



WildlifeCampus

LEARN PROTECT SAVE

Magazine

All about ASI

Employment
section

Geology,
not just rocks

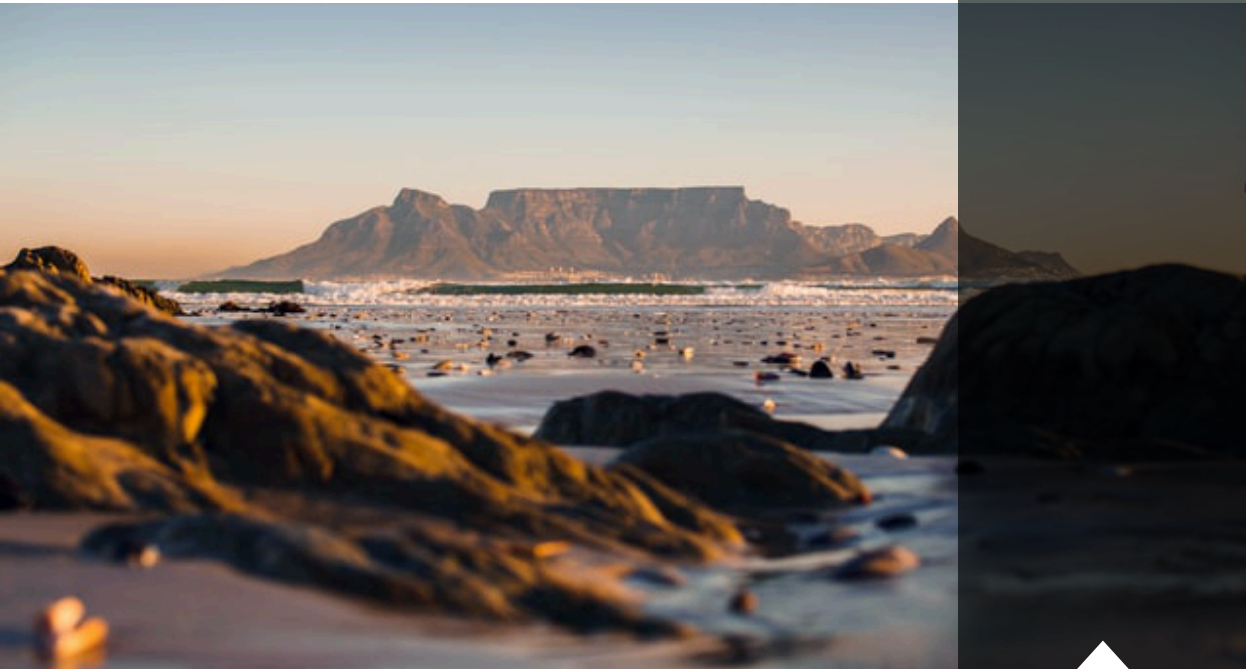
A view to kill

How you can get in

How you can get in

Win a mega hamper!

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Todd Kaplan

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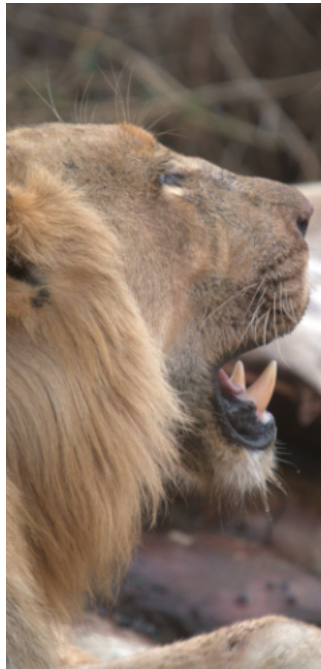


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Employment

Ever wondered about changing careers? In the employment section of our magazine we tackle a difficult question: "How to choose your career?" Hayley from Wild Dreams Hospitality provides us with the right questions to make an informed decision.

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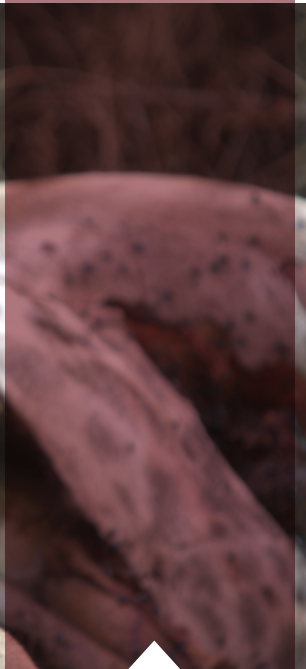


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Win a mega
hamper!

Support conservation organisations Wild Response and Soldiers For Wildlife. Buy tickets for the draw on the Give it Horns website and stand a chance to win an amazing hamper valued at over R22k!

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A view to kill

How many lions does it take to bring down a fully grown female giraffe? Find out in this month's closing story by David Batzofin!

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01 What type of guide will you be?

Part #8

By WildlifeCampus CEO

Todd Kaplan



In this ongoing series, Garth Thompson explores types of guides.

Guiding attracts a wide, diverse and interesting group of people, those that have been in the industry for some time can quickly place guides into a number of different categories. We conclude this roll-call with the ...

