

# BARTHOLOMEUS KLIP FARMHOUSE

p o . b o x 3 6 • h e r m o n • 7 3 0 8 • t e l ( 0 8 2 ) 3 2 2 1 7 5 8 • f a x ( 0 8 6 ) 6 0 4 4 3 2 1 •  
i n f o @ b a r t h o l o m e u s k l i p . c o m • w w w . b a r t h o l o m e u s k l i p . c o m

## **LUXURY COUNTRY LODGE ON PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE AND WORKING FARM IN THE WINELANDS**

### A NEW OPTION

Traditionally attractions to the Cape have been Table Mountain, Cape Point and the Winelands, but with this increasing influx of tourists the need for new and varied experiences has arisen. Bartholomeus Klip Farmhouse is 75 minutes drive from Cape Town and half an hour from the winelands of Paarl and Stellenbosch and offers one of the most exciting new options for travellers to the region. Situated on one of the biggest wheat and sheep farms in the Western Cape and a 4000 hectare private nature reserve, offering guests the opportunity of experiencing gracious country living and the thrill of evening game viewing from an open landrover combined with the excitement of the daily operations of a large working farm.

### VICTORIAN HOMESTEAD

The beautifully appointed Victorian farmhouse has been luxuriously renovated in true Victorian style. The homestead, located on the hill overlooking the farm and private nature reserve, has four en suite bedrooms, a private suite, comfortable reading room, large lounge with fireplace, intimate bar, cosy dining room and spacious verandas to sit on and enjoy the country air. The cuisine is exceptional and reflects the many virtues of country life, afternoon tea is a grand affair served in the heirloom family silver whilst lunch time picnics are a feature of living in the country. Wherever possible meals are prepared using as much farm fresh produce as is available with ingredients and dishes being sourced from the surrounding areas and complimented by wines from local estates.

### GAME DRIVES

Late afternoon game drives in the well-established reserve (over 1000 head of game) introduce guests to Black Wildebeest, Bontebok, Burchell's Zebra, Cape Mountain Zebra, Eland, Gemsbok, Red Hartebeest, Springbok, Grey Rhebok, Duiker and Steenbok. Guided walks in the mountains reveal a superb array of birds, including Fish Eagles, Black Eagles and the endangered Blue Crane, which can be seen in flocks of up to sixty. The Nature Reserve is one of the most ecologically important conservation areas in the country and conserves the last example of a unique type of fynbos.

## ACTIVITIES

Daily guided excursions expose guests to the variety of features associated with a large and diverse farming operation. Watch our sheep dogs working with our flock of over 3000 Merino sheep, observe the skill and speed employed in the shearing of our wool sheep, or visiting the lambing pastures where, if you wait a while, you may see lambs being born. Walk in the fields and experience first hand the cycles of ploughing, fertilising, sowing, harvesting and spraying of the various grain crops grown on the farm. In addition guests gain an understanding of how large scale commercial farming and long term conservation work together for mutual benefit.

## RARE HABITAT AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

West Coast Renosterveld (Renoster is Afrikaans for rhino, because of the black rhino that used to occur here) is a rare type of fynbos vegetation containing a number of endangered plant and animal species, the largest remaining population of the Geometric Tortoise, one of the worlds most endangered reptile species occurs on the reserve. In addition Bartholomeus Klip has over 850 plant species and a spectacular diversity of spring flowers and bulbous plants, many of which are endemic to the area and exist nowhere else in the world.

Bartholomeus Klip offers your clients a wonderful opportunity to experience the Western Cape in a way not previously possible, allowing them to enjoy the winelands, wheatfields and beautiful countryside of the area combined with the thrill of game viewing from an open landrover, complete with all the necessary luxury, personalised attention and fine cuisine they expect. This experience would enhance and compliment their visit to South Africa and the Cape in particular.

## LESS THAN AN 75 MINUTES DRIVE FROM CAPE TOWN

Bartholomeus Klip is a luxury country lodge set amongst 7500 hectares of wheatfields and private nature reserve, less than 75 minutes drive from Cape Town.

## PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE

The nature reserve is a Natural Heritage Site and one of the most ecologically important conservation areas in the Western Cape, containing a number of endangered plant and animal species that only occur in our reserve.

## EXCLUSIVITY AND PRIVACY

Enjoy the private and exclusive use of our 7500 hectare estate for walking, cycling, bird watching, swimming, picnicking or anything else that takes your fancy.

### BUFFALO BREEDING PROGRAMME

Our animals are the only disease free buffalo in South Africa and our programme aims to breed them to help with the restocking of areas where buffalo have died out

### QUAGGA BREEDING PROJECT

Visit our Quagga Breeding Programme aimed at re-establishing this extinct species.

### GEOMETRIC TORTOISE TRACKING

The 4500 hectare Private Nature Reserve at Bartholomeus Klip contains the last ecologically viable population of Geometric tortoises, Africa's rarest tortoise species and one of the worlds most endangered reptiles

### SPRING FLOWERS

The reserve produces a spectacular diversity of spring flowers, many of which are endemic to the area.

### GUIDED WALKS IN THE MOUNTAINS AND RESERVE

Morning or evening walks in the reserve to view game, birds, flora or track the rare Geometric Tortoise.

### MORNING AND EVENING GAME DRIVES

Drives into the reserve in an open landrover to view eland, gemsbok, endangered Cape mountain zebra, black wildebeest, red hartebeest, bontebok, grey rhebok, springbok, ostrich, and many other species of mammals and birds, including the African fish eagle and the endangered blue crane.

### CLASSIC CUISINE

Our inspired chefs produce classic cuisine synthesising local styles and fresh produce with international trends and influences.

### WORKING FARM

Stroll or cycle around the farm and experience the daily activities of a large farming operation.

### MOUNTAIN BIKING

Mountain bikes are available for guests to use in the reserve or through the wheatfields.

### WATER SPORTS

The large farm dam offers guests canoeing, windsurfing, rowing and wonderful birding opportunities.

### COUNTRY TRANQUILITY

Swim in the salt water pool, row on the dam, picnic in the forest, or simply relax under the oak trees in the farm gardens.

### WINELANDS

Bartholomeus Klip is centrally located, allowing guests to explore the winelands of Riebeek Kasteel, Swartland and Tulbagh, which are a mere twenty minutes away, or the west coast which is only an hour's drive.

### **CONSERVATION PROJECTS AND BREEDING PROGRAMMES**

The brief summary of the conservation projects and programmes detailed below are designed to give the reader a brief introduction to the special conservation issues facing this important natural area as well as a few of the management challenges. Our resident trained conservation staff are more than qualified to introduce visitors to various aspects of the programmes, if however there is a demand for specialised guidance and input we have access to all the current authorities in the various fields.

### **THE QUAGGA BREEDING PROJECT**

The Quagga occurred south of the Orange and Vaal rivers and formed an important component of the Karoo environment of the Orange Free State and the Cape. A number of quaggas were exported to Europe during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Quaggas became extinct when the last female died in captivity in an Amsterdam zoo on 12 August 1888. The last survivors of free living quagga which occurred in the Orange Free State, they however, became extinct in 1878.

Quaggas were essentially stripless zebras, although they displayed a great deal of variation between individuals. The front parts of their body were clearly striped, with the markings fading towards the rump area. There exists uncertainty as to whether the quagga was a dark zebra with light stripes or a light zebra with dark stripes. Generally the quagga's stripes are darkest on the head and neck where the interspaces are the lightest. Progressing backwards along the body, the stripes become lighter and the interspaces between them darker until they eventually merge. The stripes were therefore limited only on the head and neck and were faded on the legs and hindquarters.

