



**LION
& SAFARI
PARK**
explore. discover

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01 April 2019

LION CUB INTERACTION | LIONS IN CAPTIVITY

In light of the various questions and issues that has been raised regarding our lions and cub interaction; we would like to point out the difference between a conservation facility and a tourist facility as it seems that some animal activists may not always distinguish between the two operations. The Lion & Safari Park is a tourist facility and as such is under no obligation to support conservation apart from responsible husbandry. Nevertheless, wherever possible, the Lion & Safari Park does its best to contribute towards conservation.

Animal activists should be greatly admired for their welfare concerns and efforts. Most activists are fair and sensible but unfortunately there are a few extreme activists who are so intensely concerned with animal care that they tend to forget about the unintended consequences that may seriously impact on the welfare of local people.

The staff and management of the Lion & Safari Park are not ashamed to admit that the organisation's main aim is to generate a profit, (which is extremely difficult in these times), as long as the animals in our care lead a good and healthy life. Furthermore, we are aware of the fact that there are similar facilities who are not welfare compliant and as a result the Lion & Safari Park is often painted with the same brush as those who give the industry a negative image. Every industry has some 'rotten apples' that diminish the reputation of that industry.

The Lion & Safari Park has invited numerous activists to view and inspect our facility in an attempt to demonstrate that we are transparent and willing to engage in discussions around the challenges of captive wildlife - other than the directors of CACH (Campaign Against Canned Hunting), no one has accepted our offer.

Besides the conservation benefits of the Lion and Safari Park, there are several other important benefits that we highlight below:

- It employs 220 people who are mostly the sole breadwinners for their families and are thus supporting a much larger number of people.
- Most importantly, it is visited by over 20 000 school children each year.
- It is a popular destination for tourists and volunteers who are provided with unique educational and enjoyable experiences that cause no harm to the animals whatsoever.
(See attachment 1)
- Taxes and foreign exchange are generated for the country.
- It currently does valuable research through universities (Tshwane University of Technology, Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute and the University of Pretoria Faculty of Veterinary Science) on wild black-backed jackal on its property as well as on adjacent farms.
(See attachment 2)

- Research on water monitors (Likkewaan) with KaiNav Conservation.
- Over the years millions of Rands were sponsored towards research and conservation in South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia by the CEO, Lion Park and the new Lion & Safari Park. **(see attachment 3)**
- A continuous drive towards cleaning the highly polluted crocodile river, removal of alien vegetation and bush encroachment over large areas.
- We are also assisting the Centurion Academy and other institutions with any help their students require. **(see attachment 4)**

As interaction with animals is still the major drawcard in our business, approximately 25% of our revenue will be lost if interaction with predators are eradicated. This would make it impossible to sustain a profitable business. Do the extreme animal rights activists realize the true consequences of the closure of the Lion & Safari Park and other similar facilities?

- All employees will lose their jobs and struggle to find new ones, more than 200 families will be impacted by the loss of income.
- Thousands of schoolchildren who visit the park and other facilities every year as part of an education program will be denied the opportunity to see a variety of predators and other wild animals. Due to the poor economic circumstances of many of these children, some will probably never get the opportunity to have such an experience. (Our qualified guides inform and educate them on these tours which most definitely stimulates their interest in animal conservation and serves as an awareness that our planet is in desperate need for everyone to protect our threatened wildlife).
- Hundreds of captive lions will have to be euthanized as there is very little demand presently to send these animals to credible zoos and parks.

When one considers the points above it becomes clear that the extreme animal activists do not see the whole picture and there is a perception by many local people that these activists are more interested in the welfare of the animals than what they are in the welfare of local people. This is a negative for animal conservation because the local people are ultimately responsible for the protection of our animals.

When the new Lion and Safari Park opened on the 16th of July 2016, we stated in numerous statements and correspondences that we had every intention of running the new park without lion cub interaction and that this activity would not be available when we moved from the old Lion Park to our new facility. Unfortunately, this led to a dramatic and unexpected drop in the number of visitors and tour operators. We were told in no uncertain terms that the high demand for cub interaction was causing them to rather visit our opposition where such activities are still offered. Only if lion cub interaction is made illegal for all facilities would we be able to operate on a level playing field.

Due to the large financial commitment we have made to develop the new park any loss of income would put the survival of our business and the livelihoods of all our staff at stake. We therefore had no other alternative but to reintroduce cub interaction - we realised that this would only be temporary as cub interaction would not be sustainable in the longer term. The reason for this is that the extreme activists would eventually succeed due to large funding that they are able to obtain through donations, their very strong connection with the media and travel companies.

Although we take pride in animal welfare and the way we look after our cubs, we realised that interaction with cubs would have to stop eventually. We therefore decided that when the playing field is level and all facilities have stopped cub interaction through legislation we would stop as well.

We were hoping that when the legislation is passed and all the animal facilities will no longer have cub interaction on offer our loss of revenue would more or less be compensated by the people and institutions that are presently boycotting the Lion & Safari Park. Our MAIN concern in the meanwhile is the survival of the business until the legislation is passed.