Extraordinary Guides - Eccentrics Part A

I have watched with interest this type of guide, who has the bemused clients spellbound by his antics. There is only a handful of these colourful characters, who often have very strong personalities, are great raconteurs and

tremendous showmen without trying to be. Most have a very specialised 'pet subject', let's call it 'birds'. They have the knack of turning their group into keen birders even if they arrived on the safari without the slightest interest in birds.

They are oblivious to time and, believing that everyone else is also totally absorbed by birds, they feel no pressure to find big game. The clients, who have now become spectators, are enthralled by the antics of this character, from whose hand they feed while the eccentric pursues his or her passion.

Whenever an interesting bird is spotted, the vehicle is switched off, the bird

patiently studied through well-used binoculars, often accompanied by mumbling noises equal to that of a mad professor, while notes are scribbled into a well-fingered bird or notebook. They almost certainly spurn a phone-based birding app!

When such guides encounter a rare bird, they verge on becoming apoplectic in their behaviour and will drive the vehicle through the virgin bush in pursuit of the bird, while the bemused clients hold on for dear life uttering shrieks of delight, as they are bounced from termite hill to aardvark hole.

Very few guides can naturally pull off this kind of behaviour.

Guests find the enthusiasm and dedication for a particular subject from this type of guide an inspiration, often returning from the game drive delighted



"They are oblivious to time and, believing that everyone else is also totally absorbed by birds, they feel no pressure to find big game."

to have been with someone who displays such a zest for a topic that they never realised could be so interesting and stimulating.

This type of guide will often return to camp having chalked up some good game sightings too, as much time was spent looking for birds and driving so slowly that inevitably someone did spot lion, elephant, leopard, etc. They don't rush from waterhole to waterhole to see how many types of big game can be found.

'Normal' guides often miss a lot between waterholes as they tend to guide under self-inflicted pressure and neglect the rhythms of nature.

Garth recounts ...
"A number of years ago I was conducting a four-day walking safari with a group, most of whom had come for big game experiences. There were also two ladies from the Tree Society, one of them none other than Meg Coates Palgrave (of the celebrated Meg & Keith Coates Palgrave Trees of Southern Africa), who obviously lives, eats, drinks and sleeps trees!"



“The unsurpassed elephant bulls of Mana Pools gave us some incredible displays and experiences.”

At first there was a bit of pressure and tension from the ‘big game’ people as we stopped every 25 metres for Meg to study the leaves, bark, flowers and pods of certain plants. This was accompanied by a neverending flow of interesting facts about the uses of the particular specimen, Meg’s eyes brightened and filled with fire and enthusiasm while she bubbled away as if she would never see this plant again!

She would then proceed to anchor a branch down with thin nylon ropes pegged into the ground, set up her tripod, camera and flash and methodically take vertical and horizontal shots of these living plant specimens.

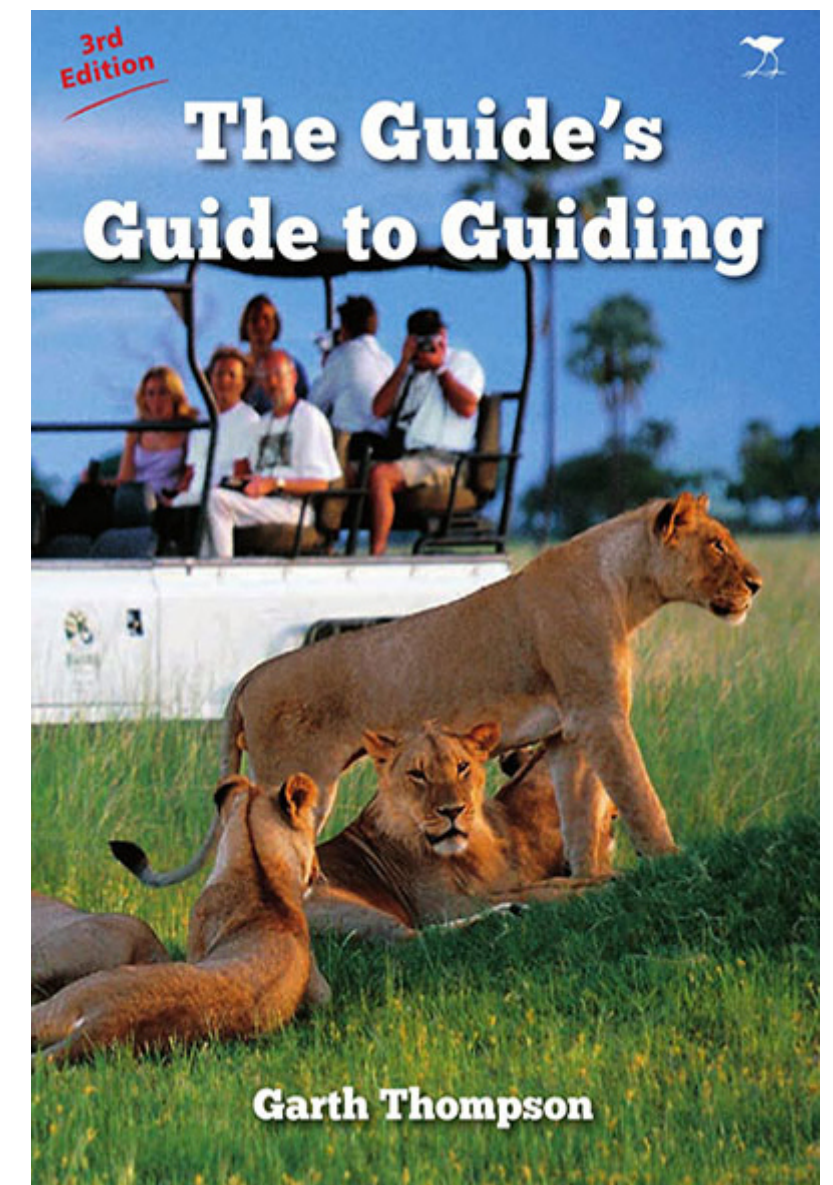
During this lengthy process everyone else stood around peering through their binoculars hoping that something as exciting as an impala would come by. Meg couldn’t even begin to understand why anyone would want to see things like elephant that disfigured her beloved trees. She is a very strong personality and it was difficult at first to keep her happy as well as the others.