In March 1986 a Quagga breeding project was officially launched after extensive research revealed that the extinct species was closely related to Burchells zebra. Burchells zebra showing a natural strip reduction were sourced from around Southern Africa and in December 1988 the first foal was born. The project progressed well for a few years, but then due to financial reasons had to be curtailed. It was then that the project was moved various other areas with Bartholomeus Klip, because of its favourable habitat

and large grassy plains, being a natural choice as home for the mainstay of the breeding programme, at present over 30 quaggas roaming the reserve.

### **AFRICAN BUFFALO BREEDING PROGRAMME**

African buffalo are carriers of a number of diseases such as Corridor disease, Foot & Mouth disease and Tuberculosis. As buffalo are gregarious, often occurring in large herds, disease spreads rapidly from animal to animal, and although the diseases may not kill animals outright their weakened condition renders them susceptible to other illness which may in fact be fatal. There have been episodes of disease outbreaks in the large buffalo herds of Southern Africa over the last 300 years that have almost wiped out entire populations. This poses a concern for conservationists as the rapid spread of TB amongst the herds of buffalo at present may be the beginning of a new population decline.

Bartholomeus Klip has as a result of careful breeding and strict quarantine managed to produce a herd of disease free buffalo, making them the only herd to carry this status in the entire country. Isolated in the Western Cape they are potentially free from the risk of contamination and will be used as a breeding herd to stock areas that are disease free or to restock areas where buffalo may have died out as a result of infection.

The breeding programme is managed along basic farming principles and is a superb example of the combination of farming and conservation. The original founder herd which numbers 20 will be increased in size to approximately 60, at which point the herd should breed at a sustainable rate. Youngsters will be raised on dairy cows as their rate of growth is far more rapid under such conditions and offspring will be sold to areas that need restocking. This breeding programme provides a wonderful insight into the successful combination of modern farming and conservation as well as allowing you the chance to get up close to view these beasts, the least known of the "Big Five".

### **GEOMETRIC TORTOISE**

The Cape is rich in tortoise species, with 9 of the world's 40 species occurring in the western Cape, possibly the most spectacular and definitely the rarest is the geometric tortoise. Geometric tortoises occur only in the low lying renosterveld habitat of the Cape lowlands, and that of the Worcester/Tulbagh and Ceres valleys. Habitat destruction due to extensive agricultural activities throughout its range has led to the distribution of the tortoise being characterised by small isolated populations. Agricultural development has largely been responsible for the replacement of more than 97% of renosterveld with wheatlands, vineyards and large heavily grazed areas. Bartholomeus Klip with its nature reserve comprising 1400 hectares of renosterveld is home to the largest concentration of geometric tortoises to be found in any habitat and the only remaining ecologically viable population. Bartholomeus Klip is home to 3500 members of this, Africa's most endangered reptile, and is considered the only place where their survival and long term conservation is assured.

## **BARTHOLOMEUS KLIP SEASONAL ACTIVITY LIST**

### JANUARY

#### **Reserve**

- Wildebeest/springbok rut
- Zebras drop their foals.
- Steppe Buzzards/Lesser Kestrels have arrived to spend summer months. They can be observed hunting in the wheat fields.
- Canoeing on the dam and birding in the reeds is at its best because all the smaller bodies of water have dried up and the water birds congregate at the bigger dams.

#### **Farm**

- The dry wheat fields are host to a wide variety of larks, pipits and cisticolas who because of the dryness and the scarcity of food are all easily observed as they attempt to find food.
- Many of the 120 resident blue cranes have produced chicks and are busy raising them.

### FEBRUARY

#### **Reserve**

- Summer dryness causes much of the game to concentrate on the grassy plains where food is most easily obtained making game viewing excellent.
- Birding still at its optimum as birds collect around larger dams. Excellent time for walking amongst the reeds and watching many of the smaller birds.

#### **Farm**

- The dry wheat fields are host to a wide variety of larks, pipits and cisticolas who because of the dryness and the scarcity of resources are all easily observed as they attempt to find food.
- Many of the 120 resident blue cranes have produced chicks and are busy raising them.

