



The Master Hunter

10 Reasons why Fort Richmond Safaris is a plains game hunter's first choice.

1. You only pay for animals successfully hunted.
2. Exclusive small groups - no more than 6 people - with sole access to all facilities.
3. Non-hunting partners stay free.
4. You don't pay for the day you arrive or the day you leave.
5. It costs the same to hunt 4 animals than it would cost to hunt one in the USA.
6. All safaris—rifle hunting, bow hunting, birding and photo graphic are tailor-made.
7. Game viewing, day or night on open vehicles, horseback or on foot.
8. You hunt where you stay—or have the option to visit other game reserves in South Africa.
9. Rates are fully inclusive of accommodation, meals, road transport, preparation of trophies and more.
10. You hunt with a fully qualified, experienced Professional Hunter.

As the sun sets on the African plain we reminisce...



In a year of firsts, the sun finally sets on 2011 at Fort Richmond Safaris. It was a time when bullets were not always the preferred ammunition as many chose to do their shooting through the lens of a camera on our photographic safaris. Others took in the African landscape on horseback but most still came with guns loaded with aspirations of that sought after trophy for their wall back home. With a selection of over 25 species which include plains game like Kudu, Gemsbok as well as dangerous game—Buffalo and Lion, Fort Richmond Safaris offers it all; and we proved it this year. These are the sum of our attractions not to mention wing shooting and catering for special events. Fort Richmond Safaris, where master hunters have stalked their prey for centuries—now it's your turn!

African Safari while testing SA nuclear power station.

After hearing about Fort Richmond Safaris from a colleague, Missouri's Tim Gahan made a point of taking on some of our bigger antelope species. On contract in South Africa, work came first, but the in-service inspector, ensured that he would have some time set aside to pay us a visit. His opportunity came as the hunting season opened and while Tim was hoping to have the opportunity to add a variety of trophies to his collection, this was simply not possible with time counting against him. However he was elated with his Kudu and Gemsbok which remain amongst Africa's most sought after antelope. Tim's smile says it all! It sums up what many people have experienced at Fort Richmond Safaris and what keeps people coming back time after time.





Hunting and Photographic Safari



Scott and Shawn Lucas from Iowa arrived next for a plains game hunt and photographic safari.

Kudu hunted by Scott.

Scott's wish list didn't take long to complete as he wasted little time claiming all the trophies he had in mind. The one that still eluded him though was the Impala. As the hunt continued, the party was hot on the trail of this shy animal until a Springbok wandered into a clearing some 60 yards away. With a little bit of encouragement from Geoffrey, the Professional Hunter, Shawn claimed her first African trophy. We then travelled by road to the majestic Kruger National Park where our favourite stop was Olifant's Camp. Situated on the Olifant River Bank, this is an ideal spot for excellent game viewing. The last night was spent in real African style at the Tamboti Tented Camp, surrounded by just a few tents in the African wilderness. This was an

ideal end to the adventure. The highlight of the photographic safari was spotting a pack of Wild Dogs right on the side of the road feasting on an Impala. Lion were

***Annamarie & Geoffrey
Words cannot express
our gratitude to you
both! This has been a
dream vacation for us
and you made it so
wonderful! Your
personal touch is
heartwarming...***

Thank you so very much!

Sincerely



spotted a few times and of the Big Five remaining, we saw White Rhino and several herds of Elephant and Buffalo.

Shawn with the Springbok she took.

Couple's Horseback Safari

The next hunt was marked by firsts, while it was also a time of revitalizing love. Our first ever internet booking was also our first Horseback safari. Having never met our clients in person, our task was a tailor-made hunt which included the renewal of vows for Gary and Jennifer Stalder from Pueblo, Colorado. On arrival the couple were very enthusiastic about their Horseback Safari, while our apprehension over whether or not our new venture would be successful soon disappeared. On horseback our party of four covered ground quickly and were rewarded with plenty of game. After spotting a herd of Blue Wildebeest, we rode up closer



Gary and Jennifer with the Blue Wildebeest Gary took.



and determined that there was a very nice bull in the herd. Gary and Geoffrey dismounted and left the horses in Jennifer and our tracker, Stephen's hands. After a short stalk and an extended wait for the right shot to present itself, ...

