



BIRD HUNTERS

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Bloemhoff.

Bloemhoff is a large agricultural area situated about an hour drive Northwest of Bloemfontein. It is in the heart of the “Breadbasket” of South Africa. Some of these farms are the largest of their kind in the world and the area produces most of South Africa’s Corn. It also has a very large lake that is part of the Second Largest River in South Africa the “Vaal River”. With the abundance of food and water it lends itself to large populations of terrestrial as well as water birds. A bird shooter paradise.

Guineafowl:

Guineafowls are the most prolific game birds in this area, their flocks can number several hundred in the winter months when they group up to feed on the abundant food provided by the vast crops that are planted in the area. They are often cursed and admired in the same breath by those who shoot them. Extremely wary, a flock of guineas prefer to run before flying when disturbed. Once they take flight on a fixed escape route they will stick to it, with the challenge being to get the beaters to drive them towards the waiting guns. When they do take flight and are driven over the waiting guns, the shooting is spectacular, as well as fast and furious to say the least. It is quite thrilling standing at your position listening in anticipation as the beaters drive the birds towards you. The guineafowl can also be pushed into thick cover and when pressured they hold very tight. The birds are then walked up in a line using the Pointers and Labradors to flush them from cover. Guineafowl season is June, July, and August.

Spurfowl and Partridge:

Francolin and Spurfowl are hunted over Pointers or walked up in a line in this area. For those who enjoy a brisk walk in the morning, Partridges and Spurfowl offer some great shooting. We use two English Pointers at a time, they work the surrounds of harvested corn fields as well as grazing pastures. Swainson’s Spurfowl are the most abundant in the area. Orange River Partridges can also be found in some rocky terrain along the field edges. Partridges and Spurfowl live in small coveys from two to ten birds, they generally sit tight in a concealed patch of thick long grass, with the pointers using the wind and scent to their best advantage they usually find them with a solid point, before exploding into the air in a noisy flurry offering the guns some exciting shooting.

Duck shooting:

Flighted ducks are shot from grass blinds situated on the edge of small ponds or dams. They are hunted in the late afternoon and early evening thus providing the perfect end to the day. Yellow billed duck are the prominent species taken with red billed teal and white-faced whistling duck making up the rest of the bag. The occasional Egyptian or Spur-winged goose are also taken on the duck shoots. It's not a duck hunt without the trusty Labrador retriever and they will retrieve your downed birds.

Geese Shooting:

Spur-winged as well as Egyptian geese are shot from "pit blinds" that are dug in fields of either harvested peanuts or Corn. These birds can occur in great numbers and are usually shot at first light. Nothing beats the thrill of hearing geese approaching in low light homing in on the well-placed decoys, then have them hover above you trying to land. A good goose shoot is difficult to beat. Geese are very clever and can outthink even the very best of bird guides. A challenging yet enjoyable hunt.

Accommodation:

The accommodation in this area is on a lovely game ranch and its not uncommon to see many species of animals coming down to the waterhole to drink during the day.

The food is served in a lovely entertainment area that boasts a wonderful fire pit as well as a large well stocked bar.

The charming chalets are all separate from one another, they all have "en-suite" bathrooms with fresh towels and hot and cold running water.