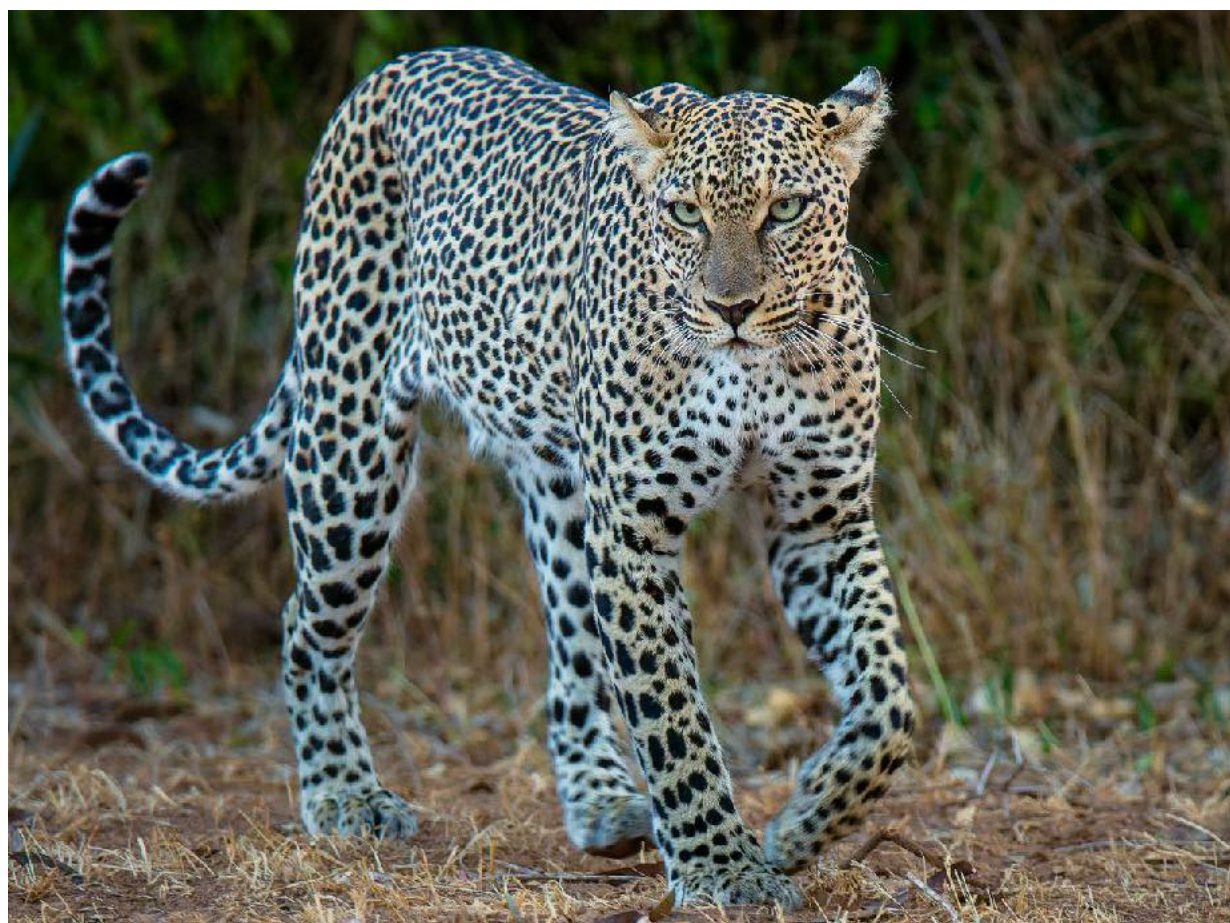




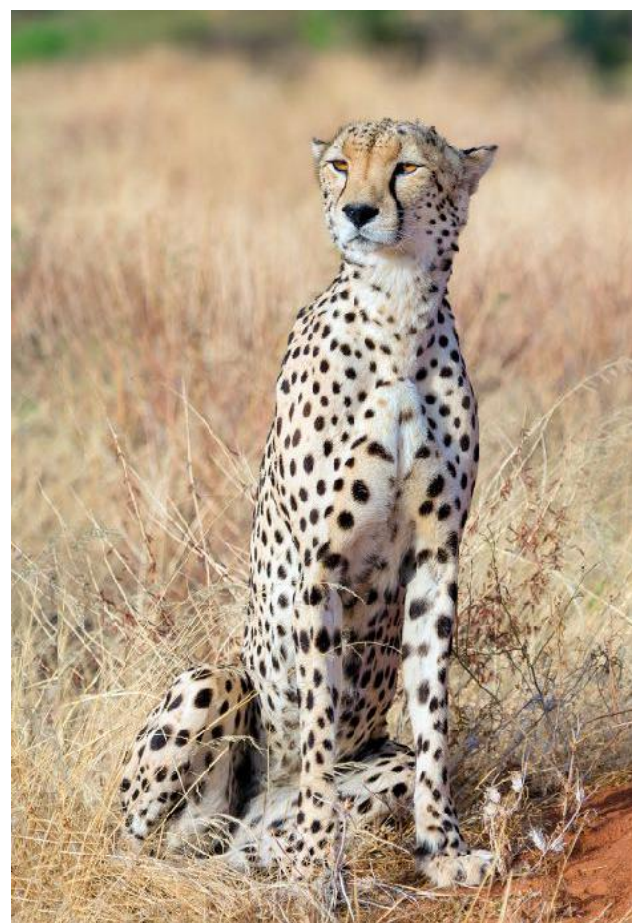
Until we got to Berg-en-Dal we hadn't had very good luck with the spotted cats. Leopards were elusive and cheetahs scarce. But Berg-en-Dal changed things quite rapidly. We weren't exactly tripping over these predators, but the sightings were more frequent, especially alongside the tar roads.



