

Dunsappie, Limpopo River...

By Nelius Mostert

Since forever, Alldays has been the centre of hunting in South Africa. A harsh wild place with game and cattle farms for as far as you can imagine. From there your next thought is Ponderdrift, the border post that opens the gates to the rest of Africa and the connection point between South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

About ten kilometres before you find the gates of Ponderdrift, is an infamous road (R572) that turns right toward Musina. It is now tarred, but there were days when you had to wait for our then National Defence Force to clear landmines in front of a school bus before you could think of driving on it. If you wanted to veer off the road, it was done at your own risk. Those days are long gone, although the people are still there with their stories of the heartache and laughter and their endless zeal for life and real African tradition.

About 100 kilometres from Alldays on this road, we met Pieter van Zyl at the local garage. My photographer, Mia Bester and I stopped there at about 08:00 AM and Pieter was there to greet us. Gideon, his son Theo, and Pieter, run Kanzili Hunting Safaris from their farm Dunsappie. After meeting our host, we followed him to the lodge.

Dunsappie is an 800-hectare piece of land with a view over the Limpopo flood valley and river. Two trees encountered most in this area are the Baobab (*Adansonia digitata*), of which there are some giant species around, and the Mopane (*Colophospermum Mopane*), which is the main reason for the huge kudus on Dunsappie.

Arriving at camp there were aromas of breakfast in the air. The campsite consists of four chalets that sleep two people each. At this stage only one ablution block is available, and a very clean and practical one it is too, with showers only, but what more do you need when you are on a hunting safari in Africa? There is a large thatched dining area and a games room with pool table. The kitchen is fully stocked with everything you'll need for self-catering. My favourite is the boma, the area we all used most.

I suggest you bring the whole family to this side of South Africa, because firstly, you tend to get to know each other a bit better around here. Only the generator gives a hint of civilization, but that is switched off around the time all movement is done. Then there is a stillness you can taste and the stars jump at you as you lift your eyes to the sky. Best of all, there is no cell phone reception.

Yes, I know the adolescents will "freak-out", but I think they will ask to come again. Time seems to stand still here, but there are activities to do that will stay with you forever. On Dunsappie there is swimming in the farm dam, bowhunting, game drives and sundowners on a nearby mountain that overlooks the area, or on the deck at the swimming hole.

There are seven hides on the farm, out of which hundreds of animals have already been harvested by the previous owner.

Most are pit blinds, but there are some ground blinds, as well as elevated hides. One of these, which I simply loved to visit, is inside a baobab tree. If you are into photo safaris, Dunsappie will simply blow your mind, just ask Mia.

One thing you must do is to ask Gideon and Pieter to take you on a picnic drive along the Limpopo riverside. The wildlife in this area is spectacular and includes loads of elephant, with tales from the Van Zyl brothers, if you can get them to relate them, that is. Stop at Oom Kallie Boshoff and Kallie junior for a quick hello, which is always welcome, and then take a look at some of the big crocs they are breeding. This is a special visit, and you will be able to walk into the cage with Kallie junior, not just watch from over the fence, unless you're a little faint hearted.

A trip like this will definitely take a day out of your plans, so if the main purpose of visiting Dunsappie is bowhunting, you'll have to plan a day extra. Also plan a day trip to Mapungubwe National Transfer Park, that offers spectacular views of the confluence of the Shashe River and the Limpopo River. Look at the neighbours Botswana and Zimbabwe from the rocky koppies or book mom and daughter for some pampering in at Klein Baloyi Day Spa.

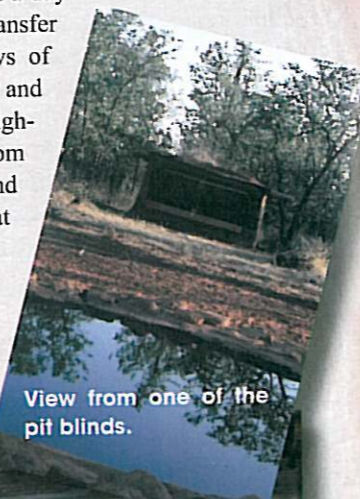
Animals on the farm are just as abundant and comprise 17 species. I can honestly say I have



Boma and braai area.



A scene that awaits you at Dunsappie.



