









Hunt ID: AF-Plains Game and More-All-HAfricaSout-TBOSA-IETP

This well-known and respected ph are based in the Limpopo Province of South Africa and a mere 40 minutes north of Thabazimbi. This region, called “The Bushveld of South Africa” is absolutely the top hunting area in the country and caters annually for the highest quality game and trophy hunting. We are honored to play a major role in this most exclusive hunting paradise of South Africa.

We have been here since 1990, when we developed one of the most spectacular Private Game Ranches in Thabazimbi, South Africa – Citadel.

Today this PH - who grew up on the hunting reserve and gained experience from an early age hunting with his father – is the main driving force behind this safari. He is also a highly skilled hunter who strives to ensure that each and every hunter returns home successful in accordance with his well-known motto “dedicated to exceed your expectations”.

Our goal is to combine hunting experience and dedication with the art of hunting, with personal care and attention to provide hunters with an experience of a lifetime. This is done by hunting the best concessions with high quality trophy animals, in addition to the skill and experience of hand-picked professional hunters in guiding clients to harvest the best trophies.

The staff - amongst the best in the industry - consists of highly trained and experienced professional hunters, trackers, skinner and camp staff, who share the goals of the company and strive to adhere to the high standards of service and excellence.

We realize the long-term responsibility toward conservation in general and to their own concessions in particular. A strict game management plan is maintained, to ensure that good quality trophies are taken consistently.

We have specialized in Bow Hunting since 1995. For almost 15 years they have catered for hundreds of bowhunters, and fast became one, if not the largest bowhunting outfitter in South Africa. Their bowhunting concessions are some of the finest "Archery Friendly" areas you will find in Africa today, and are used exclusively for bowhunting, with an abundance of game. Many different species can be hunted from blinds or tree stands, making this a bowhunter's paradise!

Striving to offer more to their hunters, they purchased their own game ranch in Namibia in 2010. This ranch has not been hunted for a number of years, making the available trophies second to none! A new lodge has been built, equaling, if not surpassing the lodge in South Africa, and they are looking forward to initiating bow hunting there.

We have also been hunting in Mozambique in the Zambezi Delta areas for the last four years. The bush and the wildlife are as they were many years ago, great herds travelling freely, in great open areas, giving the hunter the choice of free range hunting. Buffalo, Sable, Hippo and Crocodiles are among the many species to be found in multitudes.

Today we are proud to be a respected member of the Professional Hunters Association of South Africa (PHASA), Safari Club International and Dallas Safari Club. Clients hunting with us can be sure of a legal and ethical safari.

Here are some FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS about hunting safaris in Africa

Q: Is Africa safe?

A: South Africa, Namibia and Mozambique are safe for US travelers. However, as in any other country, it is always advisable to take normal precautions while travelling, particularly in the larger cities. We will be with you every step of the way, from arrival at the airport, during the safari, through to departure after the hunt. We are totally committed to our hunters, their families and guests – for their health and safety. The areas where we hunt are typically rural areas, and crime is negligible there. We have never had a hunter or any of his family or friends harmed while in our care. We invite you and your family to

come to Africa, relax and enjoy all this marvelous country has to offer – sights, sounds and the everyday wonder of the African continent.

Q: How do I get there?

A: We recommend that our hunters fly South African Airways, directly from Dulles Washington or JFK in New York, to Johannesburg International Airport (Oliver Tambo International). This is the pick-up point for the South African and Mozambique safaris. If hunting in Namibia, a connecting flight from Johannesburg to Windhoek will be needed, or alternatively, US hunters can go via Europe to Windhoek. Your travel agent will best advise you. Early booking is recommended as flights are crowded during the hunting season, and costs do rise the longer you wait.

Q: How long a drive is your hunting area from the airport?

A: For South African hunts you will have a 3 ½ hour drive to camp. For Namibia you only have a 1 ½ hour drive to camp and for Mozambique you will drive 45 minutes to Pretoria where you will overnight in a guesthouse before departure the next morning on a charter flight to the hunting area.

Q: Can I drink the water there without getting sick?

A: Our water supply in the hunting area is completely safe to drink from the tap. We also keep an abundant supply of bottled water on hand for our guests if preferred. Drinking tap water in the larger cities is not recommended, and we advise our visitors to only drink bottled water.

