

HARTS RUST HUNTING SAFARIS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR AN ENJOYABLE HUNTING TRIP

Introduction

Harts Rust Hunting Safaris is located between Leeu Gamka and Beaufort West in the heart of the Koups Region of the Great Karoo. The landscape is typically wide open plains, interspersed with rocky ridges, koppies and dry river beds.

One of the most notable features of the hunting at Harts Rust is that the Leeu Gamka Dam is located in the middle of the hunting area. The dense, thorny bush alongside the two rivers leading in to the dam provide a haven for game species not normally encountered in the region and an opportunity for true walk and stalk hunting.

How we Hunt

We typically enjoy 3 different styles of hunting at Harts Rust, based on the terrain in which we are hunting and the prey species.

From Vehicles:

The majority of the hunting – particularly for plains game endemic to the Karoo – is from vehicles. The reason for this is the difficulty in traversing the vast open plains on foot when there are multiple sets of eyes warily watching.

Species typically hunted in this fashion include: Springbok, Blesbok, Gemsbok, Red Hartebeest, Wildebeest (Black, Blue and Golden) and Zebra but can include the other species prevalent on the farm.

Due to the longer ranges of shots required in this form of hunting (often in excess of 300 metres), cartridge and optics selection and an understanding of ballistics are critical success factors (see more on this below.)

Driven or “Voorsit”:

This style of hunting is traditional to the Karoo and open landscapes of the arid western regions of South Africa.

Species typically hunted in this fashion include smaller to medium antelope such as: Springbok, Blesbok, Black Wildebeest etc. but can include the other species prevalent on the farm.

The distance of the shot required in this form of hunting (typically shorter than when hunting from a vehicle and often there is more time to settle for an accurate shot. Cartridge and optics selection are still very important to ensure clean and humane kills.

Walk & Stalk:

This style of hunting is well known throughout Africa and is typically employed in the thick and dense riverbeds prevalent around the dam.

Species typically hunted in this fashion include browsers that prefer a dense habitat and access to water such as Kudu, Impala, Lechwe, Waterbuck, Fallow Deer, Warthog etc.

Shot distances required in this form of hunting are typically much shorter than when hunting from a vehicle and even Voorsit. Visibility can often be an issue and quick, snap-shooting from sticks is the order of the day. Ballistics are less important as shot distances are normally less than 200m but cartridges and projectiles need

to be of sufficient weight and construction to ensure deep penetration and “anchoring” of game in the thick undergrowth.

Recommendations for Success

- Hunting from Vehicles:
 - Recommended Calibres and Cartridges:
 - Minimum calibre / cartridge: 6.5mm / 6.5 Creedmoor, 6.5x55 SE
 - Recommended calibre / cartridge: 6.5mm Magnums, 270 Win, 7x64, 7mm Magnums, 308, 30-06, 30 Cal Magnums etc
 - Projectiles / Bullets
 - Minimum - 130gr
 - Recommended – 150gr and up
 - High Ballistic Coefficient ($G1 > 0.45$ strongly preferred)
 - Muzzle Velocity
 - 2,800fps and up
 - Optics
 - A riflescope with the ability to dial to distances out to 600 metres
 - A decent set of binoculars
 - A rangefinder
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- Driven / Voorsit
 - Recommended Calibres and Cartridges:
 - Minimum calibre / cartridge: 6mm / .243 Win, 6 XC etc
 - Recommended calibre / cartridge: 6.5mm and up
 - Projectiles / Bullets
 - Minimum - 87gr
 - Recommended – 130gr and up
 - Medium to High Ballistic Coefficient ($G1 > 0.4$ strongly preferred)
 - Muzzle Velocity
 - 2,800fps and up
 - Optics
 - A riflescope with the ability to hold / dial to distances out to 400 metres
 - A decent set of binoculars
 - A rangefinder
 - Other equipment
 - Tripod / bipod for seated / prone shooting
 - Compact backpack
 - Shooting mat (not essential)
- Walk & Stalk
 - Recommended Calibres and Cartridges:
 - Minimum calibre / cartridge: 270, 7mm
 - Recommended calibre / cartridge: 30 cal and up
 - Projectiles / Bullets
 - Minimum – 150gr
 - Recommended – 160gr and up
 - Muzzle Velocity
 - 2,600fps and up
 - Optics
 - A decent set of binoculars
 - Other equipment
 - Portable shooting sticks
 - Compact backpack

- All
 - Bring enough ammunition to enjoy your trip
 - Understand your DOPE – there isn't a lot of time to take a shot when shooting from the vehicle – particularly at Springbok / Blesbok
 - If hunting from a vehicle, set your scope to 300m. We'll double-check by shooting a 200mm gong at 300m prior to hunting

In summary, at Harts Rust Hunting Safaris we are dedicated to providing a diverse and enjoyable hunting experience for all our clients. Our guides are all knowledgeable, avid hunters themselves and will gladly assist in making sure you have a wonderful trip with unforgettable memories.

We look forward to welcoming you in 2026!