

While at the 2007 Minnesota Deer Classic sport show, I met Alex Duvenage and Dean Hanson of Kudu Adventure Safaris. We talked about the possibilities of a South African hunt and I was ready to give it a try. Alex was looking for a disabled hunter to see if he could provide a successful hunt and I was to advise him on how to make the camp accessible. So plans were underway. I told Alex that I would be hunting with a crossbow and would be accompanied by my wife. This really intrigued him, his first disabled hunter and with a bow. I was to be the only hunter in camp so I had Alex's full attention to make my hunt successful. We selected Aug 14 to Aug 23 for a hunt date. This would be South Africa's Spring season and the weather would be cool in the morning but warm up in the afternoon. After explaining what I needed, I signed the papers and my 2007 African hunt was on.

Aug 14 at 7:00 in the morning we left Minneapolis for New York. After a 3 hour layover we got on the plane for Johannesburg. From New York we flew 7 1/2 hours to Dakar where we refueled, and then it was off for 8 1/2 hours to Johannesburg. Once there we cleared customs and Alex was waiting to pick us up for the 3hr ride to camp.

After a hardy nights sleep it was up at 7:00 for breakfast and to shoot a few arrows to make sure my scope was on. Alex took us into the lodge and gave me a lesson on where to make a shot on African game. At 2:00 we were ready to go to the ground blind. We got into seats in the back of the truck and rolled out of camp. What a sight, there were animals everywhere. Once at the blind, Alex helped me in and, gave me some last minute instructions and I was ready to hunt.

We had many animals come to the water hole but nothing big enough to shoot. Day 2 found us in a different blind. About 3:00 pm a big Warthog came in for drink. After sizing him up, I decided this was a shooter. I picked up my Horton crossbow and steadied myself to make the 23 yard shot. I launched the arrow and upon impact the big Warthog dropped in his tracks. Diane called Alex and he arrived in minutes. Dan the tracker didn't have much to do as the Warthog never left my sight. So after a day and a half I had my first African animal. The next morning I was in another smaller blind and would be by myself. I had been there about 2 hours when a group of Impala came through a hole in the brush and down to the water. There were about 20 does and 2 bucks. After watching them I could tell that one buck was the dominate one by, the way he was pushing the other impala and cattle around. After getting a drink they started to file back out of the hole in the brush. When the buck was at the right angle, I took the 32 yard shot and watched him bolt out of sight. I knew it was a good shot so I sat there contemplating my next move. While waiting a herd of Blesbucks came running into the water. They all tried to hit the water at once and with no time to think, I picked out the biggest one and let the arrow fly. Just like that in a cloud of dust they were gone. I radioed Alex to come on in and that I had shot a Blesbuck. When the crew showed up Alex asked which way the Blesbuck went. I said maybe we should look for the Impala first. He looked at me confused, what Impala? I motioned him to where I made the shot; he found my arrow and a good blood trail. They followed it out of the brush and found the Impala at 30 yards. They came back and took up the trail of the Blesbuck and found him 30 yards away. Alex couldn't believe it; I had a 22" Impala and a 15 5/8" Blesbuck

all in a half an hour! My wife was brought out to take some pictures. Alex commented that this was the first time he had a bow hunter kill an animal where he didn't have to follow it up with a rifle shot.

Day 4 was uneventful with many animals sighted but nothing big enough to shoot. That night Alex called a friend of his and asked if he had any big Kudu coming into his water hole. He said he had 2 nice bulls coming in and we could try for one. The next morning we drove 5 hours to his friend's camp. That afternoon we crawled into the ground blind over a water hole, Alex, Diane and, I. It was starting to get real hot out and being in the blind for 2 hours was starting to take its toll. Just then Alex tapped me on the leg and whispered that a big Kudu bull was coming in. It took a few seconds but he strolled into the shooting port. I tightened my grip on the Horton bow and got ready to make the shot. A cow Kudu was directly behind him and I had to wait till it cleared. When the moment of truth arrived I raised the bow and put the crosshairs on the sweet spot. It was a 25 yard quartering away shot. When things looked good I pulled the trigger and sent the Wasp broad head on its way. The 52 1/2 " bull went 40 yards up a little hill, stood there and just tipped over. In 5 days of hunting I had 4 South African animals. What a close and personal experience with a bow.

This was an incredible hunt. We saw many animals everyday. There were Impala, Blesbuck, and Kudu. Warthog, Eland, Giraffe, Gemsbok, Waterbuck, Red hartebeest, Wildebeest, Ostrich, Bushbuck, Zebra, Steenbok, Baboon, Monkeys, Mongoose, along with many birds like Guinea Hens, Franklins, (a grouse like bird) Vultures and Hawks.

Alex and the crew were great. They went way out of their way to make my hunt successful. He is in the process of remodeling two chalets to make them accessible. Also he is working on putting some type of lift on the truck, so he can raise a wheelchair in the back. I can't wait to go back. If you have ever considered an African hunt, Kudu Adventures can meet all your needs. You can meet Alex and Dean at the Minnesota Deer Classic or the Northwest Sport show. You can also contact me for more information and I can put you in touch with them.



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