



PAUL STONES SAFARIS AFRICA NEWSLETTER

Past safaris of 2021



Greetings to you all.

It has been a while since you last heard much of anything from me but that is a good thing. They always say “no news is good news” In this case we have “news” and it was oh, such good news!

After the mid year activity which was so appreciated, we then had a little quiet patch. We held our breath in the hope that planned safaris towards the latter half of the year, would actually materialise. Each day passed and honestly, that is the only way one could describe the wait, a daily torment! Finally the days passed and the safaris became a reality. First an amazing trip to the Mababe Depression in Botswana, if you ever want to see herds in excess of 4000 buffalo this is the place to do that! Huge thanks to Christo Spykerman for being such help and Johan Calitz for his usual brilliance, fireside chats and outfitting capabilities! I would also like to congratulate him on the incredible foresight shown on how to work with communities, brilliant!!



We then moved to the Umbabat, in the APNR, South Africa. As always it delivered in spades and the hunting of elephant and buffalo was wonderful. To the gentlemen that accompanied us on that safari, I must say that the support over the past two years has been something I cannot describe in any other word than “phenomenal” thank you! To the young man who took his first buffalo, a job very well done! This was followed up with a trip to Niassa with two of these gentlemen and some fantastic buffalo hunting, once again double rifles used and what a story they tell!



One of the bulls we got a really good look at early that morning, a fickle wind and a days tracking, we caught him at 17h35 that evening, we stuck with him as we knew he was special!



Safaris in Niassa, Mozambique did finally come to pass. To Dave and Fred Rademeyer, thank you, a lovely story, Fred wanted to do the last safari of his long career in an area that mirrored a time gone by, he wanted Africa in its traditional colours, accompanied by his son Dave and a client that he first guided as a child, now an established US outfitter herself, they came to Niassa. Once the safari ended, I needed to know if we had delivered and yes we had! The success was as we hoped it would be, a whopping full bag on lion, leopard, buffalo and a collection of wonderful species during 21 days of hunting.



As time passes, many will often ask, “what was your most incredible safari” one has to be very considerate when such a question is answered, as I have been blessed with incredible people, places and experiences over the 30 years I have hunted professionally. One safari will never detract from another!

Safari experiences are made up of a kaleidoscope of emotion, characters, areas, past history, conversation, commonality, connection, passion and most of all, the ability to convey the absolute passion one has for an area, species and the love of what you do, to those entrusting their investment with you!



On Safari, I live in a permanent state of romantic flux, I still expect to bump into Philip Percival, Andrew Holmberg has just walked back into camp with another 100 pounder and Denys Finch-Hatton has left his double in my gun rack back in camp! So the recipe for this 21 day safari was an elixir of two open sighted Purdey 500/465 doubles and a Holland and Holland 7 x 65R double, numerous buffalo, leopard and a variety of plains game, sleeping on the top of “enselbergs” drinking tea in the shade of teak woodland, following eland bulls through violent stormy sunsets, tracking buffalo bulls for a day or more, laughing from the depth of your being, sharing thoughts, personal and then some, approaching old buffalo bulls within ranges that border madness, silences where the unspoken was deafening, mindless lunches of bread and cheese that tasted better than any Michelin starred meal, searing midday October heat, tsetse fly, breathtaking sunsets, campfire magic and all of this in the mixing bowl that is Niassa L7, Mozambique and you had the quintessential “Safari”



After almost two years of inactivity, this past while has rejuvenated the spirit, brought back that absolute knowledge that this is what I was born to do. I look forward to more of the same, I look forward to giving those of you that seek the deliverance of “safaris past” in “safaris present” and the celebration of a bygone era that spawned the passion for that which we refer to as “SAFARI”

To phs James Lizamore, David Langerman, Derek Littleton, all the field and camp staff that give their all, trackers Mango, Lasborn, Tino, Jamie, Sabite,

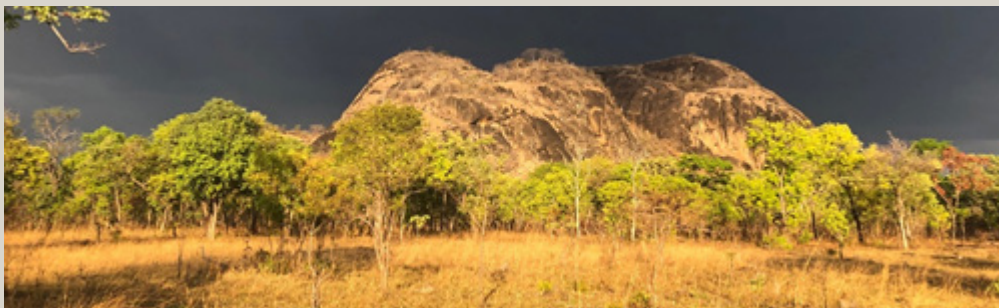


Bilali, Bonar a massive thanks for all you contribute and I am aware that without you, such success is simply not possible!

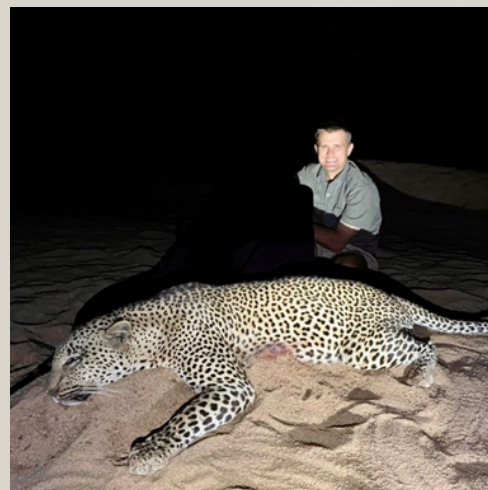
I wish all of you a blessed Christmas and that 2022 will turn a corner where there will be less uncertainty, less sadness, less hopelessness and where we will do more of that which was meant for us and that is LIVE.

Thank you all
Paul











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