

## **ITHALA GAME RESERVE**

### **Plains Game hunts:**

1. These hunts are not for re-sale.
2. Maximum of **Four** hunters and **Four** non-hunters per package.
3. Only 2 consecutive hunts will be carried out at a time.
4. All hunts are over 5 days – leave on morning of the sixth day.
5. A 50% non-refundable deposit based of the total bid price must be paid over to Ezemvelo within 72 hours of the auction.
6. Hunters may hunt Nyala in addition to their normal hunting package during these hunts if they have the correct ammunition and firearms. The full price for these additional animals must be paid for in full before the group leaves the reserve.
7. Animals not hunted within the specified dates will be forfeited.
8. The balance due for the hunts must be paid at least 30 days before the hunt takes place.
9. **All bids will be inclusive of self-catering accommodation and guiding fees.**
10. These hunts are available to local amateur hunters **only** (South African citizens) who are paid up members of an amateur hunting association and have been **proficiency graded**, (not “bona fide” hunting status) both in theory and practical aspects.
11. **Only hunters who meet these requirements will be allowed to bid for these packages. Proof of this grading will be required as part of the Auction Registration requirements. All other hunters that will form part of each hunt group will be required to provide this information at least 30 days before the hunt. Failure to provide this information will result in the members being denied hunting rights.**
12. Provincial licence fees are applicable for all hunts.
13. These are non-trophy hunts and therefore, defined as an animal not generally hunted for its trophy and includes young or adult males and females of the species.
14. No Quad Bikes, Recreational Vehicles or SUV’s will be allowed in the hunting area.
15. Hunters must provide their own vehicles during the hunt. Only 4 X 4 LDV’s will be allowed in the hunting area.
16. All hunters must report to the Section Ranger prior to arrival before proceeding to the hunting camp.

17. Due to load shedding a generator fee of **R 200 per hour** will be levied on the hunting group to keep the cold room facilities operational during power cuts. This fee must be settled before the group leaves the reserve.
18. All carcasses derived from the hunt must be removed from the reserve on departure of the group. No carcasses are allowed to be left behind for later collection.
19. The **SPECIFIC CONTENT OF THE HUNT PACKAGE DESCRIPTION IS NON-NEGOTIABLE**. This includes the species and gender of the animals, the allocated dates of the hunt and the maximum number of hunters permitted per package.
20. Only South African citizens may hunt these packages and proof of identification must be presented, by the hunter/s prior to the commencement of such hunt.
21. The **CONSUMPTION OF ANY ALCOHOL PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF, OR DURING, ANY HUNT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED**. Hunters or other members of the hunting party are also not permitted to carry any alcohol with them during any hunt. No hunting will take place if any hunter is under the influence of alcohol, or considered by the officiating reserve representative to be under the influence of alcohol or if any alcohol is conveyed on the vehicle during a hunt.
22. **ALL FIREARM SAFETY PROCEDURES MUST BE ADHERED TO ALL TIMES**; No loaded or cocked firearms may be left unattended at any camp; no cocked firearms may be transported on any vehicle and hunters must ensure that an adequate backstop is present behind any intended target before firing.
23. The role of the guide mentioned above is entirely regulatory and as **SUCH GUIDE MAY NOT BE USED AS A GUN-BEARER, PERSONAL SERVANT**, etc.
24. It is the **SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HUNTER** to ascertain the species and gender of the animal before such animal is hunted. The reserve representative / guide cannot be held responsible for any mistake involving any animal of the incorrect species or gender, which is killed or wounded by any hunter.
25. A fine, equal to **200%** of the price indicated for that particular species for that particular year, will be imposed in any and all instances where an animal of the incorrect species or gender is hunted. The same applies to any and all instances where animals, exceeding the number of animals allocated on the hunt package purchased by the hunter, are hunted. **IN ALL SUCH INSTANCES, THE CARCASSES OF THE ANIMAL/S, IN ITS ENTIRETY INCLUDING THE SKIN, CAPE, HEAD, HORNS AND ANY OTHER PART OF THE ANIMAL, WILL ALSO BE FORFEITED AND NEITHER THE HUNTER NOR THE PROFESSIONAL HUNTER/OUTFITTER MAY MAKE ANY CLAIM TO ANY TROPHY PARTS WHATSOEVER OF ANY ANIMAL HUNTED UNDER THE AFOREMENTIONED CIRCUMSTANCES.**

