

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I have included this page on our website in order to assist prospective clients to both our hunting ranch, as well as to Namibia in general. This section is primarily directed to the first time hunter to Namibia, but those who have been here before would be well advised to peruse this section as well, as there might be some useful tips for planning your next Namibian adventure.

I hope that any questions that you might have regarding your prospective visit to this beautiful country of ours will be answered on this page. If not, please feel free to contact me directly and we shall endeavour to assist you in any way possible. In addition, we would welcome any inputs from your side so that we can ensure that this page is as informative as possible.

Listed below are some of the most common answers to questions that we have received over the last few years, as well as some sage advice that will make your trip both easier and less stressful. A special word of thanks must also be given to **Mr Terry Hegge and SCI Alaska** for providing a useful compilation of tips and insights for the first time African Hunter.

This page will be regularly updated, so please visit us often in order to ensure that you are aware of any new developments that might affect your hunt in Namibia.

RIGHT, I'VE DECIDED THAT I LIKE WHAT I SEE AND HAVE DECIDED THAT OKATJERU HUNTING SAFARIS IS THE WAY TO GO. SO WHAT'S NEXT?

Firstly, know your subject. There are a great many books, periodicals, magazines and websites that offer a wealth of information about hunting in Africa. I strongly suggest that any prospective hunters attempt to obtain and read, at least, a number of the books and other material listed below:

BOOKS

A great many bookstores will stock, or be able to obtain the following books. Alternatively, you can order them on the internet through Cabelas or Safari Press.

SAFARI GUIDES

African Hunter II. *Craig Boddington and Peter Flack*

This book is an update of James Mellon's African Hunter, long considered the primary source of information on African hunting. The book goes a long way in covering all aspects pertaining to hunting in Africa; from the countries, the species, firearms, etc. Although the book is certainly not inexpensive, it is well worth the read.

Safari Guide: A Guide to Planning Your Hunting Safari. Richard Conrad

Despite the fact that the author had only hunted in Africa once prior to writing this book, it contains a wealth of practical information that is especially useful to the first time hunter.

African Experience: A Guide to Modern Safaris. Craig Boddington

Craig Boddington is a well respected hunting author with a wealth of information. This book is certain to go a long way in assisting you in planning your hunt.

FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

I receive a great many enquiries about the best firearm to bring on a hunt to Africa. Many hunters are well versed in hunting in their own countries, but do not know what to expect when hunting African game. At the risk of sounding facetious, I believe that the bulk of the larger African Antelope are a lot tougher than those found in Europe and the USA and many clients of mine have been amazed at the fact that their quarry does not drop immediately after being shot. For this reason, the old adage of “*Use enough gun!*” applies. Despite this, it is also not necessary to engage in “overkill” and hunt a Steenbok with an “Elephant Gun!!”

In order to give an insight to which rifle is best suited to your hunt in Namibia, the following books are recommended:

Rifles for Africa: Practical Advice on Rifles and Ammunition for an African Safari.

Gregor Woods

Gregor Woods is a well respected author and contributor to the Magnum Magazine, South Africa’s leading hunting and shooting magazine. This book gives a history of hunting firearms in Africa, as well as serious advice relevant to today’s hunters.

The Perfect Shot: Shot Placement for African Big Game. Kevin Robertson

I consider this book as essential reading for any hunter to Africa; be he a first timer, or an old hand at hunting in Africa. In addition to this, I often insist that my clients read this book whilst hunting with me (*yes, I also have a copy of this book!!!!*).

OTHER

As a last option, **THE HUNTING REPORT**, a monthly e-newsletter that is well written and full of good advice. In addition, this newsletter has numerous reports, both good, bad and indifferent, written by other subscribers that tell of their experiences on specific ranches and with specific outfitters. Subscription is not free, but the cost to subscribe is negligible; especially given the fact that using the Hunting Report to sift through prospective outfitters could save you a lot of money in the long run!

