

Ancestral Tracks

Petrus Jacobus Daniel (Piet) Jacobs (1822 – 1886)

During the years 1686 to 1688 the French Huguenots arrived in the Cape. They were Protestants escaping persecution by the Catholic Church. Among them were Pierre Jacobs (1647 – 1698) his wife Susanna and their children. Pierre, a farmer from Calais in France, settled on a farm in the Groot Drakenstein area.

Pierre's Grandson, David Jacobs, was living in Stellenbosch during the second half of the eighteenth century. The Cape interior was loaded with game animals and David and his brothers went on hunting expeditions; eventually they relied on their hunting proceeds to make a living. We can regard David as being among the first of South Africa's ensuing generation of professional hunters.

David decided to relocate and he settled in the Sneeu Berg (Snow Mountain) area near Graaf Reinet to be closer to the hunting velds. From here they went further north, and even crossed the Orange River to hunt.

David's son Petrus Jacobus (PJ) Jacobs was born during 1789. Since his childhood he accompanied his father on these hunting expeditions. Later on PJ went deeper into the interior and even crossed the Vaal River to hunt for Elephant. He was a real professional.

On 18 April 1822 PJ's wife gave birth to the eventual legendary hunter, Petrus Jacobus Daniel (Piet) Jacobs. Piet's father died when he was only ten years old and his eldest brother, David, raised him. David was also

a hunter and Piet accompanied him on his hunting excursions.

During 1806, England took over the Cape Colony from the Dutch. The descendants of the original settlers, the Boers, refused to be Anglicized and during the mid-1830s the Great Trek ensued. Huge numbers of Boers loaded their wagons, crossed the Orange and Vaal Rivers to settle in the Orange Free State and Transvaal; away from English domination. Upon crossing these rivers the Boers split up in smaller groups and spread all over their new homeland to settle in their chosen areas. Farms were for free.

When Piet was twenty years old he married Jacomina Smit, a 16 year old girl from a neighbouring farm. Soon they had three sons. Piet and Jacomina decided to also relocate; he loaded his family and possessions on a wagon or two, crossed the Orange and Vaal Rivers to end up in the Marico district of the Transvaal. Farms were for free and Piet occupied and settled on his farm "Blomfontein" close to the present town Zeerust. He immediately set off hunting in the Marico and also moved into Botswana.

By 1849 some more settlers arrived in the present Marico. First was Daniel van Vuuren, followed by Jan Viljoen and Ockert Oosthuizen. Piet welcomed them. All these families feature well in the ensuing history of the Jacobs family.

Unfortunately Jacomina, in her early to mid-twenties, died and Piet was left with his



three infant sons. Living without a wife was hard and he soon married Jacoba, daughter of fellow ivory hunter, Ockert Oosthuizen.

Piet Jacobs and Jan Viljoen set off with a friendship that lasted until the end of their lives.

Johannes Willem (Jan) Viljoen (1812 – 1898) was a formidable man. He fought in the battle of Boomplaats against the English under Sir Harry Smith. Smith won the battle, arrested Jan, incarcerated him and confiscated his farm.

Upon release from prison Jan loaded his wagon and "trekked" all the way to the Marico where he occupied and named his farm Vergenoegd (Far enough – from the English)

The Marico was loaded with wild animals and the men, particularly Jan Viljoen, Piet Jacobs and Ockert Oosthuizen set off on a hunting career; shooting elephant, rhino and lion at their doorstep. Gradually they moved across the Limpopo River into present day Botswana

where they befriended several Tswana tribes.

Jan Viljoen was a brilliant negotiator and never before did the Tswanas enjoy such an abundance of meat.

Later on Mzilikatz, king of the Matabele and living at the present Bulawayo, allowed them to hunt in his kingdom. Like the Tswanas they now also ate meat like never before.

The men had to invent their own strategies. This culminated into the practice of training horses to allow firing the huge front-end-loaders from the saddle. They rode up to a short distance from their target and fired before dashing off to go and reload. The recoil was immense and only well-trained horses, ridden by real men, suited the purpose.