26. **ANY ANIMAL WOUNDED BY ANY HUNTER IS DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN HUNTED.** Every effort must be made to recover such wounded animal/s. Such wounded animal/s, if not recovered by the hunter, will be forfeited by the hunter, when the hunter leaves the Game Reserve.
27. Game Reserve officials may kill any animal wounded by any hunter in the Game Reserve.
28. Game Reserve personnel WILL **NOT** ASSIST THE HUNTER WITH THE SKINNING, dressing and cleaning of the carcasses of hunted game. **RESERVE PERSONNEL ARE NOT PERMITTED, IN ANY MANNER OR AT ANY TIME, TO ASSIST WITH THE CAPING OR SPECIFIC SKINNING OF ANY TROPHY ANIMAL OR THE PROCESSING OF ANY MEAT.**
29. Hunters are responsible for the provision of their **OWN TRANSPORT** while hunting in the Reserve. Such transport must be suitable for travelling on gravel roads and unmade tracks as well as for the conveyance of hunted carcasses.
30. The hunter is **RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF ALL HUNTED CARCASSES.** Reserve personnel may assist, at the discretion of the Reserve Manager or officiating official, with the conveyance, to the reserve's abattoir, of larger carcasses. However, the hunter remains responsible for the condition of the carcass, the recovery thereof and the skin/trophy of such carcass.
31. In instances where specific hunt duration dates are allocated to specific hunt packages, the hunt may only take place during those specified dates and no deviation from this will be permitted, Furthermore, no application, by the hunter, owner of the package or any other person or party, for any deviation from the set hunting dates will be considered in any manner whatsoever by Ezemvelo. **IF SUCH HUNT IS NOT COMPLETED DURING THE ALLOTTED TIME, THE HUNT WILL BE FORFEITED IN ITS ENTIRETY.**
32. Hunters are expected to contact the specific reserve management at least **14 DAYS PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT DATE OF THE HUNT.**
33. Only two hunts will be permitted at any one time, unless so indicated by the Reserve Manager.
34. The **USE OF SILENCERS / SUPPRESSORS** is recommended on all firearms but is not mandatory.
35. **HUNTERS MUST ABIDE BY ALL OF THE AFOREMENTIONED RULES AND WITH ALL OTHER RULES AND REGULATIONS SPECIFIC TO THE NATURE RESERVE ON WHICH THE HUNT TAKES PLACE AS WELL AS OBEYING ANY AND ALL REASONABLE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO THE HUNTER BY THE RESERVE MANAGER;**

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE MAY RESULT IN THE FORFEITURE OF THE HUNT IN ITS ENTIRETY AND PROSECUTION OF THE OFFENDER/S.**

## **IMPORTANT NOTES**

### **Licence Fees**

Provincial Game Licence fees are not included in the packages. These are to be paid for each animal prior to hunting and are obtained at any Receiver of Revenue Office in KwaZulu-Natal. Selected sports shops and hunting associations in KwaZulu-Natal also sell these licences.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Licence Fee</b>
Blue wildebeest	R12.00
Impala	R8.00
Kudu	R18.00
Nyala	R18.00
Zebra	R12.00
Buffalo	TBA

### **ADDITIONAL ANIMALS AVAILABLE:**

Nyala Adult Males (Trophy) -	R 6 000.00
Nyala Adult Males -	R 5 500,00
Nyala Adult Female -	R 4 850.00

These animals may not necessarily be in the hunting area, however if hunters come across them during the hunt, they may hunt these animals on condition the full amount as per above is paid for before leaving the reserve.



## **EZEMVELO KWAZULU-NATAL WILDLIFE**

### **CONDITIONS OF ENTRY AND CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ALL CONTROLLED HUNTING AREAS**

#### **LOCAL HUNTERS**

##### **On arrival:**

On arrival the Hunting Party Leader will:

1. Report to the Section Ranger based at Kwasambane Section – iThala Game Reserve. (Contact Ranger before arrival to confirm directions and estimated time of arrival.)
2. Once booked in, proceed to the Mhlangeni Bush Camp
3. Report to the Reserve Manager/Section Ranger on the first day of the hunt, who will then arrange for the party to be accompanied by a Guide.

