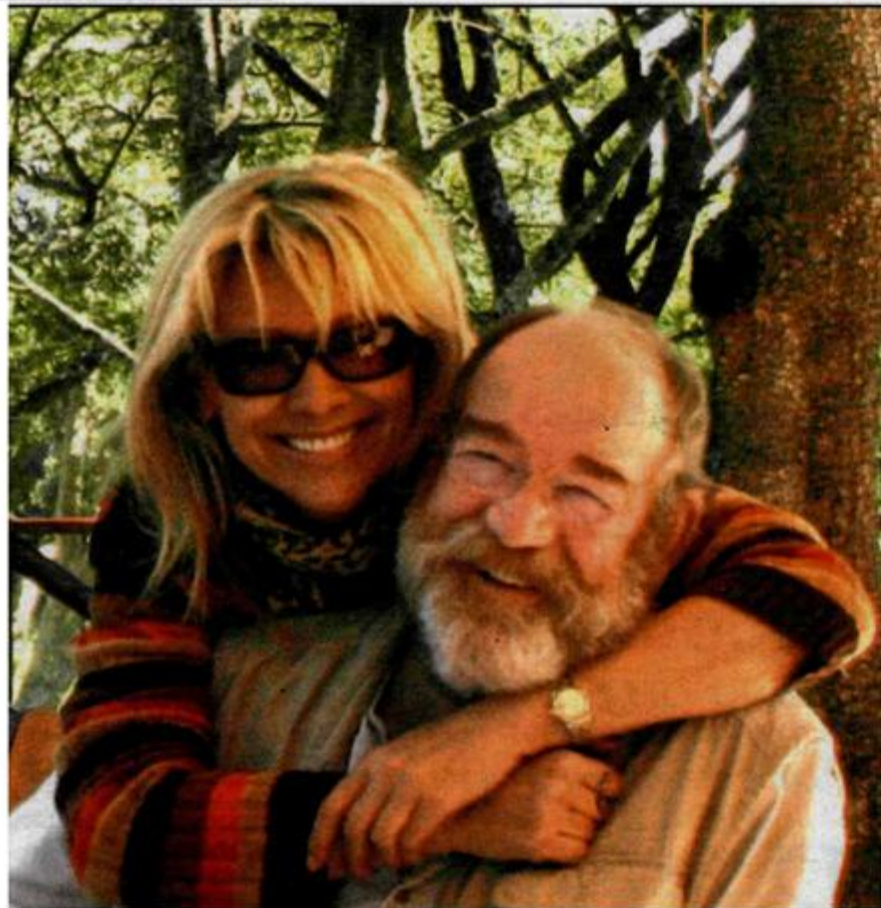




By Kasia Yoko

Thula Thula Beckons

Bookings: 035 792 8322/3 or email francoise@thula-thula.co.za or visit their website www.thulathula.com



Françoise Malby-Anthony with Husband Lawrence

"In time and space every moment is a blessing! I am blessed to have had the pleasure of living in the moment and this was my moment of divine revelation, Be Blessed." From Luckisha

So reads one of the entries in the guest book I found in my presidential suite at Thula Thula. I had just seen my husband off for a game drive and chose to cuddle up in my bed and catch up on some reading.

We have heard so much about the Thula Thula from friends and relatives who have visited there before us, so we knew to expect the best, however we have underestimated the best. Thula Thula has a long history as the oldest game reserve in South Africa. Its first owner was Kenyan president Jomo Kenyatta.

Our host Françoise Malby-Anthony greeted us with a cocktail as we arrived at reception. We were introduced to the team of rangers and managers and our itinerary explained to us in fine detail, giving us just enough time to relax, view our room and then we were heading off into the bush

to search for the elusive elephants.

Even though we did not spot the elephants, we saw baby rhinos, many giraffe, various types of buck and even a chameleon. Promise, our ranger has a sharp eye, like an eagle, and he can spot game from a mile away.



Getting close to rhino

There is magic here. The spider webs blow in the sun's rays marking secret illuminated maps in the air. The birds chirp to each other, there are the sounds of laughing hyenas in the distance and it is all so magical. Time has stopped here and different rules apply.

Thula Thula is truly a remarkable sanctuary for the soul. Lodge manager Mabona is a true gem,

sweet and accommodating she seems amused by people and she has seen her share of surprises. In fact everyday is a revelation for Mabona, she loves the experience and you can sense it!

We enjoyed a scrumptious breakfast with Lawrence Anthony, the author of the highly acclaimed book *The Elephant Whisperer*, and his wife Françoise who own Thula Thula.

perfect, the leaves of the acacias sprinkled from the sky like magic confetti. Lawrence shared his life's dream of educating people about the environment and our connectivity with the world around us. He has formed The Earth Organisation, which operates in 18 countries and helps communities with conservation matters.

Suddenly, as I got ready to leave, slightly disappointed that I did not get to see the elephants, I could hear them in the distance, as if they felt the longing in my heart they responded with a loud trumpet and another, oh that was the perfect end to a beautiful weekend adventure.

