

As I sat on the open-deck of the lodge, cold beer in hand, admiring the changing red hues of the sunset, it felt so good to be back in the bushveld. Yesterday's drive in Kruger had been exceptional with the leopard and its impala kill in the tree opposite Sunset dam at Lower Sabie. Just 17 paces away totally exposed on a thick branch of the *Lonchocarpus capassa*. It could not have been choreographed better! Then 15 kms further on, another leopard with its kill!! This time more difficult to see as it was at the foot of a sycamore fig, rather obscured by some dense vegetation. There had been other highlights, with two elephant breeding herds crossing right in front of us, the mothers turning to face us with their stand-off warnings while their disciplined infants scrambled under their mother's protective bulk.

I popped another beer as the crimson sky in the west flashed its final glow, and leaned over the upstairs balcony of the Lodge overlooking the Crocodile River into Kruger. Yes, I thought, realising that the dust in the atmosphere was responsible for the better sunsets these days, we are likely to have some great game viewing along the Crocodile River this dry season. The interior bush has already dried out and there is no doubt that the game in the south is likely to be reliant on these waters in front of the Lodge which emanate from the Highveld region.

The hippos, in the water in front of me, broke the silence and grunted in chorus along the river, as if in agreement with my thoughts. Then there was silence again as they prepared themselves for their nocturnal wanderings along their meandering paths to their preferred grazing areas away from the river. A slither of red framed the western horizon and already the thin crescent of the new moon appeared over the trees in the east. It was a perfect evening. No wonder the beers tasted so good.



As always, to our past guests, thank you for staying with us. To our guests yet to arrive, we look forward to meeting you and sharing our piece of the African Bush with you.

The Bushwise Team