We realised that to start the process of eradicating cub interaction we would need the assistance from other animal institutions. Accordingly, the Lion & Safari Park then contacted CACH (Campaign Against Canned Hunting), this resulted in a very constructive meeting with the director of CACH whereupon it was decided to form a working group. The objective of the group is to eradicate cub interactions through legislation and in the meanwhile to create a sustainable management plan. The first meeting of the working group included NGO's, wildlife professionals and a diverse cross section of industry players. Other activist organization, associations and individuals were also invited to join our working group but have disappointedly declined. The working group called CCWG (Captive Carnivore Working Group) have already had constructive meetings on the process going forward with more meetings being scheduled.

We are often criticized about our cub interaction. It is claimed that this is not good for the cubs but no-one has ever been able to give us any kind of evidence or proof to support these claims. It is therefore interesting to compare our cubs with the lives of cubs in the wild:

Cubs in the wild	Cubs in our care
Only approximately 1 in every 4 cubs in the wild live to become adults, cubs are often killed by other predators like hyenas, leopards, Jackal and new pride males.	Our cubs have nearly a 100% survival rate.
Cubs in the wild often do not have enough food as their pride does not always make sufficient kills.	Our cubs are always well fed, nutritional supplements are added to support their immune system to ensure good health, proof of this is that our cubs are physically larger at the same age as cubs in the wild.
Cubs in the wild are very vulnerable to diseases and injuries	If our cubs show any signs of sickness they are immediately treated by a vet.

The very good condition of our cubs can furthermore be verified by the many reviews and feedback we receive on platforms like TripAdvisor. We have received the TripAdvisor certificate of excellence award for 7 consecutive years and entered the TripAdvisor HALL OF FAME in 2016, interaction with cubs are often the main attraction for our visitors and if there were any complaints about our animal welfare it would have surfaced in our guest reviews. **Attachment 5** demonstrates that 44 reviews out of 46 were positive re their experience with the cubs with no mention of abuse. (TripAdvisor from 1 January 2018 to present).

There is a common perception that interaction with humans causes mental stress to the cubs. The mind boggles as to how people would be able to read their minds and know this with any certainty. After the cubs are too old for interaction, which is only a three-month period, we take them on 'lion walks'. We walk with the young lions up to 12 months of age, this hour-long activity with visitors provides stimulation for the lions and their enjoyment is evident as they eagerly jump into the vehicles for their walks. Lion Walks are done under strict guidelines to ensure that it is done safely with three qualified experienced guides present at all times, furthermore, no persons under the age of 16 or any person weighing less than 50kg are allowed on this activity.

After 12 months of age we keep our lions on our property until they die of natural causes or we donate them to a PAAZA (Pan African Association of Zoos and Aquariums) / WAZA (World Associations of Zoos and Aquariums) accredited facility. We have, on our premises, over 50 lions, (some as old as 19) that are surplus to our requirements. This commitment means that we have to lay out more capital to build enclosures, feed the lions, veterinary care etc. However, the number of births will soon equal the number of deaths which will make this obligation sustainable. We can assure everyone that our lion cubs ARE NEVER SOLD TO HUNTERS, further proof of this is that all our old lions are still in our care. We abhor the concept of canned hunting and it is disappointing that wild assumptions and false accusations abound without even a shred of evidence to support them.

The detailed records that we keep on all our lions are open for inspection to any authorities, organisations or public that wish to see them. All our cubs are micro-chipped so that their movements can be monitored throughout their lives and physically inspected. The majority of our males have been vasectomised to control breeding.

Furthermore, to provide more insight into cub procreation, the following conditions determine what will happen to the cubs:

- Some cubs will remain in large enclosures with their prides
- When the mothers do not feed the cubs sufficiently or walk away from the young, we take care of them.
- In some cases, we split the litter - some cubs will be used for interaction and others will remain in the pride.

We do admit that if cubs are needed for cub interaction, we sometimes remove the cubs from their mothers. This is obviously stressful for the mother and we regret that it is necessary. But the ultimate question that needs to be asked is: "Is the short-term stress for the mother more important than possibly closing down a major tourist facility with the serious consequences mentioned above"?

There are thousands of people who visit our facility and enjoy the interaction with lions. They come away marvelling at this unique opportunity and the overwhelming majority see absolutely no negative impact on the young lions. In contrast, they often praise the park for the healthy condition of our lions. If the extreme activists get their way it will be a victory for the few over the many.

Furthermore, the livelihoods of all the people employed by the park are at stake. Despite our love of wildlife, and lions in particular, we find it difficult to understand how the perceived "stress levels" of a few healthy lions can be viewed as more important than the livelihoods of human beings, and the enormous stress that they would suffer as a result of the closure of the park.

When there is a level playing field and legislation is passed banning cub interaction in all captive animal facilities, we will gladly adhere to the new rules. Until then, the needs of our business and our people dictate that we must continue along our current path.

