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### Living loud with Liezel

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- Liezel v.d. Westhuizen
- Weekly Columns



### I couldn't find Charley, but...



By Liezel van der Westhuizen

I recently heard that UK Television presenter; action man and best friend to Ewan McGregor, Charley Boorman was in SA. Now as I'm always on the lookout for a good story, I decided to track down this man.

This is the story of my adventure to try to find UK television presenter Charley Boorman. Last weekend I took a flight from Cape Town to Durban upon hearing that Charley was in KZN. A friend arranged a transfer to take me to Nambiti Private Game Reserve near Ladysmith, where I knew Charley was staying. It's a three hour drive from Durban Airport near Ladysmith.

This is where it all started to go wrong. I sat around at the airport until midnight waiting for a transfer that never arrived. I eventually called a friend and spent the night in Durban. At 6am the next day I was fetched from Durban and headed to Nambiti. As I arrived at this spectacular private game reserve, I heard the news that Charley had left and was headed on his next adventure across South Africa. At this point I made the decision of instead of carrying on with my adventure of following him, I would rather enjoy my stay at Nambiti. So I spent the remainder of my 48 hours going on game drives, tracking giraffe and running with cheetahs. What better way to spend a weekend.

It's the only Big Five game reserve in the region, but its uniqueness compounds: it has three times the carrying capacity of other reserves in Southern Africa, which means the game viewing experience there is exceptional. Apart from the Big Five Nambiti is known for, its regular cheetah sightings, something which is considered rare in many other reserves around the country, is also a standout feature.

The recently introduced Le Sueur Cheetah Project is also a huge attraction, providing guests with the opportunity to learn about and interact with both adult and cheetah cubs. I spent most of my afternoon here not only playing with cheetah and leopard cubs, but also got to meet a "cat" of a different kind: a rescued meerkat named Zulu who runs around the property with his best friend, a Whippet dog. I totally fell in love with the meerkat, who spent most of the afternoon in my arms. This was definitely the highlight of my trip.

What blew me away about Nambiti is that it offers a variety of accommodation packages to meet anyone's holiday needs. Even though my trip turned out to be not quite what I had planned, I realised again just how blessed we are living in this beautiful country, one that even UK TV presenters are clamoring to explore.

As I left the lodge to head back to Cape Town, I heard the news that Charley will be in Cape Town next week. So watch this space.