A leopard stretching before getting down the tree



A leopard on the S110 road



A cheetah scanning its surroundings

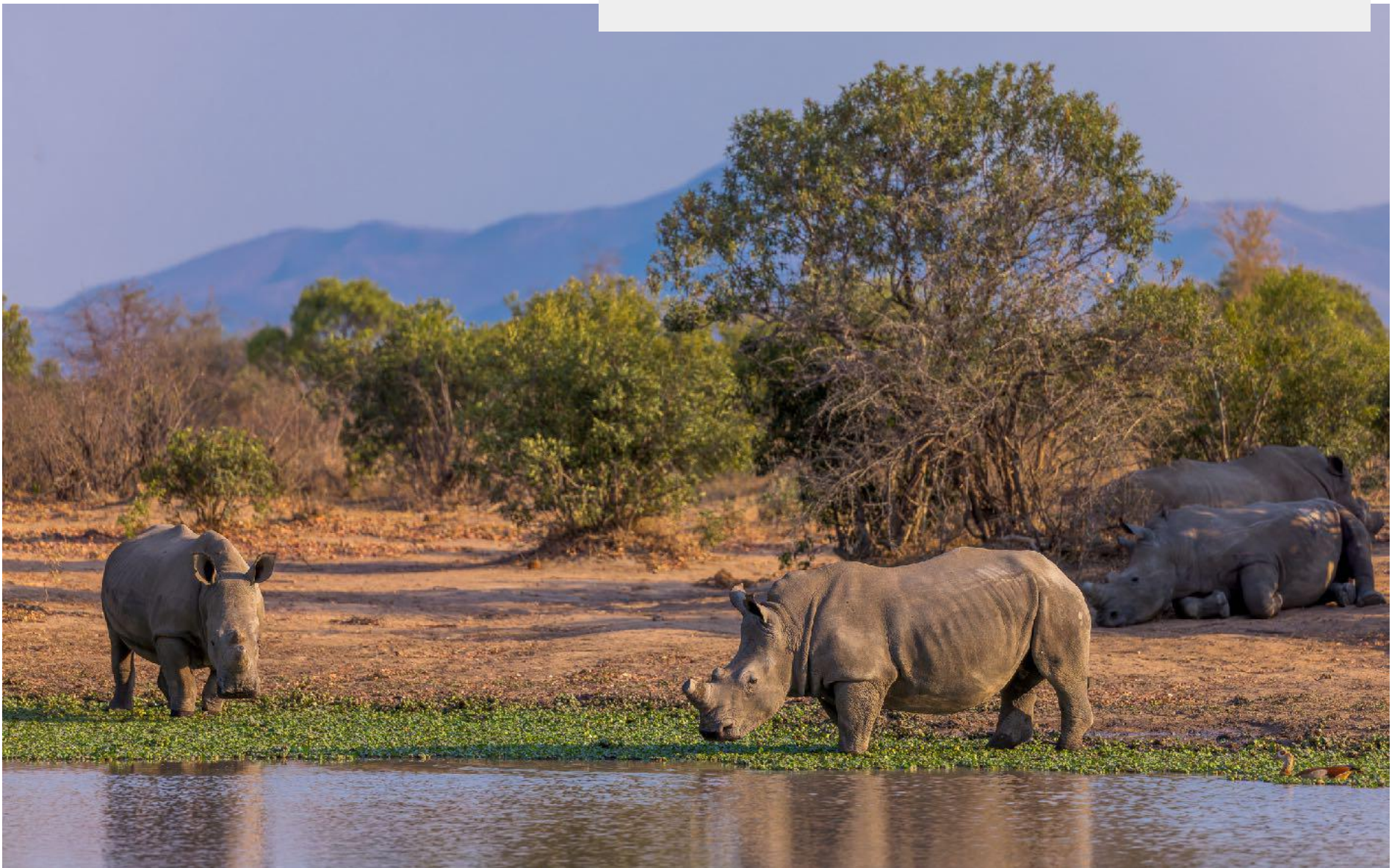


With just a couple of days to go before our Kruger stay came to an end, our quest was to find the last of the big five - the rhino. We were hoping to see at least one before we left. As we were driving through, we spotted a herd of 4 rhinos near a waterhole. Unfortunately they were all dehorned rhinos. Poachers kill rhinos for their horns, so the most beautiful feature of these animals, leaves them vulnerable. To prevent poaching, park authorities remove the rhinos' horns.