The Hunting Report can be found at www.HuntingReport.com

In addition, please visit the Namibia Professional Hunting Association website at www.napha.com

Last, but certainly not least, ask around. Speak to people that have hunted in Namibia. Pick their brains and get as much information from them as possible. I have found that us hunters are generally a friendly lot who will not have any problems sharing their adventures and information; besides which, it gives us an audience to brag about our hunts!

RIGHT, I'VE READ THE BOOKS, SPOKEN TO OTHER HUNTERS AND DONE MY RESEARCH. WHAT'S NEXT?

In this section, I've attempted to list the things to do in chronological order. Since I'm sitting here in Namibia, I'm not always up to speed regarding procedures in your country. For this reason, if you were to find out that things are done differently in your neck of the woods, please let me know so that I can keep this section of the website as relevant as possible.

BEFORE YOU DEPART FOR NAMIBIA

PASSPORTS

- If you don't already have a passport, apply for one as far in advance as possible. Please do not wait until the last moment. This will place you under a lot of pressure and will, invariably, mean that you will forget something along the way.
- If you already have a passport, make sure that it is valid for at least 6 months after you return and has at least 4 blank pages. Namibian tourist visas allow a bona fide tourist a period of 90 days per year in the country. The following countries are exempted from visa requirements: Angola, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lichtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Mozambique, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Tanzania, United Kingdom, United States of America and Zimbabwe. *I would still advise you, however, to confirm visa requirements with your travel agent.*
- Bring 2 passport sized photos and a Photostat copy of your passport with you. Pack these separately from your passport. Were your passport to be lost or stolen, these photos and the passport copy will save you a load of headaches whilst attempting to get a new one once you are in Namibia.

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION FOR PERSONAL EFFECTS TAKEN ABROAD

- In the USA, this form is known as the Customs Form 4457. Prior to your departure for Namibia, take any valuable items (rifle, camera, binoculars, etc) you plan to bring with you to your local airport customs office.
- On this form, you will list each item by description and serial number. Once completed, this form will prove that you did not buy these items in Namibia and you will have fewer problems clearing customs when returning back home.
- As for your rifle, different countries have different regulations regarding the travelling with a firearm. I suggest you contact your local police and/ or customs office to determine the requirements for your particular country.

VACCINATIONS AND ANTI MALARIA PILLS

- The region of Namibia where Okatjeru Hunting Safaris is located is free of malaria and other nasties. If, however, you intend touring the country after visiting our farm, I'd suggest taking anti malaria pills if you were to travel to the north of the country to the Etosha National Park, etc.
- It is always a good idea to ensure that your general shots, tetanus, etc are up to date.

INSURANCE

We strongly advise all our clients to ensure that they are insured, medically, as well as with insurance on any valuable items you might be bringing with you.

- Contact your health insurer to ensure that your insurance covers you whilst you are in Namibia. Also obtain a telephone number where they can be contacted in case of emergency. Although not a subject that one does not want to think about, hunting is a dangerous sport and accidents do happen. It is better to be safe than sorry.
- Also ensure that your insurance on valuable items is covered whilst travelling overseas. It is sad to say, but baggage does go missing or stolen on long transit flights (more of this later).
- If you wish, you can also consider an air ambulance insurance policy to be evacuated from Namibia back home in case of serious injury. www.medjetassistance.com is one of the best operators in this field.

- It is my opinion, however, that the private medical facilities in Windhoek are on par with the best in the world and will be more than capable of dealing with any emergencies.

ESTATE PLANNING

If you do not yet have a will or final testament, get one. As a wise man once said “Defecation Happens”.

DOCUMENTS

Leave a copy of your passport, travellers’ cheques, airline tickets, insurance card, and contact details of Okatjeru Hunting Safaris with a family member. If you intend using your credit card whilst in Namibia, inform your credit card company about this.

FIREARMS

Namibian Law prescribes a minimum muzzle energy for use on various species of game, as follows:

5400 joules	-	Buffalo, Elephant, Rhino, etc
2700 joules	-	Eland, Kudu, Oryx, Wildebeest, Hartebeest, etc
1350 joules	-	Springbok, Duiker, etc.