Attachment 1

From: Rachel Booth <rachelbooth343@hotmail.com>

Date: 21 February 2019 at 12:54:18 SAST

To: Shandor Larenty <shandor@lionpark.com>

Subject: Lion Cub Enclosure

To whom it may concern,

My name is Rachel Booth and I am a veterinarian from Sydney Australia. I visited The Lion Park South Africa in January 2017 as a veterinary student. I spent a substantial amount of my time with the lion cubs, interacting with them and facilitating public encounters. The cubs were incredibly well looked after and cared for. The public encounters were well regulated and supervised. I respected the fact that the public were debriefed prior to their interaction with the cubs to ensure that everybody understood the rules and regulations underpinning how to approach, touch and behave around the cubs. The cubs were kept in enclosures that facilitated their curiosity and natural behavior, with consideration for enrichment and sleeping/rest areas. The cubs always appeared happy, healthy and comfortable within their surroundings. I was very impressed with how the Lion Park encouraged human interaction in a balanced manner, ensuring that the cub's best interests were always a primary priority. I believe that they do a wonderful job in looking after all of their animals and patients.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on +61 405695477

Kind regards,
Rachel Booth

From: Annette Whiley <annette.whiley@hotmail.com>

Date: 21 February 2019 at 06:36:18 SAST

To: "shandor@lionpark.com" <shandor@lionpark.com>

Subject: Lion Cub Experience at the Lion Park

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Annette Whiley and I volunteered at the Lion Park for three weeks in 2016.

Most of my time was involved in various aspects to do with the Lion Cubs.

When I arrived, the three younger Cubs that I spent most time with were about eight weeks old.

Initially I helped with their bottle feeding and preparation and feeding solid food in the morning before the park opened. Every day when I arrived, both enclosures were spotlessly clean and the Cubs bounding with energy and excitement to greet myself and Nadine and to eat. There was always more than enough food & they ate with great relish.

When visitors came in for their Lion Cub Experience, their hands were sanitised and detailed instructions given about how to interact with the Cubs, how and where they could be touched was demonstrated and other handling, not permitted was outlined in detail. Interaction with the Cubs was carefully supervised at all times and with absolute sensitivity to the safety, comfort and wellbeing of the Cubs. They were often asleep, as expected with young animals, and visitors were not permitted to wake them or interfere with them. When they were awake and full of energy, fun and mischief, visitor interactions were always governed by what the Cubs were doing at the time and the extent to which they initiated contact with visitors. So interactions were always on the Cubs' terms, always safe, natural and positive for the Cubs and their visitors.

Cubs were always treated with great respect, kindness and love by all staff and volunteers and their

health, wellness and wellbeing were foremost in the minds and actions of everyone, especially the very experienced and knowledgeable trainers Shandor and Nadine.

I often spent time alone with the Cubs, feeling blessed to sit on the ground just watching them play together and explore their surroundings. It was great fun when they included me in their games and my heart almost burst with joy when they fell asleep in my lap or with their head on my leg or cuddling up to me. Their reactions to me, I think indicated their trust and strong sense of security developed through the kindness and care they received from everyone with whom they came into contact.

I take every opportunity to applaud and recommend the professional and caring manner of the Lion Park Staff in their guardianship of all the animals, and particularly the Lion Cubs. The Cubs' clean, bright, healthy appearance and their energetic, playful, calm and confident characters reflect just how well they are cared for and the happy, comfortable context in which they spend the early months of their lives at the park. The boundless affection I shared with the cubs and the strong, trusting bonds that exist between the lions raised at the park and Alex, Shandor and Nadine, are testament to the superior conduct and conditions they enjoy.

My once in a lifetime Lion Cub experience was perfect and totally unforgettable because it happened at The Lion Park.

Yours sincerely
Annette Whiley
121 Croydon Avenue
Croydon Park 2133
Australia.

Sent from my iPad

Attachment 2

RESEARCH AT THE LION & SAFARI PARK

At the Lion and Safari Park, conservation plays an essential role in monitoring the environment and promoting environmental consciousness. Conservation is defined as the sensible protection and preservation of something such as natural resources and the prevention or degradation of natural resources. At the Lion and Safari Park this is combined with environmental education where individuals obtain awareness of various aspects in the environment pertaining to the park. This leads to guests obtaining valuable knowledge which leads to skills and values to conserve their immediate environment. Before the park moved to the new location, the park funded research in Botswana, with the main focus on predators and added valuable data to the research community. The current property presented the perfect opportunity for research in a peri-urban environment. The research started with a long term black-backed jackal project. This project incorporated research as well as community outreach programs where the community has been involved with the project. In certain instances, the community members have changed their perspectives, where the farmers stopped persecuting jackal.

