

GENERAL RULES, RADIO PROCEDURES AND GAME DRIVE ETIQUETTE

Respect the Natural Environment; Respect the Wildlife; Respect your fellow Members

It is the responsibility of members to inform their guests of these procedures and to ensure that they are adhered to.

If unsure, use common sense, put safety first and always be considerate toward animals and your fellow members. This is especially important over busy periods with the increase in occupation, vehicle traffic and radio use.

Use of the property and facilities is done so entirely at the owner's and/or guest's risk – everyone entering the reserve must sign the indemnity on arrival. Failure to sign does not negate the application of the indemnity to members and their guests.

General Guidelines

- Close windows and doors before leaving the unit - most animals are opportunistic feeders.
- Please pick up any litter you come across.
- Make sure children are, at all times, accompanied by adults and safe from predators.
- Avoid using your cell phone within earshot of other members and specifically not on drives, at dams, hides etc. When using a phone in a common area (other than at the office / admin complex), be sensitive to other members who may be disturbed by a ringing phone or a loud conversation.
- Avoid handling dangerous animals (e.g. snakes). Radio for management's professional assistance.
- Take precautions against mosquitos and malaria:
 - Wear long pants and sleeves at dawn and dusk.
 - Use mosquito repellent.
 - Sleep under mosquito nets.
 - The use of malaria prophylactics is recommended.

N'tsiri Do's and Don'ts

DO:

Read and adhere to our radio and game drive etiquette.

- Drive only on clearly defined roads. Never drive over the veld or along the river beds.
- Enjoy yourself but respect the privacy of the other members. Approach river crossings slowly and quietly.
- The maximum speed limit is 30km/h.
- Give animals the right of way. Remember that you are in their territory.
- Remember to close windows and doors before leaving the unit; otherwise you could be in for a nasty surprise when you return. Most animals are opportunistic feeders and an open door or window could be most inviting.
- Be careful not to litter.
- Children must at all times be accompanied by adults.
- Guard against veld fires at all times:
 - Only make fires in designated areas.
 - Extinguish fires & cover hot coals before retiring at night
 - Do not leave fires unattended
- Remember to turn off the gas and water and empty your dustbins when vacating your unit at the end of your stay.
- Separate your rubbish according to the N'tsiri Nature Reserve waste management policy.
- Please observe & respect the shop & office hours.
- Settle your account before leaving
- In case of an emergency, contact management to assist you.

DO NOT under any circumstance:

- **Call in any rhino sightings on the radio. Do not use alternative names like "big warthogs", "unicorns" etc.**
- Feed birds or animals (don't throw food scraps into the bush or use bird seed)
Remember: When animals are fed, they become a danger to humans and have to be put down!!
- Drive onto neighbouring properties
- Permit a vehicle to be driven on the reserve unless by a person in possession of a valid driver's license.
- Use generators.
- Play TV's or music players so that they are audible or visible from anywhere outside of the unit.
- Bring catapults, pellet guns, bicycles or motor cycles into the reserve.
- Caravan or camp on the reserve other than at the designated sleeping platform.

- Pick up wood - Firewood can be bought from the shop.
- Bring pets into the reserve.
- Pick up baby or injured animals.
- Offer employees liquor.
- Drive off defined roads, across the veld or into river beds.
- Shine spot lights on buildings or vehicles.

Radio Procedure

It is important to have respect for the animals we view and to aim at creating the kind of personal experience and interaction with the wildlife that we can enjoy. This becomes difficult over busy periods with the increase in occupation, vehicle traffic and radio use. Radio procedures and game drive etiquette are therefore essential.

