



GENERAL RULES, RADIO PROCEDURES AND GAME DRIVE ETIQUETTE

Respect the Natural Environment; Respect the Wildlife; Respect your fellow Members.

It is the responsibility of members to inform their guests of these procedures and to ensure that they are adhered to.

If unsure, use common sense, put safety first, and always be considerate toward animals and fellow members. This is especially important over busy periods with the increase in occupation, vehicle traffic, and radio use.

Use of the property and facilities is done so entirely at the member's and/or guest's risk – everyone entering the reserve must sign the indemnity on arrival. Failure to sign does not negate the application of the indemnity to members and their guests.

General Guidelines

1. Close windows and doors before leaving the unit - most animals are opportunistic feeders.
2. Please pick up any litter you come across.
3. Make sure children are, at all times, accompanied by adults and safe from predators.
4. Avoid using your cell phone within earshot of other members and specifically not on drives, at dams, hides, etc. When using a phone in a common area (other than at the office/admin complex), be sensitive to other members who may be disturbed by a ringing phone or a loud conversation.
5. Avoid handling dangerous animals (e.g. snakes). Radio for management's professional assistance.
6. Take precautions against mosquitos and malaria:
 - 6.1. Wear long pants and sleeves at dawn and dusk.
 - 6.2. Use mosquito repellent.
 - 6.3. Sleep under mosquito nets.
 - 6.4. The use of malaria prophylactics is recommended.

N'tsiri Do's and Don'ts

DO:

1. Read and adhere to our radio and game drive etiquette.
2. Drive only on clearly defined roads. Never drive over the veld or within the riverbeds.
3. Enjoy yourself but respect the privacy of other members. Approach river crossings slowly and quietly.
4. The maximum speed limit is 30km/h.
5. Give animals the right of way. Remember that you are in their territory.
6. Do not litter.
7. Children must be accompanied by adults at all times.
8. Guard against veld fires at all times:
 - 8.1. Only make fires in designated areas.
 - 8.2. Extinguish fires and cover hot coals before retiring at night.
 - 8.3. Do not leave fires unattended.
9. Remember to turn off the gas and water and empty your dustbins when vacating your unit at the end of your stay.
10. Separate your rubbish according to the N'tsiri Nature Reserve waste management policy.
11. Observe and respect the shop and office hours.
12. Settle your account before leaving.
13. In case of an emergency, contact management to assist you.



DO NOT under any circumstance:

1. Call in any rhino sightings on the radio. Do not use alternative names like “big warthogs”, “unicorns”, etc.
2. Feed birds or animals (don't throw food scraps into the bush or use bird seed); Remember: When animals are fed, they become a danger to humans and have to be put down!!
3. Drive onto neighbouring properties.
4. Permit a vehicle to be driven on the reserve unless by a person in possession of a valid driver's license.
5. Use generators.
6. Play TVs or music players so that they are audible or visible from anywhere outside of the unit.
7. Bring catapults, pellet guns, bicycles, or motorcycles into the reserve.
8. Caravan or camp on the reserve other than at the designated sleeping platform.
9. Pick up wood - firewood can be bought from the shop.
10. Dispose of braai or fire pits remains or ash in the bush.
11. Bring pets into the reserve.
12. Pick up baby or injured animals.
13. Offer employees liquor.
14. Drive off defined roads, across the veld, or into riverbeds.
15. Shine spotlights on buildings or vehicles.
16. Use drones.

Radio Procedure

It is important to have respect for the animals we view and to aim at creating the kind of personal experience and interaction with the wildlife that we can enjoy. This becomes difficult over busy periods with the increase in occupation, vehicle traffic, and radio use. Radio procedures and game drive etiquette are therefore essential.

1. Vehicles must be fitted with mobile radios and a base radio fitted at the unit. Portable (handheld) radios are also available.
2. The two-way radios have two channels:
 - 2.1. Channel 1 is the official NTSIRI Channel and should be reserved for formal messages and game drive communications.
 - 2.2. Channel 2 can be used for more informal conversation.
3. We would like to remind members to observe radio etiquette and to keep idle chatter, drunken chatter, and children off the radio.
4. When calling a member, hold your handset button for two seconds before clearly stating “XX come in for ZZ”. Repeat this again immediately and if no reply is received, please try again in 30 seconds. Repeat three times.
5. If no answer is received, try again only after 10 minutes.

Game Drive Etiquette

If unsure, use common sense, put safety first, and always be considerate toward the natural environment and your fellow members. This is especially important over busy periods with the increase in occupation, vehicle traffic, and radio use. Use of the property and facilities which include the airstrip, is done so entirely at the member's and/or guest's risk – everyone entering the reserve is deemed to have accepted the reserve indemnity.

