

My First Rhino Trek - Alistair Neale

I had not quite realised what I had let myself in for as we headed off in the back of the safari truck heading out to look for a rhino, after an exciting trip we met up with our guides and Norman explained the rules. It was a windy day the visibility was poor due to dense thicket and the quietness of the bush was interspersed with large claps of thunder. We crept forward, after some time our anticipation grew, there was an unnerving feeling that there was a rhino around - (verified by fresh dung).

We went on, Norman had the quickest glimpse of her, yes a live frisky mum was in the area. We wait, checking for climbable trees (there were none) and Norman went off to investigate. We were in total suspense and fear, suddenly a crashing noise only yards ahead and some grunts and snorts, she could come straight out of the thicket head to head with me! What to do? well no sooner had that thought occurred to me than I felt a hand on my shoulder and it was no other than Paul hiding behind me and John was also seen crouching behind Annie!

I had never thought of myself as a human shield before, but such a role was not needed, said rhino headed off for cover but where was Norman? After some minutes of serious concern a blood stained man appeared, shirt ripped, he had come face to face with her and had to hit the deck as fast as possible. In doing so had cut himself quite badly on a thorn bush but at least not had a head to head with the rhino. This was one of the most exciting experiences of my life. so far.



Detecting the Rhino's location



Tracking the Rhino on foot



The photo



Norman returns