

South Africa's magnificent seven

南アフリカ・東ケープ州 荒地からよみがえった大自然

Story and photos by Stephen Cunliffe



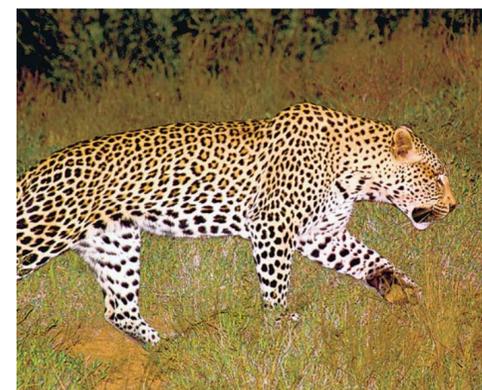
クワンデ野生動物保護区のシロサイの群れ。主に地面の草をはむので口が平たく幅広い。一方、木の芽や枝などを食べるクロサイの口はややとがっている



車で出かける動物観察。ボンネット前部に座っているのは動物探し担当のシザさん



アッドエレファント国立公園には600頭以上のゾウがすむ



ヒョウは夜行性なので、日が暮れてからの方が出会う可能性が高い



ネジツノカモシカの雄は、らせん状の立派な角を持つ

偶数月第4週掲載

元農地に7000頭を移入して保護区に

South Africa's Eastern Cape region, which is a malaria-free zone that critics once labeled a "soft safari option," has now happily evolved into a genuine safari destination. Home to a wide variety of wildlife in beautiful natural surroundings, the area boasts top quality wildlife-viewing — without the crowds.

With the traditional Big Five (lion, leopard, elephant, rhino and buffalo) and the province's marine-protected areas additionally frequented by the great white shark and the southern right whale, the Eastern Cape can rightfully claim to be home to the Magnificent Seven.

Upon arrival at Kwandwe Private Game Reserve, my party and I met our guide, Doctor "Doc" Ndyawe, and our spotter, Sizakhele "Siza" Ngcane. Doc and Siza boast over 20 years of Kwandwe experience between them, and they've seen the reserve's transformation from degraded farmland back to pristine wilderness.

After languishing for decades as a barely-profitable goat- and ostrich-farming region, nine farms found along the Great Fish River were returned to their former natural glory. Surviving wildlife populations were then increased through an extensive rein-

roduction program, which saw 7,000 animals returned to the 22,000-hectare sanctuary. Driving across the thriving natural landscape on the way to our lodge, I was left with no doubt that this ambitious project has been a huge success.

Kwandwe is widely regarded as the premier safari option in the Eastern Cape, so excitement levels were high as we arrived at the reserve's flagship safari lodge.

「5大動物」以外にもさまざまな種類が

Before getting down to wildlife watching, I had an opportunity to visit the Mgcamabele Community Centre. The non-profit Angus Gillis Foundation, which is Kwandwe's social development partner, established the center and has also helped to uplift impoverished communities located within and alongside the game reserve. Clearly, the organization realizes the importance of having local community support for its conservation dream. When I mentioned to Kwandwe General Manager Graeme Mann that I was impressed by the center's community-conscious approach to conservation, he responded, "You're absolutely right. At Kwandwe, community development is not a window dressing for tourists; it's the driving force behind what we're doing here."

With the 5 p.m. evening game drive, we began a three-day

wildlife extravaganza, where we enjoyed high-quality sightings of a wide variety of wild animals. With only eight vehicles and 44 guests staying in four lodges when the reserve is at full capacity, Kwandwe is one of the lowest-density private game reserves in South Africa. Consequently, we were treated to a near-private wildlife experience.

While our guiding duo was dedicated to the task of tracking down the Big Five, it was the high-quality rhino viewing that captivated our attention most. Despite the rhino poaching pandemic ravaging South Africa's protected areas, Kwandwe is a well-protected rhino haven. We were spoilt with one rhino encounter after another — many with young calves in tow — as well as a big belligerent black rhino bull that took an instant interest in our open-top game-viewer. We also witnessed numerous additional sights, including lions finishing off a black wildebeest kill, a trio of ever-alert cheetah, a large male leopard, a rare brown hyena, a pair of bat-eared foxes with pups, an elephant family crossing a river, and a huge herd of buffalo slaking their thirst at a water hole. Considering that the full spectrum of general game is also found here, it is easy to understand why the local wildlife viewing makes the area one of Africa's top safari destinations.

自炊式のお手頃な宿泊施設も

There is an Eastern Cape safari option to match every budget. Self-catering Addo Elephant National Park, which features an array of wildlife viewing, offers visitors excellent value for their money. Originally established in 1931 to protect the last surviving elephants and buffaloes in the Eastern Cape, the 180,000-hectare park has evolved into one of South Africa's top affordable safari destinations.

Addo is renowned for having some of the best elephant viewing in all of Africa. Whether you opt for self-drive or guided game drives, hiking, horseback safaris or whale watching, the park truly has something for everyone.

Eastern Cape province, South Africa

夏季の9月~翌3月には雨が多く、冬季は乾燥している。年間を通じて陸上の動物を観察できるほか、東ケープ州に面した南インド洋ではセミクジラやホオジロザメを観察するクルーズも人気。ヨハネスブルクから州の中心都市ポートエリザベスまでは、飛行機で約1時間40分。クワンデ野生動物保護区は宿泊施設が充実している。アッドエレファント国立公園には自炊式のキャンプもある。



THE WILD LIFE

KEYWORDS

magnificent 素晴らしい
malaria-free マラリアの無い
soft option (ここでは)最高ではない選択肢
safari (ここでは)動物観察旅行
genuine 真正銘の

boast 誇る(後出は有する)
leopard ヒョウ
rhino (= rhinoceros) サイ
(be) frequented by ~ ~が常に集まる
great white shark ホオジロザメ
southern ... whale セミクジラ
game reserve 動物保護区域(後

出 sanctuary もここでは同意。
game は猟獣類
spotter (動物の)見つけ役の人
degraded 荒れた
pristine 原初の、本来の
languish 衰退する
extensive 大規模な
reintroduction (ここでは)かつ

game drive 車で動物観察
wildlife extravaganza 多数の野生動物に出合うツアーのこと
low-density (ここでは)人が少ない
consequently それゆえに
(be) dedicated 専念する
track down 追跡する

captivate someone's attention ~の心を奪う
poaching pandemic 密猟の横行
ravage 荒らす
haven 聖域
(be) spoilt with ~ ~に恵まれる
calf (pl. calves) 幼獣

~ in tow ~が後に続いて
belligerent 好戦的な
bull (巨獣の)雄
finish off たいらげる
black wildebeest オジロヌー
kill 獲物
ever-alert 常に警戒している
brown hyena カッシュコクハイ

エナ
bat-eared fox オオミギツネ
pup (キツネの)子
herd 群れ
slake one's thirst 喉の渇きを癒やす
water hole 水場
full spectrum of ~ (ここでは)

ありとあらゆる~
self-catering 自炊式の
an array of ~ 数々の~
value for money 実際の費用より値打ちがあるもの
opt for ~ ~を選ぶ
horseback 馬に乗っての
[本文 - 665 words]

Photojournalist Stephen Cunliffe's love of adventure and wildlife has taken him to over 75 countries around the world, and his stories and photographs have been published widely. He lives with his wife and two sons in the world-renowned Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, where the wilds of Africa are a stone's throw from his doorstep. Website: www.stevecunliffe.com



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