Q: Do we need to bring anything for Mosquitoes and do you have Malaria?

A: No mosquitoes in winter months (May - Sept) and we are situated in a malaria free area.

Q: What happens if I need to fill a prescription or see a doctor?

A: It would be best if you bring enough of your medication to last for the entire trip so we don't take time out from important hunting activities. If you're concerned about running out, have your doctor write a prescription for you and bring it along, it can be refilled. South Africa has excellent medical facilities and medical care.

Q: What about special insurance coverage?

A: You may purchase several types of insurance for your safari. Baggage insurance, firearm or bow insurance, trip cancellation insurance, travel insurance and medical evacuation insurance are all areas to consider to make yourself more financially secure before you leave on your trip. Your travel agent can help you with trip cancellation, travel and medical evacuation.

Q: What kind of personal items should I bring?

A: Still Camera, Video Camera, Battery Chargers, Tripod, Sunglasses, Binoculars, Flashlight and Batteries, 220 to 110 Voltage Converter and Adaptor, Good Reading Material, Knife, Diary and Pen, Medical Prescriptions and Allergy Medication (if needed), Insect Repellent, Sunscreen Lotion, Lip Balm (with sun screen), Personal Toiletries, Hat/Cap, Warm Jacket and Gloves, 4 Pairs of Clothing (daily laundry), Face Mask, Safety Belt, Rope, Camp Shoes, Walking Boots (2 pairs for Mozambique)

Q: Is internet available?

A: Yes wireless internet is available

Q: What currency is used in your country?

A: The South African Rand (ZAR) is used in South Africa and the Namibian Dollar (N\$) in Namibia for all purchases. You may exchange your currency for ZAR or N\$ at the airport when you arrive. Travellers checks and all major currencies can be exchanged at banks and various exchange companies. Most shops, hotels and restaurants accept Visa and Master Card.

Q: Do I need an electrical convertor or adaptor?

A: Yes, you will need both a convertor to plug your items into and an adaptor to plug into the outlet. The convertor will change the voltage from 230-240 Volts to 120 Volts. You can find convertors and adaptors at any electronics store such as Radio Shack or Circuit City or department stores like Kmart, Wal-Mart or Target. DVS do have a few convertors and adaptors in camp, but it's best to bring your own to ensure you have one.

Q: Do I need to do anything special for shipping my bow?

A: You will need a very sturdy bow case that is impact resistant. The stronger, the better for the best results will result from the higher end models of bow cases available.

Q: Is it difficult to get my bow into Africa?

A: Not at all. Unlike rifle hunters, bows are currently not regulated coming into Africa. You would simply collect your bow at the oversized luggage area and proceed through the customs area.

Q: Do you allow rifle hunts on your archery areas?

A: Absolutely not! Our archery areas are strictly for bowhunters only, and you can trust us on that! You will not experience hunting with us and hear a truck with rifle hunter's drive by your blind. This is the main reason why our archery areas are so bowhunting friendly and why our success rate is so high.

Q: How is bowhunting conducted?

A: Bow hunting is conducted at strategic places from ground or pit blinds. We have, after many years of experience, converted most elevated-blinds to pit-blinds or ground-blinds. These blinds are much more

successful and most scents and noises are eliminated. The blinds are spacious and dark on the inside. Your best success for bowhunting will always be from the permanent blinds. We also offer tree stand hunting from game trails or mineral licks in the bush away from waterholes. Spot and stalk is also an option, and our area offers great opportunities for this method of hunting even though it is less successful than blind hunting.

Q: What type of bow set-up should I bring?

A: For plains game hunting, you should bring your normal big game set up you would use for whitetail or any other type deer. You don't need to buy a special 80 lb bow set up just to shoot plains game. We have archers who use compound, recurve and longbows as well as crossbows. The most important aspect of your hunt will be that you are very familiar with and extremely proficient shooting the bow you bring along. Buying a brand new bow just before you start your safari is not recommended.

Q: What Broadhead do you recommend?

