



PAUL Phelan SAFARIS

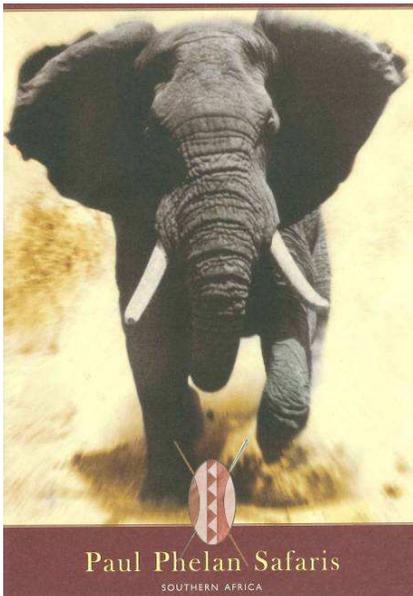
Hunting • Photographic • Safaris



The word 'Safari' is full of excitement. It allows you to conjure up ideas of adventure and romance, of strange new places and excitingly different people (Tony Dyer 2006)

It brings to mind tented safari camps, crackling hardwood fires with an ambiance of ages past, and Africa. You think of canvass chairs creaking around a glowing fire, and a deep dark sky studded with a myriad of bright stars, and all this to the serenade of the lion, leopard or hyena. Safaris bring all this, together with long days of walk and stalk hunting close up to the denizens of the African bush, and the companionship of an unusual breed of people, Africa's hunters.

Paul Phelan Safaris' mission is to provide an excellent ethical adventure in African hunting and touring. We are proud members of The Rowland Ward Guild of Field Sportsmen of Ethical Hunters. Our involvement in safaris is not just a business, but an expression of our passion for wildlife and for Africa. In this newsletter we look back with pride and satisfaction at another successful season with friends and kindred souls, and we present a taste of what we have shared together.



An unending pleasure is derived from the exploration of new unvisited and unexplored regions. Each eminence is eagerly climbed in the hope of viewing new prospects, each forest traversed with a strong idea prevailing that at the other end some grand feature of nature may be revealed. The morrows journey is longed for in the hope that something new may be discovered. For the traveller who is a true lover of wild Nature, where can she be found in such variety as in Africa, where is she so mysterious, fantastic, and savage, where are her charms so strong, her moods so strange.....

(H.M. Stanley, circa 1880)

Paul Phelan Safaris has shared another wonderful year of adventure across southern Africa with great hunters; from the Plains of Camdeboo in the Eastern Cape, the vast diamond rich expanses of the Northern Cape, and the Knobthorn bushveld of the North West Province of South Africa, through to the massive Mopane jungles of Mozambique - 2008 has been a good year. The South African plains have offered unending vistas with dancing Black Wildebeest and *pronking* Springbuck, in sharp contrast to the imposing dense bush with 30 foot visibility in Mozambique, in search of Buffalo, Hippo, Crocodile and an elusive Bushbuck or two. In these circumstances close encounters with Elephant are an adrenalin generating reality.

The first safari this year was carried out in Zululand roaming the hunting grounds of the great Zulu King, Shaka. We hunted the inspiring Zululand Rhino Reserve, which has been established to extend the range of the endangered Black Rhino. The character of the Black Rhino epitomizing a safari in Zululand..... unpredictable, heated and exciting!



Hunt with Africa's Adventurers



PAUL Phelan SAFARIS

Hunting • Photographic • Safaris

In contrast, our hunting experiences in the Eastern Cape were offered on a concession surrounded by beautiful green hills in the form of an ancient caldera. The area has petrified mud flats that hold fascinating foot prints of dinosaurs that roamed the area 250 million years ago. The Reserve has as its centre a completely restored historic village dating from the early 1900s. The surrounds abound with plains game, a few rhino, and a beautiful herd of elephant.



Stanislav with his 15'10" Crocodile from the shores of Lake Cahora Bassa

Mozambique offered us the wild and the untamed. These hunts saw us in Chipembe Camp on the shores of Lake Cahora Bassa. The area is heavily wooded with massive 60 foot Mopane trees. This is the home of raw rugged hunting. This concession is loaded with Hippo and huge Crocodile. Elephant, Buffalo and plains game are also abundant.

Notwithstanding internal political troubles, Zimbabwe is still a favourite for hunters, offering a true African safari with rich and rewarding trophies.

There was great diversity of species hunted this year - ranging from the threatening and dangerous to the shy and illusive; from the impressively large to the charmingly small. Our clients have been rewarded with magnificently large Crocodile, Rhino and Hippo through to regal black Springbuck and rare Bontebuck.