##### **Please note :**

**No dogs are allowed in the Controlled Hunting Area or in the Reserve.  
Entrance fees to the park is applicable.**

##### **Shooting test:**

After reporting to the Reserve Manager/Section Ranger, hunters will be taken to the rifle range where:

1. They will be offered the opportunity to test and zero their rifles at 25, 50 or 100 metres.
2. They will then be required to place 3 out of 4 shots in a 150 mm square target from 100 metres, using a bench rest.
3. Hunters failing this test will NOT be allowed to hunt in the Controlled Hunting Area

**IMPORTANT : PLEASE NOTE THAT  
HUNTERS FAILING THIS TEST WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO  
HUNT IN THE CONTROLLED HUNTING AREA.**

### **Administration:**

On successful completion of the shooting test, hunters will be required to:

1. Sign a copy of these “Conditions of Entry and Code of Conduct” signifying that they will abide by them.
2. Sign a KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Board Indemnity form.
3. Produce all hunting permits, professional hunting licences and any other documentation as required by relevant legislation.

### **Controlled Hunting Area: Conditions Applicable to all Hunters:**

1.
  - (a) A Field Guide will be provided. The Field Guide will act as an observer and guide to the area and will have the authority to enforce the rules and regulations of the park. The Field Guides are not trackers, judges of trophy horns, or skinners. Although they may volunteer help during the hunt, it cannot be demanded.
  - (b) No other staff will be provided to the hunting party, and they are therefore responsible for their own skinning, general labour and all transport and catering requirements.
  - (c) **A maximum of two hunters are to hunt at any one time, and they must be in the presence of a Field Guide when hunting.**
2. When hunters enter the CHA, whether by vehicle or on foot, they **MUST** be accompanied by the Field Guide.
3. Hunting is only permitted in the areas demarcated on the map.
4. No hunting is permitted within 100 metres of a vehicle.
5.
  - (a) The word of the Field Guide, or physical evidence of blood, will be taken as proof that an animal has been shot. Should the animal not be recovered within the hunting party's allocated days, it will be classified as “wounded” and will be taken off the hunter's allocation and considered forfeited.
  - (b) In the event of a wounded animal leaving the Controlled Hunting Area, and entering the reserve, hunters will **NOT** be allowed to follow up the animal. The accompanying Field Guide will immediately notify the Reserve Manager/Section Ranger who will arrange for reserve staff to follow up and locate the animal. The animal may then be destroyed if the wound is considered life threatening. Only if the animal is destroyed, will the trophy be made available to the hunter. If the wounded animal is not located within the hunting party's allocated days, it will be considered forfeited.
6. Hunters' vehicles will be confined to roads/tracks designated by KZN Nature Conservation Service staff. Vehicles will only be allowed off these designated roads/tracks to recover carcasses. The most direct route from the track to the carcass and back will be used and destruction of vegetation is to be avoided when driving off the tracks.
7. No hunting will be allowed from half-an-hour after sunset and half-an-hour before sunrise.
8. The Reserve Manager/Section Ranger may, if he is satisfied that any member of a hunting party has;
  - (a) contravened any of the provisions of the Nature Conservation Ordinance No 15 of 1974, or

- (b) breached any of the terms or conditions of this undertaking, or
- (c) contravened the local rules and regulations of the Reserve

order such person to immediately leave the reserve.

9. Any person ordered to leave the reserve shall not be entitled to take possession of any animal shot by him, nor shall he have any claim against the KZN Nature Conservation Board in respect of such animals.
10. A hunter, shooting an animal other than one on his allocation, is liable to:
  - (a) a surcharge for the animal amounting to twice the "live market value" of that particular species shot (the "live market value" of the species shot will be determined solely by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife),
  - (b) forfeiture of the carcass including all related by-products as well as trophy,
  - (c) be charged for contravening Nature Conservation Ordinance No 15 of 1974.
11. The hunt is to be completed during the period allocated.
12. No refunds will be made if the hunting package is not hunted in full.
13. No firewood is provided. Hunters must bring in their own firewood. The collection of firewood within the Protected Area is an offence.
14. No quad bikes or other recreational vehicles may be used in the hunting area or reserve. Only suitable 4 x 4 LDV's will be allowed in the hunting area.
15. No ice will be provided. Ice maybe purchased from the main camp depending on the availability of stocks.