A: Again, whatever you use on whitetail successfully should work just fine in Africa. For good blood trails you need the 3 or 4 bladed heads and for good penetration (low poundage shooters) the cut on impact 2 bladed heads. Make sure the broadhead you pick are sharp and that the blades are strong! The less cutting diameter you have, the better penetration you will get! You are allowed to use mechanicals, but be sure you have had good success with the mechanical you bring to Africa, as we have had several mechanical broadheads that were junk and clients lost their trophies! The rage mechanical is highly recommended. Low pound shooters should not use mechanicals.

Q: Do I need lighted pins?

A: Yes, especially for shooting early mornings or late afternoons from the pit blinds as they are quite dark on the inside.

Q: What type of shooting practice should I do to get ready for my safari?

A: Shooting on level ground, from tree stands and from inside pop up blinds would all be very good practice. You need to be very proficient from 40 yards and closer. Most shots do take place under 20 yards from blinds, but you may get longer shots from tree stands, spot and stalk or even a second shot on a wounded animal further away from the blind, so practice and be very proficient.

Q: Can I hunt dangerous game with my bow?

A: Absolutely! We offer bowhunts on Cape buffalo, lion and leopard. Special archery permits need to be applied for when hunting lion and leopard, but we were fortunate enough to get all our applications approved so far. No lion and leopard will be hunted without the proper permits.

Q: Do your guides understand bowhunting?

A: Our guides are experienced bowhunters themselves! They know the needs of a bowhunter and this is why our bowhunts are so successful!

Q: Do I have to bring an extra bow in case something happens to my bow?

A: If you have a double bow case and an extra bow, then yes bring it along. If you do not have an extra, then do not spend the extra money on purchasing one. Just make sure you bring an extra string. If something happens to your bow, then we do have extra bows among the guides and we also have a local bow shop in town where we can have it repaired, or even get a spare bow for your trip if needed.

Q: How far can one expect shot opportunities from blinds?

A: Our permanent blinds are situated within 20 yards from the water or mineral licks. These blinds provide an average shot distance of 16 yards. It is very seldom that you will be shooting further than 20 yards from the blinds.

Q: Do you offer spot and stalk opportunities for bowhunters?

A: Yes, we do. Our hunting areas actually provide great stalking opportunities! In South Africa and Namibia we normally use this method of hunting in the early mornings and late afternoons when animals are active. In Mozambique you can only hunt by way of stalking as there are no blinds. Should you be interested to stalk while hunting with us, then practice shooting out to 50 yards?

Q: Do you use tracking dogs on wounded game?

A: Yes, we do. We use Jack Russell Terriers. They are very well trained and we are very successful finding wounded game with them.

Q: Can I bring the meat back?

A: No, it is against US Dept of Agriculture regulations to import wild game or meat of any kind without a proper license. The meat stays here at the ranch where it is served to our hunting guests as well as used by the staff and their families.

Q: How do I pay for the balance of my safari?

A: We accept credit cards, cash or travelers checks to pay the balance of the safari before departing the DVS premises. Personal checks are not accepted, unless bank guaranteed.

Q: How long does it take to get my skulls, hides and horns back?

A: Between three and six months depending on how fast the Park officials will issue an export permit after it is requested.

Q: Who do I pay for the dipping, packing and shipping?

A: You will pay the companies doing these services directly. It will be three different payments as they are not the same company. Normally you will pay one company for dipping and packing, another for shipping and then another for receiving your trophies in the US.

TRAVEL:

You will need a passport. If you already have a passport, be sure to check the expiration date. You are required to have at least one entirely blank (unstamped) page in your passport. US and Canadian hunters - for South Africa and Namibia only a passport is required, no visa. We don't do anything other than make recommendations concerning airline reservations. Unless you have some sort of frequent flyer miles or other sort of free ticket, an African specialist can probably get you there and back cheaper than your regular travel agent. Don't wait too long to book your airline reservations. We recommend that you contact Esplanade Tours for airline reservations.

If you are traveling in a group, it is much more convenient if others in your party arrive about the same time. If everyone arrives on a morning flight and one person comes in on an evening flight, then others must wait around as we use transfer companies to do our transfers and everyone needs to be transferred together. Try to coordinate this. You will be met by a DVS representative when exiting customs.

COMMUNICATION:

Cellular reception is available from our lodges in both South Africa and Namibia, so bring your cell phone along. Remember to apply for Roaming on your phone to be able to use it outside your country. Limited e-mail is available in camp. Remember time zones; there is a 6 (Namibia) and 7 (South Africa, Mozambique) hour time difference to the Eastern Standard Time of the USA. Be sure to leave phone, fax and email numbers with your family.