The Crocodile of Cahora Bassa were superb, up to 15'10" and 15'6" in length, and as memorable for their size as for the challenge of the hunt. Being very aware of their surroundings, the slightest sound saw them disappear into the water – an opportunity missed. As challenging and impressive were the Hippo hunts in this area, which also delivered magnificent trophies.

Dazzling Sable and Roan were also rewards from a good season – wonderful Sable trophies and very heavy Roan were hunted across the Kalahari and Northern Cape.



Ric with his 15'6" Crocodile from the shores of Lake Cahora Bassa



Trophy Sable taken in the Kalahari by Valery



Stansilav and the Hippo taken at Cahora Bassa

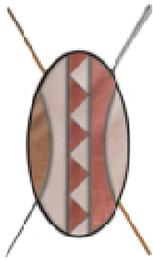


Valery and the team with a White Rhino taken in the Northern Cape



David and his pair – Roan and Sable taken in the Northern Cape

Hunt with Africa's Adventurers



PAUL Phelan SAFARIS

Hunting • Photographic • Safaris



Equally appreciated was the smaller but as impressive rare Bontebuck we bagged - a species which has been rescued from the brink of extinction. We have also managed to hunt the extraordinary this season - securing a brilliant specimen of a black Springbuck. The black Springbuck is not a sub-species but rather a mutation of the common Springbuck and therefore only found by chance. Not only did we actually find one this year, but it was a real beauty.



The 2008 trophy cabinet has also been filled with wonderful and prized examples of Bushbuck, Waterbuck, Zebra, Black and Blue Wildebeest, Hartebeest, Warthog, Impala, Blesbuck, Kudu, and common Springbuck.



Our 2008 season was repeatedly enriched with fascinating wildlife experiences. While stalking a Zebra in Zululand, we noticed a group of Vervet Monkeys between us and the Zebra. On sighting us the Monkeys took to the trees, and were so busy shouting abuse at us that neither Man nor Monkey noticed a Crowned Eagle (the largest of our Eagles) honing in. The Eagle used the diversion we were creating as an opportunity to swoop - all we heard was 'thud' and the Eagle was off with the male Monkey in its talons! A more efficient hunter left us wide eyed!



We had an unexpected adventure with a very cantankerous old Buffalo bull in the bushveld of the North West Province. Had we not been on our toes he would have charged us. We all found cover in the trees and then hurled stones and abuse at him till he retired - satisfied he had won that round. While left with our lives, we certainly lost out dignity!



Paul Phelan Safaris' 2008 season has also included memorable non-hunting safaris. Old friends, the Michael family, joined us on the 42 000 ha Rooipoort concession in the Northern Cape. Once the hunt was successfully concluded, the ladies of the Michael clan joined the 3 generations of Michael men for a tour of the Garden Route and Cape Town under the expert guidance and humour of Sophia Lindop and Steve Thomas. We were excellently accommodated in Cape Town, and took in many of the highlights the Cape has to offer including a visit to the top of Table Mountain, wine tasting in the Stellenbosch winelands and a moving visit to a township school's child feeding scheme on the Cape Flats. The passion was remarkable and the encounter left us feeling very humble.



Paul Phelan Safaris will be at the Dallas Safari Club Show (Booth number 649 and 651 from 8th - 11th January) and I will also be visiting friends and meeting prospective clients in Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Oklahoma City, Phoenix (Az), Jackson Hole (Wyo), Detroit, Washington DC. If you can't come and meet me in person at one of these venues please email me at mwnggruma@mweb.co.za or call on +27 82 411 0210 / +27 33 330 2231 (tel / fax).



The success of this season is due to the efforts and support of a number of people and therefore my thanks again go to friends, clients and colleagues, with special recognition to Coenraad Vermaak Safaris, Fort Richmond Safaris and MacDonald Pro Safaris, whose contributions have made possible the delivery of high quality and rewarding safaris. Thanks also go to Ant Africa Safaris, Frank Vos and Ingwe Safaris for their ongoing support.



The 2008 World stage has almost collapsed due to a range of factors, in particular bankers' greed and fraud. But a Safari in Africa still holds good! We offer you an adventure into another world of upstanding, reliable and ethical hunting and relaxation. Please come and join us and let us share our world with you.

Paul Phelan Safaris wishes you a wonderful Festive Season and looks forward, in anticipation, to sharing the African adventure with you in 2009.

Hunt with Africa's Adventurers