The community involvement grew and the park started helping with the community in various ways. This included problem animals outside the park. The park and committed staff and researchers helped the community with various other projects and problems that might not have been seen as big projects but there has never been hesitation to assist the community. An example of this is during the fire season, where the park and fire staff were on 24 hour call to help the community especially the self-sustaining farmers that did not have enough staff members to help fight the runaway fires. When the rabies outbreak occurred in 2016, the park staff got involved with the vaccination, assisting the state vet in vaccinating the domestic animals in an attempt to control rabies outbreak in the area. The park opened up their doors for people from the community so that the state vet could have a safe area to vaccinate the dogs. The staff also assisted in transporting dogs from the owner's property to the vaccination point and back again. The researcher was on call to collect all deceased animals that were reported by the community.

The carcasses were sent to Onderstepoort for rabies confirmation and the park informed all community members of the results. Jackal and mongoose have been found to be the primary species contributing to the spread of rabies. This led to an anti-rabies program, started by Dr Koepel from Onderstepoort. The park has been part of this program, with vaccines being distributed throughout the park in the vicinity of known jackal dens. Data collected during this time is used for a management plan involving rabies prevention and managing the species that carry and spread the disease. The prevention of rabies in the area will mean a safer environment for animals and humans alike, decreasing the risk of fatalities due to this disease. At the start of the outbreak the researcher had meetings with community members as an effort to educate the community. The main focus of the outreach was the community members that were affected by the outbreak but did not have any resources or knowledge of how to handle the situation. The Park not only focusses on predators, but on a variety of species. Smaller research projects which have taken place at the park are the water monitor project, dung beetle project, the monitoring of vultures at the vulture restaurant with the help of Vulpro and a general monitoring program. During this time, rare species have been recorded on the reserve including cape clawless otter, lapped faced vulture, serval as well as caracal. The data that was collected up to 2016 was not just in the Lion & Safari Park but included data which was collected on properties surrounding the park as well. With all the

projects on the reserve, reports were written and shared with the community as well as the general public. This contributed to educating the community as well as guests visiting the park. These reports always received positive feedback and created a sense of obligation as can be seen in the feedback inserted below: - "I always find the research really fascinating. Concerning that you are finding plastic in Jackal scat now though!" Linda Park, Director of Campaign against Canned Hunting - "So well done and interesting" - "As always enjoy and learn from your report" Toby Bernstein - "Many thanks for all the excellent reports you have been sending to us." Petri Viljoen

As the park recognises the importance of education and educating the youth, the park makes special arrangements for nature management students to get a rare and very special opportunity to learn about the environment. The students have the opportunity to learn about peri-urban areas and their role in the environment and conservation. During a practical excursion at the park, students learn about predators but also have the opportunity to get an inside look into how animals graze, browse and their digestive system. It is not only the fauna which plays an important role when educating the students but also the flora. The park offered the students an opportunity to participate in an alien invasive plant removal program. This gave students the opportunity to assist and learn how these plants affect the environment and the importance of removing invasive plant species. Nature management students were allowed to volunteer over holidays to get as much experience as possible and to help them with their studies and prepare them for the future in their field; this is exceptional as not many companies allow South-African students to gain practical experience which leads to a brighter future.

Attachment 3

The CEO of the Lion & Safari Park has sponsored millions of Rands over the years towards research and conservation in South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia together with the old Lion Park and the new Lion & Safari Park:

- Predator research by Mark and Delia Owens in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve in Botswana (1976-1978).
- Lion research by Chris McBride in the Savute area in the Chobe National Park in Botswana (1979-1981)
- Continued lion research in the Savute area of the Chobe National Park by Petri Viljoen (1982-1986) through WITS University
- Spotted Hyena research in the Savute area of the Chobe National Park by Dr. Susan Cooper (1986-1989) WITS University
- Migration of zebra and wildebeests in north eastern Botswana by Dr. Mark Vandewalle (1989-1993) WITS University
- Buffalo Research by Dr. Cynthia Hunter in the Matsetse area in Zimbabwe (1993-1995) WITS University
- Research on the re-introduction of cheetah to the Matusadona National Park in Zimbabwe by Dr. Colleen Beggs (1995 – 1997) University of Zimbabwe
- Research on spotted hyena in the Liuwa Plains National Park in Zambia by Dr. Johan du Toit (2000 – 2001) University of Zimbabwe
- Research on buffalo in the Okavango Delta in Botswana by Dr. Emily Bennet (2005 – 2008) Bristol University
- Research on vegetation in the Santawani region on the Okavango Delta by Dr. Michelle Tedder (2005 – 2008) University of KwaZulu-Natal
- Research on wild dogs and other large predators in the Okavango Delta in Botswana by Dr. Tico McNutt (2005 – 2014)

All the above were solely sponsored and supported by Rodney Fuhr, the old Lion Park and the new Lion & Safari Park with the exception of the predator project by Dr. Tico McNutt which was partially sponsored.

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Belville	021 949 1751	086 675 5778	belville@ca2000.co.za
Rustenburg	014 597 4052	014 597 4052	rustenburg@ca2000.co.za
Witbank	013 656 2603	086 580 9595	witbank@ca2000.co.za

20 February 2019

To the Management and Staff on the Lion and Safari Park

The Nature management staff and students of Centurion Academy would like to thank all of you for the incredible work that you do. We have brought our students to you on a number of occasions, each time the park has exceeded our expectations.

