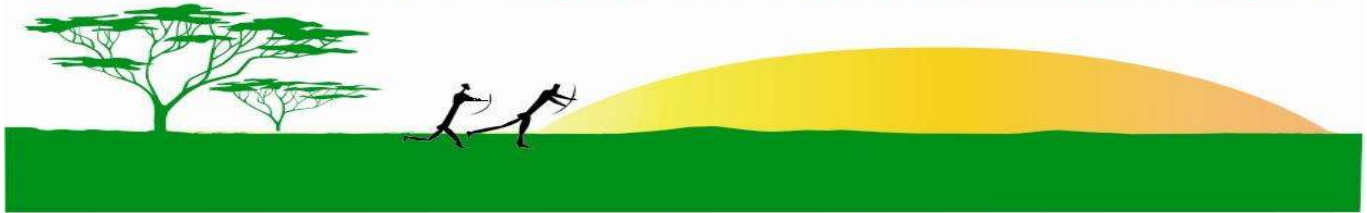


Protea Eco Adventures



Conservation Through Utilization

Protea Safari Manners

We're called the Brandy-'n-Coke brigades, the Rum-and-Coke Okes, and other things to fierce to mention. Fact is there's a bunch of guys out there that are giving the rest of us a bad name. So before more restrictions like the beach ban come to ruin our adventurous spirit, how about we follow these simple guidelines to make our safari a memorable experience:

- Keep the peace - Respect the space and solitude of those around you, who might be wanting a quiet time with their family. Leave the big CD player at home and switch off the radio when we stop.
- No music to be played at the campsites or at the regular stops we will be making, switch it off.....let us experience the wilderness as it was BC - before the era of cell phones and radios!
- Observe convoy procedure when traveling in a group, especially if there are some who aren't too sure of the way.
 - Whenever you come to a turn, make sure the vehicle behind you have you in sight and have seen you turning. Rather wait at the turn until they reach the turn-off.
 - Keep to the speed limits set by the guide.
 - NEVER EVER leave the track you are following, stay in the convoy and the convoy's tracks at all times.
 - Keep a safe following distance and keep the vehicle behind you in sight at all times.
 - Drive with your headlights on at all times, whether it be on gravel or tar roads!
 - When you encounter a dangerous situation, switch the vehicles hazard lights on immediately to warn your fellow travelers and inform them via the two-way radio.
 - Make sure to clean the vehicles air cleaner every second day when encountering a lot of dust.
- When you stop at a view site, switch off your vehicles engine. It's hard to soak up the silence and peace when there's an engine chugging away next to your ear. Other people will appreciate it and they'll breathe easier too.
- Let's face it – the male ego is a fragile thing. Just be nice when people get stuck, falling about and slapping you thigh as they get more rattled is a little ungracious. You might appreciate their goodwill when you get stuck around the next corner - Mother Nature has a wicked sense of humor!
- Staying in 2WD for as long as possible isn't clever, it just shows that you are ignorant of how you might be damaging the environment.
- Nothing binds a group faster than if we look out for each other along the way. If you come through a difficult patch, flash your hazards to warn the vehicles behind or get on the two-way radio and talk them through it.
- Have the wisdom and humility to know when to give up and ask for help.
- Keep a reasonable following distance – that way you don't put pressure on the driver in front of you, and you get to enjoy more of the action instead of staring into his bumper through a cloud of dust.
- Take out what you take in – pack with that in mind, using containers you can crush or burn wherever possible. If you leave plastic bags behind, they'll be blowing around for the next 12 years before they bio-degrade. Don't bury rubbish – tin cans or glass shred the paws of Hyena, Jackal and Wild dogs that will inevitably dig it up – this will ultimately kill them!
- Give animals the right of way, you're in their space!
- Be aware of donkeys, cattle and goats grazing along the road and pedestrians.
- Panicked animals sometimes run into your path rather than shy away, and if one crosses the road others may follow.

- If you drive through shell middens, lichen fields, or make new routes over salt pans, your tracks will create a lasting legacy of which your children will be ashamed!
- Feeding animals may make them dependent, or dangerously unafraid of humans!
- Take firewood with you and don't make fires between the roots of trees, as this will eventually kill them. Use tree protector straps during recovery operations.
- Would you tolerate, say a group of tourists in your home town, demanding special rights, being rude to you and your family et cetera simply because they are foreign? Rudeness will never help you in Africa, a smile and friendliness will do the trick.
- Some routes that are scenic trails to us are vital byways to locals. Drive and park with pedestrians and other users in mind.
- Observe the laws of the countries you visit and respect authority figures.
- Check that you have collected all your litter when you leave your campsite, leave the campsite/ablutions the way you would have liked it.
- Never ever throw anything out of the windows of your vehicle.
- Smokers - please make sure to put your cigarette buds in a tin or bottle and dispose of it in a dustbin not out of the window of your vehicle and not into the campfire (other people want to braai their meat over the coals) and do not bury the buds in the sand, animals will eat it and die.
- Littering is a punishable offence in any country.
- When you see off-roaders behaving badly, make sure to show them the error in their ways and that they are giving the rest of us a bad name.
- Be an ambassador for responsible 4x4 users and practice an eco-friendly lifestyle.
- Parents make sure that your children do not disturb fellow travelers.
- Parents make sure that your children do not run around from the start of sunset, that's the time when most of the predators are on the hunt and your children will be their prime target – BEWARE!
- No generators are allowed at all.
- All vehicles will receive a two-way radio with an 8 kilometer radius - look after it as if it's your own. Do not leave it on the dash board or carry it around by the antenna. It's not a toy, only use it when you want to share information or communicate.
- Hand the radio in every evening in order for us to recharge it for the next day.
- Use the radio to share your knowledge of the fauna and flora in the area with your fellow travelers or to inform them about dangers and interesting sightings that are awaiting them.
- It is an offence to leave any of the designated roads. Driving in the veld causes ecological damage and is regarded as a serious offense on any Safari or in any Country and National Park.
- No pets are allowed on any one of our safaris.
- It is illegal to damage plants or cause injury or death to any animal. You will be heavily fined and deported from that country or asked to leave the safari group and the national park without any refund at all.