



TULI NEWS

Issue 13 - DEC 09



TULI/BOTSE SPECIAL PACKAGE

A superb five night Southern-Africa Transfrontier escape at two award winning destinations. Combine the spectacular wildlife and majestic landscape of Botswana Northern Tuli Game Reserve with 5 star luxury in South- Africa's Limpopo province offering BIG 5 wildlife, spa and golf. At only R8900.00 per person sharing. Rates include accommodation of 3 nights at Tuli Safari Lodge and 2 nights at BotseBotse bush retreat. Rates also include 2 game drives/walks per day at Tuli and a 1 hour spa treatment and a Big 5 safari at BotseBotse. Land and airfares available on requests. Please contact Leana/Brinny info@tulilodge.com



We're delighted to let you know that Tuli has been re-graded as **4 star**, reflecting our continuous improvement in quality and service and in recognition of our extensive refurbishment.



TULI VULTURES

The Tuli Vultures won the annual Notugre Football Tournament. The Soccer Cup is home at Tuli for 2009. We are very proud of all the Tuli Staff that played and congratulate them on this great achievement.

TULI CHOIR CD

The Tuli Choir CD can now be downloaded from i-tunes! For those of you who have not heard the Tuli choir, we invite you all to book a night or two at Tuli to be enchanted by the TULI CHOIR's song and dance!
<http://www.apple.com/search/?q=The+Tuli+Choir&sec=ipoditunes>



CONSERVATION

Well, can you believe it, December is already upon us.

The summer started in September with the mercury turning at 40 degrees C, October brought on a few days where it turned at 42 degrees C. During these two months, we had 12.5mm of rain. This was most welcome and started bringing new life to the parched earth, settled the dust for a while and set the Mopane trees budding and shooting velvety new leaves. In November we had a total of 116mm of rain of which 98mm was a soft soaking rain over a period of 24 hours. This is exactly what we needed, as the rain soaked into the ground rather than running off. At the moment, the veld is looking splendid; new greenery everywhere, Mopane pomegranate trees displaying bright yellow flowers, fresh grass coming up and pools of water everywhere.

Most migrant birds arrived back later than usual, the woodland kingfisher being the exception, arriving a few days early. I believe that this may be a sign that we are not going to have a terribly wet season, possibly, even a dry one-but don't quote me, I'm not the weatherman! In October, a flock of pink backed pelicans were seen close to the lodge, thermalling their way upwards and heading north.

Before the big rains came in November, elephant were abundant along the Limpopo, the swamp and any water, including the lodge where they caused endless mischief, breaking fences to get into the gardens or merely walking in through the gates to get to the lush grass, water pipes, pumps etc. An elephant cow with twin calves was observed on a number of occasions, in a herd, in the area of the lodge in late October, early November. This is really a very uncommon happening.

Leopard sightings were also very good before the rain, but are becoming more and more difficult to find as the bush gets thicker.

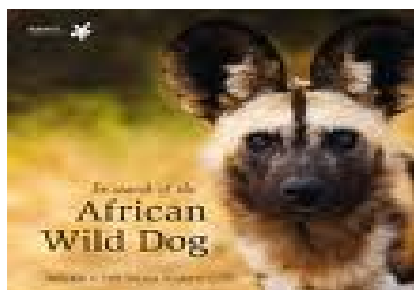
Two Lionesses were seen up in the vicinity of hide 4 on a few occasions, both of them in terrific condition

A mating pair of cheetah was also seen on a few occasions in October.

But the hyenas still reign supreme at Tuli, there have been 3 litters of pups born over the last four months - beware all other predators!

General game such as zebra, wildebeest, giraffe, eland and impala has been abundant and managed to survive through the dry period with only one or two mortalities being recorded. They are all picking up condition now and have a new zest for life.

At around 11pm on the night of November 21, a meteorite crashed into the earth very close to Tuli. This was a once in a lifetime spectacle and awesome to witness. The whole sky lit up in shades of purple and red for a few seconds (it was like daylight), a few minutes of silence followed and then, an almighty explosion shook, windows, roofs, foundations and anything else that was shakable, and was literally earth shattering.



IN SEARCH OF AFRICAN WILD DOG

Tuli Safari Lodge is very proud to be associated with the launch of Pat and Roger de la Harpe's latest book '**In Search of the African Wild Dog**', which was in part researched and photographed in the Northern Tuli Game Reserve whilst the writer and photographer were based at the lodge.

The story of the pack of African Wild Dog, reintroduced to the Northern Tuli Game Reserve (Notugre) in 2008, is fully documented and richly illustrated in the book. Tuli Safari Lodge has been closely involved with the reintroduction project from the outset.

We sponsored two powerful satellite collars that have enabled the pack to be tracked more easily and data about their movements to be accessed remotely. Everyone associated with the lodge wishes the de la Harpes every success with the book, and sincerely hopes that it contributes to the protection of this highly endangered yet most charismatic animal.

FROM THIS ↑ TO THIS ↑ BY THE END OF THE YEAR

The miner's promise and your heritage destroyed

The Threat

As we celebrate the launch of Pat & Roger de la Harpe's book on the severely endangered African Wild Dog, I sadly have to draw your attention to a major coal mining threat that, unless stopped, will destroy much of the Limpopo Valley and seriously damage the Mapungubwe World Heritage Site, the new Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area and the recently proclaimed Vhembe Biosphere.

Coal of Africa (CoAL), an Australian company that has no mines in Australia, is applying for a mining licence for an open cast and underground coal mine (Vele Colliery) on an 86sq km site on the banks of the Limpopo approximately 5km from Mapungubwe. For any questions or further information contact Nick Hilterman on 082 600 8121 or

nick.hiltermann@telkomsa.net

We look forward to welcoming you to Tuli again soon!

www.tulilodge.com

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