

KLASERIE “OLDEST & UGLIEST” DAGGA BOY CHALLENGE

One man, a rifle and a 40 km stretch of river meandering through a vast, wild and game-rich property where the Big-7 appear in good numbers. Yes, the opportunity exists to take up a unique challenge – it is to find and hunt the oldest and ugliest buffalo in an area, which is without a doubt one of the best for the pursuit of wild, free ranging buffalo in South Africa.

The Klaserie Private Nature Reserve is where the challenge will take place - either in late September or early October 2015. Numerous buffalo occur here – the challenge is to find the right one.

Adding to the excitement of this nine-day buffalo hunting adventure is the fact that you will start off the challenge by being the personal guest of Kevin 'Doctari' Robertson at the Southern African Wildlife College. This is where he will help prepare you for the occasion. Included will be two evening game drives/walks, two braai's and a full morning of one-on-one tuition where the topics 'buffalo ballistics', 'shot placement', 'trophy assessment' and 'buffalo aging' will be covered in detail.

An afternoon on the shooting range will sharpen your 'field' shooting skills before engaging the college's simulated buffalo hunt course where 6 life-size buffalo targets provide realistic, 'in their natural environment' hunting scenarios. There is no doubt this experience will prepare you well for what lies ahead.

Transfer to the nearby Klaserie Private Nature Reserve early the following morning. This is when your 7-day dagga boy challenge will begin. The scenic Klaserie River meanders through this 150 000 acres in size reserve. Towards the end of the dry season numerous dagga boys congregate within the vicinity of this waterway to utilize its permanent drinking pools, reed beds and grassy riverbanks.

The initial 4 to 5 days of the challenge will be spent walking the entire 40 km length of this river to evaluate, age all the buffalo bulls encountered. (It is estimated that this will be in the region of 70 to 100 different bulls.)

The remaining 2 to 3 days of the hunt will then be dedicated to finding (for a second time) and hunting the bull that best fulfills the physical characteristics of the challenge's criteria. (Klaserie requirements are that the bull must be 10 years old or older with a spread of 37 inches or less. The 'right' old dagga boy should fill this requirement easily.)

John Luyt of Duke Safaris will PH and outfit the hunt. www.dukesafaris.com As a past assistant warden of the Klaserie, few others know this property as well as John. He too is 'buffalo crazy'!

Pick-up and drop-off for the challenge will be in Hoedspruit, South Africa, from where there are daily flights to Johannesburg.

Those interested in this unique opportunity are welcome to e-mail Kevin Robertson at krobertson@sawc.org.za for more information.

The hunt will sell to the highest offer – closing date for bids will be the end July 2015. (Reserve price US \$ 18 000)

A running tab of the highest bid will be displayed daily on www.facebook.com/groups/SAWC.phdept/

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