As the safari progressed, we began to have some very good wildlife sightings. The unsurpassed elephant bulls of Mana Pools gave us some incredible displays and experiences. This resulted in the game-orientated guests becoming content and relaxed and

beginning to show an interest in what caused the enthusiasm of this eccentric woman.

When we drove to the airstrip on the last day, Meg tested everyone on the various trees of the park. In the course of the safari they had learnt and could recognise over twenty different species of tree. The whole group subsequently joined the Tree Society! They had expanded their horizons and now had a new subject to appreciate in nature.”

Garth Thompson is one of the world’s foremost field guides and author of the must-read Guides Guide to Guiding.



Click the book cover to try the FREE component of the WildlifeCampus Guide's Guide to Guiding course!

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Johan Marais with a Black Mamba.

The African Snakebite Institute is the leading provider of snake awareness, first aid for snakebite and venomous snake handling courses in Africa.

These courses are presented by Johan Marais, one of Africa's top herpetologists with over 40 years of experience, in conjunction with Luke Kemp, a zoology graduate who has been working at ASI for the past four years.

ASI conducts on-site training to corporate clients throughout Africa, including mines, construction companies, government departments and game lodges. Public courses are available for nature enthusiasts or people who frequently come across snakes. These courses are accredited by the International Society of Zoological Science (ISZS), Field Guide Association of South Africa (FGASA) and are endorsed and registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) for CPD points.



The courses cover snake anatomy and behavior, myths and superstitions, identification, venoms and first aid in a theory session followed by venomous snake handling. The safe snake handling protocols were developed by Johan Marais while working as curator at some of Africa's leading snake parks and as a result of visits to various reptile parks and research facilities across the world. Advanced snake handling courses (including Black Mambas), advanced first aid and Reptile photography courses are also offered.



Above - Advanced Snake handling with a Black Mamba.

Left - Corporate training using safe protocols to remove problem snakes from site.



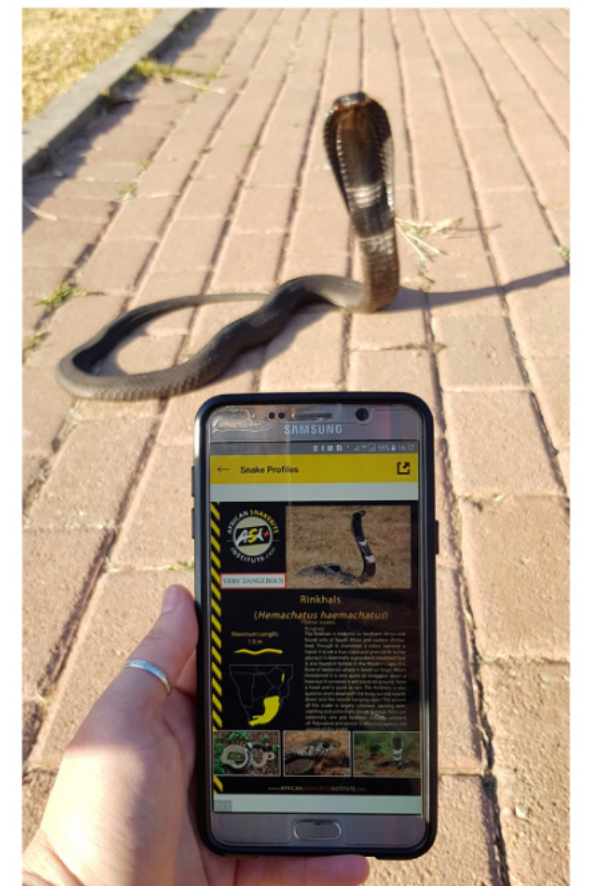
The African Snakebite Institute is the largest distributor of snake handling equipment on the continent. From snake tongs and hooks to snake gaiters, first aid kits, scorpion torches, snake traps and clothing, ASI offers it all. The products are locally made and designed by leading herpetologists.

