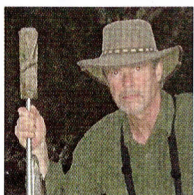




African *debut*



James Field won an all-inclusive safari in last year's Save the Rhino auction, and here he tells the tale of what happened when he headed over to South Africa for the first time

Last year I bid for three lots in the *Sporting Rifle* 'Save the Rhino' auction, and won two of them. The bigger of the two lots was for a safari in South Africa with Settlers Safaris, an outfitter based near Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape and run by Murray Crous and his team.

I manage the deer on three estates in Buckinghamshire, stalk red deer at least once a year in Scotland, and fallow, sika and roe deer in Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset, but I have never visited South Africa. So, I took heed of advice from Settlers Safaris' website and Adrian Sailor, their UK-based representative, who I met up with at the CLA Game Fair. His advice proved invaluable, as there are certain 'processes' for which one must be prepared if you want to take your own rifle and ammunition to Africa.

First, make sure that the airlines, including any connecting flights, accept firearms. As an example, my first choice was British Airways, which was fine, but the connecting flight provider from Johannesburg to Port Elizabeth did not accept firearms, so after more research I flew Virgin Atlantic from Heathrow to Jo'burg and connected there to a



Indestructible transport: PH Craig's Hilux needs to be able to cope with the rough tracks in the wilderness