

The continent of Africa is one of the most renowned hunting destinations in the world, and possibly the most drooled over. My mouth was certainly hanging open when I realized that hunting in Africa was going to be a reality for me. Dumb luck is often your best weapon in hunting, and it was dumb luck that allowed me to take this trip. Scott Jordan, a teacher at Cuba Rushford Central School has been taking students on hunting expeditions to New Zealand and Alaska for a number of years now, and this was the first time he would be taking one to South Africa. Due to strong luck, I claimed the last spot on the trip and was elated.

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Arrival in South Africa was followed by the beginning of our hunt the next day. Six students, including me, would be hunting, as well as Scott and one of his former students. Each student had the opportunity to shoot one large animal, as well as other nuisance animals. On the second day of my hunt, I was able to connect on a female warthog, opening up the safari with an exciting stalk that ended in a clean, one shot kill. Later that day, the other two kids I was hunting with each were able to harvest a female warthog as well. The third day of our hunt brought me another opportunity to shoot. I had spent the summer before this trip working in a café, and the extra pocket money I had earned gave me the chance to shoot a trophy ram impala. Due to an excellent stalk by my professional hunter, and myself, I made a chip shot at twenty-five yards on a mature ram. Two shots, two animals down. The next day I was on blue wildebeest as soon as we started hunting. A quick stalk brought us to within eighty yards of a mature bull. The ph set up the sticks, and gave the go ahead to take the bull through the chest. My shot took out one shoulder and both lungs, however it did not exit. After an excellent tracking job on a nearly bloodless trail, we found the bull. He had only gone about seventy-five yards, but it was a very difficult trail to follow. My safari was a success.

When the dust cleared and all the hunting was over, our party had harvested twenty-eight animals on thirty shots. Although this trip was by far the most amazing hunting experience of my life, it was much more than that. It included a humanitarian effort, immersion in another culture, and created lasting relationships with the people I shared this trip with.

Article by Mike Dzara