Thereafter the price of well-trained horses went one way; sky-high. During 1869 William Finaughty, a well-known and successful ivory hunter, decided to quit hunting but carry

on trading ivory. He sold his horse, Dopper, to one of Piet Jacobs' sons. The price of an ordinary horse was £20. Finaughty had bought the horse from a Boer for £60. The owner was a fervent member of the conservative Dopper Church and Finaughty named the horse Dopper. It was an exceptional hunting horse and Frans Jacobs traded the horse for 900 lbs of ivory, the equivalent of £300. At that stage Piet Jacobs was a wealthy man owning several Marico farms. It is said that Piet was the only hunter who could afford this horse.

Piet excelled in the hunting profession and soon they regarded him as the best hunter that the Boers Nation ever had. In his books Frederick Selous mentioned Piet as "undoubtedly the most famous hunter In South Africa" He also regarded Piet as the best shot of them all. Selous arrived in Matebele Land and stayed over in Piet's camp. Piet's hospitality overwhelmed him. Upon departure Piet instructed his wife to pack enough food and ordered some laborers to accompany "this dumb Englishman" (said in Afrikaans) never realizing that Selous understood every word he uttered.

Piet's sons hunted with their father. They grew up on horseback with a heavy calibre in the hand. His eldest son, Frans (1844 - 1896), kept on hunting till the day of his death. Frans' three sons accompanied him and they earned a living by hunting elephant.

Frans' third son, Soois was a very good hunter horseman and shot. When the Anglo-Boer War ensued he was in his early twenties. The great Boer general, Koos de la Rey, used Soois and his platoon to supply his commando with horses. The only source was the English. Late at night they would sneak into the stables, saddled and coupled the horses and then came charging out of the stables to disappear in the darkness. Soois would take position and cover shoot to keep the enemy at bay before he also rushed off. The saying went that he was an excellent hunter, particularly at hunting the English.

Soois' second son, Pretjie (Bosveld's father), is the only one in this family sequence who did not have a taste of professional hunting. He was, however, an excellent shot and hunter and has spent many winter days hunting for venison. Target shooting was a great sport in his days and he decorated his house with a lot of trophies.

Soon after settling in the Marico Piet's hunting activities culminated into a set pattern. He spent his winter time in the hunting velds and returned to their Marico farms for the summer months. Unlike the English and other Ivory hunters from Europe, the Boers took their wives and kids along on these excursions. Initially the women and kids lived in tents and tented ox wagons. Soon however Jan and Piet, as well as a few of their friends, moved together and left their families in a well-equipped camp. From here the men went out on their hunting excursions.

The women and kids stayed close to the local black "statte" (or kraals). The local kings, like Mzilikazi in Matebele Land, ordered their followers to assist and protect his white friends' families. They were as safe as can be.

This practice, of taking the families along, paid off. Many of the European hunters, who have arrived and hunted all by themselves, sooner or later died in the hunting fields. Malaria was the main killer. The Boers survived due to the fact that their women took care of them.

Piet Jacobs happens to be the perfect example. During the early 1870's Piet got mauled by a lion. One of his sons and his wife was with him in a fly-camp some distance from the main camp. In those years this kind of injury was fatal as infection would set in and medicine like cortisone, penicillin and antibiotics did not exist. The women treated Piet's wounds with



milk and honey and he recovered fully. Some three months later he was fighting fit, riding his horse again. He kept on hunting for another 10 years.

Amazingly scientists recently discovered that honey contains a substantial quantity of the wonder medicine, Cortisone. It saved Piet's life.