- It is recommended that vehicles be fitted with mobile radios. A base radio can be fitted at the unit and portable (handheld) radios are also available.
- The two way radios have two channels. Members should use Channel 1 for normal communications.
- Channel 1 is the official NTSIRI Channel and should be reserved for formal messages.
- Channel 2 can be used for more informal conversation.
- We would like to remind members to observe radio etiquette and to keep idle chatter, drunken chatter and children off the radio.
- When calling a member hold in your handset button for two seconds before clearly stating "XX come in for ZZ". Repeat this again immediately and if no reply is received please try again in 30 seconds. Repeat three times.
- If no answer is received please try again in 10 minutes

Game drive etiquette

If unsure, use common sense, put safety first and always be considerate toward the natural environment and your fellow members. This is especially important over busy periods with the increase in occupation, vehicle traffic and radio use. Use of the property and facilities which include the airstrip, is done so entirely at the owner's and/or guest's risk – everyone entering the reserve is deemed to have accepted the reserve indemnity.

What is necessary for me to carry in my vehicle? Fold up spade, jack and tyre spanner, tow rope, jumpers, dustbin bag, radio and spotlights with appropriate red filter cover for the spotlights.

Game Drive Etiquette

- The maximum speed limit is 30km/h.
- Only individuals with valid drivers or learner licenses are permitted to drive on the reserve. (Learner drivers must be accompanied by a licensed driver at all times)
- The authorised member must accompany the vehicle at all times (except for short trips to the shop, pool etc.)
- Only **one vehicle per unit** may be operated at any one time.
- **Do not stand up or hang over the side of the vehicle** (This breaks the shape of the vehicle and makes the animals uneasy).
- Driving off road or up riverbeds is not permitted under any circumstances
- For the benefit of all members, please report animal sightings over on the radio.
- **No rhino sightings are to be called in on the radio. Do not use alternative names like "big warthogs", "unicorns" etc.**

Sightings Protocol:

- Remain **in your vehicle** at sightings and within the vicinity of sightings.
- When approaching a sighting show respect to other people already at the sighting
- Switch off unnecessary lights and spotlights and be sensitive to those who have been waiting for the animal to better show itself.
- Be quiet, and ensure that your vehicle is positioned so that others can move away if they wish.
- Never park more than one vehicle width off the road.
- **Prevent overcrowding at sightings.** Whilst it is very difficult at rare sightings and over periods of high occupancy, members are encouraged to limit the number of vehicles at a sighting and to move on after a period to give others a chance to enjoy the sighting too.

- To encourage the reporting of sightings, the first vehicle at the scene (the reporting vehicle) may remain at the sighting indefinitely. All vehicles that arrive thereafter must please adhere to the sighting protocol.
- Limit vehicle numbers on the scene to a number which is practical and allows all vehicles visual of the sighting in question.
- Do not interfere in any way with the sighting and behave in such a way as to minimise disturbance of the animals.
- Once you have had a good view of the sighting, make room or move off to give others a chance.
- At busy times or popular sightings, please use your discretion & limit your viewing to **10 – 15 minutes**.
- On arrival at a busy sighting, please hang back, form a queue where possible and report yourself to the vehicles at the scene. Please be patient and wait your turn.
- Please keep noise to a minimum for the benefit of the animals and other vehicles.
- Never call or throw things at animals to get a reaction.
- When following predators and the animal is stationary, listening or stalking, every vehicle around the sighting should turn its engine off so as not to interfere. Please behave in such a way as not to interfere with a hunt or block the escape path of the prey.
- When following animals that are aggressive or agitated, hang back or turn the engine off and allow the animal to calm down. This will benefit you and other members in the future by having relaxed animals comfortable around vehicles.
- Learn to anticipate the behaviour and movements of animals and avoid driving too close.
- Drive around animal droppings to prevent killing dung beetles and other insects that inhabit dung.
- Do not allow children to hang out of your vehicles while moving.
- Respect the privacy of occupied units and do not shine on houses or make noise when passing units.
- The removal of any wood or any natural fauna & flora from the Bushveld, is strictly prohibited.
- Please ensure that litter can't fall off your vehicle and please pick up litter should you come across it.
- Vehicles must display the approved Ntsiri sticker and unit number on the RHS, LHS and rear of the vehicle. Please refrain from using your city vehicle on the reserve. Should your game drive vehicle however break down or special circumstances require it, permission from management to make use of a private vehicle may be requested. Ntsiri magnetic decals are available for unmarked vehicles and are to be displayed in a prominent position on the vehicle.
- When finding the road blocked by a tree having been pushed down, please return to a point where an alternative road can be used and then report the blockage to Reception as soon as possible. By merely "bundu-bashing" around such a blockage we destroy the surrounding fauna and flora.

