

impressive marketing pedigree.

"Having started out in Jo'burg, I came down to Durban to run the sales department on a regional level," he recalls.

"In 2000, when BA won the rights to sponsor SA Rugby and the Springboks, I started managing that, and at the end of that we also signed up The Sharks and I looked after that from a sales and sports marketing perspective. In 2007, I moved down to Cape Town to take charge of the Western Cape sport marketing portfolio, and now I'm here."

Although he was born and bred in Johannesburg and spent some time down in the Cape, Mike Ablett is nevertheless a dyed in the wool Sharks fan - which is a good thing.

"The Sharks have always been the team to support, even living in Jo'burg!" he chuckles.

The Thanda Private Game Reserve, of course, is also about viewing the Big Five, the opportunity of which is facilitated through early morning and late afternoon game drives. Guided by Thanda's highly experienced crew of rangers and trackers one gets to see the whole package from the king of the jungle, the lion to leopards, buffalo, rhinos and elephants, as well as some beautiful cheetahs and a whole assortment of antelope.

The overwhelming beauty of the surroundings is truly breathtaking; it's a place of such tranquillity and wonderment among wild animals, such closeness that you almost feel an urge to reach out and touch the beauty of them.

Sundowners in the heart of the African bush... Simply a novel experience.



Mike agrees:

"It's a phenomenal game reserve; heaven on earth really," he enthuses. "Such luxury, but with the wildlife right on your doorstep..."

"I mean, we were sitting on our private deck one afternoon when, suddenly, three wild dogs took out an Impala right in front of us!"

To be sure, Thanda Private Game Reserve represents "Five-Star Luxury, with the Big Five, and more, on your doorstep..."



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