



# THE INSIDER™

Roy Huntington

## GO ON, DO IT

**I** know you want to go. I know you've dreamed about it. I know you have secretly pondered what rifle you'd want to use, what bullets you'd select, what game you'd take. I know it because I've done it. Countless times. Hundreds of times. But then I did something a bit unusual.

I actually did it. Twice.

I went on a safari. In Africa, of course.

My soon-to-be-retired-from-the-police-department wife, Ms. Suzi, and I have just returned from a plains game safari in Namibia. This was a "well, you made it through 25 years of cop-dom without any permanent scars and you still have your sanity, mostly" gift. I had the good fortune to go to Zimbabwe a couple of years ago and what they say is true: Once you go, you will be back. Only this time Suzi went along too. I had to share.

Having someone on their first safari is like going to Disneyland with someone who has never been there before. It's simply great fun to re-live the experience through their eyes. And trust me when I say it — Suzi's eyes were big! We certainly weren't in Kansas, and these were certainly not whitetail deer.

But this really isn't about our trip — it's about yours. With a guided whitetail hunt in Texas running upwards of \$5,000 at times, and an elk hunt on a top notch ranch nudging \$10 grand, why have one trophy and a story millions of others can tell, when you can do something different— really different? For virtually the same money, you can go to Africa, that "deepest-darkest" place of strange animals, strange people and landscapes that capture your soul. There, you can take a half-dozen or more stunning trophies — and come home and say things like, "When I was in Africa last year I took a 56" Kudu" — as you gaze at your neighbor's four-point whitetail mount.

Ha! Let him squirm.

If you have a deer rifle (.308, .30-'06, .300 Win. Mag and the like), a decent pair of binoculars, a good hat, a folding knife and about three sets of sage and khaki clothes, you're ready for an African plains game hunt.



You book through a travel agency who has experience in African hunts (I used Gracy Travel in Texas, [www.gracytravel.com](http://www.gracytravel.com)) and went to Gras Hunting Ranch in Namibia (booked through Errol at [www.Zingelasafaris.com](http://www.Zingelasafaris.com) — make sure you tell them Suzi sent you!) and it went smooth as silk. It's nice to know of someone who is reliable and delivers the goods, and

these people did at every level.

Gras is a 100 year old working ranch that's about 28 kilometers from side to side, and the plains game like Kudu, Gemsbok, Wildebeast, Impala and more were plentiful and stunningly beautiful. Our hosts there, Professional Hunter Jannie Spangenberg and his wife Anri, know just what to do, and became instant family.

I tell you all this because it's that easy. Two phone calls, one to Doug at Gracy Travel and one to Errol at Zingelasafaris and the game is afoot. Soon you'll find yourself at Gras Ranch with a smiling Jannie and Anri ready to take you hunting. You'll pinch yourself and you won't believe you're in Africa, but you will be, and it's better than you know. It changes a person forever. The continent feels alive under your feet, and the people, the land and the hospitality will take you in its arms and never allow you to leave. You may return to the states, but a large part of your heart will remain in Africa — in safe hands.

If you start saving today, this very minute, one or two hundred dollars a month, sell off a few of those guns you don't need, have a garage sale and get motivated, you'll be in Africa in two short years. Or sooner. Preferably sooner. This is one time when a VISA card isn't a bad thing.

If you have questions, e-mail me at [ed@americanhandgunner.com](mailto:ed@americanhandgunner.com) and I promise I'll respond personally to any questions you have about your own dream. I had a hundred questions before my first safari and my friends helped me. I'd like to help you. As hunters and shooters, I think we have an obligation to help each other and lord knows readers and friends in the industry have helped me over the years. These feelings run deep in our hearts — and we understand one another.

I know you want to go. You can do it. Really.