*... absolutely Thank You for our time spent with you at Fort Richmond. My response to anyone who asks is that you provided everything and more than we expected from our hunt and trip as a whole. I do not hesitate to recommend you to others and we plan on a return.
Gary & Jennifer Stalder*

Gary became the first hunter on Fort Richmond to harvest a trophy animal by means of horseback. We had a lot of rain, which made the going tough for the horses and we had to opt for more modern means of transport. Jennifer didn't hunt, but enjoyed being part of the whole experience, especially viewing the game on horseback as she is a passionate rider. A special evening for the two of them was secretly arranged by Gary. We even arranged a diamond ring for the occasion. While the Northern Cape Province is famous for these precious stones choosing the right one for this special moment was a nerve wrecking task as all we had to work with was a photograph of what Gary had in mind for their magical night.



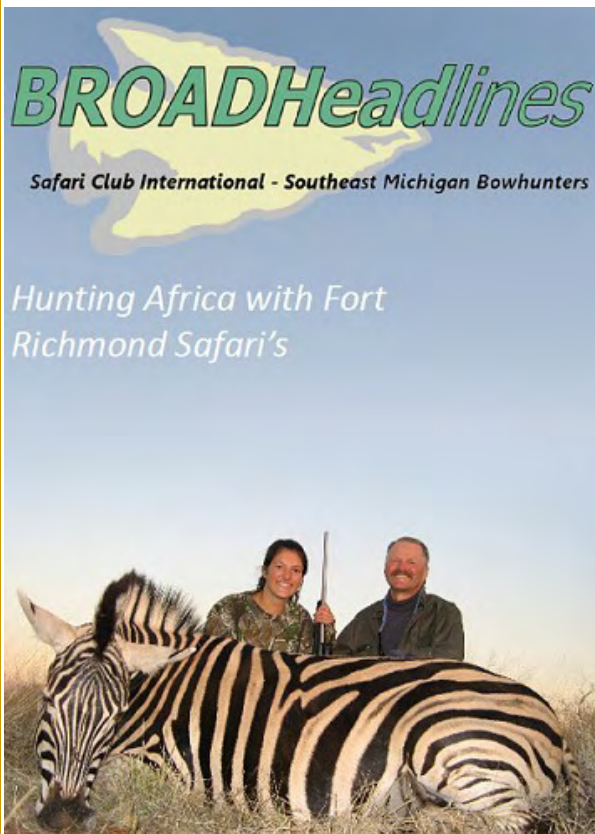
The joy and pleasure they shared will always be etched in our minds.



The joy and pleasure they shared will always be etched in our minds.

Shannon Watkins' graduation gift

Steve Watkins, his daughter, Shannon and nephew, Michael joined us for a hunt in the middle of the season. It was a tough hunt for the trio but this didn't prevent them from doing some sightseeing. Michael is a passionate wing shooter and his prime purpose for coming to Africa was to hunt African winged game. However, Zebra were all three hunters first choice trophy despite being one of the toughest plains game to hunt. Leon, Geoffrey's brother-in-law, joined us and was Steve's PH for most of the hunt. Along with Shannon they covered vast distances during a physically challenging hunt with demanding stalks. A few additional animals were harvested during the hunt for Zebra before Geoffrey took Michael to a neighboring town for the wing shoot. Duck and geese were shot around big drainage ponds but the thick reeds and surrounding brush made retrieving the birds without a dog near impossible. In the afternoon a classic upland driven hunt for guinea fowl and francolins took place.



Steve wrote an article about his hunt in the SCI SE Michigan Bowhunters' magazine.

Burchell's Zebra - *Equus burchellii*

Description:

Shoulder Height: 51in

Mass: 600lbs.

Ground color is a yellowish white and the stripes are light to dark brown with shadow stripes.

