



THE "BIG CAT" AFRICAN VET SAFARI – 2012

Come face to face with the magnificent cheetah, the leopard, African Elephant, and of course the mighty lion.....

This safari takes guests behind the scenes and gives them the opportunity to interact with researchers, ecologists, Vets and guides while discovering the fantastic world of wildlife in Southern Africa.

Guided throughout the safari by a Wildlife Veterinarian, you will be given a unique insight into the world of wildlife.

Not only do you have a fantastic time, but **your participation also helps the conservation of the endangered cheetah.**

Join us for the experience of a lifetime and know that your dreams about Africa will never be the same.....

Day 1 – Saturday

Arrive at **Johannesburg International Airport** (OR Tambo) – flights for your own arrangement.

On arrival transfer from **Johannesburg International Airport** to your nearby hotel, via the free shuttle service provided by the hotel.

Your accommodation for the night is on a bed & breakfast basis and check in is from 2.00 pm.

Enjoy dinner at your hotel complex – for your own expense.

If you **prefer to transfer directly to De Wildt on day 1** and avoid the night in the city, this can be arranged subject to availability and at an additional cost.

Contemporary convenience at its best... your **3-star Hotel** offers stylish and comfortable rooms as well as a "group-friendly" experience for corporate, convention and leisure guests. The hotel offers a variety of room configurations and amenities which include LCD flat screen TV, satellite DSTV channels for all languages, tea and coffee stations, secure internet connections, laptop safe, working desk with business-

convenient plug points. The hotel's clean and modern façade is complimented by a private and sheltered pool terrace, set in a beautifully landscaped garden, providing guests with food and beverage service throughout the day.

There is also an express-style deli for quick and convenient meals, a business centre with workstations and data connectivity for laptops, boardroom with state of the art facilities, and Wi-Fi internet access in public areas. The hotel also features the F.L.A.G Café and the 21° Cocktail Bar. The hotel features 248 rooms and your stay will be in one of the Classic Rooms.

Day 2 - Sunday

After breakfast at the hotel (included in safari cost) you will be met at 10 am by Brothers Safaris, and **transfer to the Ann van Dyk Cheetah Centre**, just North West of Pretoria (approximately 1 hour drive).

Check in and enjoy lunch at the **De Wildt Cheetah Lodge**.

Enjoy a private afternoon tour of the facility, with the likely opportunity to have your photo taken with one of the centre's "Cheetah Ambassadors".

Sundowners (sunset drinks) are followed by dinner back at the lodge.
Overnight at De Wildt Cheetah Lodge.

Ann van Dyk Cheetah Centre is renowned for its breeding success of rare and endangered species. The very rare King Cheetah was first bred here and similar success was achieved in breeding the Wild Dog, Brown Hyena, Blue Duiker, Suni Antelope and various species of vultures. Visitors to the Centre can see these animals up close and learn interesting facts about their nature, habitat and way of life when taking a tour in an open vehicle, conducted by a knowledgeable guide. The centre is a CITES approved cheetah breeding centre.

De Wildt Cheetah Lodge is situated just north west of Pretoria, in the De Wildt area. The lodge is set in lush green gardens on an adjacent property to the breeding Centre, nestled in the foothills of the Magaliesberg mountain range. This presents a landscape of open veld (bush), many indigenous trees, and a panoramic view to the north. A renovated old farm homestead, the lodge has eight suites, each individually decorated to highlight the species that are bred at the Centre, or the environment. Each meal is a sumptuous experience. Brothers Safaris rates this lodge 3 star.



Day 3 - Monday

Early breakfast at the lodge.

After breakfast we transfer to the centre where the morning will be spent observing, and where possible, **assisting with the management tasks at the centre. Staff will take guests behind the scenes for a look at how things are run.**

Return to the nearby lodge for **lunch**.

After lunch we will head out to visit the local craft market where you will have an opportunity to stock up on some mementos and gifts to take back home with you. Return to the lodge after your shopping expedition and start packing for an departure from De Wildt early tomorrow morning. Enjoy some leisure time at the lodge..

Dinner and overnight at De Wildt Cheetah Lodge.

Day 4 - Tuesday

After early breakfast we transfer to the neighbouring De Wildt Cheetah Centre to witness a “**cheetah run**”! The ambassador cheetahs are exercised regularly, using a lure to invoke their hunting instinct, as part of a new programme to exercise them and in so doing hopefully also eliminate gastritis which is an ongoing problem for captive cheetah. **Please ensure that your bags are packed and ready as we will depart on our journey immediately after the cheetah run.**

After the run we check out of the De Wildt Cheetah Lodge and **transfer to the far north west of the country** - approximately a 6 hour drive through some remote areas of South Africa.