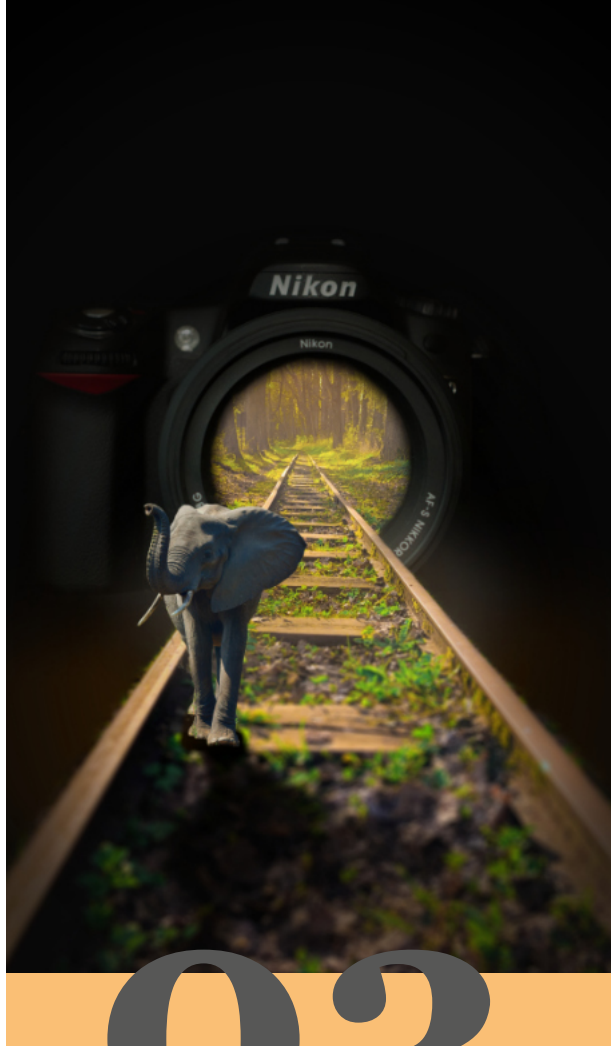


ASI also offers a full selection of African reptile and amphibian field guides as well as posters of snakes for different African countries and towns, game reserves and provinces of South Africa.

The African Snakebite Institute website provides educational information in newsletters, articles, posters and other documents. They have also developed a free app, ASI SNAKES, that includes snake, spider and scorpion identification profiles, first-aid material, snake removal information and more.

You can find out more at www.AFRICANSNAKEBITEINSTITUTE.com





03

PHOTOGRAPHY “I've got your back brother”

Competition Winner

Competition winner

Alex Wood

My passion for the bush has always shown even though my path started in the corporate industry, working for a bank for a few years I learnt a lot about the industry, the economy but most of all about ME.

I learnt that I was meant for so much more than pushing papers in an office, so in September 2018 I took the leap and resigned at the bank, seeking purpose and accomplishment in my life. I decided to turn my passion into my life goal and career path, I enrolled for the safari ranger programme of a prestige wildlife, hospitality and conservation training school, African Bush Training. This was an extensive course starting with my FGASA field guiding course followed by an array of other courses such as, lodge management, game lodge management, wildlife research and wilderness protection (anti-poaching).

