

## **Who is My P.H. and What Camp am I In?**

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You have booked your safari with Chifuti Safaris, the dates are on the schedule and your quota is assigned. Great! You are no doubt excited, and we are looking forward to having you in camp hunting with us.

But what camp and with who will you be hunting? Two important questions worth asking. Here is our attempt to answer them.

### **CAMPS**

Chifuti Safaris operates in a huge area comprising some of the best country in the lower Zambezi Valley.

In order to spread our hunters out without putting pressure on one particular area, Chifuti runs numerous camps of various size and designs throughout our hunting area.

Some of our camps are on the Zambezi River, while others are far inland. Some are considered main camps, while some of our more remote areas have smaller, but equally comfortable 'fly camps.'

The most important element of the safari, in our opinion, is assuring that you have the best chance to harvest the game you came to hunt.

If croc or hippo are a primary focus of your safari, then you will undoubtedly camp on or near the river. But if, for instance, you're hunting leopard or lion, you might be booked into a camp up in the hills.

The point is the Chifuti management team tries to maintain a large degree of flexibility as to where various parties are based.

We know from experience that booking a particular camp for a client one or two years in advance can be a big mistake.

What if you requested a camp, let's say up in the Chewore hills because maybe you saw it on a DVD or TV show. You're after buffalo for instance, and booked for late August, which is a terrific time to take a big bull. But

what if it's a dry year and the springs have quit running up in the hills? Buffalo are mobile animals and they will go to the water, wherever it is. So you end up in the camp you demanded with few buffalo to track.

Flexibility is the key! Our team knows the area, it's game, and is best suited to assess the weather, bush conditions, and game movements.

Trust them to make the right decision as to where you will be camped. Of course party size must be taken into consideration if a big group comes and wants to hunt together, but that is the exception to the rule.

Our office receives hundreds of calls from booked clients, (sometimes three years in advance of their safari) with the desire to know 'exactly' which camp they will be hunting out of.

Our standard answer is, and will continue to be, "that decision will most likely not be solid until your safari is close to starting." In fact, depending on your bag and game movement, you may even change camps at some point of your safari.

A final word on camps - Chifuti Safaris will put you into comfortable safari camp that will give you the very best chance to enjoy a successful big game adventure.

### **Who Will My Professional Hunter Be?**

This is perhaps the most common question answered by our office, and until the start of the season, one nearly impossible on our end to answer.

Certainly many clients have seen TV shows or the Boddington DVD series and are familiar with some of the Chifuti professional hunters on staff, and tell us "I would like Ivan or Mark for instance, as my professional hunter."

Chifuti Safaris employs many of the finest professional hunters in Zimbabwe, and in fact, in the whole of Africa,

The qualifying process necessary to obtain a full license in Zimbabwe is without question the most arduous and difficult one in the entire hunting

world. No other African country requires more apprenticeship, testing and on the job training for its professional hunters as does Zimbabwe.

This assures that your safari, regardless of who your PH is, will be run by an extremely qualified professional who knows our area, our game, and how to conduct our hunt in a professional manner with the goal of giving you a fun, and successful safari adventure.

All of our PH's use top equipment, have their own trackers, and are experienced with the game you will be going after. No company in Zimbabwe has a better team of professionals in their stable than Chifuti Safaris.

The matrix for assigning professional hunters to such a large number of hunting clients is an unbelievably challenging one. As we have acknowledged, the safari business is by necessity one which requires the ability to adjust and remain fluid as the safari season approaches. Schedules must afford off days and travel days between safaris for the PH, take into account dates already booked with staggered start dates, and sometimes sickness or other unforeseen circumstances,

The Chifuti management team are experts at pairing our clients with professional hunters with game sought, and length of safari all playing a part in that selection process.

Here's the bottom line. Unfortunately no matter how badly the client wants to know who his professional hunter is in advance, we will not know the answer to that question as the Chifuti management cannot provide it before they prepare their master Client/Professional Hunter matrix.

But, please be assured, you will be in the care of a top PH, ready to assist you in your safari experience.