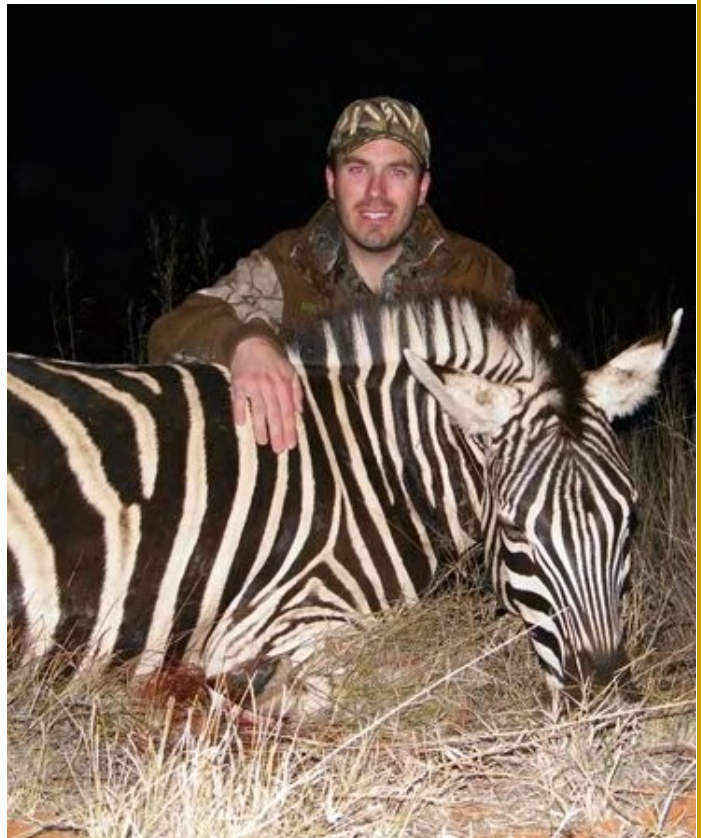
Gestation: 365 days, single young.

Breed throughout the year.

Possess good eyesight.

Behaviour: Highly sociable animals, gather in family units. Dominant stallions are non-territorial. Dominant mares are very aggressive within their hierarchy.

Feeding pattern: Bulk grazers, will occasionally browse.



Shannon (top right), Steve (above) and Michael (right) each with the Burchell's Zebra that they have taken.

Lioness and Buffalo Hunt



Manuel Thies from Michigan arrived for his Big Five hunt after he had hunted extensively for African plains game at Fort Richmond in the past. *(Read more about this on page 13)*. This time his sights were set on a lioness in the Kalahari. The desert sands of the Kalahari would always prove a challenge, but nothing would hold back the hunting party. On the first day we cut tracks off waterholes all morning and after the 12th waterhole, without having any success, we were ready to turn back to camp for lunch. Klaus, our Bushman tracker, suggested we check one more waterhole, not

far from where we were. On our way to the waterhole, a small herd of Springbok came running straight at us, not paying any attention to the safari vehicle. Three hundred yards further Klaus signaled for us to stop, and after wandering around the vehicle, he gave a hand signal indicating that he had spotted something. The excitement on Manuel's face was almost tangible, as Klaus, and Jason, our local PH, confirmed that the tracks were those of a fully grown mature female. We were ready for action with equipment, rifle and camera, ready to fire. The tracks were fresh, and we departed rapidly, following Klaus. Covering about 2km, crossing

The excitement could no longer be contained; hugs were given freely as we stood and admired one of Africa's deadliest.

our own tracks a few times, our prey must have known we were after her as she watched us from a distance without us noticing. We entered into a black thorn thicket and then Jason's face dropped as he noticed the potential threat. With Klaus in deep concentration so as not to lose the track and trying to make a way through the thicket, Jason whispered that this scene was going to end up in a confrontation. With the group deep in the thicket, we spotted the lioness lying under 'swarthaak' (black thorn

bushes), 20 yards away. We could not fire as there was not a clearing so we crept around to the right, snuck around about 15 yards, until Geoffrey could see an opening, and slowly guided Manuel to where he could shoot. Every growl and roar from the now very threatened lioness, could be felt. It was as if the very ground was shaking around us! As she stood up and mock charged, Manuel and Geoffrey went down on one knee with rifles pointing... When she lay down again and looked to our right, Manuel squeezed off the shot with perfect placement into the chest. We all slowly stood up and circled her, still at full alert. The excitement could no longer be contained; hugs were given freely as we stood and admired one of Africa's deadliest.

In addition to the Lioness, Manuel took some plains game as well as a 39" Buffalo, which ended in maybe a little more excitement than we might have liked, but that is a campfire story for another day.





Peter Dolan family hunt

Peter, Kristin and Ryan Dolan with the White Blesbok that Kristin shot.

