

MAKUTSI

SAFARI SPRINGS

These last few weeks we have experienced the coldest winter in a long time! With overnight temperatures going below zero for weeks in a row, we are lucky that we had some very tough Aussies & Kiwi's here during this time.



August 2010

Latest updates

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Greetings from the Bushveld!!

With spring coming closer, the nights are warming up and in the day you can really notice the bush is becoming dry and open – a nice combination for game viewing. Although it is dry on the reserve, within Makutsi camp it is as green as ever. The excess mineral water from the outdoor pool & the indoor roman bath feeds the irrigation system and recycles valuable water, which keeps everything looking green and lush.

Soccer season has come to end for South Africa and Bafana Bafana, but congratulations to Spain for winning the World Cup! We are both excited and proud about the positive feedback regarding the organization and running of the soccer and are confident that people's perceptions about South Africa will get a push in the right direction.



New guest at # 14

A few weeks ago coming back from a game drive, Ralf bumped into three male lions walking through camp. All three decided to take a break and made themselves comfortable in front of rondavel 14!



The laugh of a Spotted Hyena!

When you think of a Hyena, your first thought is of their piercing laugh. This certainly wakes you up in the quiet of night when you hear them calling. The best known hyena call is the hoot-laugh, or giggle, which has led us to name these animals as the "laughing hyenas."

- The spotted Hyena is the biggest and most carnivorous of the Hyena family
- Next to the Lion the Hyenas are the biggest African predators
- Males are not tolerated near the den once the young are born
- Primarily nocturnal and solitary forager
- Lifespan in the wild is 12-20 years – Size 70 to 90cm tall – weight 40 to 90kg
- The high mineral content of the bones hyenas consume make their droppings a highly visible, chalky white

How to recognize a Hyena's call:

The Spotted Hyena is one of the noisiest African animals, with up to 14 different types of calls, some of which can be heard up to 5km away.

For your next visit to the bush here are a few ways you can identify the different calls.

- **Whoop:** A rising emergency call repeated up to 15 times in a series and can be heard up to 5km away. Most whoops are emitted by males and apparently ignored by other clan members. When a female calls her relatives and offspring they react immediately
- **Giggle:** High, cackling laugh, typically emitted by a hyena being chased; expresses intense fear or excitement
- **Yell:** The loudest & most intense call used when being attacked or trying to escape
- **Growling:** Deep, loud rumble, often with staccato vibration: defensive threat voiced by hyena under attack threatening to bite
- **Yelling:** Starts as scream, changing to a roar, voiced by a hyena attempting to escape attackers; the sound alternates with growling
- **Soft Squeal:** a quiet squeal and chattering accompanies friendly meetings and submissive behavior after long separation



FACT - The pitch of a Hyena's laugh can indicate their age, while variations in the frequency of notes used when hyenas make noises convey information about the animal's social rank.



Find us on Facebook

Latest news all the way from the isolated bush... We have managed to keep up with technology (even on satellite internet) and have created a Facebook Page.

www.facebook.com/makutsi

If you become a friend of Makutsi on Facebook you will be able to access many more photos, video footage and feedback from past guests.

In June we had a friend (a.k.a - Julien from France) collecting video footage for the upcoming South African Tourism roadshow in Australia during August & September. We will be uploading some of the footage onto the Facebook page, so we hope this brings back memories for those who have been to Makutsi and is welcoming to those thinking of coming to the Bushveld.



Safari Sightings

Here are just three of our favorite sightings over the last few months.

- In our May newsletter we left you with some exciting news of one Lion cub being born on the reserve. Within the last month Maggie, the other female Lioness, gave birth to **3 cubs!** Maggie & Lisa have been extremely relaxed mothers and have allowed us to enjoy intimate sightings of all 4 cubs playing. The older cub we now know is a male, but with the other 3 we are still trying to determine their sex. Check out Facebook – we have posted a short video clip of the cubs around a waterhole.
- Both Derrick & Natalie discovered a Hyena den on the south of the reserve and were able to see the young pups out walking and exploring. With only 8-10 Hyena's on the reserve it makes them quite rare to find, so this was truly a special sighting.
- Ralf, one of our new guides had a stunning drive last week, seeing both the Lion cubs and Leopard cubs - both sightings were about 40 minutes each! All this in a 3 hour game drive. In the afternoon with a different group he managed to top off the day by finding another male Leopard & the herd of Elephants.



*Another rewarding month in the bush!
You never know what is awaiting you around the corner.*

Lodge updates...



Now that the restaurant is complete, our team has been working hard on another exciting project; a two-floor tree top lounge overlooking the pool and office area. The building is moving along quickly, with the roof finished, the decking, handrails as well as the stairs complete. We plan to open the lounge around the end of August!

It's almost time celebrate with a Gin & Tonic!

The lounge will offer our clients a different dining option for small groups, coffee-cake & sandwiches and a relaxing place to pick up a book or watch the action happening below. Underneath the Lounge we will introduce a small internet room (keeping in mind we are on bush time.... and internet can also be a bit slow) & relocate the souvenir shop alongside the pool.

These are just a few projects our builders are busy working on! No quiet time for them, once they have finished the lounge they will continue working on upgrading our rondavels and completing the new classrooms in the Tribal Village.

Kind regards from,

The Makutsi Team

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