In addition, a minimum calibre of 7mm is strongly recommended.

No handgun hunting, or hunting with semi-automatic weapons is allowed.

I have had clients in the past that have purchased large calibre rifles just for their African hunts. In almost every case, the client was unfamiliar with the weapon and a great deal of flinching occurred due to the unfamiliar and rather painful recoil of these new rifles. This, in turn, led to poor shot placement, resulting in a less enjoyable hunt as the hunter and the guide (*me!*), had to spend many days tracking injured game. Also remember that injured game will be considered as shot in almost all outfitting operations. In other words, if the injured animal is not found, you end up going home having paid for an animal that you do not have. Not a good way to end your hunt.

The best advice that I can give in this regard is, *subject to the relevant Namibian Legislation pertaining to muzzle energy*, **USE THE RIFLE THAT YOU ARE MOST COMFORTABLE WITH**, preferably the rifle that you hunt with back home.

Most of the hunting at Okatjeru hunting is done at ranges of 100 – 250 meters. I have my clients zero their rifles at 100 meters at our shooting range, so it is essential that you know where your rifle will shoot at longer ranges.

Once you have covered these bases, **PRACTISE, PRACTISE, PRACTISE!!!!!!** Do NOT practise from a shooting bench, as you will not have one when hunting in the bush. Rather practise firing from the prone position (lying down), firing offhand, sitting and kneeling.

If possible, try to shoot off shooting sticks, or someone's shoulder (just make sure that their ears are protected!!!).

TAXIDERMISTRY

You are free to choose either a taxidermist back home, or make use of one of the local taxidermists. There is one taxidermist close to our farm that I use on a regular basis.

Either option has its own advantages and disadvantages, such as:

- The taxidermy fees of the local taxidermist will probably be less expensive than the taxidermists back home, but what you score in terms of taxidermy fees, you will lose in terms of shipping costs.
- The local taxidermists know the animals that they are preparing and your mount will have the correct anatomical features and lifelike look. Despite this, many foreign taxidermists are also well versed in preparing African species.
- Import and veterinary requirements for certain species such as Warthogs and Baboons may make it more convenient to at least have these trophies prepared locally.
- All trophies will, however, have to be prepared for export, irrespective of whether or not they are mounted by a local or foreign taxidermist.
- If you decide to have your trophies done back home, it should take about 3 – 5 months for the trophies to reach you back in your home country. If you decide to have your trophies mounted in Namibia, it could take between 6 – 12 months for your trophies to be ready for shipment, depending on the number of species you have hunted, as well as the types of mounts that you want (shoulder, pedestal, skull, flat skin, etc).
- If you decide to use a taxidermist back home, make sure that you have his contact details so that the local taxidermist knows where to ship the trophies once they have been prepared for export.

COMMUNICATION

You will not have any problems communication with those back home whilst you hunt with Okatjeru Hunting. We have telephone, fax, internet and e-mail facilities on our ranch.

If, however, you hunt on one of our concession areas far from our ranch, communication might be a problem. If it is really important for you to be in contact with those back home, you can look at renting a satellite phone. If this is the case, I'd suggest renting a phone back home, as satellite phone rentals in Namibia are expensive.

OKAY, I'VE TAKEN CARE OF ALL THE PAPERWORK, WHAT'S NEXT?

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

RIFLES AND ACCESSORIES

Only bolt action rifles are allowed in Namibia. When deciding on which rifle to bring, try to stay with the more common calibres, as ammunition can be a problem out here in the bush.

You are allowed to bring a maximum of 100 rounds of ammunition with. When it comes to ammunition, I'm a bit of a perfectionist and expect the same from my clients in terms of quality of ammunition. Use only Premium Ammunition. The cheap stuff will be far more expensive in the long run when your ammunition does not perform as it should and you have to pay for an injured animal that you do not recover.