After a few days in Cape Town, Peter, Kristin, Ryan and Colleen arrived on their first African Safari at Fort Richmond. As Peter was the only experienced hunter, it was a very new experience in more than one way for the rest of the party. At first Colleen did not want to participate in the hunt; but was looking forward to the photo ops. Kristin was very enthusiastic and her eagerness paid off well when she unexpectedly took a beautiful Kudu one afternoon. Her first animal was a nice White Blesbok, not taken in perfect conditions, which made for a difficult first. Ryan took a while to warm up, but once he got going there was no stopping him. After taking a very nice Red Hartebeest, a monster Impala he saw, kept eluding him. Peter enjoyed hunting and took a few animals, but he seemed to enjoy seeing the rest of his family pursuing their new interest with such enthusiasm even more. Then, after a few days, Colleen suddenly decided that it was time for her to join the hunt, and in no time took a Zebra one afternoon. She enjoyed it more than she ever thought possible. The three newcomers were all very appreciative of Geoffrey's patience and skills with them. At night great fun was had by all and much discussion took place. We at Fort Richmond had to teach the Michiganders how to play their own game "Uckher". We had so many laughs and everybody enjoyed themselves thoroughly. This family was once again proof to us that when you are determined to have fun and come with an open



Ryan and the girls with his Red Hartebeest.

mind to have the time of your life, it happens.

We have thought long and hard about how we could possibly thank you for allowing us one, if not the best, holiday of our lives. All four of us are still talking about it every day. We love Fort Richmond and it has become part of who we are. We will be forever grateful for the experience!

Gemsbok - *Oryx gazella*

Description: *Shoulder Height: 49 inches*

Mass: 450 lbs

The dark stripe down the middle of the face is united on each side to the dark stripe through the eye by a horizontal dark band at the bottom, thus separating the white band between the vertical stripes from the white area of the muzzle.

The horns are long and straight.

Overall coloration is a pale fawn-grey.

Gestation: 240-270 days.

This gregarious, sure-footed and extremely swift antelope has very good eyesight.

Behavior: A nomadic animal.

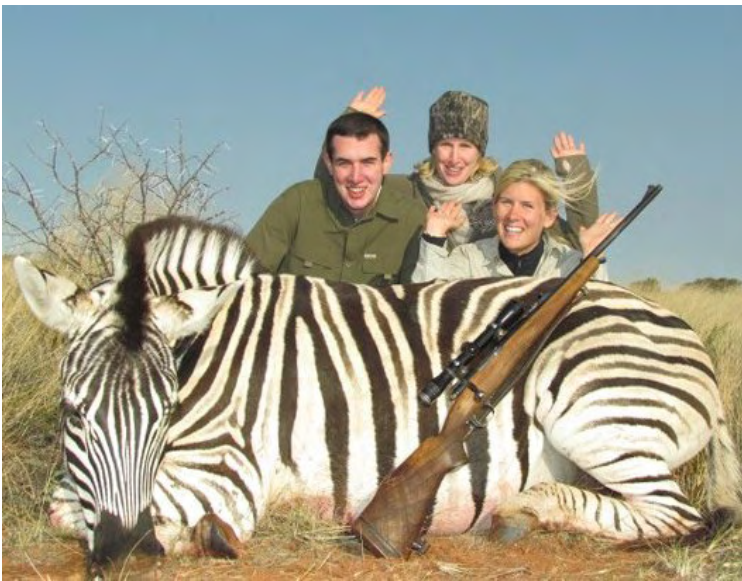
Often found in groups up to 40 strong.

Old bulls lead solitary lives.

Feeding pattern: Grazers.



Ryan and Peter with Peter's Gemsbok.



This picture portrays all the fun that was had by this group. Ryan, Kristin and Colleen with the Burchell's Zebra taken by Colleen.

Pictures taken while on photographic safari in various National Parks.



The Joy of a Good Trophy

It is really great when you get a trophy that surprises you when you get to it. This was the case with Brian Scott from Michigan. Brian, Stephen (our tracker) and Geoffrey were on top of Hat Hill (the hill behind the house) when they spotted an Impala ram amongst the Red Hartebeest. It was on Brian's wish list and although it was difficult to determine the size of the trophy, because of the distance, they decided to pursue it anyhow. With expert guidance from Stephen, who stayed on the hill and guided them by radio, Brian successfully harvested the biggest Impala this year and one of the biggest ever to come from Fort Richmond Safaris.



Brian with his exceptional Impala trophy.

An extract from Brian Scott's account of his Kudu hunt.

