

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HUNTING SEASON – CLIMATE

We operate all year round depending on what and where you want to hunt. Generally speaking, the climate is pleasant, with September, October, and November being the hotter months of the year, while the months of June, July, and August have cool nights and pleasant days.

PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS

Our Professional hunters are registered according to South African law. They are highly experienced and know the bush and the habits of the game intimately. They will go out of their way to provide proper and professional services, maintaining the highest standard for equipment, vehicles, and field preparation of trophies. More importantly, they will seek the best trophies possible for their valued client. In addition, they are members of the Professional Hunters Association of South Africa, further proof of their competence and dedication.

HUNTING METHODS

The hunting day is normally split into two sessions, one in the early morning and the other in the afternoon. Hunting begins by vehicle but as soon as fresh tracks are discovered or trophy animals are spotted, they are approached on foot, which always represents an exciting challenge. When an animal is shot it is immediately transported to the camp to be skinned and treated in order to prepare the trophy.

HUNTING WEAPONS/IMPORT PERMITS

We recommend that you discuss your rifle calibres with your outfitter according to the animals you will take. Remember that shot placement by far outweighs ballistics. In South Africa, a temporary import permit is necessary for guns and ammunition. Here again, your outfitter will provide you with the necessary documentation and information beforehand. Make sure that you bring sufficient ammunition with you as some calibres are not readily available locally.

TROPHY FEE

Trophy fees are only payable for animals that are actually hunted. Wounded animals are to be paid in full. All animals listed on our trophy list can be hunted on a 5, 7, 10, and 14-day safari as marked. No VAT. (value-added tax) payable on trophy fees.

GUN RENTAL

It is always preferable to bring your own weapons on safari. We do however have guns and shotguns available at a nominal cost. Ammunition is charged separately.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

No VISA is required from the US.

A Visa is required from Mexico

YOUR TROPHIES

A hunter who hopes to obtain a brilliant trophy is spending a lot to come to a foreign hunting ground. He may just as well do the most important part as the textbook prescribes. That is, handling the actual skin, skull, and horns correctly so that the trophy may come to its full potential. Your outfitter and his staff are used to handling the whole process of field preparation, skinning, salting, and the storage of trophies. Very few parts of the animal will be wasted. The meat will be handled with care and in good hygienic fashion. If the hunter is willing, some of the tasty cuts of most animals may be served as a treat during meals at the base camp. The drying quarters are insect and rodent-proof. Quality salt in huge quantities is used. Your trophies are stored in an insect- and rodent-free closed place. Veterinarian control is kept in mind before dispatching the dried-out bones and skins to the taxidermist.

Why should I use a taxidermist in Africa as opposed to one in the United States?

The typical African trophy animal is short-haired and lives in warm to hot climates. The stress of handling, salting, drying, dipping, shipping, rehydrating for dipping, and the typical tanning process to ultimately mount the trophy is lengthy and very harsh on the delicate hides. The time alone can result in damage beyond repair due to parasites and bacteria that are unseen by the naked eye. It is far better to have these delicate hides processed as quickly as possible. By the mere nature of the various import/export laws, it is practically impossible.

I have heard of hunters losing their trophies and never seeing them again once they leave South Africa. How can I avoid this tragedy?

The only way to ensure proper handling and transport of your hunted trophies is to book your hunt with a reputable outfitter, professional hunter (PH), or Safari Company. Lost trophies are only one of many pitfalls of inexperienced or unscrupulous outfitters, professional hunters, and safari companies. What may seem like a bargain hunt may end up costing you everything the hunt was worth and more.

I will not be able to visit your studio; how will I be able to communicate my final decisions to you?

The ideal situation is to have your PH or Safari company plan a visit to our studios after your hunt. In this way, we can sit and discuss your order in detail. However, in a case where this is not possible, we have knowledgeable and cheerful staff standing by to discuss your choices by email. We have found this a simple and effective form of correspondence. We can also communicate by phone or email in order to help you make important decisions with regard to preserving your most precious hunting memories from South Africa.

How do I ensure that the trophies are skinned and treated properly?