In terms of ammunition, I'd suggest you consider the following:

- Nosler Partition
- Swift A – Frame
- Federal Premium or Vital Shock
- Dynamit Nobel products such as the TUG or Twin Core.
- Barnes

A good quality scope is essential. You will be roughing the rifle up in the bush, so make sure that your scope is shock proof and hardy. Dust covers for your scope's lenses would also be a good call.

A variable scope with a magnification of no more than 10X will allow you the most flexibility. If you are going to be hunting a Leopard with us, you will probably be hunting in poor light conditions in the late afternoon or early morning; or with the full moon and a scope with a wide objective lens is essential. I strongly suggest nothing less than 42mm.

A final word regarding firearms, ammunition and scopes: Where you place the bullet on the animal is ***FAR MORE IMPORTANT*** than the calibre or type of bullet!!!!

Transporting firearms can be a bit of a headache, especially when travelling through South Africa. In order to keep up to date with all the requirements, both here and in South Africa, please visit the following websites:

www.natron.net/napha/english/huntinglaws

www.natron.net/napah/graphics/firearm-application-2007.pdf

www.sapa.gov.za/crime_prevention/firearms/formseng

RIFLE CASE

Your rifle must be transported in a **locked** hard shell case. Rest assured, it will be manhandled and thrown about, so do not bring a cheap rifle case. Make sure that your rifle is protected inside a good quality robust rifle case. It might also be a good idea to bring along a rifle sock or soft rifle bag for use locally. If you do not have one, don't worry, I have spares.

OTHER EQUIPMENT

Binoculars.

- 7x, 8x and 10x binoculars will all work.
- You will be using your binoculars a lot, so make sure that they are tough and of good quality.
- You will be wearing them all day long, so make sure that they are not too heavy. In addition to this, make sure that you have a decent strap attached to them. You do not want to keep on dropping them in the bush.
- Clarity and brightness are essential.
- It would also be a good idea to bring a lens pen along. You can use this to safely clean the lenses of the binoculars, as well as your rifle scope.

Rangefinder

- If you want to bring one with that's fine. I use one myself and, given the distances we will often be shooting over, it could prove useful.

Camera

- You *will* be taking a lot of photos whilst you are here. Besides that, your photos will be the best way for you to share your memories with others. For this reason, be sure to bring along a good quality camera.
- I personally believe that a digital camera is the best option available. This will save you having to carry a ton of camera film around with you.
- If you are using a 35mm camera (with film), I'd suggest you look at sing a roll of film per day. This will ensure that you never run out of film. ASA 100 or ASA 200 film is probably your best choice.
- If you are going to be accompanied by an observer, consider bringing a video camera with. If you are hunting by yourself, a video camera would probably be unnecessary as you will seldom be able to film yourself.
- Do not forget to bring spare batteries, memory card (for digital camera) and all your electrical charging equipment. In Namibia, we use 220 volt, so you might need to bring an adaptor with.

Flashlight

- No need for a large torch, a small, yet bright torch will be enough.
- Remember to bring extra batteries with.
- I believe that the "Surefire" flashlight would be your best option.

PACKING LIST

Luggage

- On international flights, airlines limit the weight of each piece of checked luggage. The limit varies from country to country, but is usually between 30 and 40 kg (about 70 pounds).
- On most airlines, all passengers can check in 2 bags per person. Assuming that the rifle case is one bag, you'll have to get the rest of your baggage into the other bag.
- Try to bring an extra (empty) soft bag with in case you want to pack some souvenirs in it. Larger items purchased in Namibia can be left with the taxidermist and shipped along with your trophies.