What is necessary for me to carry in my vehicle? A fold-up spade, jack and tyre spanner, tow rope, jumpers, dustbin bag, radio, and spotlights with appropriate red filter cover for the spotlights, water, sunblock, and insect repellent.

1. The maximum speed limit is 30km/h.
2. Only individuals with valid driver's or learner's licenses are permitted to drive on the reserve. (Learner drivers must be accompanied by a licensed driver at all times).
3. A user or Authorised User must accompany the vehicle at all times (except for short trips to the shop, pool, etc.).
4. Only one vehicle per unit may be operated at any one time.
5. Do not stand up or hang over the side of the vehicle (This breaks the shape of the vehicle and makes the animals uneasy).
6. Do not disturb animals by shouting, whistling, clapping, etc. Switch the vehicle engine off as soon as possible.
7. Driving off-road or within riverbeds is not permitted under any circumstances.
8. For the benefit of all members, report animal sightings on the radio and do not use sighting codes understood by only a few.
9. Minimise radio chatter.
10. When stopping for sundowners, do not select a site within 500m of a den sighting or special game sighting.



Sightings Protocol

1. Remain in your vehicle at sightings and within the vicinity of sightings. Under no circumstances should any person alight from a vehicle within 200m of any sighting.
2. When approaching a sighting, show respect to other people already at/in the sighting.
3. Switch off unnecessary lights and spotlights and be sensitive to those who have been waiting for the animal to better show itself.
4. Be quiet and ensure that your vehicle is positioned so that others can move away if they wish.
5. Never park more than one vehicle width off the road;
6. Prevent overcrowding at sightings. Whilst it is very difficult at rare sightings and over periods of high occupancy, members are encouraged to limit the number of vehicles to four at a sighting and to move off after a period to give others a chance to enjoy the sighting too. With rare and popular sightings it is practical if possible, for the first vehicle at a sighting to manage the sighting and to coordinate the coming and going of vehicles. Such a "manager" should pass this responsibility to a remaining vehicle when they rotate the viewing and leave the sighting.
7. To encourage the reporting of sightings, the first vehicle at the scene (the reporting vehicle) may remain at the sighting indefinitely. All vehicles that arrive thereafter must please adhere to the sighting protocol.
8. Limit vehicle numbers on the scene to a number which is practical and allows all vehicles visual of the sighting in question.
9. Do not interfere in any way with the sighting and behave in such a way as to minimize disturbance to the animals and fellow members.
10. Keep your distance from animals with babies and from dens. Treat these sightings with the utmost sensitivity.
11. After heavy rainfall, watch the roads carefully for movement of terrapins, tortoises, and snakes.
12. Once you have had a good view of the sighting, make room, or move off to give others a chance.
13. At busy times or popular sightings, please use your discretion and limit your viewing to 10 – 15 minutes.
14. On arrival at a busy sighting, please hang back, form a queue where possible, and report yourself to the vehicles at the scene. Be patient and wait your turn. Refer to the "sighting manager" as suggested above.
15. Keep noise to a minimum for the benefit of the animals and other vehicles.
16. Never call or throw things at animals to get a reaction.
17. When following predators and the animal is stationary, listening, or stalking, every vehicle around the sighting should turn its engine off so as not to interfere. Behave in such a way as not to interfere with a hunt or block the escape path of the prey.
18. When following animals that are aggressive or agitated, hang back or turn the engine off and allow the animal to calm down. This will benefit you and other members in the future by having relaxed animals comfortable around vehicles.
19. Learn to anticipate the behaviour and movements of animals and avoid driving too close.
20. Never drive between lions and their prey or hippos and the water.
21. Take extra care to distance yourself from breeding herds of elephants.
22. Drive around animal droppings to prevent killing dung beetles and other insects that inhabit dung.
23. Do not allow children to hang out of your vehicles while moving.
24. Do not smoke at a sighting and do not dispose of cigarette butts in the bush.
25. Respect the privacy of occupied units and employees' housing. Do not shine on houses or make noise when passing units.
26. The removal of any wood or any natural fauna and flora from the bushveld is strictly prohibited.
27. Ensure that litter can't fall off your vehicle and please pick up litter should you come across it.
28. Vehicles must display the approved N'tsiri sticker and unit number on the RHS, LHS, and rear of the vehicle. Please refrain from using your city vehicle on the reserve. Should your game drive vehicle, however, break down or special circumstances require it, permission from management to make use of a private vehicle may be requested. N'tsiri magnetic decals are available for unmarked vehicles and are to be displayed in a prominent position on the vehicle.
29. When finding the road blocked by a tree having been pushed down, please return to a point where an alternative road can be used and report the blockage to Reception as soon as possible. By merely "bundu-bashing" around such a blockage, we destroy the surrounding fauna and flora.

