

Island View Lodge

Zambezi River Namibia

ISLAND VIEW LODGE NEWSLETTER – December-January 2012

A warm welcome to all our Island View friends. January is running out fast but rather late than never. We trust that 2012 will be full of prosperity and good fortune. We do hope that everyone has enjoyed their holiday with their loved ones and families. The 2nd month is on it's way and before we wipe out our eyes once again it is December again. Although December was not as good fishing month as the previous years we still had a festive time. Once again thanks to all our old and new friends for their valued support in 2011. We appreciate it and would like to assure you that we will continue to ensure that your visits with us are enjoyable, relaxed and the "Ultimate Zambezi Experience".

The water in the Zambezi started to rise in early December. It started climbing so fast I thought we were in for another big year of floods. Then all of a sudden it stabilized and at the moment it is only rising by about 3cm per day. Compared to 2011 the same time we are about 1,6m lower. We just hope and pray that it will continue like this and no big surprise waits for us in the months to come. But this is still early in the rain season and there's still about 2,5 months to see what will happen.



This is where the water is now
In comparison with last year look at this



End of January 2011

This is quiet a difference and we hope it stays like that.

Fishing

December was without rain and so the clients could not complain about the weather, but fishing wise this I truly can't say. We had some good fish come out every now and then, but not anything to write home about. Quiet a few tigers we caught between 2kg and 4,5kg, but the 5,6 and 7kg's did not come out as we suspected.



Niel with his tiger caught in December 6,4kg

We cleared the board as usual on the 31st December and the biggest at the moment is a 6,7kg. This is not so big, so the challenge is on - come and see if you can beat this in 2012 and get your name on the board.

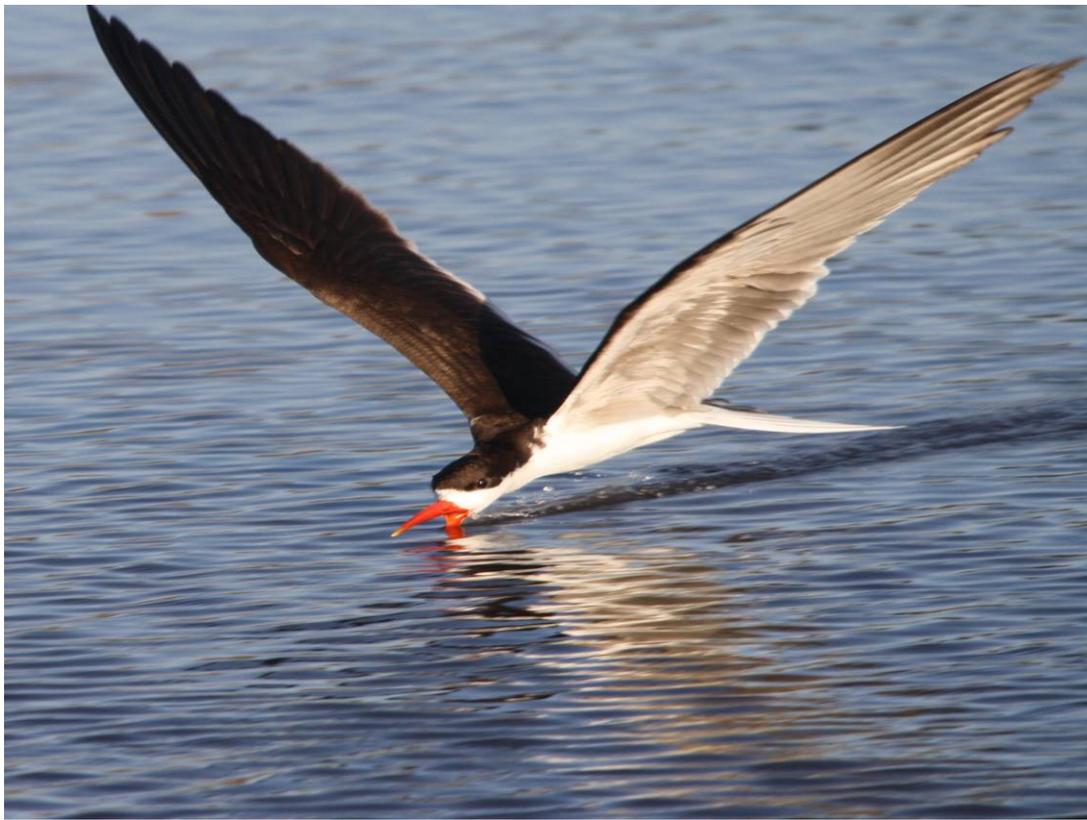
From late January the tigers were on the bite again, mainly in the channels and not in the main stream. Ronnie Renshaw, one of our old customers, was up here late January and had a ball of a time. He caught between 6 and 10 tigers a day, the biggest being 6,3kg. The few days he was up here he caught 35 tigers with an average of 3,5kg per tiger. Well done Ronnie!!



