

# ETOSHA HEIGHTS GAME SAFARIS PART I

By Scott McConnell

This past September, I was fortunate enough to take part in a safari to Namibia and South Africa, organized by Kevin Koeshall of Koeshall's World Hunting Adventures. Kevin had organized the first part of the hunt for eight days in Namibia with a total of five hunters, followed by eight days in the Limpopo with four hunters.

Kevin and I decided to try hunting with a muzzleloader (my T/C Encore) while the other hunter from Wisconsin, Todd, brought his archery tackle. Brian, from Montana, and Brent, from Texas, were rifle hunters.

The five of us all came together at Dulles Airport and flew to Johannesburg where we stayed overnight before flying on to Windhoek.

At Windhoek, we were met by Andre Burger, who with his wife, Tana, manages Etosha Heights Game Safaris. This property encompasses 84,000 hectares that shares a 70-kilometer border with the Etosha National Park in north central Namibia.

Kevin and I were to hunt with Marius Burger, who met us the evening we arrived at Etosha Heights. Marius had procured the necessary black powder and primers so that

we could hunt with the muzzleloader. A quick sight in the next morning, and we were off in search of Eland. Kevin was gracious enough to give me the first shot and soon Marius located a group of eland which included one very impressive bull. Unfortunately, after a very exciting stalk, I missed my first shot in Namibia. On the way back to our lodge for lunch, which by the way is a top-notch dwelling, we sighted a large herd of Sable, which included a huge bull, as well as numerous oryx.

Just before arrival at the lodge, Marius spotted a huge springbok ram in a small group foraging through the brush. We were able to stalk to within about 60 yards, and this time I didn't miss. My first Namibian trophy was on the ground, and the springbok was a beauty.

The next few days has us hunting the hills for kudu, as well as the plains for eland and zebra. Kevin took a very nice springbok after I made a one-shot kill on a huge old eland bull.

One day we spent half of the day stalking and chasing a kudu bull that I was finally able to collect. And we spent several days in search of Burchells Zebra before Kevin was able to make a successful stalk. Zebra are not just striped horses, they are very wary and alert.

Kevin and I used 348 grain Powerbelt bullets and found them to be reliable and accurate if the rifle was cleaned well between shots. Black powder fouls the bore much more than the synthetics, such as Triple Seven or Pyrodex.

One of the animals that I was very interested in hunting was the Spotted Hyena. Marius dragged kudu entrails and baited a blind using zebra parts for two days when the bait showed a hit by a solitary hyena. The hyena showed itself at dusk, and I was able to connect with a 75-yard shot. What a thrill to take such an interesting and powerful predator!





The last shot that I took in Namibia was to collect a nice Black-backed Jackal. The rest of the group collected several oryx, including Brian's 44 ½ inch trophy. Todd had the largest kudu in the salt, and Brent was intent on collecting the most variety, which included Blue Wildebeest and Mountain Zebra. All parties collected Eland, which were very plentiful and of high trophy quality.

Etosha Heights is intensely managed for high trophy potential, but does not use heavy-handed predator control. Indeed, we saw lion signs almost daily, as well as seeing a very large male lion with his three lioness in tow. Leopard signs were frequently spotted, especially in the hilly areas, and I was fortunate enough to spot two cheetahs before they took off at full speed to parts unknown.



I give my highest recommendation for Etosha Heights Game Safaris. Andre and Tana Burger were incredible hosts. The lodging was top-notch, as was the service from the cooks to waiters to maids. Marius Burger worked from well before dawn 'til well after dusk everyday to get us our trophy animals and provide us with a top-quality experience.

I believe Etosha Heights Game Safaris has everything a hunter could need in Namibia. They have 50 waterholes spread throughout the property, so a bow hunter that prefers hunting by a waterhole will have as much success as any rifle hunter on foot.

If you are interested in hunting Namibia, you can contact Kevin Koeshall at (715) 424-4024 or go to his website at [www.allhunts.com](http://www.allhunts.com).

