

Did You Know?

THE BIG FIVE

Most people know that 'Big 5' is the term used for a collection of five animals found on the African continent, namely; lion, elephant, rhino, leopard and buffalo.

But do you know why these animals are called the 'Big 5'? Many years ago, people came to Southern Africa not to view the animals of the region, but to hunt them for trophies.

These hunters ignored the warnings of the locals as to how dangerous these five animals were, and soon experienced being dragged away by lions, charged by elephant, chased by rhino, stalked by leopards and killed by wounded buffalo.

They began calling these animals the 'Big 5'; being the most dangerous animals they encountered on the African continent.



this issue

It's Amazing What A Difference..

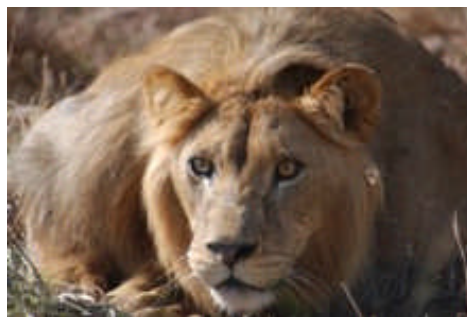
New Additions

Feature: 'Boys Will Be Boys...'

It's Amazing What A Difference 2 Years Makes

On the 16th February 2008, our lions were introduced to the Reserve after the required quarantine period in a holding camp.

One just has to compare the following two pictures to see an amazing difference in the males' appearance over the last two years. He has grown into a stunning animal.



New Additions

February has seen the growth of our buffalo herd with the birth of two youngsters, the first at the beginning of February, and the other two weeks later. We are all very excited about these new additions. They are both doing extremely well.

True to form, their mothers are very protective over their young, so it's advisable to keep one's distance for now, and naturally, a little difficult to get that award winning photograph.



Interesting Facts

Number 1

LIONS

Lions are the only felines with tufts at the ends of their tails.

Aided by special tissue, tapetum lucidum, a lion is able to see in conditions which we would regard as darkness. This tissue lines the retina of each eye and any light passing the rods of the retina is reflected back concentrating the reflected light. The white markings below each eye assists with night vision by increasing the amount of light entering into the eye by reflection.

A lion is able to carry twice its weight in its jaws and their enormous paws can break a wildebeest's neck with a single blow.

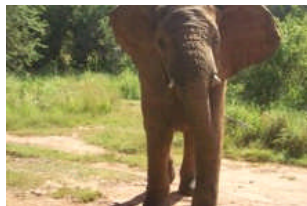
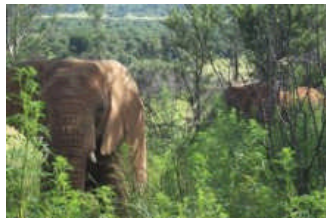
For more interesting facts and information on the Reserve visit www.plumari-game-reserve.com



Boys will be boys

Well at least elephants,
will be elephants

The elephants, Damara and Nzewe, were out on their usual forage when suddenly they spotted, 'the tree'. Now this is no ordinary tree, but one that makes the perfect shade covering for the Askari lodge managers vehicles. In other words, their 'carport'.



With 'the tree' firmly in their focus, they rushed out of the bush and did what elephants normally do, started to strip 'the tree' of its bark for the nutrients. After all this is 'prime feed'. Fortunately, one of the lodge managers was on hand to take these photographs.



Although quite devastated by the destruction to his 'carport', the lodge manager did not interfere, understanding that this is part of an elephants normal behaviour.

Once satisfied, the elephants moved on to greener pastures, leaving the tree bare and the lodge manager with a small problem.

Once stripped of their bark, most trees do not survive for long and will eventually die leaving a leafless reminder standing for some time to come, and in this case no 'carport cover'.

As this is the only suitable tree for a carport, the lodge manager decided something had to be done to save it, so he, just having completed a refresher course in first-aid, put these skills to use and bandaged the tree.

'Little chance of survival'



Even with this tender first-aid care, the chances of the tree surviving are not good.

