

20th of November 2008

Hi All,

After the 3rd semester half of this group left successfully for placements and jobs in this region. There are currently many lodges looking for qualified guides and Bushwise has an excellent name to keep up to. I am sure that the students of this course will perform well and be excellent guides and ambassadors for South-Africa and Bushwise. The leaving of the large number of students in this phase of the course opened for the staff and other student the opportunity to focus more on individual skills and practical things that we could cover more in depth. We focused on bird and frog identification (both audio and visual) and did many approaches of Big 5 animals with the game viewer. Also we walked a number of trails through the three game reserves we are allowed to go into. Walking is very different than driving and it really gets you back into nature. There is no distance between you and the wildlife anymore and it is a great way to relax and enjoy all things around you. I thoroughly enjoy it. Especially in the early mornings when the sun rises and the bush starts to wake up. Normally you do not see any big game but you can be sure that with each step you take there are a thousand things to admire. Especially now when there has been a good deal of rain. The bush is going into a new season and life is everywhere. It is like everything is happy to come out to you screaming for attention! Bright fresh green leaves are competing with jewel beetles in colours you cannot imagine. Most beetles still need to be classified and named...! Also the birds have returned from far away places and colour the bush with bright flashes of yellow and reds. It is like stepping in a complete new world after so many months of dryness. But it also tells me something. Everything in our world dies and is renewed. We have to be grateful for every moment in our lives and enjoy it. That is the lesson we must learn. There is no better place to see this than in the bush.

Enjoy the times with family and fiends during the year end!

Robin