We hope our season will be back to normal again. The last two or three years the weather pattern all over the world has been turned upside down, and I think this had an influence on the fishing as well. At this stage predictions shows that there is no major indication of high floods and if every thing goes accordingly the tiger frenzies should start toward mid April. This will be an excellent time to come if you have some free time. Remember April or May!!!!!!!!!! Frenzie time.

Birding

Birding has been excellent as usual. Shelley's sunbirds were all over the camp the last year. I tried to get some photos but failed. They don't sit still long enough for me to get a decent photo. The African Skimmers were amazing and they were all over to be seen and you could take some amazing pictures of them. These are birds I can look at the whole day and see how they operate. The photo below was taken by Marisa.



African Skimmer doing what it does best



A Green Pigeon

General

Christmas day was one of those special days again. We closed the Lodge at 10 o'clock, packed a cool bag and spent the day on a sandbank just relaxing with friends. This was awesome.



Me and my Son Niel



Marisa enjoying a Castle Light on Christmas day

Old years eve we had a bring and braai. This was lovely having all the guests together and having fun enjoying the last few hours of 2011. Of course we had the “Die Hards” with us again and only left at 5o’ clock the next morning.

New years day some of us packed our cool bags and went down to a sandbank just below Kalizo Lodge. There we joined up with Kalizo and a few local people from Katima and had a fabulous day. Everyone was doing their own thing, some were having a braai, some playing volleyball and others just lying in the shallow waters recuperating from the previous night.



New years day just relaxing in the water

Once again we are busy packing bags on the river bank and this time round I know it won't be in vain. We putting a lot of work into this and slowly but surely I can see we are winning. I think if I started this when I got here it would have looked much different by now, but like they say you learn from your mistakes



In front of Heron/ Kingfisher



Sandbags in front of the Bar area

Two days ago we had two crocs meet each other in front of the Lodge and they put up a good fight. They carried on for about 5 minutes and not one of us thought about getting a camera. Some times I really don't know where my mind is.

Then lastly we had a little monkey here. This little thing was so attached to me it would not leave me alone for one minute. One Sunday we went to church and I told the people at the Lodge they must let it out of the cage after I'm gone. They did this and about 5 o'clock that afternoon it disappeared after the other monkeys visited the Lodge.



Marisa and myself will go on leave on the 3rd of February and will be back on the 20th February and Nastassja and Daniel will have their first challenge looking after the lodge on their own. This time round we won't be so stupid, spending half the time of our leave on the road and we will fly down and back. We will be going down to Hartenbos near Mosselbay and just relax for two weeks. I think both of us needs this. If any family member or friend want to see us they will have to come down to Mosselbay, I'm not going to move.

Looks like everybody is planning their year ahead as the bookings are streaming in like a tidal wave. To avoid disappointment, book now.

For people wanting to visit us from middle **January to end of March we are offering a 15% discount** on accommodation. Come visit us and see what it's like when the Zambezi is in flood.

CLIENTS VISITING IN FUTURE

We would also like to ask our clients to please understand that it is not always possible to get the chalet, boat or guide of your preference. As the bookings come in all of these are allocated to whoever booked first. We will try to keep everyone happy, but it is not always possible. Please also note that if you booked a boat beforehand and don't make use after arrival, it will be billed against your account. We get a lot of enquiries and have to show people away because our boats are occupied. Please understand and assist us in this matter.

ZAMBEZI CLASSIC

Anybody interested in entering the Zambezi Classic must do so to avoid disappointment. Entries opens on the 1st February 2012. This will once again be one of the big events for 2012 on the Zambezi. Entry fees will be N\$ 2600.00 per team. Island View will once again host this prestigious event. Just remember if you want to enter don't delay, we are getting so many enquiries I think before end February the bookings will be filled up. Only 75 teams are allowed to enter.

**From all of us on the backwater of the Mighty Zambezi.
We hope to see you soon!!!**

**RIAN and MARISA
DANIEL and NASTASSJA**