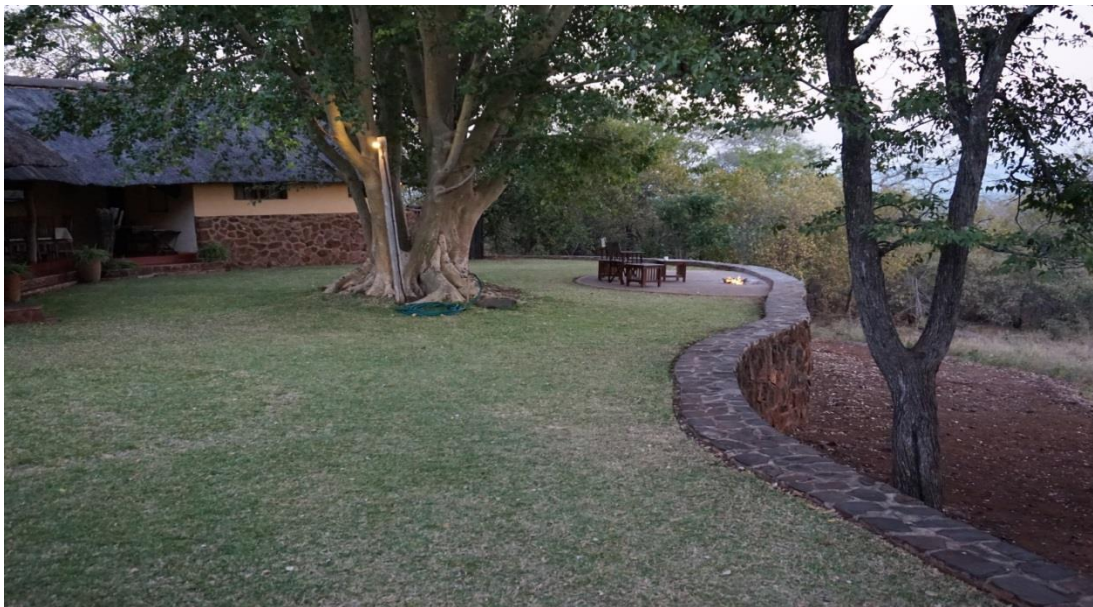


## Zimbabwe: May 21-30, 2015, John Sharp Safaris



Chamalaya Camp in the 800,000 acre Bube Valley Conservancy, southern Zimbabwe. Pictured is the main lodge with kitchen, dining (white table cloth, china, crystal, etc), bar and living room. Not pictured are 3 bungalows of similar construction with comfortable beds and full bathroom. Very nice, comfortable accommodations and I had the place to myself, with just the PH, trackers and the camp staff. The conservancy has 8 camps and roughly 100,000 acres per camp.



The patio and fire pit is where we drank sundowners in the evening and coffee in the morning, while listening to the sounds of Africa.





Most PH's (Professional Hunters) use Toyota Land Cruisers like the one pictured above. Rock solid vehicles with a reputation for reliability. All the PH's I've hunted with hate Land Rovers.



First animal on first day of hunt. Blue Wildebeest, shot from about 90 yards. One shot killed with a 300 Win Mag, dropped in its tracks. A good confidence booster and a very nice trophy. Blue Wildebeest were very abundant.





Animals are loaded whole into the truck and brought to the skinning shed, located a couple hundred yards from our lodge. The two diesel generators for the camp and the walk in refrigerated unit are located here. There were two skimmers and they took care of everything including gutting, skinning, salting the hides and boiling the skulls. They get a lot of practice, so they are very good at what they do.



View leaving Chamalaya Camp, located on high ground with a good view of the low veld of southern Zimbabwe. "Veld" means pasture.





Elephant up ahead, a very common sighting.



A lion lurking. I asked my PH, John Sharp, how do we know when we're stalking an animal that we aren't being stalked by a lion. John replied, that's the beauty of Africa, you don't. I was glad John carried a Rigby 470 NE double gun.



Cape buffalo herd. My first thought was, "so it is like hunting cattle." Wrong! Several more buffalo were in the woods, paralleling the road and winded us. They all turned tail and scattered and it was over before it started.



Lion on the move





Another lion. Yes, there were lots of lions.



Day 3, took a nice Impala. One shot kill with a 300 Win Mag, about 110 yards. No exit wound and it ran about 100 yards. A very nice trophy! Impala were very plentiful and the rams make a very distinctive and loud grunting sound for a relatively small animal.





From L to R: Lovemore, the anti-poaching game scout who carried an AR; Isaac, the head tracker; Gift, the driver; John, tracker.



Day 5, a very nice Waterbuck. Waterbucks have an oily hide and a distinctive white circle on the rear end. This was another one shot kill with the 300 Win Mag from about 70 yards.





Lunch time viewing of animals at the watering hole at Chamalaya Camp.



A young Kudu bull. Saw several Kudu during the 10 days in Zimbabwe, but didn't get one. Kudu are known as the "Grey Ghost" for a reason.





A shy elephant.



Trackers looking for fresh tracks and dung at one of the many watering holes. We would not ambush animals coming into water as that's not considered sporting in Africa. Instead, the standard tactic was to find fresh tracks of small groups and go after them.





Too bad we can't ambush, this looked like a perfect spot. The rock structures are called "Kopie."



Impala walking down the left side of the road.