HEALTH and MEDICAL:

No special inoculations are required for South Africa and Namibia. Camps are mainly in malaria-free areas. Your family physician may suggest anti-malaria tablets, although you won't see many African mosquitoes that time of year. If your hunt includes any side trips to Kruger National Park or Mozambique, then you will be outside the malaria-free areas. Sleeping pills are recommended. With time zone changes and jet lag, your body will require a couple of days in Africa to adapt. Anti-diarrhea medication is always good to have in along.

CLIMATE and CLOTHING:

Your hunt will take place during Africa's winter. Weather should be very pleasant. Chilly mornings, warm/sunny days and cool evenings are normal. Rain is possible but very unlikely. Temperature and weather should be about the same as Arizona in February. Bring enough clothing for chilly mornings and outdoor dinners. Hunting vehicles are usually open-air pick-up trucks, so rides to and from blinds or hunting areas can get nippy. Camo clothing is fine for hunting but not necessary. We suggest olive drab, browns, tans or greens. Since laundry is done daily, three or four sets of clothing are usually sufficient.

NON HUNTERS:

We can arrange optional side trips and/or pre-hunt trips for those of you who will be bringing your wives or family. Costs of side trips are extra.

Please let us know in advance if you want to go on side trips or a pre-hunt trip.

Most blinds are big enough for three people so wives will be allowed to accompany their spouses to the blinds should they want to. Ladies / observers are welcome to hunt a day or two and will then just be charged the regular hunting fee for those days hunted. Make arrangements with the PH on arrival.

EQUIPMENT AND SHOTPLACEMENT:

For bowhunting - use any bow / arrow combination you would hunt elk with. Feel free to bring a spare bow, extra strings and any accessories you might need. If you come up short, someone in camp will probably have what you need. Two dozen broadheads should be sufficient. There is a practice range set up right in camp. Africa is the survival of the fittest. African Game is tough and dies harder than similar size game in America. A lung shot is a long shot, but trust us, these critters are extra tough. The vitals of most African plains game sit further forward in their chest cavity than American big game. Pick a spot several inches forward of where you would on a similar sized North American game animal. Come straight up the front leg on a broadside shot. Trust your PH on this. The shoulder bones angle forward above the leg. Quartering away shots work great too. Pick your shot angles and distance carefully. You haven't seen "jump the string" yet! Quiet your bow noise as much as possible. Use quality broadheads and have them razor sharp. All wounded or lost game will cost you, so please consider the stress of anxiety, jet lag, stretching your personal range limits, etc. Don't take a twenty-five yard shot when the animal might come considerably closer. You'll get plenty of close broadside shots. Many shot opportunities will be around fifteen yards. We trust you will be honest enough to admit to poor hits if/when you are sitting alone. Many poorly hit animals can be found. Avoid awkward situations by confessing the truth of poor hits when you are alone.

WISH LISTS:

We routinely ask for a "Wish List" from each hunter which has to be completed on your safari contract. This list would include the top species you will be looking for on your bowhunt. Please complete your wish list species on the safari contract so that we can plan accordingly. This is helpful. For instance, someone who particularly wants to shoot an eland will be taken into consideration during blind selection when eland are using certain areas. Same with zebra, waterbuck, etc. We also work on quotas at different concessions and therefore it is necessary to know what each hunter would like to harvest.

BLINDS:

Although some portable or pop-up blinds might be used, we are heading more and more towards enclosed pit blinds to eliminate human odor drifting to game. They are cooler on sunny days and darker so game won't spot you. They are built big enough for two, maybe three, people. You will be given food, water, a urine bottle and a radio when you reach the blind, or you can sit with your PH. Note that hunters are NOT allowed to exit a blind at any time - except when mother nature is calling - unless your guide's hunting vehicle is next to your hide. Game are used to hunting vehicles and each time somebody exits a blind without the vehicle there, the game will become more afraid of the hides which will reduce our success. We need to keep our hides as bowhunting friendly as possible; your co-operation will be appreciated in this matter!