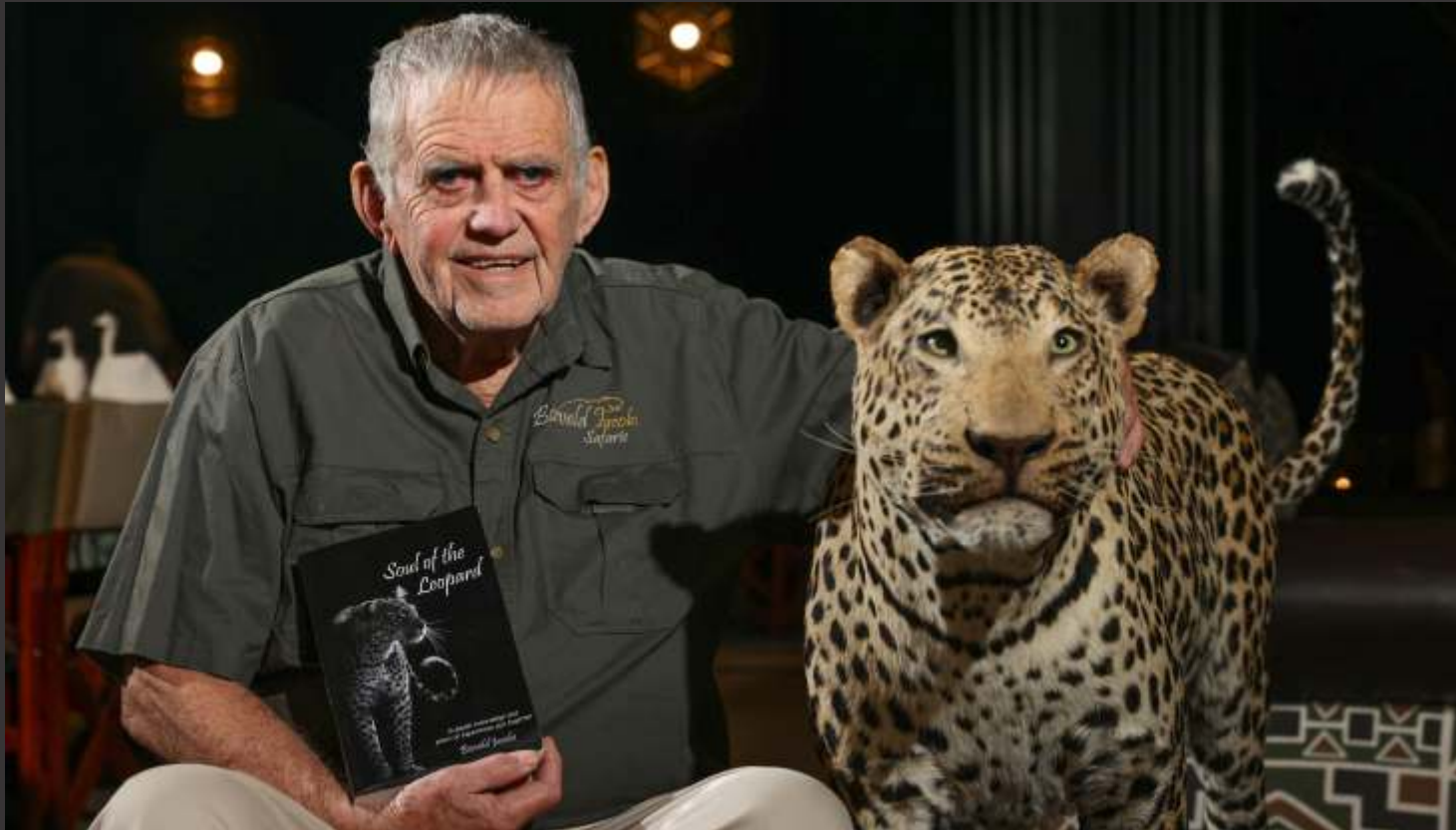
Jan, Piet and friends were not the first hunters to hunt for Elephant in the northern areas. The first Boer was Coenraad de Buys. Coenraad took a few black women as his wives. This behavior was not acceptable to the conservative Boers and Coenraad was rejected by society. Years before the Great Trek, he

decided to resettle in the Northern interior. He ended up at the Soutpansberg near the present town of Louis Trichardt where he and his followers founded Buysdorp. From here they wandered deep into areas like Matebele Land to hunt mostly elephant. During 1821 Coenraad went on an excursion and never returned. That was 13 years before the Great Trek.

Coenraad had many wives and concubines. Apparently he left behind some 3 000 descendants (of mixed origin) at Buysdorp.

In the mid 1850's Jan and Piet stumbled upon John R Lee. John had left the Cape Colony long before the Great Trek ensued.

Bosveld Jacobs



He did not settle in the Marico; he was living, with his family, in Matabele Land. At the end of 1869 William Finaughty convened with several hunters at John Lee's house. Finaughty describes this as a happy event where John's family lived a comfortable and happy life. Finaughty filled his wagons up to capacity with Ivory that he traded with, inter alia, Jan Viljoen and Piet Jacobs.