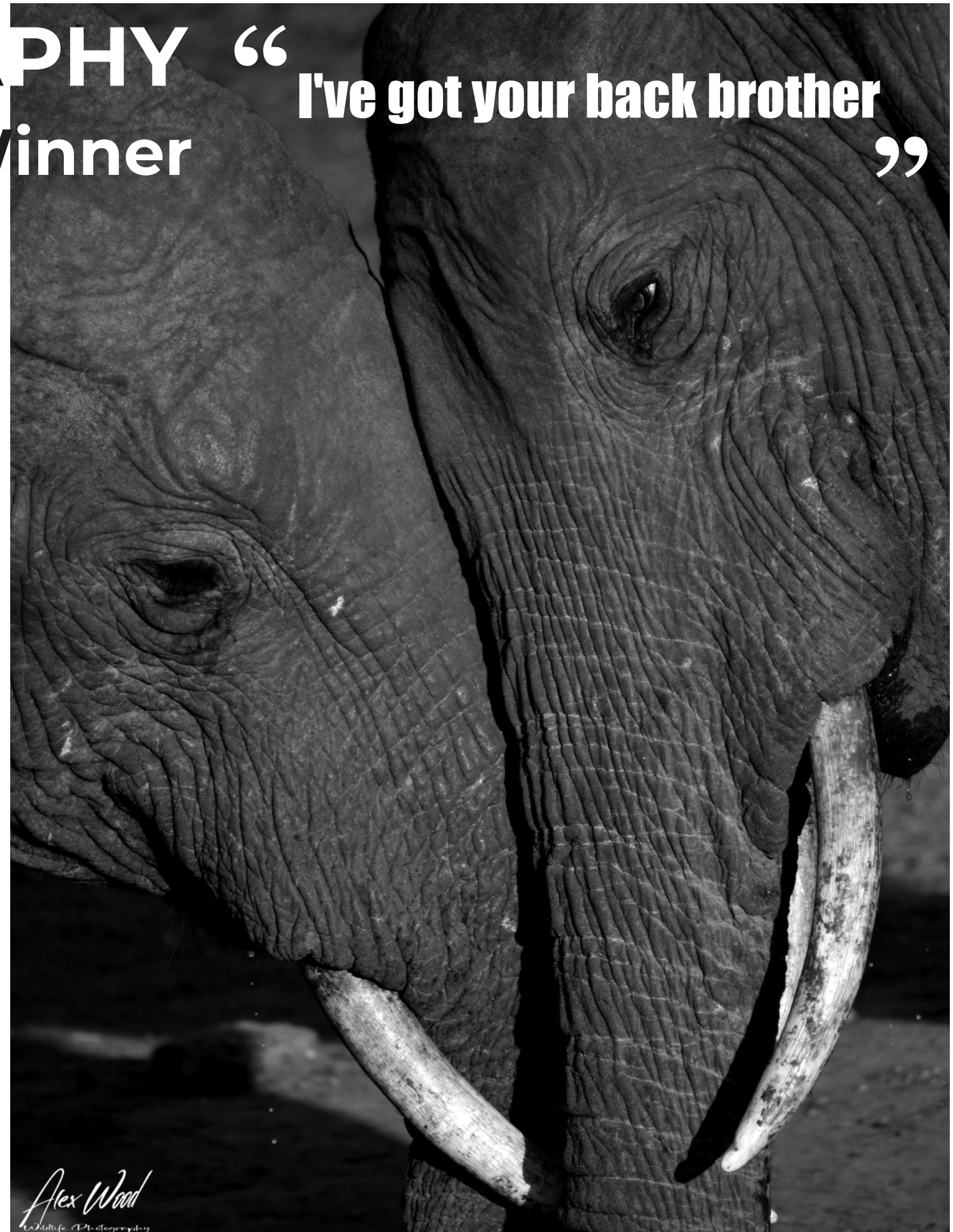
I believe my life experiences and knowledge have put me in a great position to be able to deal with difficult situations and to be able to keep a level head with obstacles ahead of me. Guiding took me by storm and I don't see myself wanting to do anything else but teach the world about our true beauty we call the African bush.

My journey drew me to Addo Elephant National Park (where I worked at 2 stunning lodges in and outside of the park). This was a fitting competition for me to enter being that the majestic elephant is my favourite animal.

My hobbies follow inline with my passion being wildlife photography, art, and traveling.



Alex while out on a game drive with a stunning elephant next to him.





“ Studying the past is our best tool for looking ahead. ”

Geology

Not just rocks

By WildlifeCampus student

Amy Holt

Geology isn't just rocks. It is the study of our planet, how it works and its 4.5 billion year history.

Studying the past is our best tool for looking ahead. ‘deep time’ refers to the time scale of geologic events (the concept dates back to eighteenth century geologist James Hutton), a time probably too long for anyone to comprehend. We may think 100 years seem like a long time, but it's not. The planet's carbon and nitrogen cycles, ocean chemistry and biodiversity are all products of millions of years of slow evolution. However, slow-motion workings of the world are all but invisible to us. We evolved to live in the here and now.

South Africa has a complex geological history dating back millions of years, making it an ideal place to marvel at ‘deep time’. Many of the most important hominid fossils and some of the oldest rocks on Earth are found in South Africa. The Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site, located approximately 50 kilometres northwest of Johannesburg, contains a complex of limestone caves where thousands of fossils, showing human evolution over the past 3.5 million years, have been found. The most famous fossils discovered are known as ‘Mrs Ples’ and ‘Little Foot’. ‘Mrs Ples’ is a pre-human skull (*Australopithecus africanus*) dating back more than 2 million years. ‘Little Foot’ is a complete hominid skeleton that was discovered in 1997 in the Sterkfontein caves. At the Sterkfontein caves alone, the remains of more than 500 hominids have been discovered.

There are four major meteorite impact sites in South Africa, with the Vredefort Dome World Heritage Site being the largest verified impact crater on Earth (roughly 300 kilometres across). It is estimated to be 2 billion years old, making it the second-oldest known crater on Earth. Tswaing Crater is one of the best-preserved meteorite craters in the world and hit Earth about

04



Much of Cape Town and the coastal plain is underlain by the 560 million year old Malmesbury shales—these also form the base of Table Mountain.

220,000 years ago. Today, a small salt lake lies at the bottom of the crater, and the area is surrounded by dense tree growth. The Kalkkop Crater in the Karoo in the Eastern Cape is the impact site of a meteorite that hit Earth around 250,000 years ago. Located in the Kalahari Desert in the North West province, the Morokweng Crater is the fourth and final meteorite impact site in South Africa. It is not visible from the Earth’s surface, and was only discovered in 1994 through magnetic and gravimetric surveys.

The Pilanesberg is one of the largest volcanic complexes of its type. It is located in one of the world’s largest and best preserved alkaline ring dyke complexes — a rare circular feature that emerged from the subterranean plumbing of an ancient volcano. Pilanesberg volcano never erupted into the air. Instead, its underground eruptions over the course of millions of years (approximately 1200 million years) caused concentric fractures into which magma flowed, cooled and hardened. Pilanesberg is now the eroded roots of an immense volcanic caldera. A caldera is a large ‘cauldron-like’ depression formed when a volcano erupts and collapses inwards. Inside the complex is the renowned Pilanesberg National Park.