### MARCH

#### **Reserve**

- Geometric tortoises hatchlings are born and begin to appear, being the size of a watch face their patterns are at their most spectacular when they are young. As geometric tortoises are generally considered small tortoises to locate one of their tiny young is a real find.
- The Candelabra lily makes an appearance in the Reserve as it only flowers for a short period

#### **Farm**

- The annual burning of the wheatfields takes place, this is an important time for many of the raptors who can be watched at close range dropping into the flames to catch small rodents and insects fleeing the fires.
- The 3000 Merino ewes who were covered by the stud rams in November and December the previous year are scanned to determine pregnancy percentages. This is very interesting to watch, as the method used for screening pregnant ewes is very similar to that used for humans.

## APRIL

### **Reserve**

- Most of the spring breeding animals start rutting, displays of males aggression as they engage one another for territories and breeding females.

### **Farm**

- Ploughing for the forthcoming season starts, 650 horsepower tractors open up the earth and guests get a chance to ride in the biggest tractors used in modern farming. The smell of freshly tilled earth is quite sensational.
- The application of fertilisers such as lime and nitrogen begins and guests can gain a first hand understanding of how large scale modern farming practises are undertaken.
- Lamming season begins, because of the highly synchronised lamming schedule guests are able to watch young being born. All those ewes carrying twins all lamb in the pastures surrounding the guest house.

## MAY

### **Reserve**

- Game begins to congregate in anticipation of winter rains

### **Farm**

- Planting of the annual wheat crop begins, guests can watch the sophisticated planting machinery in operation and the precision with which 3000 tons of grain is planted day and night.
- Lambing season begins, because of the highly synchronised lamming schedule guests are able to watch young being born.
- The rootstocks are harvested and taken to Stellenbosch for grafting

## JULY

### **Reserve**

- The diversity of spring flowers is increasing every day, with over 550 species of flowering plants the reserve is ablaze with colour.
- Walking in the mountains of the reserve is at its best as the cool yet clear days allow one to venture high in to the mountains.

### **Farm**

- Crop spraying and sheep shearing

## AUGUST

### **Reserve**

- Spring flowers at their peak, many flowers seen here are unique and can be seen nowhere else, the almost extinct floating Oxalis daisy flowers as well as the rare Tulbagh Moreae begin flowering as well as many species limited to our reserve.
- Bontebok start to drop their calves

### **Farm**

- The green wheat fields are spectacular to walk or mountain bike through, stopping to picnic and a hill or next to a dam.

- Shepherds start to work through the sheep herds checking the health and condition of each and every animal, this is when the sheep dogs are at their most active and agile, working with flocks of over 500 at a time

## SEPTEMBER

### **Reserve**

- Spring flowers
- Massive game population boom as eland, springbok, red hartebeest, gemsbok, grey rhebok all start to drop calves.
- Geometric tortoises begin feeding frenzy in the warmth and while food is available.

### **Farm**

- Wheat starts to turn golden green, and are magnificent for photographers looking for crisp, clear colours, settings and back drops.
- Second shearing for the year begins.

## OCTOBER

### **Reserve**

- Steppe Buzzards, lesser Kestrels, yellow billed Kites all return on mass for the summer.
- Blue Cranes collect in groups of close to a 100 as they begin their complex mating dance and paring off ritual for the forthcoming breeding season.

### **Farm**

- Wheat begins to ripen and thousands of hectares of green wheat becomes golden yellow, ideal for photographers.
- Combine harvesters begin to harvest the wheat, guests get an opportunity to ride on a harvester and see the complex process first hand

## NOVEMBER

### **Reserve**

- Black Wildebeest begin to calve
- Nursery herds begin to break up and new territories are established.
- Rare Dagger Leafed Protea begins to flower.

### **Farm**

- Harvesting continues

## DECEMBER

### **Reserve**

- Black wildebeest calve
- Geometric tortoises are most active as females begin laying eggs
- Rare Dagger Leafed Protea begins to flower

### **Farm**

- Sheep are dipped and treated against all parasites; dogs are at their busiest working sheep.