A granddaughter of Piet Jacobs, Susanna Oosthuizen, alleged that all her family knew

that John Lee visited the Victoria Falls long before Dr Livingstone. He showed it to Jan Viljoen and Piet Jacobs. Eventually Jan Viljoen guided Livingstone to the falls.

Scores of laborers accompanied the hunters.

Apart from skinning the elephants and chopping out the tusks at each kill, the laborers had a comprehensive task. They had to cut and dry the meat. Thereafter they had to take care of the skins. Hippo and rhino skins are suitable for making "sjamboks". Other skins were good for

making "reims" and whips. After a few days of working at the camp the laborers could deliver 1 000 reims, 400 whips and 300 sjamboks. This load was worth some £ 300 to £ 400.

Upon returning home after the hunting season the hunters remunerated their contracted laborers.

A typical remuneration package could be a Musket together with a measured supply of lead and gunpowder.

Kings like Mzilikaze or Lobengula often

summoned their subordinates to go and assist the hunters and bring back some meat. They had to carry everything. Failure to comply could lead to immediate execution.

The hunters now took excursions into Mashona Land and a huge crisis ensued. This was Tsetse Fly country and almost all their horses died to a disease carried by these nasty little creatures. Most of the hunters ceased hunting elephant and a very few carried on hunting on foot. Two of those were Frederick Selous,

Bosveld Jacobs

in his early twenties and Piet Jacobs, well into his fifties. Even more remarkable is the fact that this happened after Piet had been mauled by a lion.

Piet kept on hunting for a number of years and so did his sons. He was a wealthy man and he and his sons owned 8 Marico farms; all paid for by the proceeds of their hunting activities.

His friendship with Jan lasted to the end. They were a formidable combination with Jan the negotiator and Piet the businessman and hunter. The Jacobs descendants alleged that occasionally Jan had to borrow money from Piet. Fact of the matter is that Jan ended up owning only Vergenoegd while Piet had eight farms; one of these happened to be part of Vergenoegd that he had bought from Jan.

On 10 October 1886 Piet Jacobs, aged 64 died on his farm, Blomfontein, and he was also buried here. Jan Viljoen died some seven years later on 30 April 1893 aged 81. He was buried on Vergenoegd. Fortunately he died under the flag of the Zuid Afrikaanse Republic. By 1899 the Anglo-Boer War ensued and after three years of hectic warfare and many lives lost, the English won. I think Jan would hate to know that, a few years after his passing, he was resting under the English flag. "Vergenoegd" was not far enough.

The Anglo-Boer war has destroyed all welfare in the Transvaal and Orange Free State. Some 400 000 soldiers from the wealthy British Empire (one of the biggest armed forces in history) took 3 years to subject 30 000 Boers. The saddest loss was the almost 34 000 Boer women and children that died in the concentration camps. The hard shooting Boers has killed some 30 000 Englishmen and lost only 5 000 Boer soldiers. The scorched earth policy of

the English has destroyed all farms as the English burned down the farmsteads and killed the livestock.

After the war Piet's descendants were living in extreme poverty and they lost all their properties. Soos' sons had to leave school and fend for themselves. At the age of thirteen Pretjie went working for his mother's brother in his blacksmith shop and eventually he qualified as a Blacksmith.