Table Mountain is one of Cape Town’s most recognisable landmarks and it is one of the oldest mountains in the world (older than the Himalayas and the Rockies). Much of Cape Town and the coastal plain is underlain by the 560 million year old Malmesbury shales—these also form the base of Table Mountain. The Malmesbury shales are the mud and muddy sands that were deposited on the bed of the ancient sea. The next layer of Table Mountain was Cape Granite which, formed from the slow crystallisation of magma below the Earth’s surface. Cape Granite is easily seen as the massive rounded boulders of Camps Bay and



Table Mountain is one of Cape Town’s most recognisable landmarks

Boulders Beach. The most recent layer was sandstone (Table Mountain Group) which was deposited between 510 and 340 million years ago. When the Southern continents collided to form Gondwana, the Malmesbury shales and Cape Granite were pushed upwards. Over a period of 30 to 40 million years, they were eroded into a flat plain, that became an inland sea and river delta. As the plain sunk, the mud and sand were buried, compressed and cemented to form nearly horizontal layers of shale and sandstone. More sand continued to be deposited until the sandstone was 7 kilometres thick.

Fold mountains are the most common type of mountain in the world. The Cape Fold Belt extends from about Clanwilliam (approximately 200 kilometres north of Cape Town) to about Gqeberha, and includes Table Mountain. If the layers of Table Mountain had only been made of sandstone they would have folded under the pressure, but the granite gave it strength. Fold mountains are formed from a process known as orogeny. Orogeny is from Greek; ‘oros’ meaning mountain and ‘genesis’ meansing creation. It refers to a series of geological processes involved in mountain creation when a continental tectonic plate collides with another plate, causing the layers of rock accumulated to crumble and fold. The Cape Fold Mountains were formed as the ancient Falklands Plateau crashed into the African plate.

The Drakensberg Mountains is the highest mountain range in Southern Africa (3482 metres) and it forms the eastern section of the Great Escarpment. The range’s name translates to ‘Dragon’s Mountains’ in Afrikaans and ‘Barrier of Spears’ in Zulu. The original African Plateau was cut down by wind and water over the millennia. This created the unique formations of the Drakensberg. The lower layers consist of sandstone which, is the deposit of a great lake that once



dominated Southern Africa (500 million years ago). A thick layer of basalt (that was deposited 220 million years ago) caps the range, resulting in the distinctive steep cliffs and pinnacles of the Drakensberg. The Drakensberg is famous for having between 35,000 and 40,000 works of Bushmen rock art. These rock art sites constitute the largest collection of such rock art in the world.

Geology plays a significant role in how society operates and what we can do to protect our future. Technology has become a key part of the modern world and we are becoming increasingly reliant on it. The use of mobile phones, laptops, tablets, cameras, etc, all require a vast array of minerals and metals, both abundant and rare. You are more than likely reading this right now

on an electronic device, something that wouldn’t be possible if geologists hadn’t sourced the original materials. Further, geologists play an important role in the advancement of alternative energy sources. This is done by studying and searching for minerals to be used in batteries and solar panels, finding and harnessing geothermal, tidal and hydroelectric power. Nearly 5 tonnes of copper is needed to make just one wind turbine. Sustainable development, without compromising the conveniences and amenities of modern life, is only possible thanks to geologists. Also, geology plays a vital role in tackling global water scarcity and food insecurity. Geologists help secure high-quality fresh water by providing a greater understanding of water movement and aquifer (a body of rock

or sediment that holds groundwater) behaviour, as well as identifying and providing solutions to water contamination. While, the geological studies of soil erosion and soil health helps secure our ability to feed ourselves now and into the future. To assure public safety and wellbeing in the event of a natural disaster, such as earthquakes, landslides, tsunamis, floods, volcanic eruptions, etc, we must be able to predict the occurrence and mitigate the impacts. Geologists play an integral role in this by studying weather patterns, seismic activity and tectonic movements, as well as assisting in

engineering structures to withstand earthquakes, floods and more.

Geologists are Earth's detectives. Every rock and fossil tells a story of Earth's extraordinary history. The geological record contains abundant evidence of the ways in which the Earth's climate has changed in the past. This gives us a better understanding of how it may change in the future. Regardless if you are interested in geology or not, it is critical for our future.

In everyday life, we can increasingly see how our human role is shaping 'deep

time'. We continue to face major global challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, resource depletion, etc, yet the short-term perspective is often politically and economically driven. As Stephen Jay Gould said: 'Geology gave us the immensity of time and taught us how little of it our own species has occupied'.

If Earth's history was compressed into one year: it would take humankind a mere few seconds, just before the clock struck midnight on New Year's Eve, to send Earth into crisis. Only a few seconds for humans to become the single most influential species on the planet. Nearly every step in human history has been accompanied by environmental degradation. In that minuscule time before the clock struck midnight, we increased atmospheric carbon dioxide by 40%, destroyed 80% of mammals, 50% of plants and 15% of fish by biomass, increased extinction rates by a factor of nearly 1000, increased the frequency of extreme weather events, caused the acidification of the oceans and the disappearance of the forests, and ultimately changed Earth into a 'plastic planet'.

