



RHINO IMMOBILISATION SAFARIS 2012

Brothers Safaris offers various **Immobilisation Safaris** as part of our specialist **African Vet Safaris** portfolio. This particular safari co-operates with a private game reserve in the KwaZulu Natal Province of South Africa to facilitate ongoing management procedures within their rhino population, while giving **guests a once-in-a-lifetime hands on experience!**

This safari affords clients the opportunity to **be involved in rhino immobilisation**, carried out by one of the African Vet Safaris Wildlife Vets, and the subsequent management procedures which form a part of ongoing rhino management in the reserve. The days preceding the immobilisation **allow time for traditional game drives learning about wildlife in general, but specifically learning more about black and white rhino and their management/conservation**, as well as preparing you for the immobilisation procedure.

Guests are given the opportunity to participate in the procedure being carried out, once the animal is immobilised, and it is thus safe to move closer. Guests have the option of a hands-on approach, or, if they prefer, simply observing from up close and getting those pictures of a lifetime!

Come join us for the experience of a lifetime and contribute to wildlife conservation at the same time.

Day 1 – Sunday, 18 March 2012

Arrive at **Richard's Bay Airport** in the morning – flights for your own arrangement. On arrival you will be met by a Brothers Safaris representative who will **transfer you to the game reserve in which your safari takes place – approximately 1 hour's** drive to your lodge. The transfer will leave the airport at **12h00**. Early/late arrivals can be accommodated on request, but may incur a private transfer fee.

Guests may also choose, on arrangement, to fly to **King Shaka International Airport** outside of Durban and transfer into the lodge from there. Again flights for your own arrangement, but Brothers Safaris can assist with this if required. This transfer would incur a **supplementary cost**, as specified.

Check in on arrival and enjoy some lunch and time to acclimatise/freshen up.

Late afternoon you will head into the game reserve after tea, to explore the terrain and many species of wildlife that occur here, on an open game viewer vehicle, with your knowledgeable guide.

Enjoy sundowners in the bush and return to the lodge after dark for **an overview of the programme** for the next few days. Dinner follows, and a good night's rest.

This award winning lodge is located high up in the wild secluded hills of the **23 000ha private Zululand BIG 5 Game Reserve**, with spectacular views overlooking a vast stretch of unspoiled bushland and riverine forests, from the Umsunduze River meandering below to the distant Lebombo Mountains.

Your luxurious stone and thatch chalet provides a haven of peace and tranquillity where you can watch the sun and moon rise over an African plain that has not changed since before the birth of man. By day, lie in your personal hammock and watch eagles soar at eye level over the plain below and by night, marvel at the magnificence of the African night sky. Each chalet is light and spacious with its own private balcony and hammock, incredible view, en-suite bathroom, mini bar, tea and coffee facilities and mosquito nets over the beds.

Day 2 – Monday, 19 March 2012

Enjoy early morning tea / coffee and rusks before heading out on an **early morning game drive, focusing on rhino**, but taking in all sightings and animals along the way. This drive is intended to specifically give you a more in depth understanding of the rhino and its habits.

Return to the lodge midmorning for **breakfast**.

After breakfast there will be some informative **talks** on Rhino conservation issues, as well as the relevant **veterinary and safety aspects** for the immobilisation process. The talks focus on various interactive aspects of the immobilisation, to ensure that everyone gets the most from the experience in a manner that is safe for the patient, and safe and enjoyable for the guests.

We'll also enjoy a "**dart gun session**" where guests will fire darts loaded with water at a target, to demonstrate and experience the darting equipment!

Enjoy lunch in-between activities, before setting out **late afternoon on another game drive into the reserve**, again focusing on finding the rhino.

Return to the lodge after sunset for **dinner and to overnight**. Sleep may be hard with thoughts of the morning's excitement that awaits you.....

Day 3 – Tuesday, 20 March 2012

After another early start, **the team heads out into the game reserve to locate the patient ...**

The moment of truth arrives when **we dart the rhino** from a helicopter..... (executed by one of our wildlife veterinarians). **Once the rhino is safely immobilised, you will have the experience of your life while assisting with the various procedures** – ear notching for positive identification and management reasons, and to help combat poaching, and also tissue sampling for research/management purposes - all the while monitoring the status of the patient.

All being well, there will be plenty of **photo opportunities** as you get hands-on with one of Africa's endangered species.....

Once the procedures are done, **guests retreat to the safety of the nearby vehicle while the rhino recovers and walks off into the bush, sometimes a little disgruntled!**

Depending on the circumstances on the day, including whether the rhino have been excessively disturbed by the first immobilisation, we will try and work with two animals.

After the immobilisation and the rhino's recovery, guests **return to the lodge to rid themselves of some of the adrenalin that is sure to have flooded their bodies!**

Enjoy **lunch**, and some **leisure time** at the lodge.

Head out **late afternoon on a game drive** to locate and **check up on the patient**, if possible, and then continue on our evening game drive taking in all the species on the reserve. We enjoy sundowners for the last time, before heading back to camp.

Dinner and the day's tales are relished back at the lodge after sunset. Enjoy a peaceful night's sleep after the day's excitement....

Day 4 – Wednesday, 21 March 2012

Early morning tea and coffee are followed by the final **game drive**, or simply sleep in and wake to the sounds of the bush.

In the unlikely event that the previous day's immobilisation attempt was not successful (weather problems/patient cannot be located, etc), there will be **another attempt this morning.**

Breakfast is enjoyed at the lodge, before **checking out late morning**, and transferring back to Richard's Bay (or King Shaka International) Airport for your further travel plans.

*** END OF SERVICES***

Costing: USD 2600.00 per person sharing **rate based on current rate of exchange, subject to change**
Single supplement on application

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

This is inclusive of: all ground transfers from Richard's Bay airport to the reserve on a return basis; accommodation on a full board basis (including 3 meals daily, teas and coffees); all activities as laid out in the itinerary; the services of an African Vet Safaris Wildlife Vet and the services of local guides and staff, as indicated; tourism levies and Government VAT.

Cost excludes: additional optional activities; drinks; items of a personal nature; gratuities, and travel and medical (compulsory) insurance.

Departure Dates:
18 – 21 March 2012

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

The Game Reserve allows and supports this safari on the following basis:

- This opportunity is created by the conservation and management requirement to identify all of the reserve's Rhinos, which includes combating poaching.
- This hands-on safari is aimed at encouraging a culture of participative wildlife management by guests, in line with the reserve's care ethic and African Vet Safaris' standards for ethical conservation based veterinary safaris.
- The programme aims to facilitate the integration of wildlife management actions with the tourism industry, for mutual benefit, and for the benefit of Africa's wildlife.

Please note:

- Arrangements (transfers/accommodation) can be made for early arrivals from abroad/late departures, but these costs are not included in the itinerary.
- This **program is a guide** and all these activities will be done, but not necessarily in this order, as Rhino's don't read that well!!
- Every effort will be made to ensure that the client participates in the darting procedure, 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. The animal is the primary reason for this safari, and we need to bear that in mind and respect the patient.

Please note the following regarding the darting/immobilisation procedures:

While every endeavour is made to locate and dart the animal in question, factors such as severe weather conditions or illness involving the animal; inability to locate or approach the animal close enough due to bush conditions; failure of the animal to

come to a bait, etc; which are all 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 and veterinary drug 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.