The students have been part of various aspects of the park which have included husbandry, veterinary, research, tourism, animal health and more. When students start at our facility, their frame of reference is very small compared to their possibilities when entering the work field. Thanks to the Lion and Safari Park, their horizons have broadened, providing them with the knowledge and skills to improve themselves for the field they are entering.

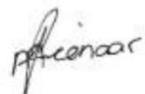
Many students have an interest in this field; however after their experience at the park, it has ignited a fiery passion for various aspects of conservation and nature management. Several of the students had the opportunity to volunteer at the park and the passion and knowledge of the staff at the park has further led to our student wanting to have the drive which they have seen of the people who are currently working in the same field they would like to be in once they have completed their studies.

We look forward to working with you in future.



Mrs L VAN STADEN

PROGRAMME MANAGER: DEPARTMENT NATURE MANAGEMENT



Dr M PIENAAR

ACADEMIC HEAD: CENTURION ACADEMY

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DIREKTEURE / DIRECTORS: Me GD Eisdon; Mnr TJ Schoeman; Me W Uys

Attachment 5

TRIP ADVISOR REVIEWS: FEEDBACK RE ANIMAL INTERACTION

A little safari in a few hours! – 5 Stars

January 2019

ClodaLikeSoda

Had the pleasure of visiting the Lion and Safari Park with international visitors, who wanted close up interactions with the wild life and to enjoy a game drive.

We chose the three-hour safari, which included a special trip down to the Crocodile River to enjoy snacks and refreshments. (Something you cannot do if you are on self-drive package).

The cub interaction was also one of the attractions we chose to do and it was a wonderful experience.

The option to book one of the tours the Safari Park offer, traveling in their game vehicles, offers a much nicer alternative than self-drive as the tour guides are so knowledgeable.

There are two restaurants to choose from, kiddies play area and the 5 Dome souvenirs shop to enjoy. There are a number of different activities and encounters to choose from, their website is effective and informative allowing you to book ahead.

Plan for a few hours, at least 3 to 5 hours, if you want to enjoy the animal encounters as well as a safari drive.

Highly recommended for international visitors, as well as an enjoyable day out if you're a local.

Lions Park Johannesburg – 5 Stars

January 2019

Tasmooon

Wonderful place to visit especially with children. Close interaction with lion cubs and feeling of touching these cubs is amazing. The whole setup of lions is worth visiting

Great Adventure – 5 Stars

December 2018

Makentse

Awesome place, it was great interacting with the baby cubs. Nice children's play area not forgetting the two restaurant that caters for any budget.

Fabulous experience – 5 Stars

Shera P

January 2019

I took the full (3hr) safari tour and did cheetah and lion cub interactions. It was such a wonderful day. I loved every minute of it. If you do interactions, they will take lots of photos and then you can have them printed on the spot (for a reasonable fee). I highly recommend everything about this place: the staff, the convenient shuttle service, my tour guide, Dusty (who was very knowledgeable and interesting to listen to), the grounds, the large range of animals. I loved it!

Alex Tour & Lion Walk – 5 Stars

Tvalwx

December 2018

I had the time of my life at the Lion and Safari park. I don't want to give any surprises away on the Alex Tour, just know this was the highlight of my entire trip to South Africa. The lion walk was

equally as incredible. All the staff at the park were very welcoming and made sure my visit was a memorable one

Baby Lions!!!! – 5 Stars

Travelling Victor

October 2018

OK, so you know you have that one thing you absolutely have to do... Play with baby Lions. Check! The Park itself it's a nice place, you can walk around and already see some animals nearby. some of them are isolated in confined spaces so you will see them.

Then there is the safari part, I recommend you doing the longer one and if possible in the morning (I went after lunch and they were all just laying down.) You get to see already a lot of different animals like ostrich, zebras, giraffes, cheetah, etc and of course Lions. The place itself is not large and every animal has a specific place to stay within steel grades, so it's not like seeing them on their natural land, but you get to see them.

I hugged a giraffe by its neck. Awesome. Plus. BABY LIONS

"Playing" with lion cubs: a special moment – 4 Stars

Henri T

November 2018

After 10 days 'real' safari, we visited the Lion and Safari Park. The first part (trip through the reserve was a bit disappointing: many animals (leopard, hyena) live in (too) small cages. The park has a lot of lions, split in different (separated)groups.

The second part of our trip was the encounter with lion cubs. (This was the reason why we visited this place) You get plenty of time to touch and 'play' with 4 lion cubs. A special moment!

Lion cub interaction was amazing – 4 Stars

Jose Leijn P J

May 2018

One of the main attractions near Johannesburg. It was great experience visiting this place. There is option for organized tour with additional cost or we can drive own car inside the park. Good cafe/restaurants in the location. Lion cub interaction was amazing. Nice place for a day out with family/friends. Kids will really enjoy the place. Ample parking space available in front of the park.

