

An impala ram. Impala are prolific across southern Africa and shooting them is a matter of management above anything else.



AN AFRICAN ADVENTURE

There's no need to be a trophy hunter to enjoy sport in South Africa, as **James Field** discovers.

I recently returned from my first taste of African hunting, having bid for and won an auction lot in a Save the Rhino charity event. I am not a trophy hunter. I follow my passion for hunting only where it is beneficial to the environment, or where the numbers and quality of the animals benefit by human intervention and culling according to a plan. My main experience is managing the roe and muntjac on

several estates in the Chiltern Hills, Buckinghamshire. I also visit the West Country regularly to take part in the commercial stalking of fallow and roe deer, and make the annual visit to Scotland for the red stags, as well as the hinds last year.

So with a considerable amount of excitement, I read all I could about South Africa and also about the fundamental requirements on the outfitter's website. Settlers Safaris has a

representative in the UK, and I duly arranged to meet Adrian Sailor at the CLA Game Fair at Blenheim Palace, where the last queries I had were reassuringly answered in some detail. I had already booked the flights to Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape, via Johannesburg, and it was here that I began to discover that care and research has to be taken to avoid pitfalls when travelling with firearms and ammunition.