Rhinos mark their territory by leaving behind dung middens. Dung middens are piles of dung created by the rhinos by returning to the same spot to poop. While driving around if you happen to notice a dung pile, you should know that rhinos are somewhere close by.

DID YOU KNOW?

A group or a herd of rhinos is also called a crash.









A colony of dwarf mongooses



An elephant, dwarfed by it's surroundings

Silence is golden, generally, but more so in the wilderness. You don't want to spook the animals and miss a good sighting. But the times that we were driving with our car windows rolled up, my father started composing some songs about the animals that we saw and their behaviour. He even gave them a tune on the fly and made and my sister learn them. We had so much fun singing those and we also heard some classic Bollywood songs like "My name is Anthony Gonsalves". That song is still stuck in my head, weeks after the trip!

Here are the lyrics of some of the songs

Oh baboon!

*Oh baboon, see you soon (2)
You are a gang of goons,
Gang of goons, gang of
goons.
Go find a leopard's spots,
And I will love you lots.
Go find a leopard's spots,
And I will love you lots.
Oh baboon, scratch your
back,
Go find a juicy snack.
Oh baboon, scratch your
back,
Go find a juicy snack.
Oh baboon play the fool,
Don't be a bully from school.
Oh baboon play the fool,
Don't be a bully from school.
Oh baboon, see you soon
You are a gang of goons.
Gang of goons, gang of
goons.
Oh baboon... see you
soon...*

We were at the weir

*We were there at the weir,
But nothing was there,
And our vehicle veered!
Back to the camp,
When it was damp.
Hello, lion!
We are fine!
We went on the rhino trail,
Which was written in braille,
Without a care!
We got back in the car,
But didn't go far.
Hello cheetah!
See ya later!
Thank Paul, James and
Grobler,
For being the founders,
Of this park called Kruger!
Our trip was swell,
And it ended so well.
Bye for now!
We're off to our town!*

Oh Ellie!

*Oh ellie,
You're a roadblock.
Oh boy,
I'm so stuck.
Oh ellie,
Let me go on time.
Or else,
I'll pay a fine.
Oh ellie,
Go chomp some grass.
Give me,
A nice free pass.
Oh ellie,
See ya later.
You can be,
My alligator.
Oh ellie, say "bye, bye!"
Next time, we'll do a high
five!*

All good things come to an end, and so did our Kruger trip. But that wasn't before the park showed us two special sights on our last morning drive before we headed back to Johannesburg.

Very close to the camp, this little fella was walking slowly without a care in the world. He was almost camouflaged on the dirt and cobbled road. The leopard tortoise is one among the small five, the others being elephant shrew, ant lion, rhinoceros beetle and buffalo weaver.



After this sighting we went further along some dirt roads, keeping in mind that we had to exit the park by 9 am to make it in time to Johannesburg. We had to decide which route to take. My mom suggested the shorter one, to avoid looping the same road, so we could make a quick exit. My dad didn't agree and decided to take the longer looped route which had higher rating. The idea was to give ourselves a greater chance of a special sighting. And so he went with his intuition and guess what! We ran into a pack of 20 wild dogs with pups. We were all overjoyed with that amazing sighting, with some light showers adding to the drama. We couldn't have asked for a better send off from Kruger.

Wildlife lesson learned: Looping a productive road is better than an efficient drive. Do the hard yards!





EVERY ENDING IS A NEW BEGINNING

And with that sighting, we ended our last drive on a high. We said goodbye to Kruger, sang our goodbye song and drove back to Johannesburg. Our drive was along such a scenic routes that I'll probably never forget it. As we drove, it started pouring and the wipers on the windscreen were on in full swing. The beautiful mountains on the sides and even the road ahead disappeared into the fog. It made driving a little difficult for my mom but she navigated the weather and the roads so deftly and got us back to the hotel in good time.



Me, at the airport with my dad.

We flew out the next afternoon. We had to take two flights to get back home with a long layover at Addis Ababa. And that, was the end of a memorable trip. By the way, I love getting on flights, more so on international ones that have so much entertainment.

My dad being my dad was already planning our next trip to this wonderful continent. So I can safely say, this isn't really the end of my wildlife adventures. Consider it just the close of one season. I'll see you in the next one!



**"ONE CANNOT RESIST
THE LURE OF AFRICA"**

RUDYARD KIPLING