TROPHIES:

Everything is utilized. Nothing is field-dressed. Animals are taken back to camp intact after photographs. The PH will ask you if you want your trophy skinned for a shoulder mount, rug, boiled out skull, etc. Animals will be skinned and caped accordingly. Your hides and capes will be salted and dried. Horns/skulls will be boiled out. You cannot take any trophies back with you. They must be packed, dipped and shipped thru import/export authorities with the relevant documentation. We recommend all US hunters to export their "raw" trophies for mounting in the US. Should you be interested to contact the Taxidermy or Dip and Pack Companies that we recommend ahead of your safari, then please let us know and we will supply you with the contact details.

TIPPING:

Tipping is pretty routine when hunting in Africa and hunters are respectfully requested to leave a tip at their own discretion. Hunters used to leave some sort of equipment such as a bow, arrows, a custom knife, optics, etc. but the PH's have all the gear they need by now. They appreciate cash more. We'll leave this decision up to each of you.

The local black people are very poor and appreciate anything. A trip to the Dollar Store or rummage sales is worth the satisfaction of helping those who don't have much, but again they also appreciate cash more! We ask every hunter to please not give tips directly to the staff, except for your PH, as tips are given to all of them after the season is completed. This way they receive a larger amount of cash at one time and can afford to spend it more wisely. Should you want to bring small gifts and such, we suggest you bring along school materials as the local people really can't afford much for their children.

CONCLUSION:

The above information should answer a lot of questions. If any of you have specific questions which were not answered above, then feel free to contact us or visit our FAQ page. It's never too early to start getting fired up. We cannot guarantee how many animals you'll down nor what species, but we promise you'll see lots of game and have plenty of shooting opportunities. We have done a lot of homework on these hunts. Trophy quality, variety and numbers are exceptional, as are the facilities and the people we're dealing with. You won't find a better hunting experience for your dollar anywhere else in the world. By all indications, you should have a great trip with memories that will last a lifetime!

Bowhunters Equipment list Documents:

Passport

Hunt contracts w/ up to date payment status

Airline Tickets

Taxidermist information, broker name address Cash

& Currency (Methods of payment):

Cashiers or travelers checks

Cash

Wires – ask for details

Credit cards (SA only). Note we ask 5% transaction fee Cell

Phone:

South Africa has good cell phone service, but your provider has to update the service to include RSA.

Laptop: We do have wireless internet available in camp Hard Bow Travel Case:

Bows (2) – 2nd bow is not really required if you do not have one, as the PH's have back-up bows in camp Arrows (18)

Broadheads (12)

Target Points (6)

Quiver

Picture of Cable assembly

Extra Bow parts like Release, rest, knocking point, string, cable,

Camo - Patterns are not critical – darker for blinds & tans for spot & stalk:

Fleece Jacket - Temps to be near freezing in the early morning

Fleece Vest

Medium / Light weight Camo pants (3) (Zipper-o_ leg style work very good)

Long sleeve Camo Shirts (3)

Long sleeve T-shirts (3)

Ball hat

Face masks Under-layer:

Underwear (5)

Socks (5)

Prepare for morning temps 30 – 40(f) and afternoon highs around 70-80 (f) - Very comfortable hunting weather. A warm coat for drive to the blind in the morning, as you often sit in the back of the truck in the observer seat Day pack:

Binoculars rigged with “Bino-buddy”

Range Finder

Extra Batteries

Chapstick

Sunscreen

Book

Camera

Bug & Tick spray

Baby wipes Camp

clothes:

Sweat pants

Sweat shirt

T-shirts (2)

Camp slippers

Tennis shoes

Small Flashlight Personal
bag:
Tooth paste & Tooth brush
Shampoo
Q-tips
Fingernail clipper
Chapstick
Medicine kit
Aspirin
Diarrhea Medicine
Tooth ache medicine
Benidryl – sleeping
Cold Medicine
Camera tripod
110 volt adapter (South Africa uses 220 DC)
Video Camera
Tripod
Film
Battery charger
Still camera
Extra Camera Battery

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We accept



Or ask us about our "Hunt Now, Pay Later Program" valid for all hunters booking our hunts you just need credit approval. We realize the hunt of your dreams will not be a reality because you will never be in better physical condition than you are today. Instead of planning the hunt when you can afford it, hunt now while you are physically able. This program is a must for a hunter filling his bucket list!