Welcome to the new year.

Welcome to the sixth mass extinction event.

In that minuscule time before the clock struck midnight we ultimately changed Earth into a 'plastic planet'



WildlifeCampus student

Bianca Benade

WildlifeCampus Student spotlight

“I am 23-years-old, currently acting as senior game ranger (head guide) at five-star premium lodge Palala Boutique Game Lodge & Spa right on the Botswana border.

While growing up I lived in Phalaborwa and visited my family on their farms in Botswana every single opportunity I had. I quickly developed a deep love and passion for nature and wildlife. This further extended into the conservation of Mother Nature. At the age of 14 I did my first junior FGASA course at Campfire Academy in Balule and found myself back there almost 8 years later doing my FGASA NQF2.

Want to be featured?

We would love to hear your story!
Please let us know how the
WildlifeCampus courses influenced
your life!
info@wildlifecampus.com



BB Photography

During my last three years of high school on “off weekends” you would have found me practising my photography to better myself and I quickly realised that this love could be combined with some of my other passions like fishing, learning about birds, and conservation via snare removals. Of course living right at the doorstep of Kruger, this is where I went to practise photography and where I took my first-ever, award-winning photograph which was awarded a national first place at the GTTP-SA (Global Travel & Tourism Partnership SA) and went on to score a second place at GTTP international.

Conserving and protecting all things wildlife was very important to me from a young age so most weekends while in matric were spend on private game farms removing snares as well as invasive plant species. Whenever I got the chance I joined in on conservation group efforts to locate and remove snares. This is also where I started finding an interest in the smaller living things and plants around me as well as anti-poaching.

I have my tourism teacher to thank for finding WildlifeCampus, she knew what my passions were and greatly believed in me. In January of my first year after high school I received a message from her with a link to WildlifeCampus and a note saying “I think you will enjoy this”. Little did I know that 4 years later I would still be enjoying the courses.

WildlifeCampus opened my eyes to view nature and all it has to offer with a new appreciation. Having done multiple courses, and still doing more, I can honestly say that you will always learn something new. Doing multiple courses allows you to see how all the different little things work together.



I have my tourism teacher to thank for finding WildlifeCampus, she sent me a message with a link to WildlifeCampus and a note saying: “I think you will enjoy this”.

This has helped me a lot in my guiding career as it gives you a deeper understanding and passion for nature and wildlife. It helps you have a better way in explaining multiple things to guests to the extend that they will understand and if one method doesn't work try another as you will learn more than one. I find that understanding things better and in different forms makes me understand everything better. I am able to anticipate what might happen next just from remembering all my training and studies.

WildlifeCampus has opened my eyes to a variety of career options that I never thought were available.

To anyone who loves nature and wildlife as much as I do and wants to conserve it but doesn't know where to start... right here!

This is where to start. Your interests will be piqued and a door to a whole new world will open for you. And it might just push you towards realising what you really want to do with your life.”



How to choose your career?

This is not a simple question to answer, mostly because as we grow and have new experiences, our situations change, we change ourselves and adapt. Part of this means changing careers over the years, which many people do. Your very first job may be the career you stay in, but it also may not be, and that's ok.

What is important is to know what you want to do right now and ask yourself these questions:

Is this something I enjoy doing?

You will be spending a lot of time at work, typically 8 hours per day, 5 days a week, possibly more, so enjoying what you are doing on a daily basis is really important.

Is it something I am passionate about?

This is similar to our first point, but there is a difference between enjoying something and being truly passionate about it, the passion can help you to stay motivated. If you feel it's your purpose, you will really excel in your career.

Does it align with your values?

So important! You won't be able to stick it out in a career if you are cringing on a regular basis on what you are required to do or what the company stands for.

What skills or talents do you have?

These can be both interpersonal skills. For example, if you love people and you are outgoing and talkative, then a job in an industry where you are talking to people daily may be a great fit. But also creative talents that you have, what career would they be most aligned to?

What technical skills do you have?

Think of the practical abilities that you have and how these match up with specific careers.

Anything else that is really important to you?

Think carefully about this... maybe you really want to travel with your job because you want to see as much of the world as possible or maybe you can't travel for some reason due to personal commitments, so you know that you need to find something where this isn't a requirement.

More good steps to consider:

Get a shortlist together of jobs that you think fit your criteria, research these jobs and try to find out the following:

- If particular qualifications are needed?
- What is a market-related salary for someone starting in this industry?
- Would this type of career have many growth opportunities?

Find people who are already in these roles :

See if you can ask them questions (a good tool to connect with people is LinkedIn, you can send out a direct message to people asking them a couple of questions).

Reach out to recruiters :

Who are working within the industry that your (aimed) career is in and ask them for advice.

For more info:

Contact Hailey on hailey@wilddreams.co.za
OR www.wilddreams.co.za





Win a mega hamper!

