

# MAKUTSI

## SAFARI SPRINGS

The bushveld is now waiting in anticipation for rain; soon the days will warm up enough to create thunderstorms in the afternoons. The storms will not bring much rain, but certainly enough to start the early growth of the bush and flush a fresh green colour.



October 2010

## Latest updates

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## Cattle & Lions: Are they compatible?

The Masai Tribes and Herdsmen of East Africa have proven over centuries that cattle can be kept in areas where lions do occur.

For the last 12 years Makutsi has also proven that with a degree of organization, planning and control over the cattle, the two are easily compatible. These cattle are used to help the daily running of the business in several ways:

- Instead of burning fire breaks around the camp & fence lines, the cattle are controlled by two cattle boys to slowly graze the fire breaks.
- The manure from the cattle is used as mulch in the 2 organic vegetable gardens.
- Most importantly we can offer our clients healthy and organic beef at meal times all year round.



## Regular visitor at the restaurant...

The last few months we have had a visitor who also seems to enjoy our wholesome organic food: the Honey-badger! Several guests have been lucky to see this Honey-badger run around the restaurant area at night.

# Lodge updates...



Over the last 8 months Makutsi has gone through many upgrades and additions, which have almost come to an end. Now our clients can enjoy better game viewing from our river deck, have a place to escape the heat in the lounge, a place to keep in touch with loved ones via the Internet and finally keep warm and cozy in the winter months with the canvas blinds in the restaurant. The finishing touches to the Safari Shop are being made and within the next few weeks it will be complete & will be re-located to the pool area, underneath the lounge.



## ∞ Tree Top Lounge

With views over the 33 meter mineral pool surrounded by a tropical gardens, the lounge provides an ideal place to pick up a book with your coffee and cake or to enjoy an afternoon of board games. Incorporated into the lounge is the library, where you can swap books or pick up a new one.

## ∞ Internet room

Below the lounge you will find the internet room with two stations set up for your use; either for emails or to download your images from the morning game drive & excursions. Keep in mind that we are on satellite connection, the internet can be slow at times. Not to worry, the view out of the internet room overlooks the pool area, which will entice you to go for a swim and get back into nature!



## ∞ Water/Winter-proof restaurant

No need to worry about the chilly outdoor dining next winter! We have built in canvas blinds that drop roof to floor, with built in windows (we don't want you to miss out anything that may walk by the restaurant) to keep the winter chill out as well as the water from the summer rains.



## Safari Sightings...

*Here are two of our favorite sightings over the last few months.*



### Dung beetles

- 🦋 In one pile of elephant dung there could be up to 16,000 dung beetles.
- 🦋 Ball rolling dung beetles generally roll balls 50 times heavier than themselves, occasionally up to 80 times.
- 🦋 Dung balls can be used for food or as a place where the female will lay her eggs.
- 🦋 Only one egg per ball and up to 60 eggs can be laid per female per season!



### Monitor lizards

- 🦎 The monitors are the largest lizards in Africa and indeed the world.
- 🦎 Two species occur in the Lowveld: the rock (or white throated) monitor and the water (or Nile) monitor.
- 🦎 Monitor lizards sometimes lay their eggs in termite mounds.

- During a 3-hour afternoon game drive, Jesco radioed Natalie to join him at Big Croc with the Hippos. When she arrive, Zero and the 2 sub-adult male Lions we also lying on the dam wall peering down on the hippos, wandering if this could be their next meal. Suddenly, one of the Hippos charged out of the water and ran UP the dam wall towards Zero! Lucky he was quick enough to move backwards and avoid the Hippo. Afterwards all the Hippos in the dam were grunting and making such a loud noise in order to intimidate the Lions some more.
- Its not only here on Makutsi, but also in the Kruger where we can sometimes get lucky...Derrick took some Australian, New Zealand and Norwegian guests to the Kruger, and came back with the biggest smile...A pride of 18 Lions on 3 separate Buffalo kills, two more lion sightings later in the day, 50 Elephants, the rare Trumpeter Hornbill, Secretary Bird, Kori Bustard and much more...and of course 8 very happy guests.
- Just today, Ralf spent half an hour watching a lioness lying under a tree, while a big male leopard was relaxing up the same tree, wondering how he was going to get out of there. Three jumps and three trees later, the lioness gave up and watched the leopard get away.



*Kind regards from,*

**The Makutsi Team**

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