Family friendly and great mini safari day trip – 5 Stars

AlexaF2415OF

November 2018

We visited the park with the family. It is about a 50-minute drive from Sandton. The staff was very friendly and this is a perfect day trip for families with children. I recommend visiting during the weekdays as it is not crowded and you do not have to wait for anything. We took the guided tour, which was in a specially designed vehicle. The cost was R25 more per person than the self-drive (less than \$2) but you get a guide who will not only know where to stop so you can take the best pictures, but will also explain about the species and about the particular animals you see. We took the 11:30 am tour which I highly recommend if you can make it, because they feed the lions at 12 or so. The guided tour helps here as well since there are 3 prides in 3 different habitats, and each pride gets fed every 3 days. The tour guides will make sure you are in the right place at the right time. We also opted to spend time with lion cubs and got to pet them and take a ton of pics. The staff member was very nice and took some professional pictures, but also took dozens of very cool photos and a few amazing videos with our phone. We got to spend quite some time with the lion cubs as it was a weekday and not very busy. We had lunch at the Wetlands cafe and enjoyed the company of a giraffe, ostrich and a group of wildebeest, who were just a few feet away. Our kids were very excited

and we also thought the pricing was very reasonable (kids under 12 take the tour for free, just pay for the lion cub interaction R75 per kid - about \$5-\$6)

All in all, a Great day at an awesome place!

Wonderful experience with baby lions – 5 Stars

Curious32793214855

November 2018

The park has good installations, personnel qualified and very cooperative. I will highlight the corner tact with lion Cubs: unforgettable! Special thanks to our kind guide, Melissa turned out mini-telescopic safari into a very meaningful experience!

Mixed feelings – 3 Stars

IvyD-L

November 2018

There is a mini safari going through large enclosures. While I feel like they were generous compared to zoos they were still quite small having just been on safari.

I also did the baby lion experience, fed a giraffe and stroked a cheetah (optional extra activities for a fee). The cheetah was very relaxed and he was an adult of 5 years who had been hand reared. He was not worried at all. However, I did feel bad for the lion cubs who were very young to be on their own. There was no queue when I was there but as I left a coach load of tourists started lining up and I don't know how to feel about it.

Great place for the interaction with giraffes and lion cubs – 4 Stars

396johnV

November 2018

I went to that place 10 years ago, a lot of improvements now. Very clean place very organised. Numerous lions who look well fed and healthy! Nice mini safari and the possibility to see zebra, giraffe etc. Toilets very clean, good shop.

Great place with kids who enjoyed feeding giraffes and lion cubs

The best park in the world! – 5 Stars

Marito M

November 2018

My dream became reality! Playing with lions is something dreamed! We were in Africa for 15 days and the visit to this park was the best vacation! Hopefully I will return soon to see those animals or to work with them! Thanks for everything!

Review – 4 Stars

Flyer15794871964

October 2018

Very nice experience! really enjoyed it! Especially the cheetah and the lion cub interaction was very special and not too busy in the line!

Amazing Visit – 5 Stars

andrea seaton

October 2018

What an awesome surprise the New Lion & Safari, from arrival, where the staff were so friendly and professional, to the cleanliness of the bathroom facilities, the interaction with the Giraffes and cubs, great food at the restaurant and then a drive through the park where my family from overseas were able to get so close to the lions, zebra, cheetahs, wild dogs etc. It was an amazing day and I would recommend any time

Amazing encounters with lions and cheetahs – 4 Stars

jonjo7

September 2018

We did both the cheetah and lion walk encounters and were thrilled with the experience. We were very close to the animals who seemed very fit and active. (It was a cool September day so that might have had an effect on activity) It is one of the most memorable experiences we had in the Johannesburg area. Many families were visiting and seemed to enjoy the experience as well. the professional photographer did a great job too and the prices for photos were reasonable.

Trip with grandchild – 4 Stars

Lua-Ann

October 2018

Enjoyable, excellent service. really love to be able to stroke the body of the cheetah. My grandson loved the experience. Just wouldn't be able to afford it again soon

Mini Safari tour – 5 Stars

Marnies Wright

October 2018

Melissa is an excellent guide and driver. Got to hear a couple of interesting facts I never knew of. Lion cub interaction was also a great experience. Mousse cake from the ice cream shop is delicious!

Our best stop in Joburg – 5 Stars

bgoldmeier

August 2018

This is not a safari but a real up-close animal encounter. We went to see the lion feeding but were amazed we could play with lion cubs and pet a Cheetah as well

Best Safari tour at the Lion Park – 5 Stars

Nomawethu

September 2018

The mini safari we took of 1hr30min was the best. we stopped by the different Hyenas, the leopard's, lion closures while feeding and the Cheetahs. We had a great time; the staff was friendly and helpful. Pictures are of good quality. My family a great time. Totally loved the park especially the cub interaction

Walk with lions – 4 Stars

Ultramel22

September 2018

Amazing experience. Excellent photo opportunities with photographer. Lion guides were fun and made us feel comfortable and safe. World class facilities. Would definitely recommend.