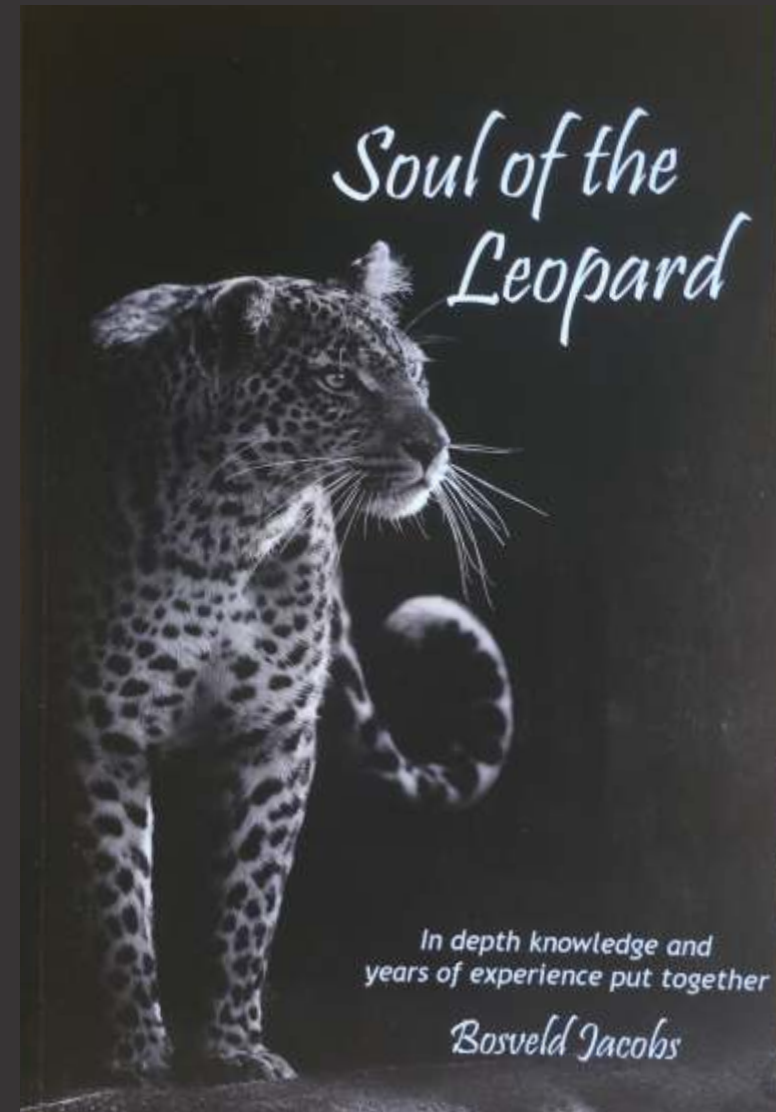
Although a lot of hunting was still done further north in Africa, inter alia, in countries like Kenya and Tanzania the Jacobs family did not have the means to take part. They had to fight for survival.

Gradually the Boers have built up their country and only since the 1960s did they succeed in establishing substantial game populations. By the mid-1970s Bosveld was the one and only Jacobs who, after a successful university career, could enter the Trophy Hunting Industry.

Henk and Riaan spontaneously crossed the threshold. It must be in the genes. They succeeded in taking over their father's outfit and today Bosveld Jacobs Safaris happens to be a renowned hunting outfit.

Piet Jacobs, the most famous of them all, would have never imagined that his great-great grandson, Bosveld Jacobs, as well as his sons Henk and Riaan, would one day become prolific professional hunters and still today live the tradition. It amounts to eight generations in the hunting fields. Henk's little son, Henno, might be well underway to become the ninth.

Bosveld's first encounter with a leopard was during 1958. This happens to be almost 60 years before the publishing of his book *Soul of the Leopard*. His academic capabilities combining



with his personal keen sense of observation as well as the extraordinary observational capabilities of his superior black subordinates enabled him to write this book at the dawn of his hunting career. *Soul of the Leopard* contains an abundance of information about leopard and its habits. This is the only book of its kind and it

is highly unlikely that anybody else can match this effort. Bosveld takes full responsibility for the contents and he is looking forward to the academic masters testing his hypotheses.

Copies can be ordered online at:
www.souloftheleopard.com

The BJS Group Today



Henk and Riaan enjoyed the privilege of growing up close to their father in the hunting fields of Africa where they gained a lot of experience and knowledge from the experts. At an early age, they accompanied children who came along with their parents on hunting excursions and acted as hosts and guides. After finishing their schooling and tertiary studies, they also qualified as professional hunters. Now they manage the outfit with capable hands, taking BJS to new dimensions.

The Jacobs family stands ready to make a difference to your hunting experience, as Bosveld shared his years of memories around the campfire while Riaan and Henk will ensure every hunter is well prepared and filled with in-depth knowledge about the hunt to come. Not to miss is the master chef, Marcel's spreads, while Jolize assists in travel arrangements and other site-seeing bookings.



Our base camp is nestled in the world-renowned, Malaria free, Waterberg Biosphere in the Limpopo province of South Africa where an abundance of fauna and flora exists. We do however spread our wings much wider to cover hunting destinations all over Southern Africa, offering our clients a variety of hunting destinations. Today, 75% of South Africa's game is privately owned which enables BJS to hunt quality trophies sustainably throughout all seasons of the year.