Luggage Locks

- When travelling to Namibia, many hunters fly via Johannesburg International Airport (also now known as OR Tambo International Airport). It has become clear that theft of items from passenger's baggage has become the national pastime of the baggage staff at this airport.
- In addition to this, many bags do not end up with their owners at their destination, as they have been incorrectly routed. This means that you might only get your baggage a couple of days after your arrival in Namibia.
- This is a pet peeve of mine and the theft of clothing and other valuable items from your baggage is not a good way to start your hunt. Therefore make sure that all your bags are locked with a decent lock.
- In addition, only use good quality hard shelled suitcases like a Delsey, etc. I've seen that the well organised criminals Johannesburg International Airport use box cutters to cut open canvas bags to get to the items inside. (So much for airport security!!!) and, ps, this is what happened to me!!
- If you are flying from the USA, you also have the TSA to worry about. For this reason, I suggest you look at using Travel Sentry locks, as the TSA will be able to open your bags if required, without having to break the locks.
- Finally, I recommend that each hunter bring a couple of spare locks with. If your baggage is lost/ incorrectly routed and only reaches Namibia after you, the customs officials will want to go through your baggage. We can either go to the airport and have you open the bags for them, wasting valuable hunting time; or they can cut the locks open, inspect the goods and then hand the baggage over to the airline you used who will then deliver the baggage to Okatjeru. Your locks will therefore be useless and you can use the spare locks to secure your baggage on your flight back home.

Clothing: General Notes

- Keep one set of clothing aside for your flight to Namibia (Travelling Clothes). Make sure that these clothes are loose fitting and comfortable. You are going to be spending a good couple of hours in an aircraft, not the most comfortable place to be, and the last thing you need to add to this, is uncomfortable clothing.
- During your hunting, clothing in neutral colours is recommended. By this I mean clothing that will blend into the natural environment. Camo clothing is allowed in Namibia, so this is also an option. Just make sure that the clothing is lightweight and cool.

- Pack at least one set of clothes in your carry on (hand) luggage, especially a set of underclothes (underpants, socks, etc). If your baggage is misplaced you will at least have something to wear until your baggage arrives. In addition, if you are travelling with a partner (wife, hunting partner, etc), pack some of your clothes in his/ her baggage and vice versa. If one of you arrives here without your baggage, at least you will have something to wear until your baggage arrives.

Packing List: Clothing

- Hunting Shirts – at least 3 pairs
 - o Can be long or short sleeved, although I'd suggest long sleeved shirts, as the Namibian sun can burn the daylight out of you. If you start getting too hot, you can always roll up your sleeves.
- Hunting Pants – at least 3 pairs
 - o Can be long or short pants, although I'd suggest long pants. There are many thorn bushes on Okatjeru and long pants will help to protect your legs whilst stalking game.
 - o I often wear jeans whilst hunting and find them to be quite practical.
 - o Long pants will also protect your legs from the sun.
- Shoes/ Boots
 - o Whilst flying to Namibia, running shoes, or any other comfortable pair of shoes would do you well.
 - o Whilst you are hunting, any well broken in, light weight shoes or boots would work well. Try to wear shoes that protect your ankles, as you will be stalking through the bush over broken ground and over rocks. The last thing you need is an ankle sprain in the middle of your hunt.
 - o Make sure that your shoes/ boots are well worn. You do not need to start getting blisters after one or two day's hunting.

- Jacket

- Bring at least one warm, windproof jacket with. If you are hunting in our winter months, the mornings can be below freezing.
- A jacket will also be a good thing to have around the fire at night, as it can get rather nippy once the sun goes down.
- A windproof jacket will help when you are sitting at the back of the hunting vehicle.

- Hats/ Caps

- A broad rimmed safari hat is advised. This will keep the sun out of your eyes, as well as protect your head from the sun's rays.
- A cap will also work well, although this will leave your neck and ears exposed to the sun.
- If possible, try to wear a hat with a string, as the wind can blow your hat/cap off whilst on the back of the hunting vehicle.

- Gloves/ Balaclava

- Both of these items will prove worth their weight in gold in our winter months, so bring them with.
- If you will be hunting a Leopard with us, they will prove to be invaluable inside the blind. If one is cold, you are inclined to move about a lot, which will make noise, scaring off the Leopard.

