

SUNDAY 30th March – R&R (by This Correspondent)

The next morning saw a contrast between the indolence of those who took advantage of a long-awaited and much-needed lie-in and the industry of those good souls who were pushing back ammunition for all the individual shoots. That Correspondent found it a suitably mindless task for him and some of the group and This Correspondent is grateful to him for pressing his ammo!

In the afternoon, a few relaxed at the hotel and the mall and enjoyed the opportunity to do very little for a change, a few others went to the Waterfront for lunch and about a dozen went to a private game reserve, first for lunch (and in Jumbo's case a snooze; in Martin's, some time on the children's swing) and then for a game drive. Rick continued his series of classic quotes with "I think my weakness is pie!"

With Adam McCullough perched on a special seat on the front of the vehicle and ten of his fellow team members behind, Jacques of the game ranch drove everyone around the reserve and gave very interesting commentary on all manner of game, ranging from oryx to gembock, warthogs to giraffes, eland to zebra, lynx to African wild dog and more.

A personal highlight for This Correspondent was the giraffe, which was still quite young and about 4m tall rather than a fully grown 6m but absolutely beautiful, and graceful in an ungainly kind of way (if that makes any sense).

A highlight for all was the opportunity to interact with cheetah, who were very docile with the occasional playful bite and a wee scratch for the amazingly calm Adam McCullough while he was stroking one. There were also some tiny cheetah cubs and one jaguar cub, who played and purred sweetly. Hopefully you will see some great photos of the afternoon on the team website, recording a proper African and excellent value experience for a large part of the team.

Not long after our return, about fifteen went to the nearby mall for pizza before retiring, believe it or not, substantially before 9pm. That's what happens when reveille the next morning is in time for a 05:45 breakfast and 06:30 departure to the range for some serious shooting!