Amazing Experience – 5 Stars

jeebinp

September 2018

I did the 1.5hour Safari tour and also did the Cub & Cheetah Encounter. It was a lovely experience encountering the Cubs and Cheetah. The staff are very friendly and the tour guide was very informative. Amazing experience!!

Very pretty place – 5 Stars

flor_y_bella

September 2018

The Lion and Safari Park I had the fortune to contorcer the old and the new and I want to tell you that they improved a lot, the new Lion Safari Park is huge, its gaulas are comfortable and very safe, I liked the idea of feeling in a cage and the free animals, you also have the option of driving through all its grounds that is huge park. You can have and see the lions very close, I love it but the best thing was the experience of living with baby lions (cubs) and with the cheetahs, touching them and caressing them was the best satisfaction I have lived. My 10-year-old son was not allowed in the cheetah cage but he was in with the babe injuries. If the divine restaurant feeding the giraffes was excellent and their staff very friendly, their shops are nice but it is cheaper for locals. Tremendously recommended.

Absolutely amazing day – 5 Stars

KLannon

August 2018

We did all the walks and interacting and a private tour. Beyond worth the money spent fir the experience of a lifetime. Jason our guide is the most knowledgeable and confident guide with personal passion for the lion's cheetahs and the environment. He has a special relationship with the animals all over the park and he is a guide we highly recommend. Jabulani and the team on the walks kept safety of all animals and patrons first and foremost. Thank you Siphon for your booking professionalism

Sightseeing not to miss – 5 Stars

AlineLeonardo

August 2018

We loved strolling through the park, doing the guided safari is a must-see the guide was super perfectionist in giving us details about the animals!! Another key point is to interact with the animals, the guides are by your side and you pass much security. Another must-see attraction is feeding the giraffes, and having a snack in the cafeteria ... a delight!!

Pretoria and Lion and Safari Park – 5 Star

Bill J

August 2018

This tour from MoAfrika combined a tour of Pretoria with the adventures of the Lion Safari Park. The tour of Pretoria was interesting from a historical point and visually. The tour guide took us to many historical sites, explaining what the site was about and time to wander a little. After a good lunch we went to the Lion Safari and it was a great place to observe lions in their natural habitat from a secure jeep. We were again able to get up close to see these animals and observe behaviour. Our park guide was great and the ride interesting and educational. The park also has a lion cub interaction which was fun and lasted with a group of 9 about ten minutes. There were three cubs and you could pet them and take pictures. We also managed to squeeze in an interaction with a Cheetah which we found very exciting. Our tour included the above except the Cheetah interaction so our tour guide made arrangements for us to be with the Cheetah while we were on the safari drive. It was a long day but well worth and if you go on MoAfrika's website you can see all it includes and it was all delivered as outlined. This was our second tour with this company and had the same great experience.

**Encounter with the lion cubs – 5 Star
plelittle
April 2018**

If you don't have time try and do the mini safari tour and a must do is encounter with the lion cubs. We saw 4 cubs which were larger than I expected but the children, 4-year olds, were overwhelmed, and told me that this was the best day ever and that they wanted to put their nursery friends and teachers in a suitcase and take them there! The rest of us couldn't believe the encounter with the Cheetah! Amazing

**Absolutely fabulous visit with live animal interaction – 5 Stars
mfwalshy
August 2018**

We visited this safari park as a small group and opted for a mini safari, a Cheetah walk and lion cub interaction. It was fabulous. We saw the lion feeding just in front of the truck (keep your hands inside!!) and the guide was both informative and entertaining. The Cheetah walk was amazing - the guide had a bucket of meat to keep the "big cat" happy while we could stroke him (yes, stroke him!!) and walk around with him. The lion cub interaction was also good fun - there were 4 cubs from 3 to 5 months old with whom you could play with (they climbed all over us!), stroke and (almost) cuddle. The guides are always on hand to ensure safety but also take pictures of you. If you're ever in SA, go do this!

**A Guaranteed Good Time – 5 Stars
Princess W
July 2018**

Wish we had seen more animals during our 3-hour safari, but an overall good time. The animal Interactions were genuine and authentic

**Awesome experience – 5 Stars
363gautamj
July 2018**

We did nearly everything on offer...mini safari, lion walk, cub interaction, cheetah interaction, giraffe feeding. Kids just loved the cub interaction and feeding...they could actually play with the cubs!! And lion walk was awesome, two lionesses with whom we could walk with, touch and caress and have close encounters. Our guide on the mini safari, Bengini, seemed to know when to go where. He was always at the right place just before the right time and made sure we experienced the best. Lion feeding was an excellent view and the interaction with giraffe was out of world. An out and out wonderful experience. Must go.

**Private tour with Alex - best experience ever – 5 Stars
PremiumFlyer74
July 2018**

We did private tour with Alex and it was worth every penny. We used Lion & Safari park's transportation from Sandton (1200 rand return for 2 Pax), and everything worked like a clock. Upon arrival, we started our private tour with Alex almost immediately, and it lasted for wonderful 3 hours (we got last 30 minute gratis, as tour was supposed to be 2h 30min). Alex was wonderful, full of insight information and most certainly the best guide in the park with almost 20 years of experience.