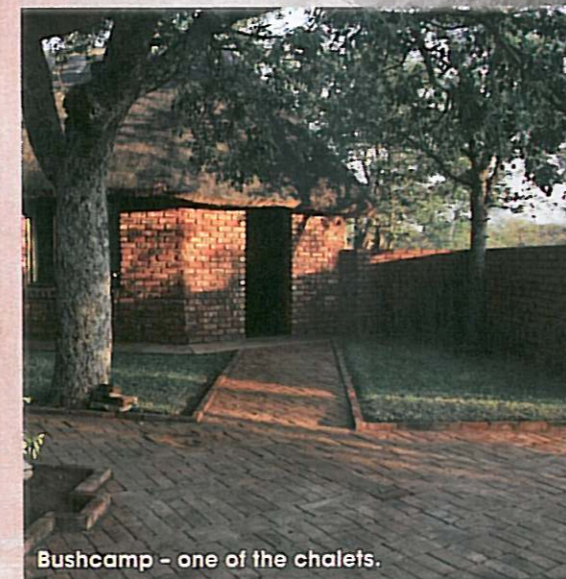
View from one of the pit blinds.

never seen so many trophy-sized impala before in my life. My first words to Gideon when he asked me if we had seen anything were: "These impala are only half-impala, because only the mothers are impala; the fathers are all kudu." Such animals will stay in your dreams for a lifetime to come. The farm was rested for three years and even the blue wildebeest are established Rowland Ward quality. Ask Mia, you may be lucky to spot a leopard – have the camera ready.

I have said that people are what make a place special, and on Dunsappie I once again found these words to be true. This was one of the places I have made new friends for life. I know the trip is a far one, but for those who love the bushveldt, the view on the way there is spectacular and the place that awaits you will always stay with you. If the distance still spooks you, just ask Pieter about their tariffs and promotional hunts for this season.

Dunsappie is a family friendly environment, so bring the whole family, the wife and kids, grandma and granddad, even the in-laws, but make sure you take them with if you depart, because Kanzili will not accept any left-behinds, except live leopard bait.

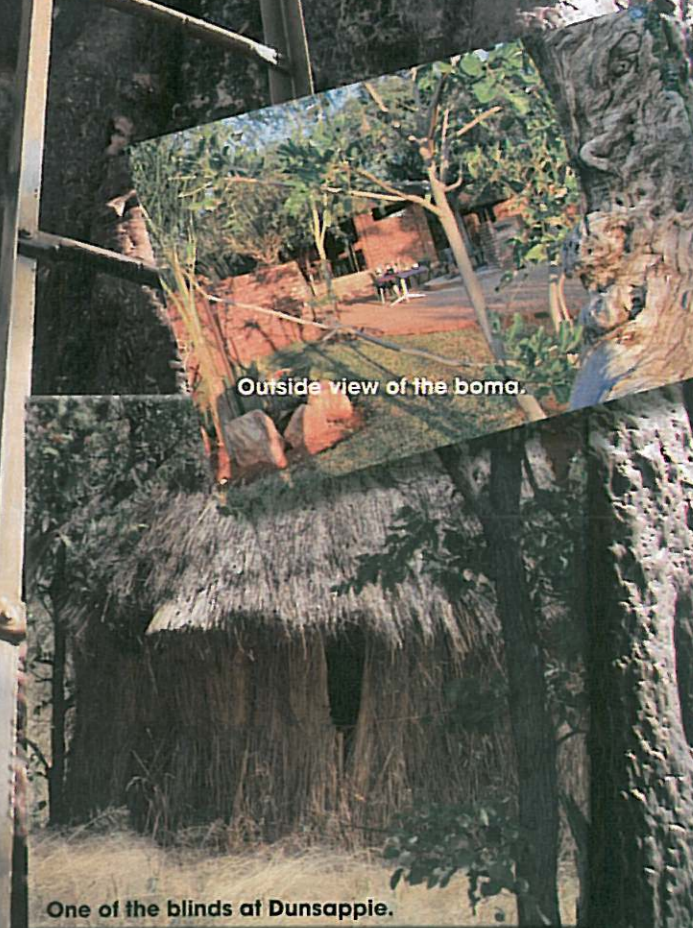
By the time you read this, I will have already booked my next visit. If you are interested, contact Pieter van Zyl on 082 737 1557 or e-mail him at vanzylp@contractforwarding.co.za.



Bushcamp - one of the chalets.



Inside view of the chalet.



Outside view of the boma.

One of the blinds at Dunsappie.

Fotos: Mia Bester / www.daniebester.co.za