

November 29, 2007

Greetings from Arathusa!

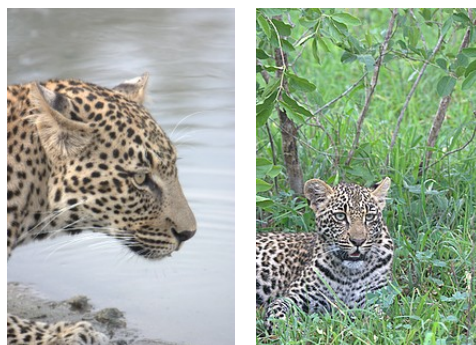
Another two weeks have passed in paradise. Despite large volumes of rain, no amount of bad weather could dampen spirits and negatively affect the extraordinary game sightings enjoyed at Arathusa.

Lion sightings have been absolutely amazing. The five big Mapogo males have been in and out of the area each and every day of the past two weeks. Usually this would result in a decline in other lion sightings, as the rest of the lion population flee from the threat that "the big guys" pose to them. But not this time! Regular sightings of the Styx pride have been recorded - we were rewarded with a sight of them playing on two occasions. The Chilala pride has also been back in the area and was very obliging to our guests and their cameras when they brought down a wildebeest in front of our vehicles.



A Kahuma Male Lion on his own & mating with an unidentified female.

Our regular sightings of Safari (the female leopard which we see frequently around the camp) have been a bit scarce of late. This was however more than compensated for by excellent quality sightings of Safari's daughter, Kurula, and her two cubs. On one occasion we found her just as she killed an impala. The rest of the drive was dedicated to following her – safari goers watched her hide the kill, and fetch her cubs so they could share in the meal. A very special experience indeed.



Matimba enjoying a drink & one of Karula's cubs

Elephant sightings have also been exceptional with the herds returning "en masse". Regular sightings from the deck at the lodge have kept us entertained during the hot hours of the day.



A magnificent bull elephant with massive tusks!

As far as birding is concerned, raptors have been abundant. Among our findings was a very rare sighting of an osprey. According to reputable sources, it has been the first sighting in nine years!

It is difficult to capture the magnificence of what we experience in the bush at Arathusa every day. We can only hope that this diary goes some way towards bringing the safari experiences to you via the cyber environment. It has been a special two weeks – we look forward to what December will bring.



A rhino grazing near the lodge

Until next time,

Vriendelike Groete (Friendly Greetings)

All of us at Arathusa Safari Lodge