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So far, the hamper, worth close to R22k, consists of:

- Land Rover and Jaguar driving experiences from Jaguar Land Rover Experience Lonehill valued at R4 000
- a weekend away for up to 8 people at Rhino Retreat - Clarens valued at over R5 500
- a R5 000 online betting voucher from World Sports Betting
- 5 cases of Castle Double Malt Lager
- 5 cases of Red Bull
- 2 Jagermeister hampers from DGB
- an online theory anti-poaching course from WildlifeCampus valued at R1 700
- a spices and sauces hamper from Flavour Lab
- a salad dressings and sauces and chutney hamper from Dickon Hall Foods
- Chef and Sommelier crystal wine glasses from Fanel valued at over R600
- a clayshooting experience with ProShot Adventures, shooting experiences with The Fun Gun and BlackThorn Training valued at over R1 400
- a Tramontina portable braai valued at R2 500

Wild Response and **Soldiers For Wildlife** create lasting solutions to protect endangered species and improve the lives of wildlife rangers and the communities they serve around the world. Funds raised from ticket sales of our lucky draw to win this mega hamper will go to Wild Response and Soldiers For Wildlife.



www.soldiersforwildlife.org



www.wildresponse.org

07

A view to a kill

(with apologies to Sir Ian Fleming)

By David Batzofin



How many lions does it take to bring down a fully grown female giraffe? In a reserve, recently, I had seen a pride of 27 individuals complete this daunting task.

But, on this particular afternoon, in a different reserve, it seemed like the single male that we encountered had not received the email stating that you needed backup to help complete a kill.



Unlike most stories that start with “Once upon a time”, in this instance that was not the case as we were trying to get back to our lodge before an incoming storm bumped large amounts of rain on us.

But never let a lightning storm get in the way of a possible sighting!

“There is a dam close by that I want to check out before heading back,” said our guide as the first drops started to make themselves felt. But the actual storm was still a way off and we were all hoping that it would bypass us, so it was off to the dam at a slightly increased pace.

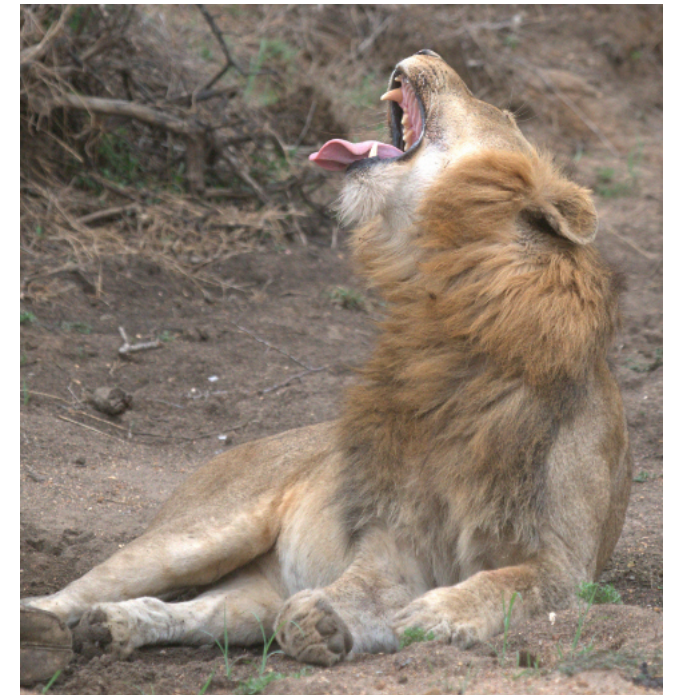
The dam, as it turned out was filled with Egyptian geese and more knob-billed ducks than I have ever seen before. Interesting but not exciting. Until the tracker quietly said “There is a fallen giraffe on the far side of the dam”... and that got our adrenalin pumping.

We headed off for the far side of the dam expecting to find an entire pride greedily feeding on the carcass, however, we found one lone male lying and panting close by as the sky darkened and the rain became more insistent.

Usually, lions will drag their prey under a bush or into a thicket to protect it from scavengers, but trying to drag a giraffe is not an easy task and it turned out to be an advantage for us as this particular kill was in the open and easily accessible by our vehicle.

How could a single animal do this? Well from the signs on one of the sandy banks it looks like the giraffe had slipped and fallen and once down, giraffe are easy prey as they cannot get back up again.

It turned out that she was pregnant which could have been part of the reason for her falling while being chased.



Either way, this was an enormous amount of meat for one animal to consume.

Lions, once they have killed will not move far from a kill and with the thrumming of the rain on the bonnet, we donned ponchos and headed back to the lodge hoping for two things...

1. The lion and the carcass would still be there in the morning and,
2. we would be able to outrun the storm.

We were correct on the first and wrong on the second, arriving back at the lodge soaked to the skin but unfazed by the experience. In an urban setting, being rained on is not fun, but in the bush, it becomes a memory to be shared around a fire with the others who were on the vehicle.

We did go back to the lion on several more drives and he was still busy working his way through what could have been about 1000kg of meat.

Being alone, he was under threat from the other males in the area, so it was with excitement that we found that he had been joined by another male and that these two could be the beginning of a new coalition.

Before we left the reserve, we stopped at the carcass one last time. By now the vultures and the hyena had arrived and the males were lying a distance away sated and bloated.

This is the unending cycle of predator and prey, for the former to survive, the latter has to die.





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