As is the case with lost trophies, only experienced and reputable PHs and Safari Companies employ the most skilled skinners and maintain consistently high standards.

How long will it take you to finish my trophies?

The typical turnaround time in the studio is 10 to 12 months depending on our shop loading and the trophies we receive. Full body Elephants, rhinos, giraffes, etc., will require more time. Estimates are provided when we receive the trophies.

Does this mean that I will receive my trophies in 10 to 12 months?

There will be additional time required beyond our control including the transportation once the trophies leave our studio. The time required will depend on the method you choose. Air freight averages 2 to 3 weeks and ocean freight adds 8 to 10 weeks but at a substantial cost saving over air freight.

How are the trophies prepared for shipment?

The trophies are carefully packed in specially designed crates to minimize the size and cost to you. After crating contact the shipping company, who collect the crate from our shop and make all of the necessary arrangements for transport to the United States. You will be notified when the shipment leaves the studios and will be provided with the contact at the shipping company to make arrangements for payment and choice of shipping method.

How much will it cost to ship my trophies?

The cost will depend on the size and weight of the crate and the destination. We do all we can to minimize the size of the crate by carefully packing the trophies in the smallest space possible. The cost is calculated on the total weight of the crate or in most cases the total volume of the crate. The volume is typically the determining factor, since the shipping companies charge based on the amount of weight they could have transported in that space. You may see an equivalent weight charged based on the volume. You can contact the shipping company for costs.

Once the trophies arrive in the United States, will they be sent to my home address?

The shipment requires clearance by the US Fish and Game Department, US Customs, and the US Department of Agriculture. These inspections are arranged by your import broker and may take anywhere from 2 to 3 weeks depending on how busy the port of arrival is and the time of the year. After the inspections are completed and the shipment is released you can make arrangements for home delivery or warehouse pickup as you desire.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING TAXIDERMY WORK

1. Packaging: only one client per crate. This is a new arrangement required by the USA.
2. Trophies must remain in South Africa for a minimum of 90 days before shipping.
3. Warthogs can cause a delay in shipping if the state veterinarian of the area is not available to issue transport permits.
4. Many problems are currently encountered with delays in the issuing of permits by the relevant government agencies – please bear with us.
5. Shipping costs can only be finalized by the time trophies are dropped off.
6. Payment of a deposit to the taxidermist will ensure that your work goes on the production line.
7. No raw products may be exported.
8. Warthog must be packed in a separate crate.
9. Raw and processed products cannot be shipped together

ARRIVAL AT OR THAMBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (JOHANNESBURG)

Generally, flights arrive late evening. Terminal A1 handles international passengers. On arrival go directly to Passport control. After having your passport stamped proceed through to Baggage Claim. **Note:** Bow cases together with golf cases are normally delivered by hand to a collecting area just next to the lost luggage area. If you miss your bow case, it may have been taken to the police clearance office, mistaken for a gun case. Please just ask one of the officials on the floor to take you there to check. All Rifle cases are taken directly to the police office where you must fill out import application forms to get your import permit. The police office is situated to you right at terminal 1. Your Rhinoland representative will meet you at the exit of your terminal and escort you to the police officer. He will be carrying a Rhinoland banner with your name on it. The application process might take some time as you are on African time, so please be patient. It may happen that the Rhinoland representative is not on time due to early flight arrival, traffic delay, etc. – if so, please just wait around the arrival exit area.

ARRIVAL AT RHINOLAND

When driving to the lodge on your arrival day: You will arrive at Rhinoland close to midnight. You will be welcomed by the Rhinoland staff who will show you to your room.

DEPARTURE FROM RHINOLAND

Flights from Johannesburg OR TAMBO Int. The airport departs in the evening. On the day of your departure, you will have breakfast around seven in the morning. After settling your bill you will depart You have to be at the airport 3 hours prior to departure. You will be taken to your check-in point and assisted by one of our staff members. You will also have to have your arms checked in. You will also have time to reclaim VAT (tax) on goods you bought in South Africa. Make sure you keep your receipts as you need them as proof of purchase.

And then – “Bon Voyage”