Apart from hand-picked professional hunters, BJS employs trackers, skimmers and camp staff. Employees are all well trained and will respect clients at all times. Our skimmers are meticulous of the conditions to ensure trophy quality. Our trackers are trained to assist in spotting quality trophies and tracking down wounded animals. Hunters often stand amazed by our trackers' ability to observe and stick to a spoor (track) for hours and even days. They are always keen to assist to ensure our hunters' comfort and they thrive on acknowledgment and appreciation.





Sweeping views over the world heritage Waterberg biosphere





Warm Home Hospitality





Accommodation





Recreation



Spend lazy days being pampered at the lodge, or relax with a cocktail on the deck while enjoying Africa's splendor. Visit our small country town of Vaalwater for a day of shopping for curios and gifts for loved ones back home. We endeavor to make your stay an experience to be cherished for a lifetime.





Water changes the pangs of memory into a tranquil joy

Safari Video Service





A hunt with BJS remains a memorable occasion. BJS has mastered the art of capturing special moments on camera and editing hunting videos. Hunters compliment us on our videos to be out of the ordinary as these include more footage of the chase and shot placement of the animals than most other cameramen can accomplish.

Trophy Game



Well-known for quality trophies, BJS hunts in a variety of areas, highly populated with game. BJS offers all the different species available for hunting in Southern Africa. Our vehicles are well equipped and in sound condition. Early morning drives will take us to the relevant areas where we hunt the ethical way. We are proud to take part in the country's initiative to keep hunting sustainable and ethical, thereby increasing the numbers of wildlife drastically over the past years.















BJS is focused on client satisfaction and all effort is taken to ensure our client's comfort and success.





We are proud of our well-trained dogs that form part of the team. Tracking down spoor and wounded animals with our dogs spells success, no wonder they often become the beloved friends of our clients.

















Our lifetime of experience in hunting **dangerous game** provides BJS with the knowledge and skills to offer you the ultimate experience. Placing the perfect shot is important, therefore you can expect from us to guide you with meticulous detail to reach your dream. Hunters can have peace of mind, we have sufficient and effective back-up and will only react when lives are in danger. Hunting crocodile, buffalo, hippo, lion, leopard, elephant and rhino with BJS will remain the ultimate hunting experience for the adrenaline addict.

BJS' well-known success rate lies in the proper preparation. The hunters' commitment and ability render the final impact towards the result of these hunts.





For the dedicated trophy collector: Due to our extended experience of leopard hunting, we earned our reputation as professionals in the hunting of **nocturnal species**. The relevant species are: leopard, spotted hyena, brown hyena, bush pig, porcupine, honey badger, civet, genet and a few more. Because of the nature of these animals, we often use bait to hunt them.







BJS can spice up your hunting experience with the opportunity to include wing shooting and/or a fishing trip. Most of the wing shooting is done in the corn/sunflower fields where you can find Guinea Fowl, Crested Francolin, Natal Francolin, Red Wing Francolin, as well as Shelley's Francolin.

The sunflower fields offer some great pigeon shooting, particularly the Rock Pigeon (Speckled Pigeon) and the Rameron Pigeon (Bush Pigeon).

Our freshwater fishing excursions are fun-filled and include species such as Bass, several Tilapia species, Yellow Fish and Barbell (our local catfish). An afternoon of fishing is the perfect way of adding to your daily hunting routine.





We are blessed with abundant water on the farm, where you can indulge the African sunset creeping over rivers and streams. Waters are naturally stocked with bass and bream. Experience the tranquillity of Africa on your doorstep after a wonderful day of hunting.



Victoria Falls - Zimbabwe

Day Trips & Other Destinations

While we want to be sure our hunters' requirements are met, we certainly don't forget our non-hunting patrons. We will make their African experience an unforgettable one.

We are well-placed to access some world-renowned places; including the Lost City, Sun City, Legends Golf Course and Pilanesberg Game Reserve. In addition to these, we can organize day trips to activities like the White Lion breeding project, elephant rides, horseback game viewing, as well as health and beauty spas. Many of our hunters love to extend their trips to visit places like the Victoria Falls, Kruger National Park or the "Fairest Cape" with its well-known wine routes.