We will stop to pick up a take away lunch en route – for your own account.

Check in mid-afternoon and enjoy a short game drive (time and mood dependent after the day's drive) and sundowners before returning to camp for an evening at leisure with **dinner and overnight at our lodge**.

Our lodge is situated on a sandstone ridge offering guests breath-taking views. The lodge is built of stone and thatch and offers simple luxury. All rooms are en-suite, air conditioned, and are set a short distance away from the main lodge area. While staying here we have exclusive use of the lodge.

Our stay here is on a full board basis and a reasonable amount of local drinks - soft and alcoholic - are included. Brothers Safaris rates this lodge 3 star.

Day 5 - Wednesday

Early morning light breakfast/tea/coffee followed by a transfer into the neighbouring nature reserve (VLNR) which we'll be working in.

VLNR is 34 000 hectares in size, and home to many species of antelope, giraffe, lion, leopard, elephant, white and black rhino, and many more. The vegetation consists mostly of Mopane scrub, which presents a harsh landscape and does not favour all species, or only carries low numbers of grazers.

You have to work hard at your game viewing here, but this offers a true sense of Africa and its wildlife!

Predator work at VLNR is presently in the balance, as there is some uncertainty regarding the future of the lion population currently on the reserve. However **various research projects** are in progress, and mostly focus on monitoring and data collection on predators and elephant. **The predator research project falls under the auspices of the Endangered Wildlife Trust and any veterinary work we might undertake with the predators while we are here, assists this project. Participation also ensures additional donations to this project.**

We will join reserve staff this morning – subject to which projects are running at the time of the safari and who is available - and learn more about ongoing projects and the skills of **tracking wildlife using telemetry**, as well as the conservation issues surrounding endangered species, and the veterinary aspects and involvement of veterinarians.

Return to the lodge later in the morning for **brunch** (and some leisure time).

After brunch there will be some informative **talks** on issues relating to lion/predator immobilisation and conservation/management and the actual procedure, equipment, drugs, etc. This will also cover safety aspects and guests involvement in the procedure.

Any veterinary work which we may be able to do will be undertaken this afternoon, failing which we will head out on a game drive onto the reserve.

Enjoy dinner back at the lodge and a good night's sleep.



Day 6 - Thursday

Early morning light breakfast/tea/coffee followed by a **game drive** on one of the two local nature reserves, depending on how the game viewing and tracking progressed the day before.

Return to the lodge late morning for brunch and some leisure time.

After brunch we'll explain how the dart gun system works and guests will be allowed to **load tranquiliser darts with water and fire them at a target!**

Mid to late afternoon we head out again, this time to enjoy a **game drive** in a different area and sundowners in one of the most magnificent spots in Africa!

Return to the lodge for dinner and to overnight.

http://www.brotherssafaris.com/index.php/component/option,com_morfeoshow/Itemid

Day 7 – Friday

After late breakfast we check out and head across the border **into Botswana at 1.00pm**. If the river is in flood we may have to cross the river by cable car.... Another adventure....

We drive through the reserve for approximately 45 minutes to get to our camp and check into our **new camp** mid afternoon and enjoy some leisure time before high tea.

Late afternoon we head out on **game drive into this new environment with our local ranger and your Brothers Safaris vet to explore, and in search of more wildlife.....and new species not yet seen....**

We enjoy sundowners in the bush before returning to camp for dinner and a good night's rest.

Please note: Some foreign nationals require visas to enter Botswana and it is the responsibility of the guest to obtain these as required by the Botswana government.

During our stay **we explore some 75,000 acres / 30,000 hectares of pristine privately owned game land**, which has been set aside to preserve the unique, prodigious features of this exhilarating continent. The area covers a diverse wilderness of savannah, riverine forests, marshland, open plains and sandstone outcrops, and is the home of no less than seven of Africa's giants: the African elephant, the lion, giraffe, the baobab tree, the eland, the ostrich, and the kori bustard.

Nestled in the remote northern area of the reserve lies **our luxurious tented camp**. With never more than sixteen guests, this idyllic getaway provides accommodation in the form of eight twin tents. **Although rustic in character every facility is provided**. The tents are insect-proofed, have comfortable beds and each has an en-suite shower and W.C. facility. There is an open sided thatch dining area where meals are served and a traditional boma for intimate campfire dinners. This camp also contains a very welcome plunge pool. **Your total comfort is the priority of your hosts**. While on game drives, you will be taken care of by your ranger and on your return, the camp staff will gladly attend to your every need.

