

Outfitter Profile



Tropical Hunting Safaris is operated by Pete Lorman from the NT. I had the privilege to head to the Top-End and see first hand at the Safaris conducted by Pete and his team. Little background on Pete Lorman, he was born and bred in the NT. Once he left school he worked at a local gun shop for many years as guns and rifles are his passion, to where he then started up Tropical Hunting Safaris, guiding hunters to hunt pigs. Tropical Hunting Safaris has now been running successfully for 15 years.

Tropical Hunting Safaris has a massive hunting concession in the untouched Arnhem Land country of the NT, and it

is the biggest concession held by any Hunting Guide. We left Darwin for the 6 hour drive to the concession, dirt roads and creek crossing where all part of the build up of the hunt to then arrive at Main Base Camp of Tropical Hunting Safaris. Base camp was impressive and I wasn't expecting this at all. It has a well keep house to where the kitchen and guides quarters are located. Another house close by is for the hunter's quarters, to where they have proper bedding, power, fans and fridge for your comfort and storage for their clothes and gear. After everyday's big hunt there is a nice hot shower on tap any time to wash and refresh the body after the hunt.

At the camp Pete provides more food and drink you can poke a stick at and always reassure the hunters to go eat and drink whenever they need to. Main meals at night are "first class" and I mean that, I ate like a king every night from Barramundi to big eye fillet steaks, you won't go home thin, if anything you may gain a stone or 2! On everyday leavening camp the esky's are filled with water, soft drinks and food and snacks to feed and keep energy levels up for the hunters.

Before you head out on the first hunt Pete conducts a short safety course on how shooters take turns in shooting and how things operate in the field so

Tropical Hunting Safaris



everyone has a great time and importantly goes home safe. There is a shooting range beside the camp for anyone who would like to shoot their rifle to make sure nothing has moved during transit. To get around the countryside, floodplains etc Tropical Hunting Safaris uses and has 3 Yamaha Rhinos (new) and a number of quad bikes that are all decked out with big mud tyres, improved suspension, gun racks. Pete is very particular with his gear and it's all maintained in A1 condition so when out in the field, machines don't break down and you don't lose valuable hunting time. The land hunted varies, from hunting the vast big wetlands of the floodplains to thick paperbark swamps

to timbered grassed areas, so over your course of your hunt you get a mix of different terrains to hunt pigs in and having good reliable gear is a must for out here.

Day 1 was up and early before sunrise and in the kitchen for breaky, bacon, eggs & toast ready and served. We set out on the ATVs and it was a 30 min ride to our first hunting grounds to where we hunted mangrove flats and swamps, which produced a few hogs straight up. Later in the day when most of the pigs have moved out from openings and returned to more cover, we then walked and hunted some thick paperbark areas that the boars rest up in the heat of the

day. We made our way slowly along the trees with all eyes scanning the bases of trees trying to find a good boar asleep. At times a boar would explode from the side close by that nobody picked up on.... this made for some exciting times. Only boars are shot on the hunting trips and when a mob is spotted, they are glassed to see if there is a good boar holding the mob to be taken by the next shooter. We all returned just on dark back to camp to a fine meal and good hot shower with plenty of talk about the boars taken for the day, the good shots done and yes a little talk on those "missed" shots that came time to time.



Stalking in nice and close to pigs working the swamps to see if any big boars held the mob.



2nd camp we stayed at for 3 days, very comfortable and gave that Safari feel about camp.



A boar I took out with the 30/06 on the lush floodplains as we were making our way to the hunting grounds early one morning.



Client with a great NT Arnhemland boar.



Midday, cold drinks and lunch prepared, bit of time to relax then back into hunting for the afternoon.

Day 2 was up again early to where we set out on foot right from camp to where we walked to the opening of a floodplain. The bird life was alive, magpie geese in their hundreds, Stalkes, Crains, Black duck everywhere. We glassed the edges and waters to where plenty of pigs were spotted. 4 different mobs spread along the edges of the floodplains ripping up the mud with a few loan boars plotted here and there. We picked out what was the biggest boar and made our way to him to where he was taken with a nice running shot from Scott. One of the mobs way out didn't move from the shot so we made more ground to them to where 2 more boars were taken. From there we walked a few hours in the timbered country to where the grass was about waist high and had cleared patches here and there amongst the grass. This made for some quick shooting as shots were anywhere from 2 meters to 20 meters. I love this type of hunting as it's in close, fast and unexpected. This is great hunting

for the guys who like lever guns. At times mobs would be spotted only 10 feet away in the grass and we all be looking for the big boar to take out. Now and then walking along a big boar would be fast asleep in the undergrowth of the grass and at the last second explode at your feet and stop some 10 meters away at what woke him up to where a quick shot had to be taken as it wouldn't be long before he done the bolt. That was a couple hours of fun shooting, fast, quick and exciting to all. We returned back to camp at lunch-time for a feed and after that we grab some off our gear and loaded the ATVs up to where we would travel to the 2nd camp and stay at and hunt those grounds for the next 3 days. 2nd camp is also very impressive, with a big fully insect screened kitchen and surrounding tents for the hunters that are all equipped with power, fans, lights and proper bedding....very comfortable and impressive. 2nd camp has generator for power, hot shower and that safari feel about it.

Day 3, esky's were packed for the day as it was going to be a long day's hunt. We rode out to the lush green floodplains, this country is amazing to see and hard to describe to people about its beauty, just untouched wilderness. On entering the floodplains mobs of pigs were spotted with again big loan boars out deep in the rice grass ploughing up for food. Some big boars were onto us straight away making headways for the scrub while others kept about their business of getting food. We glassed out and made out what was the biggest of the boars to where shots were taken and good boars hit the deck. This whole hunt is like an adventure as you get to see some amazing landscape and animals, we passed close by to big young buffalo bulls, spotted crocs here and there on the water's edge. The ATVs were really put to the test and I honestly didn't believe we could cross some crossing. But diff-locks in and those Rhinos ploughed through the swamps, mud and deep



Client with another great NT Arnhemland boar.



crossing with easy. Over the next 3 days we hunted the floodplains and paperbark swamps. Some nights when returning to camp we would pick up some good Hefty boars using the spotlight. Me personally I like getting out hunting and walking the paperbarks. At times you'd see a mob working the swamps edges to where we would stalk in very close and see if any good boars where of size to be taken or just walking amongst the thick paperbarks trying to find a big boar milling about or resting in a wallow, I enjoyed all the different terrain we hunted but walking the paperbarks was my favour. Day 5 was back at main camp to where we hunted different grounds again to finish of the hunt.

Pete knows his country very well, he has spent much time in the bush and knows his ways around and knows his country he hunts in. By that I mean he knows certain areas when the waters are high, where the pigs will and won't be and vice versa, when the waters have dried up,

knowing what areas the pigs will then move into to go hunt. There is no shortage of pig numbers here on the concession of Tropical Hunting Safaris as many mobs where seen with big numbers over the duration of the hunt and it's the place for Big Boars, this area produces some very big boys and that's what your after, quality hogs! I had a great time on my hunt with Tropical Hunting Safaris, Pete Lorman runs a very professional outfit, the food is first class, the accommodation is great and comfortable and all gear used on the hunt is all kept in A1 condition. I have no hesitation in recommending Tropical Hunting Safaris if you're interested in hunting pigs. If you're interested in hunting pigs in 2012 it would be wise to get in now and talk to Pete about what hunts he still has for that season, as by February/March of next year he generally will be booked out for the season so to avoid disappointment enquire now. Contact details for Tropical Hunting Safaris go to the ad on page 13.