Spotlights:

- A maximum candlepower of 1'000'000 and a maximum of 2 per vehicle are recommended.
- Do not shine spotlights **in an animal's eyes**. Shine on the ground in front of, or on the back of the animal. Their eyes are sensitive and exposure to the light is harmful. Spotlights in the animal's eyes blinds prey species making them vulnerable to predation.
- The use of red coloured filters on spotlights is encouraged.
- Do not shine spotlights when predators are hunting. This creates an unnatural situation disadvantaging both the predator and the prey. Once the kill is made, spotlights can be used.

Waterholes and Dams

- Noise, movement and any other general disturbance at dams must be kept to a minimum for the benefit of animals and other members.
- It is recommended that vehicles park in such a way as to not restrict animal movement to and from the water. As an example, only park **on a maximum of 2 sides of the dam**. During very busy periods members may exceed this suggestion at their discretion.
- You may alight from your vehicle at the dam only if no animals or other vehicles are present.
- **If any animals approach, everyone must return to their vehicle(s).**
- Animals are generally skittish when approaching a waterhole. Please keep quiet and do not make sudden movements. If a herd of Impala or any other animal is drinking remain quiet and still until the entire herd has finished drinking. If frightened and the herd moves off, those individuals that have not drunk may not get a chance to drink again that day.

Rules for the use of Tracker Seats

- Anyone under the age of 18 may not occupy a tracker seat.
- Ensure that the driver is qualified and competent to safely manage a dangerous animal encounter.
- If you do encounter a dangerous animal, immediately move a safe distance away from the scene, and then climb off the tracker seat and into the vehicle before returning to the sighting.
- The use of the tracker seat is intended for game tracking and not "joy ride" purposes. Members are urged to respect this principle and avoid abuse of the seats.

Special Game Activities:

- Certain activities undertaken by members whilst on the Ntsiri property are considered to be more dangerous than most (e.g. walking, use of vehicle tracker seats, etc.) and while **these activities are not recommended**, members and their guests who deem that they are suitably qualified and experienced, may do so on the basis that **it is undertaken entirely at their own risk**. Ntsiri, its Directors and/or management will not be held liable for any incident as per the indemnity applicable on entry to the reserve (whether signed or not).

Guided Walks:

- The bush walks are conducted by the Reserve Manager (when available) on request by members at no extra charge. Participants are limited to a party of 4 with a minimum age of twelve. Participants meet at a prearranged spot and the duration of the walk is approximately two hours. These walks are at the members own risk and the Reserve does not take responsibility for any loss/death/injuries.
- A separate walking indemnity is to be signed by all participants.

Rules for Walking

- **Please inform management, when possible, of planned walking activities.** The reserve is patrolled by professional rangers who are tasked with monitoring all pedestrian activity on the reserve. If management is aware of planned walks they can avoid unnecessary follow up on members' tracks. Members can additionally be informed by management of problem or wounded animals in the area. It is understood that members often take "impromptu" walks where such a procedure does not make sense.
- Do not walk unless you/your guide are suitably qualified to walk in big animal territory.
- **Firearms:** The reserve is used by members at all times of day for driving and walking and it is not possible to know in advance if there are other members in the immediate vicinity. For this reason, **only persons who are suitably qualified and who have the necessary licences and competency certificates for the specific weapon carried are permitted to walk with firearms.** If in doubt, ask reserve management for clarity.
- PLEASE NOTE: The normal legal requirements by which rifle owners are bound regarding safe storage, carrying, and accountability for the weapons use will be applicable to all members bringing a firearm onto the property.
- Firearms of .375 caliber and greater are recommended.
- Walkers should try and avoid other game drive vehicles, units or public areas.