- Gaitors/ Puttees

- There are a lot of seeds and stones on Okatjeru. The seeds often get caught up in your socks and can make your legs quite itchy. Gaitors or puttees will keep these seeds out of your socks and stones out of your shoes.

- Socks

- Bring at least 6 pairs with.
- You can change your socks at midday if they have become too sweaty.

- Camp Wear
 - o A sweatshirt/ tracksuit, or a light fleece jacket can be worn around the fire at night.
 - o This will also help in that your hunting jacket will not become impregnated with the smell of smoke if you do not wear this around the campfire at night.

- Underwear
 - o Again, at least 6 pairs.

Packing List: General

- Pocketknife or Leatherman.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- Alarm clock and watch.
- Camera, film, extra memory card, batteries, chargers.
- Electric converter and plug adaptors.
- Binoculars.
- Screw drivers and other tools that fit your rifle and scope mounts.
- Gun cleaning kit.
- Lenspen.
- Rifle.
- Rifle sling.
- Earplugs.
- Ammunition, ammunition pouch and belt.
- Small backpack to carrying stuff in during the day.
- Sunglasses and neck strap.
- Gun sock or soft rifle bag.
- Field guide to animals and birds.
- Duct tape.
- Sweets to nibble on during the day.
- Toiletries bag.
- Shoes/ boots.
- Pictures from home (yes, we'd also like to see where you live and what you've hunted before!).

Packing List: Toiletries

- Toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss.
- Deodorant.
- Hair brush or comb.
- Shampoo.
- Bar of soap.
- Small scissors.
- Razor blade and shaving cream.
- Body lotion (during winter the air can be very dry and body cream will help to moisturise your skin). I know us hunters are supposed to be tough, but even I use the stuff!
- Tweezers and nail clippers.
- Sunscreen and lip balm (*very important*).
- Anti diarrhoea pills.
- Headache tablets.
- Allergy pills.
- Band aids.
- Antibiotic cream.
- Cough drops.
- Eye drops.
- Prescription medicine.
- Kleenex.
- Small sewing kit.

(We have most of the above on the ranch, but this will give you a good guideline).

Packing List: Travel Documents

- Copies of your passport, health insurance card, drivers' licence, airline tickets, customs forms, etc.
- Copies of your itinerary. Include the phone number and address of our ranch (*Okatjeru Hunting Safaris, Farm 53, Windhoek District, Namibia, Box 9658, tel 00264 62 540411*). Keep this on your person during your trip to Namibia, as you might need it at customs.
- Cash, traveller's cheques, credit cards.
- Passport, airline tickets, drivers licence, health insurance card, SAPS form 520 (if you are flying via South Africa – this is the form you need to fill in if you are clearing customs in South Africa. If you are flying directly to Namibia, or are not clearing customs in South Africa, then this form is not necessary); and the Namibian Firearm Temporary Import Permit. Links to both these forms, as well as how to fill them in are listed above on this page.
- A zipped holder to safely keep all this stuff in.

Packing List: Carry on Luggage

- Bottled water.
- Chewing gum, sweets, etc to get that crummy taste out of your mouth after having to breathe stale aircraft air.
- Ink pens (black) and a small notepad.
- Something to read – it's going to be a long flight.
- Sunglasses/ reading glasses.
- Headache tablets, sleeping pills, prescription medicine.
- Eye drops and earplugs (*if you have my luck, you'll be 2 rows in front of the baby that screams all night long!!*).
- Phone numbers and addresses of people you might need to contact in case of an emergency.
- Toiletries (small tube of toothpaste, deodorant, a toothbrush and a washcloth).
- Travel wallet with all the necessary forms (passport, customs forms, etc).
- Camera.

OKAY, I KNOW WHERE TO GO, WHAT TO DO AND WHAT TO TAKE WITH. HOW DO I GET THERE???

Depending on your country of departure, there are a number of options available. These can be subject to change, so consider this section as a guideline. Your best bet is to hash out these details with your local travel agent.