'The hunting started about 7am with a brisk, challenging hike up a rocky hill to glass the vast, surrounding area. We saw a few Kudu (cows and a young bull). From a second vantage point, several Kudu were located, including some nice bulls. The stalk began. Down the hill we went and into the bush. After an hour or two, we managed to get within 100 yards of some of the animals. We continued stalking until lunchtime, never getting a clear look at any shoot able bulls. We decided to sneak out for lunch and return later. After lunch, we went back to the same area, where we watched the animals settle in the heavy cover. As we quietly approached, the animals were alerted, and we caught a glimpse of a nice bull. We cautiously stalked the animals for what seemed to be a mile or two, never getting a look at one of the bulls we felt were still with the herd. Late in the afternoon, we took a break to strategize, resting about 400 yds from the animals. After about a half hour of rest, we watched the animals mingling in the heavy cover, still a few hundred yards away. They were not aware of our presence. Then for an unknown reason, the animals were spooked and left the cover running towards us! The animals began to pass us, about 75 yards to our left. We were in some cover and the animals never noticed us. A very nice bull was at the end of the group, with a couple of cows and a younger bull surrounding him. Geoff said, "The last big bull is the one to take!". Fortunately, the animals broke from their full run and started to walk. I didn't have time to get on the sticks, so from my knee, I waited for a shot. Then finally, a clear shot presented itself. Everything felt good and I took the shot. The animal ran for about 40 yards and we lost it behind some heavy brush. After waiting a half hour, we started walking to the area where we last saw the bull. After a quick look, we found the beautiful Kudu bull. As the sun set, our celebration began. What a day of hunting, one I'll never forget.'



Trophies from previous season taken by our clients.



Dave Asleson with Kudu (left) and Black Wildebeest.



Marty Nemec with Waterbuck (left) and Steve Turbenson (above) with Impala.



Dan Collings with Kudu (left) and Kevin Nessa with Impala.



Ken Galdes with Impala



Mike Aittama with Gemsbok



Reba deBacker with Waterbuck (above left) and her husband Jeff deBacker with Red Hartebeest and Eland (above).

Jaylin Skinor with White Blesbok.



Dennis Peterson, (above), with a nice Blue Wildebeest and beautiful Impala, taken on his third trip with Fort Richmond Safaris. Two of his trips, he was accompanied by his two grandsons, passing down the heritage of hunting from generation to generation.



George Spaltensperger on his second hunt with Fort Richmond Safaris took this magnificent Black Springbok (above), and a nice Sable. (left).



Dennis Peterson and his grandson, Jaylin Skinor with an Eland.



Kudu



Steenbok



Manuel Thies with trophies he has taken while on safari. He has hunted with us for 9 years and taken over 60 African trophies.



Duiker (Common) - above left; Gemsbok above right; Kalahari Springbok bottom left; Eland below





South Africa's Fort Richmond

As I awoke this morning, my mind wonders back to my days in Africa. A childhood dream that was fulfilled in the company of my wife, Jamie and good friends, Ken and Linda.

I often think of that grand adventure as my escape from domestication, a fork in the path between that which brings meaning to life and that which is meant to be life. The vast stage that is Fort Richmond, home to the continent's great beasts is both mesmerizing and inspiring.

The animals we pursued in the wild and untamed landscape were everything I had imagined. Our daily pursuit along with our PH Geoffrey, who has hunting abilities and knowledge well beyond his years, were both exhilarating yet humbling. His immense skills are a testimony to his father's upbringing and mentoring in the field. Mornings and evenings were also enjoyed in the company of our gracious host, Annamarie, a wonderful lady with a never ending generosity. She spent adventurous days taking our wives on excursions to photo various African wildlife and of course shopping. All this while planning our next gourmet meal to be enjoyed at their home, the hospitality and accommodations are unbeatable.

No story can quite be as memorable as the donkey cart; this one is beyond writing, it can only be enjoyed and expressed amongst ourselves. Our dinner that was setup in the middle of the African bush was over the top, not only was the meal once again fantastic, the setting was breathtaking. We enjoyed dinner and drinks around the camp fire with our new found friends while viewing the spectacle of the southern hemispheres millions of stars. In the end both Ken and myself were able to harvest the animals we had sought after, making our hunting trip both a success and one of the best vacations ever enjoyed with our wives. I think to myself this is a once in a lifetime experience, but I can't help wanting to squash that notion and make it twice or more.

Mike Aittama 2011.03.26



This is truly a unique piece of land with traces of hunting activity dating back to a time when hunting was a means of survival. A piece of land where master hunters have stalked their prey for centuries!



**Don't let the sun set on your African dream...
Book your dream safari with
Fort Richmond Safaris**



*In all things of nature there is something of the marvellous.
Aristotle*

Fort Richmond Safaris *where master hunters have stalked their prey for centuries*



Tel: +27 53 204 0021 Mobile: +27 83 233 5483

Fort Richmond Safaris

P.O. Box 18, Belmont, 8720. South Africa

Email: enquiries@fortrichmond.co.za

www.fortrichmond.co.za