



My African Hunt by David Bodker



SEVENTY KILOMETERS OUT OF KIMBERLY, South Africa is Makhulu Game Lodge. Makhulu donated a 10-day hunt for 4 hunters and 4 non-hunters in Free State South Africa at the Alamo Chapter fundraiser in 2010. The hunt included one animal per hunter from gemsbok oryx, red hartebeest, blue or black wildebeest.

From the time I purchased this hunt until the day we left for home the Makhulu Game Lodge personnel were nothing short of accommodating and helpful the entire time. We were greeted and welcomed like family from the beginning of this trip. After arriving at the lodge, we were allowed to wind down from the long air flight. Within a few hours we started our hunting adventure. I was glassing a beautiful red hartebeest soon after leaving the compound and had him down minutes later. I knew then we would have a great time here!

My oldest son John, and Diane, my wife, accompanied me on this trip. We met her brother, Wayne and his wife, Nancy, there to complete the "family" outing. Wayne flew up earlier to hunt lion in the Kalahari before we got there. He bagged a beautiful large male lion, completing his Big Five. Makhulu's Professional Hunters are a father and son duo, Henk and Heinrich Vorster. They went beyond the expected to insure our trip was memorable, enjoyed by all and exceeded our wildest dreams! Henk's son, Heinrich, guided John and me. Day two went well. John took a great blue wildebeest in the morning and I got my springbuck that afternoon. Both were shots around 150 yards out. Day three found me putting two more animals on the ground.

In the next few days of hunting we collected a zebra and blesbok for both John and myself, an impala, two warthogs, a waterbuck and another red hartebeest. The following morning I was able to take a caracal that the dogs had treed a few hours earlier. We were hunting every day with great results. Before we knew it there were just a few days left and both John and I needed one more animal to complete our wish list. When it was all said and done the both of us had



David's Red Hartebeest



David's Blue Wildebeest



David's Black Wildebeest

taken a total of 16 animals! We never went a day hunting without taking something. This was my first planned trip to Africa and I wanted to make it count. Our finished list included: 2 red hartebeest, 2 blue wildebeest, 2 warthogs, 2 blesbucks, impala, fallow deer, waterbuck, springbuck, caracal, black wildebeest, Hartmann's and Burchell's zebras and a few springhares for good measure. Wayne and Nancy had a large male lion, white and copper springbucks, white blesbok, nyala, caracal and a large warthog. Hunting late in the season didn't create any difficulties for our group. We saw hundreds of animals and had opportunities to hunt some great trophies. Our food was great and we sampled several of the animals we harvested there. Private chalets completed the stay at 4+ star ratings.



David's other Red Hartebeest

Not only would I recommend Makhulu and their staff for a great time but would plan another trip there in the future. Makhulu is a great host and provided us with a memorable time, awesome personal service and care throughout the entire trip; one we will not soon forget. You can contact Makhulu at info@makhulusafarilodge.co.za. Ask for Marike van Wyk; she will make your African hunting dreams come true! Henk and Heinrich will guarantee it!



John's Blue Wildebeest

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David's Warthog



David's Waterbuck



David's Burchell's Zebra



John's Blesbuck



John's Fallow Deer



John's Hartmann's Zebra



John's Impala



John's Warthog



Nancy's Copper Sprinkbuck



David's Caracal



David's Springbuck



Wayne's Lion