**On departure:**

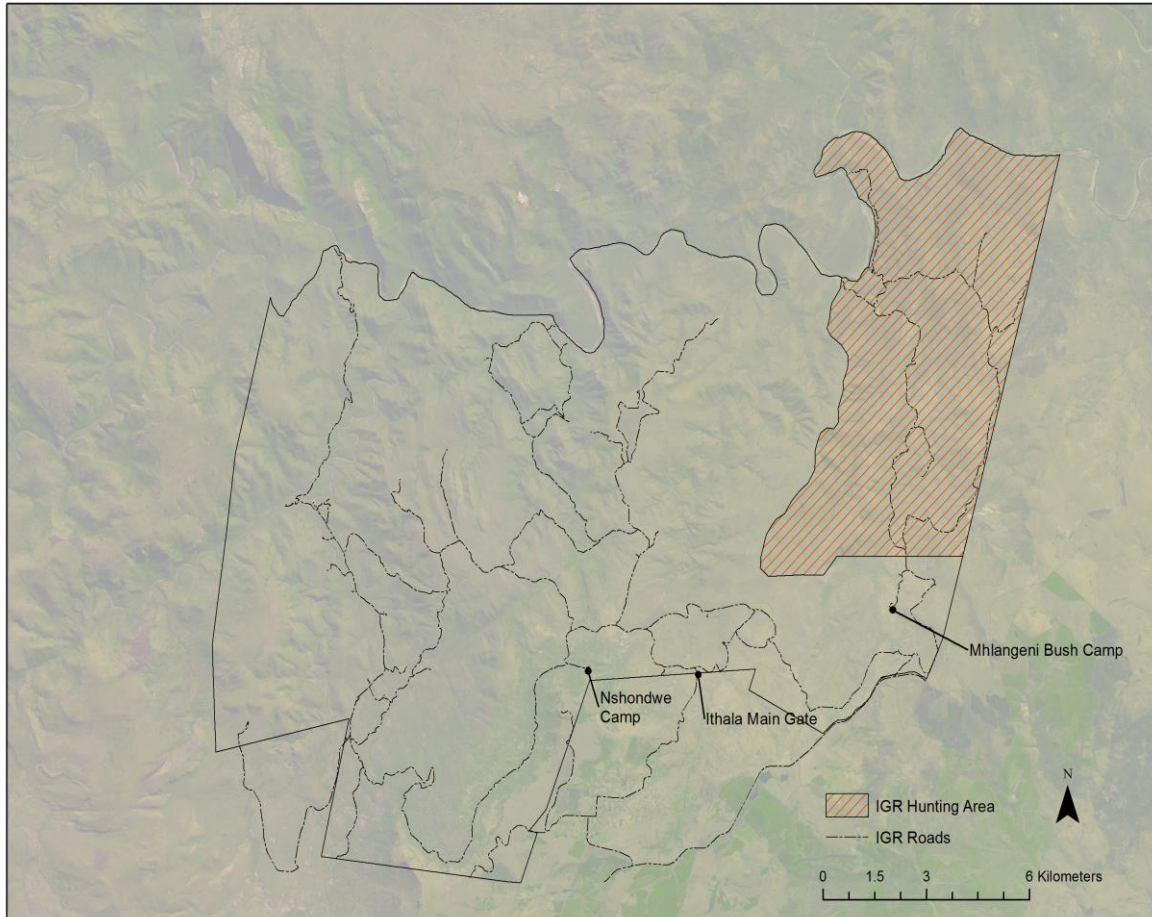
The Hunt Leader will:

1. Before leaving the reserve on the final day of the hunt, in the company of a Field Ranger from the Hunting area, report to the Reserve Manager on the way out of the reserve.
2. Ensure that a "Hunters Return" is completed in full and signed by the Hunt leader as proof that he/she agrees with the details and quantities of animals hunted and the period of the hunt/accommodation.

**NB: White Rhino, Black Rhino, Leopard, Buffalo, Hippo, Elephant, Giraffe, and venomous snakes amongst other dangerous game frequent the Controlled Hunting Areas.**

**At NO TIME will any shots be fired in the direction of these species (unless specified)**

## The Controlled Hunting Area, within iThala Game Reserve





## **ITHALA GAME RESERVE**



### **INTRODUCTION**

Diversity is the key to Ithala Game Reserve. Proclaimed a nature reserve in 1973, the reserve has grown steadily with the addition of purchased land in adjoining areas.

The reserve measures 29 653 ha in extent and is situated on the south bank of the Pongola River, about 70 km east of Vryheid. It is some 400 km north of Durban and 500 km from Johannesburg.