Clients may remove themselves further by visiting the hide, also overlooking the waterhole. The sturdy and shaded structure enables bush enthusiasts to sit quietly and to observe animal species going about their day. And the best part – the animals are completely unaware that they are not alone. It is humbling indeed to be an observer, standing where the world is perfect.



Day 8 - Saturday

Early morning tea and coffee is followed by a **game drive**. **Subject to the availability of a local resident researcher**, the focus on this drive is the **African Elephant.....** Learn more about this species in the wild, in particular in this unique environment. Of course there will be other species to view along the way too...

Return to the lodge late morning for **breakfast and leisure time** to relax and enjoy your surroundings and facilities.

Enjoy a **late afternoon game drive with another of the resident researchers**, this time we focus on the elusive but exquisite **leopard as well as the lion**, but also taking in the other game which we may not yet have encountered during our stay. This is chance to hopefully witness hunting behaviour....

Return to camp after sundowners for dinner and to overnight.

Day 9 - Sunday

Early morning tea and coffee are followed by a **bush walk, who knows what you may come across.....**

(Any guests who **do not wish to participate in the walk, or are unable to**, will be taken on a game drive with other lodge guests during this time, subject to availability)

Return to the lodge mid morning for breakfast and leisure time.

After high tea we head out again on a **game drive in search of any species still not seen**, and enjoy sundowners for the last time.

Return to **camp after sundowners for dinner and to overnight.**



Day 10 - Monday

Early morning tea and coffee is followed by a **short game drive**, or for those who have had enough activities, sleep in and wake to the sounds of Africa.....

We have breakfast earlier than usual to ensure a timely check out and crossing of the border post, without rushing.

Late morning departure back to Johannesburg International Airport to arrive in time for connecting flights back home. Lunch en route for own expense.

Your **safari ends** at Johannesburg International Airport, at around 5pm.

If you are flying home today please do not book a flight **departing before 8 pm**. For guests not departing today, accommodation arrangements can be made on your behalf – not included in safari cost.

*** END OF SERVICES ***

Costing: USD 4390.00 per person sharing *based on current rate of exchange, subject to change***
Single supplement on request**

This is based on a minimum of 6 guests participating, and allows for a maximum of 8 participants. Larger groups may be accommodated on special request.

This cost **includes** board and accommodation as laid out above, all land transfers in a comfortable air-conditioned mini-bus, guides (including a Wildlife Veterinarian throughout the safari, and various local guides and researchers), all tours, presentations and activities as laid out above, entrance fees, VAT and Government Tourism levies.

Not included are drinks,, lunch and dinner on day 1, lunch on day 4, lunch on day 10, any visa costs applicable for Botswana, any optional additional activities, items of a personal nature, gratuities, travel insurance (medical insurance compulsory) and flights.

Departure Dates:

14 – 23 April 2012

06 – 15 October 2012

Tailor-made departures and alternate dates are available on request.

Please note that due to the nature of this experience, times and plans may need to be adjusted slightly as we proceed, especially since wildlife do not read itineraries very well! We will however always endeavour to complete all activities as laid out, but please bear with us should changes become necessary.

Please note the following regarding the darting/other procedure/s:

While every endeavour is made to locate and dart the animal in question, factors such as severe weather conditions or illness involving the animal, which are unpredictable, may prevent the darting from going ahead. Every effort will be made to ensure that the client participates in the darting procedure, or similar, as laid out in the itinerary, but the animal's welfare will not be compromised at any stage, and a procedure may have to be aborted and the animal revived in certain circumstances. This may shorten the procedure/down time, and hence the close up experience for the client. Brothers

Safaris, its staff, and appointed agents will not be held liable for any losses incurred by a client as a result of such situations, and accept no responsibility whatsoever. Every endeavour is made to ensure the health and safety of all our clients, but any procedure with a potentially dangerous wild animal is of such a nature that certain circumstances may be beyond our control. Should any such situation arise which leads to death or injury due to any reason whatsoever, Brothers Safaris, its staff, and appointed agents, will not be held liable for any losses incurred as a direct, or indirect, result of such a situation, or our actions in such a situation.

All Veterinary work is bone fide management or research based work and animals are not immobilised for the sake of clients, nor is their health or safety compromised in anyway.