



## Testimonials

Our South African safari took place in the towering shadows of the Swartberg Mountains rising starkly from the Klein Karoo. It is remarkable country with a wide variety and abundance of plains game.

Our hosts, PH Willie van Zyl and his wife Junita of Swartberg Safaris, were an amazing team that accorded every hospitality to make our trip an extraordinary vacation and hunting experience. We were celebrating my wife's birthday and Junita went out of her way to make it a very special occasion.

From the moment we arrived, it became apparent that Willie was obviously a very experienced PH. His attention to detail, his equipment, and safety were of paramount importance. His skills in locating, spotting, and assessing game allowed us to take several trophy quality plains game animals including a gold medal kudu and gold medal springbok.

One thing that we also appreciated was his personality and approach to the day. Certainly, he was focused on the business at hand, but he was also fun, knowledgeable of the animals, and the area's history. Perhaps even more importantly, he was a very positive coach. Though we are experienced hunters, he was constantly teaching us new techniques to improve our shooting and outdoor skills.

Willie's crew were true professionals as well. Each trophy was quickly brought in for skinning and processing from even the most remote location. Their skills were certainly on display as we enjoyed several wonderful meals from the same day's hunt and our skins made for beautiful mounts.

The Lodge provided beautiful and comfortable accommodations with every need quickly obliged. It was a great environment in which to end a long day and gather to share the many tales of a successful hunt.

If you are looking for an excellent safari that includes beautiful vistas, quality hunting, and wonderful people, you will not find a better team than Swartberg Safaris to provide a once in a lifetime experience.

**Cress and Gigi Whitfield**  
**Nashville, Tennessee USA**  
[cwhitfield@wlgore.com](mailto:cwhitfield@wlgore.com)

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I'm happy to recommend Willie as a Ph, he's hard working and eager to do the best for his client 24/7

Very keen to listen and has a lot of understanding of what the client wants in terms of trophy quality and what really is possible. No promising that doesn't come true.

**Alexander Magnusson**  
**Stockholm, Sweden**  
[alex.magnusson@safariclub.se](mailto:alex.magnusson@safariclub.se)

During my stay with Western Cape Safaris, Willie was my designated PH. His professional approach, vast hunting experience and knowledge of the land has been a key success factor in making my stay a memory for life. He listened to my wishes and adapted the hunt accordingly. Above all he was a very pleasant and humble person who genuinely wanted me to have the best time possible. The accommodation, food and drink were first class and the surrounding landscape spectacular. I have no whatsoever hesitation in recommending Willie and Western Cape Safari to anyone who is looking for that special South African hunt of a lifetime.

**Mark Simmons**  
**Stockholm, Sweden**  
**[Mark.Simmons@camfil.com](mailto:Mark.Simmons@camfil.com)**

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Although I traveled extensively for business, I had never been to South Africa. On a recent family vacation, we decided to take a hunting safari in South Africa. It had been a lifelong dream but as a business owner, the time was a limiting factor. Additionally, although an experienced hunter, I have a bad knee. My son is in his twenties and very fit, but does not have much hunting experience. The final complication was that my wife and daughter wanted to come along for the first day.

I was concerned as to how this would play out, but it all turned out fantastically. Your Professional Hunter, Willie, was very patient and made us feel very comfortable on the shooting range. He did a great job of driving around the reserve and pointing out the various animals, explaining things very clearly to us first timers. The women really enjoyed it.

Willie found my son and me the trophy animals we were looking for, frequently passing up smaller animals that were in positions that would be possible to hunt. My big wish for the trip was to take a large Kudu, and Willie's knowledge of the reserve, and the animals made it possible.

Your equipment was very good and the support and processing facility is world class. More memorable was the scenery – absolutely beautiful vistas in all directions. I highly recommend your team to anyone looking at their first African hunt.

**Peter J. Smith**  
**Ontario, Canada**  
**[admin@berminghammer.com](mailto:admin@berminghammer.com)**

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We would like to thank you so much for the hospitality we could get from you guys. This is the second time we stayed at your wonderful Lodge. All went perfect and we are very thankful! Especially the hunting experience with Willie, was tremendous. He prepared the adventure for us in a great manner, we learned so much of the wildlife, the animals and nature. He always stays calm and friendly and is an absolute expert in all respect. Thx a million!

**Henry Werkmeister**  
**Germany**  
**[henry.werkmeister@icloud.com](mailto:henry.werkmeister@icloud.com)**

I first met Willie in 2012 as part of a corporate hunt at Western Cape Safaris in the Swartberg district outside Oudtshoorn.

First impressions were a professional outfitter, where safety always came first, the animals to be harvested second and then to deliver an enjoyable and safe hunt to all the hunters in the party. He always took care to ensure that hunters at all skill levels had an equal chance to harvest their desired animal. In addition, his communication with other professional hunters who helped him with the corporate hunts to ensure both safety and to find the desired animals to be harvested were at the highest standard. Further although spending a day in the "hunting velt" with hunters he always socialized with the hunting parties in the evening and his "braaiing" skills are legendary. I participated in three corporate hunts with Willie and every year the quality of the hunt as well as the experience improved and good memories were made.

I can highly recommend Willie as an outfitter and professional hunter, animal lover as well as being widely read which will make any hunt a memory, with fantastic photos to back up the memories.

**Gert Vorster**  
**Humansdorp, South Africa**  
**[GertV@paycorp.co.za](mailto:GertV@paycorp.co.za)**

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I met Willie in 2008 when our company's partners joined our counterparts for a hunting trip with Western Cape Safaris. Primarily because of him it proved to be a very memorable trip with the result that we subsequently repeated this visit every year since then and recommend it to everyone. Willie proved himself as a friendly, helpful and organized host, with many a hunting related story to share, resulting in the inevitable treasured relationship that developed.

As a PH his sense of safety, responsibility and ethical hunting is distinctive of his character, portraying confidence in leading the hunt. One is always under the impression that he is on top of his game, which creates a sense of trust and comfort amongst the hunting group. His knowledge and love for nature and the reserve itself is impressive and he shares this with his clients.

I can candidly recommend Western Cape Safaris with Willie as the PH for a hunting trip based on the example that he has been for many, old and young, in my presence.

**Jan Janse van Rensburg**  
**Cape Town, South Africa**  
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