

**OLIFANTS RIVER and OLIFANTS NORTH
PRIVATE GAME RESERVES**

Game Viewing Protocol

Members are ultimately responsible for the compliance with the regulations by themselves and their guests and should make certain that the appropriate procedures are in place at their units to ensure awareness of and compliance with the rules and regulations of our reserves. In applying this protocol, all members are urged to take reasonable control of the matters referred to, however uncomfortable it may be to decline requests to join sightings. The management and directors do not have the resources to police this protocol. We have a culture of calling in sightings but, should these controls not be properly exercised, members will stop doing so.

This is your reserve and you have an obligation to preserve its essence.

Accordingly, the purpose of this document is to:

- Encourage conduct that promotes the enjoyment and safety of all visitors to the reserve.
- Promote good and harmonious relations between all stakeholders on the reserve.
- Be read as ancillary and in conjunction with the Use Agreement and Rules and Regulations of the reserves

PROTOCOL

1. Maps of the reserves should be carried in the game drive vehicle. Maps are available from the offices and web sites of the reserves.
2. The behaviour of children must be monitored. In the event of a child causing a disturbance at a sighting, the vehicle should leave the sighting.
3. Do not stand up in the vehicle while it is moving or at a sighting. Try not to break the line of the vehicle at a sighting.
4. Do not hang onto the outside of the vehicle or ride on the tailgate.
5. Driveways to units are private.
6. Use of two spotlights on a single vehicle is permissible when searching for game, but only one spotlight should be used at a sighting. When multiple vehicles are at a sighting, use of more than one spotlight is at the discretion of the person in control of the sighting.
7. Do not shine spotlights at other vehicles, people or lodges. While at a sighting, the use of red filters is encouraged.
8. Do not shine the spotlight into the eyes of the animals. Rather, when viewing animals at night, shine the spotlight slightly away from, or above the animal/s and view the animal/s in the peripheral to reduce harsh light.
9. **Never shine spotlights into elephants' eyes** as this provokes the animal.
Neither predators nor their intended prey should be disturbed by vehicles or spotlights while predators are hunting or stalking.
10. **CELL PHONES TO BE OFF OR AT LEAST ON SILENT WHEN GAME VIEWING**

VIEWING.

1. The driver of the first vehicle at a sighting takes control of the sighting.
2. When approaching another vehicle, slow down and, after dark, turn off spot lights and switch headlights to park lights.
3. Permission to enter the sighting should be requested when approaching the sighting.
4. It is desirable that not more than four vehicles be at a sighting, unless less restrictive or open terrain suggests otherwise. While no rules are established to govern this behaviour, sensible management of numbers should be left at the discretion of the person in control of the sighting.
5. If the person controlling the sighting refuses an approach to a sighting, the requesting vehicle should stay out of sight until invited to join.
6. Vehicles should not be parked in, and a clear escape route must always be available to all vehicles.
7. Consider others by leaving the sighting after a reasonable time, allowing others the opportunity to approach.
8. When the controlling vehicle wishes to depart, the driver of another vehicle at the sighting should be requested to take over control.
9. Turn off the engine and lights at a sighting.
9. Maintain a sensible distance from animals. A distance of 30m to 50m generally does not influence their normal behaviour.
10. Noise should be kept to a minimum and conversation should be in whispers. Radio volume should be turned down and **cell phones OFF**.

Hints for Safer Viewing of Elephant

1. If the circumstances permit, always back into a sighting, so that you can drive away in your forward gears.
2. Never allow any of the passengers to stand up in the vehicle as they would be in danger should an emergency escape become necessary.
3. Only switch off your engine if you are reasonably sure your vehicle will start again easily, otherwise leave it running.
4. Avoid shining spotlights on elephant. Preferably, night viewing of elephant should be avoided.
5. If possible, get into a position where the prevailing wind blows from the elephant towards you.
6. Do not park another vehicle in - i.e. always ensure you have left an exit gap.
7. Under no circumstances leave your vehicle in the vicinity of elephant.
8. Maintain a discrete distance at all times.

Rules for game viewing

1. Not more than 10 vehicles from one share block scheme shall traverse on the game reserve of the other share block scheme on any one day.
2. Game drives are to be conducted in game viewing vehicles unless prior permission from reserve management has been obtained for an alternative.
3. The site number must be displayed on the rear and on the sides of vehicles including any vehicles temporarily being used for game drives.

4. The reserve speed limit is 30 km/hr.
5. Not more than 8 persons may occupy a vehicle
6. Road closure and no entry signs must be respected
7. Driving off road and in river beds (except at Pride Rock and Mike's Link along Palm Loop) is not permitted.
8. No person to sit on tracker seat while the vehicle is being driven.
9. Exiting your vehicle within 200m of any waterhole is not permitted nor is it permitted within sight of a waterhole unless there exists provision to do so such as to enter a hide or at lookout points. Note that this does not apply to the river.

Radios

1. The different radio channels are designated as follows:
 - a. **Channel 1: OLIFANTS NORTH MEMBERS**
 - b. **Channel 2: PRIVATE channel for OFFICE/MANAGEMENT USE ONLY (North)**
 - c. **Channel 9: Olifants River**
2. The office/management frequency Channel 2, is NOT to be used by members.
3. When contacting the office and/ or management, please respect office hours (not before 07h00 or after 16h00 on weekdays and 12h00 on weekends). Calls to staff outside of hours should only be made in case of an emergency.
4. Prior to going out on a game drive do a radio check (this will also ensure that you are not inadvertently on the wrong channel).
5. Radios should not be used for long or private conversations. Respect the right of others to privacy and use of the facility, and use cell phones for private business.
6. During emergencies, management may request that all radio channels be kept free.
7. When a member calls in a sighting, one thank you from other members is enough.
8. Keep 'last caller please repeat' to an absolute minimum.
9. Rhino sightings are not to be called in.
10. The use of radios by children must be strictly controlled.
11. Radios should not be used after 21h00 except in the case of emergency.
12. Please take care that you have selected the correct channel before communicating.

Emergency Procedures

1. In the event of an emergency, reserve management should be contacted on the radio, channel 1 North, channel 9 South.
2. Reserve staff will provide assistance in the event of an emergency.
3. Members are encouraged to obtain insurance cover for the evacuation in the event of an emergency. (All units on ORGR and ONGR have SATIB 24 cover for emergency evacuation for members and their guests up to an amount of R75 000.00)
4. **In the event of coming across suspicious persons or vehicles on the reserve, leave the area immediately and report the matter to the management.**