Spotlights

1. A maximum candlepower of 1'000'000 or 2000 lumen.
2. Only two handheld spotlights may be used per vehicle at any time for spotting purposes and only one at a sighting.
3. Light bars and additional fixed spotlights are prohibited.
4. Prohibited lighting must be removed or permanently disabled to the satisfaction of the N'tsiri management.
5. Do not shine spotlights in an animal's eyes, especially diurnal species. Shine on the ground in front of, or on the back of the animal. Their eyes are sensitive and exposure to the light is harmful. Spotlights in the animal's eyes blind prey species making



them vulnerable to predation.

6. The use of red-coloured filters on spotlights is encouraged.
7. Do not shine spotlights when predators are hunting. This creates an unnatural situation disadvantaging both the predator and the prey. Once the kill is made, spotlights can be used.
8. Do not leave a spotlight on the vehicle seat when it is on, it is a fire hazard.
9. No den sites may be viewed under a spotlight at night. Den sites are sensitive areas and rules of access may be varied by the Reserve Manager.
10. Avert spotlights and dim headlights for oncoming vehicles.
11. Do not shine spotlights on buildings and Member's units.

Waterholes and Dams

1. Noise, movement and any other general disturbance at dams must be kept to a minimum for the benefit of animals and other members.
2. It is recommended that vehicles park in such a way as to not restrict animal movement to and from the water. (e.g. Only park on a maximum of 2 sides of the dam) once again during very busy periods members may exceed this suggestion at their discretion.
3. Members may only get off their vehicles at waterholes and dams under the following circumstances:
 - 3.1. Where there are no animals present or visible (hippo out of the water), or if animals do appear then members must return to their vehicles.
 - 3.2. When all present consent to some members being off their respective vehicles and,
 - 3.3. That new arrivals to the waterhole may request those members to return to their vehicles.
 - 3.4. When off the vehicle, extra care must be taken to stay close to the vehicle and noise levels and activities must be kept to a minimum. Children especially should be closely supervised at all times.
4. Animals are generally skittish when approaching a waterhole. Please keep quiet and do not make sudden movements. If a herd of Impala or any other animal is drinking remain quiet and still until the entire herd has finished drinking. If frightened and the herd moves off those individuals that have not drunk may not get a chance to drink again that day.
5. You may not erect free standing table and chairs at a waterhole or within 500m of a waterhole.

Rules for the Use of Tracker Seats

1. No person under the age of 18 may occupy a tracker seat under any circumstances.
2. Ensure that the driver is qualified and competent to safely manage a dangerous animal encounter.
3. If you do encounter a dangerous animal, immediately move a safe distance away from the scene, and then climb off the tracker seat and into the vehicle before returning to the sighting.
4. The use of the tracker seat is intended for game tracking and not "joy ride" purposes. Members are urged to respect this principle and avoid abuse of the seats.

Special Game Activities

Certain activities undertaken by members whilst on the N'tsiri property are considered to be more dangerous than most (e.g., walking, use of vehicle tracker seats, etc.) and while these activities are not recommended, members and their guests who deem that they are suitably qualified and experienced may do so on the basis that it is undertaken entirely at their own risk. N'tsiri, its directors, and/or management will not be held liable for any incident as per the indemnity applicable on entry to the reserve (whether signed or not).

Rules for Walking

1. A separate walking indemnity is to be signed by all participants.
2. Kindly inform management, of planned walking activities. The reserve is patrolled by professional rangers who are tasked with monitoring all pedestrian activity on the reserve. If management is aware of planned walks, they can avoid unnecessary follow-up on members' tracks. Members can additionally be informed by management of problem or wounded animals in the area.
3. Do not walk unless you/your guide is suitably qualified to walk in big five territory.
4. Jogging or running for exercise purposes is prohibited.
5. Firearms: The reserve is used by members at all times of day for driving and walking and it is not possible to know in advance



if there are other members in the immediate vicinity. For this reason, only persons who are suitably qualified and who have the necessary licenses and competency certificates for the specific weapon carried are permitted to walk with firearms. If in doubt, ask the Reserve Manager for clarity.

6. Prior approval and documentation presented to the Reserve Manager is required for walking with firearms.
7. **NOTE:** The normal legal requirements by which firearm owners are bound regarding safe storage, carrying, and accountability for the use of the weapons will be applicable to all members bringing a firearm onto the property.
8. Firearms of .375 calibre and greater are recommended.
9. Walkers should try and avoid other game-drive vehicles, units, or public areas.