Apart from a wide selection of tourist facilities, Ithala Game Reserve offers a fascinating variety of terrain, habitats, mammals, birds and trees.

The reserve is also rich in history, having been continually occupied during major events of the 19th and 20th century, such as the reigns of Shaka and other Zulu kings, the arrival of the Voortrekkers in Natal, the Anglo-Zulu war of 1879, the Anglo-Boer wars (1880 - 1902) and the anti-nagana campaign of the 1920s.

Evidence of earlier occupation by middle stone age and iron age people can be seen.

The terrain is extremely rugged, rising from 400 m above sea level in the north to 1400 m above sea level in the south, near Louwsburg. Several rivers rise in or near the reserve, winding down steep river valleys to the Pongola River which forms the northern boundary.

The steep terrain made geological exploration easy and resulted in the establishment of two gold mines (now obsolete) in the early 1900s. The geological diversity which is a feature of the reserve has resulted in the production of a variety of soils and a rich diversity of vegetation.

In turn, each plant community hosts a wide selection of insects, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. We have compiled this booklet in order to enhance your visit and experience to Ithala.

It is by no means comprehensive but should provide sufficient information to whet your appetite.

## **HISTORY**

Ithala Game Reserve has a rich history of human habitation as evidenced by archaeological sites which date from as far back as the middle stone age. The reserve provided iron ore and wild olive wood which was used in local iron smelting operations. San hunter-gatherers, sometimes known as Bushmen, also used the area, leaving their precious rock art in a shelter in the eastern part of the reserve.

The Zulu wars and the reign of Shaka saw many people seeking refuge in the caves found along the cliff faces of Ithala. Traces of this early refugee occupation in some of these caves can still be found. Prior to the area becoming a game reserve, Ithala had been under the ownership of farmers since 1884.

In that year the Zulu king, Dinizulu, in recognition of the fighting services of 115 volunteers, granted 800 boers more than 1.1 million ha of land in northern KwaZulu-Natal. This area became known as the Nieuwe Republiek. Prior to the arrival of the settlers, game was abundant.

Intense hunting by the settlers, coupled with the rinderpest epidemic of 1896, severely depleted the game populations in the area. Under white ownership, most of the land in the Ithala area continued to be occupied by Zulus as labour or tenant farms with only five dwellings being built by whites.

These white occupied farms were Doornkraal, Doornpan, Potwe Halt, Langverwacht and Craig Adam. Gold was discovered in the area in the early 1900s and was mined at the Wonder and Ngotshe mines, both of which are now totally abandoned.

By the time the then Natal Parks Board, now known as Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, took control of Ithala in 1973, soil erosion and overgrazing by livestock were widespread. Very little game existed, with 25 mammal species being extinct locally. An extensive programme of land reclamation was initiated with signs of former habitation being removed where possible. The original 8 000 ha reserve has been enlarged to nearly 30 000 ha.

Traces of old fields and homesteads still remain in some parts of the reserve. Since 1973 some 20 mammal species have been re-introduced into the reserve. These include buffalo, white rhino, black rhino, kudu, tsessebe, red hartebeest, eland, giraffe, and brown hyaena. A small herd of young elephants was introduced to the reserve in 1990 and have become a well established breeding herd.

## ANIMALS YOU MAY ENCOUNTER AT ITHALA

There are 80 species of mammals in the Ithala Game Reserve. The following animals are most likely to be seen in the reserve:

- White rhino                      Giraffe                      Blue wildebeest
- Eland                              Kudu                          Tsessebe
- Red hartebeest                  Warthog                      Zebra
- Impala                            Common reedbuck          Vervet monkey
- Dassie                            Mountain Reedbuck        Common duiker
- Baboon

The following are animals less likely to be seen but should be considered a bonus if you do see them:

- Nyala                              Buffalo                      Waterbuck
- Black-backed jackal              Klipspringer                Black Rhino
- Elephant                          Bushbuck                      Steenbok
- Clawless Otter                    Honey badger                Spotted hyena
- Brown hyena                      Caracal                      Leopard
- Oribi                                Red duiker                    Serval

Please remember that you might not see every species in the reserve. The success of your game viewing often depends on your patience and ability to spot the animals. Try to look into or through the bush instead of looking at it, as animals are frequently to be seen in the shelter of a patch of scrub.

**GETTING THERE:**