Jolize has all the experience as a travel agent to customize your requirements into a remarkable African experience.

Legends Golf Course

Cape Town

Stellenbosch Wine Route

Kruger National Park

Community Outreach

By hunting with Bosveld Jacobs Safaris you indirectly make a change in the lives of these wonderful kids in Africa

The Fold SA Children's Home is a non-profit organization caring for children affected by HIV and who has been left without parents or who had been taken away from their parents. The purpose of The Fold SA Children's Home is to feed, house, educate and provide a future with hope for these children. The aim is to develop these kids to be a happy character with self-esteem of love and respect.

Bosveld Jacobs Safaris supports the owners by providing food and in specific, meat, on a regular basis. We treasure the time spent at The Fold and enjoy the moments of laughter when playing with the children.





Safari with the legendary Jacobs Family

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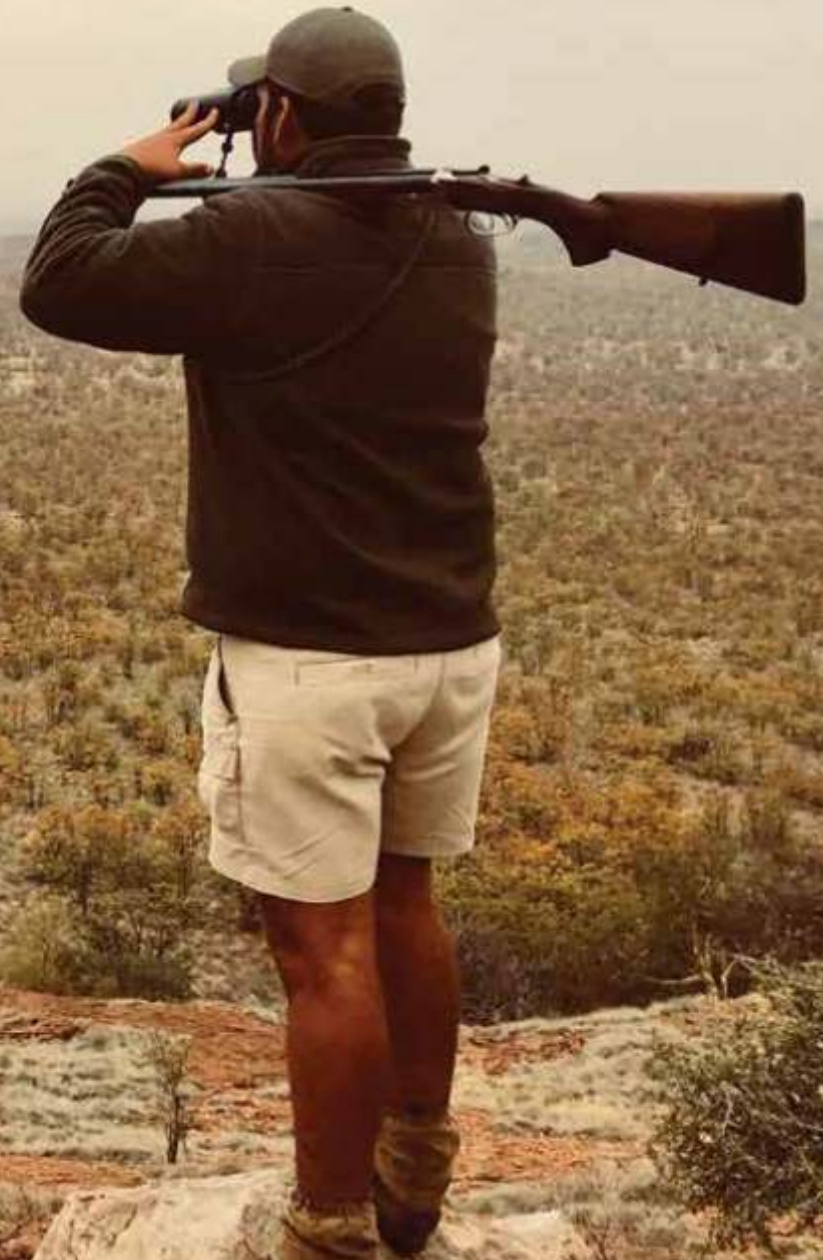
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