GETTING HERE

The most common options for travel to Namibia are:

- If you are flying from the USA, then you will fly to one of the major US hubs such as Atlanta, New York, etc and then to South Africa via South African Airways or Delta Airlines. From South Africa, you will then connect and fly to Namibia (Hosea Kutako International Airport).
- Alternatively, you can fly to Europe and then either directly to Namibia, or via South Africa.
- If you are flying directly from Europe, then you can fly via South Africa, or directly to Namibia.

Each of these options has it's own advantages/ disadvantages, namely:

- **Direct from USA to South Africa to Namibia:**
 - You are limited in the number of air carriers that travel to South Africa (SAA and Delta).
 - The travel segment to Johannesburg (South Africa) is extremely long.
 - Reports on SAA's new Airbus planes are that the seat space is more cramped than their old 747's.
 - As stated before, theft at Johannesburg International Airport is a major problem.
 - If you have to clear customs, or overnight in South Africa, you have the added headache of having to clear your rifle through customs.
 - Despite this, the direct option will greatly shorten your overall travel time.

- **Through Europe, or directly from Europe:**
 - You can fly to London Gatwick, or Frankfurt. From there, you can fly with Air Namibia directly to Windhoek, thus avoiding the South Africa connection. You will also have a number of options to fly via South Africa.
 - You will be able to break your trip into 2 shorter, easier trips, thus giving you a break from continuous flying.
 - Gives you a chance to perhaps do some sightseeing in Europe. This will be a great way to tackle jet lag.
 - You might have to shuffle your flight arrangements around in order to get your connecting flights, so book well in advance.
 - The more connections you have, the greater the chance of your luggage being misplaced.
 - You might have to do some running to make your connecting flights in time. If you are delayed in one flight, this will have a roll over effect on your other flights and you might miss them.
 - You might have to endure an airport departure/transit lounge for a couple of hours whilst waiting for your connection flight.

- Irrespective of which option you use, make sure that you book through a travel agent who has a lot of experience booking international (specifically African) travel.

SAVING MONEY

Travel can be a huge portion of your overall safari cost. The best way to save money on travel costs is to use your frequent flyer miles to book your airfare.

Unfortunately, the peak of the hunting season coincides with the peak tourist season and this translates into higher costs. You can avoid this by hunting in non – peak tourist seasons, as well as by booking your flight well in advance. I have found that, by booking 6 months in advance, you can often save quite a bit of money.

GENERAL TIPS ONCE YOU ARE HERE

The tips below are general guidelines on Okatjeru Hunting Ranch, but could quite as easily apply to any hunt.

- Relax.
- Do not rush; you are not competing with anyone.
- Do not forget to smile; you're supposed to be having fun!
- Appreciate the differences; you are half a world away from your country. We do things differently here in Africa and are subject to Africa Time. If someone tells you it will be done now, this means within the next 2 days and soon means within the next 2 months. (Needless to say, this does not apply on our ranch – we try our best to be timeous, but you will find this attitude in shops, airports, etc).
- Soak it all in. You've saved a long time to get here. Listen to the sounds of the bush come alive at daybreak, smell the fresh air in the mornings; you may never be back, so make the best of it.
- Keep a diary.
- Communicate your expectations with me. You are paying for the hunt, so it's your party and you are entitled to tell me what you want.
- I'll judge the trophy quality, but the final say is yours; after all, you are paying for the animal. If you do not like the animal, don't shoot it.
- If a shot is too far, too difficult, or you are not sure which animal I'm referring to, don't shoot. It's your hunt, it's your money, it's your decision.
- Do not expect to shoot the new world record, cherish the moment, the stalk and the experience. Hunting is not about shooting animals! It's about being in the bush, pitting your abilities against the animal you are hunting; about appreciating the gifts our Creator have given us, about sitting around a fire at night and about getting to know oneself!!!!!!

RIGHT, I'M DONE WITH MY PREACHING. NOW IT'S UP TO YOU TO PACK YOUR BAGS, BOOK YOUR TICKETS AND GET YOURSELF OVER HERE!!!!!!