We saw animals that we would never see with self-drive and got behind the scene information we couldn't have gotten any other way. At the end we also went to pet the lion cubs, and this experience was also lovely and unforgettable.

A must do day-trip from Johannesburg – 5 Stars

utharapadmanabhan

July 2018

A Sunday well spent, with good people, great food and amazing wildlife! We did the 3-hour safari and everything was just perfect. Our guide (Jay) was entertaining us throughout with a lot of stories and trivia. We were lucky to see the lion feeding (happens once in three days, you may want to check before you book, just an additional benefit). The cheetah and cub interactions were really good too, and the photographers do a great job taking frame-worthy pictures!

An excellent experience – 5 Stars

Willyan_Dalmeida

July 2018

We just arrive in SA and our friends told us about the park. A wonderful experience with the animals and the cubs. We will return soon!!

Great time – 4 Stars

lindiee2018

June 2018

Excellent place. On our recent visit from Australia we went to the park and we've all enjoyed it very much. The animals are well looked after, the lion feeding, cub interaction and feeding the giraffes were some of our highlights. Excellent curio shop before leaving the park, but some items really overpriced

GREAT EXPERIENCE – 4 Stars

simsid2014

October 2017

The Lions and Safari Park is absolute awesome attractions that I enjoyed every bit of the tour mostly that of a walk with a cheetah. The tour of the park was very interesting and the tour guards did a very wonderful job. Will definitely visit the park again

Great time had by all – 4 Stars

Flitz8

July 2018

We brought an international visitor who wanted take photos with cubs, we took lovely photos and even better ones that we purchased with the cheetah, had best time with cheetah. The staff were helpful and friendly and assisted us when we had a problem so went out of their way, so great service.

A wonderful safari tour – 5 Stars

sujoshui

July 2018

Cub interaction is very impressive, the tour guide of the safari tour is knowledgeable, knows so much about these wild animals

Excellent experience – 5 Stars

Billywmd

March 2018

Been to the Lion Park a few times over the years. Usually done self-drive tour and cub interaction. Last time was a private tour with the family and it was amazing. The guide was excellent and looked after us so well. It was brilliant to be able to sit with the Cheetahs and the lion cubs and stroke them just like a pet. Thanks guys.

Great family time! – 5 Stars

clivecrafford

June 2018

Enjoyed this visit as much as the others, like seeing the lions fed every time. Did the cheetah interaction, and what an experience! The facilities are great for babies to adults, something for everyone to do. Love the restaurants, great food and the gift shop is the last must do. Definitely coming back soon.

Don't miss Cheetah walk! – 5 Stars

Woostein

June 2018

Facility provides shuttle transportation for reasonable fee from your hotel/accommodation to and from the Park. Great Cheetah walk and Lion cub interaction. Strongly advise to go as early as possible (when park opens) to get the most time with the animals. Must book tour in order to participate in Cheetah and Lion cub interaction. Tours were very good. Animals appear well-fed, with plenty of space to roam. Guides were very knowledgeable and wonderful with the animals. Price of tours and photos was extremely reasonable. Highly recommended for those who want to learn more and get very close to these animals.

Great Park – 4 Stars

David M

May 2018

Did a walk with the Cheetah. One of the great experiences of my life to be so close to a magnificent animal. Mini safari was excellent with a fun and knowledgeable guide. I was on a short business trip and the Park was not far away so I could fit it. A few hours well spent!

Not to be Missed Experience – 5 Stars

pemberleypublishing

May 2018

It was wonderful experience, I would say once in a lifetime but we hope to return. It was a wonderful place and excellent tour. The cub and cheetah interaction were amazing. Everyone we tell about our experience want to go too. If you are in the area make sure you go to this park - you will love it. We went there because we are working on gathering accessibility information for people with disabilities. This park is very accessible. We did not go on the walks though.

Shalom and the cheetah – 5 Stars

laishalom

March 2018

the visit at the park was a great experience, I really enjoyed my time over there and we got a nice, friendly and guide. This was my first time to get that close of a cheetah, I even spent few minutes with the animal. It was fantastic and at the end you have a lovely pics you take home. See you next time!!!

Superb experience – 5 Stars

803helmutl

February 2018

Well worth the visit. The park is well kept and the animals are healthy. Staff very knowledgeable and helpful. We would highly recommend the Cheetah walk it was a highlight of our visit.

Glorified Zoo – 3 Stars

Aditya J

January 2018

Nice place. Would recommend going to this glorified zoo 1 hr from Joburg if you only have half day and can't make it to Pilanesberg. They got lions, leopard, hyenas, ostriches, giraffe and wild dogs. The lion cub interaction is kind of over rated. The cubs were asleep for most of the time we were there (and it was an hour-long queue so we know it was not just us who were disappointed that day). The giraffes never showed up for feeding. The tour guide was knowledgeable, and the safari bus tour was good.