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WILLIAM POWELL

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The Ultimate **Sporting Agency**

# ROCK PIGEON SHOOTING

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BLOEMFONTEIN  
SOUTH AFRICA



## BLOEMFONTEIN SOUTH AFRICA

For years the South African Rock Pigeon has been overlooked and underestimated as a game bird but fortunately, in recent times, it has started to earn the reputation it so rightly deserves. This is because the Rock Pigeon offers sporting enthusiasts shooting on a totally new level. On an exceptional day, teams can expect a volume of shooting comparable to the best of Argentinian Dove shooting combined with the challenge of shooting a late-season grouse at the same time as taking on birds at a height comparable with Drumlanrig partridge. The shooting is therefore hugely varied and incredibly exciting.

Much like all good fieldsports, it takes a significant amount of pre-planning, reconnaissance, and a reasonable amount of field craft to gain the best results when shooting Rock Pigeons. The reason for this is because the “Rockies” commute, twice daily, between the Cities and the ripening sunflower fields in the surrounding districts. It is here where the teams of guns must be strategically positioned in their blinds in an attempt to ambush these humbling birds as they travel their flight paths. We are delighted to have teamed up with the very best providers on the ground who spend countless hours studying these birds and their flight paths, helping to ensure the very best results for our clients.

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## THE SHOOTING

Fortunately, when shooting “Rockies”, you are not alone in the challenge as the line usually consists of four to eight guns who, once they have arrived at the shooting fields, draw pegs and settle into one of the fully equipped blinds. Within these blinds, guns can expect to find their gun, ample cartridges, a comfortable seat and chilled refreshments within their own cold box, to name a few of the core items.

Guns are usually alerted to the first flight of birds by excited yells from the local bird boys who are well positioned in the distance. They assist by not only spotting the birds but also by funnelling them over the line of eager guns. As the morning progresses the action often heats up and teams usually find an impressive rhythm and strategy to ensure best results. When shooting these exciting birds, if timed right, the first shot causes a starburst reaction, making a second quick shot seldom accurate. Once they have initially starburst, the birds then tend to pack back together and swing hard down the line offering additional blinds the opportunity to let a number of shots off before the birds peel back hard for a second attempt on the line of blinds. Mastering the timing of this first shot is therefore a challenging art, yet key; too early and the birds will break back with nothing but one shot fired; too late and they will hammer straight through the line of blinds, offering only a split second to fire.

To help break up the shooting, guns can either break for lunch in the field or, if preferred, can continue shooting with freshly prepared food being delivered to each individual blind, ensuring no action is missed.

The second flight tends to take place in the early afternoon with the pigeons returning to their home roosts. This flight tends to offer a similar pattern of shooting, but often with the “Rockies” keeping very high in the air, testing the team’s skills at more extreme distances.

To end the day, teams often partake in the traditional sundowner drinks to discuss the days sport, and relive their newly formed sporting memories.

A typical itinerary for a shoot day would be as follows:

0700 - 0830 hrs - Wake and have breakfast in the hotel before departure

0830 - 1030 hrs - Travel to shooting area/final preparations/set-up

1030 - 1630 hrs - Shooting

1630 - 1730 hrs - Sundowners

1730 hrs - Return to the hotel

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## LOCATION

Bloemfontein is the Capital City of South Africa's Free State Province and is situated in the centre of the country making it easily accessible by both road and air. Bloemfontein is recognised in South Africa for its huge agricultural industry which consists mostly of arable cropping. Due to this abundance of freely available food, a unique environment has developed for both Rock Pigeons and Doves to thrive, resulting in no bag limitations or seasons.

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## TRAVEL AND LOGISTICS

We recommend that all clients fly directly from London Heathrow to O.R Tambo international airport in Johannesburg, South Africa. From here, teams are either able to take a connecting flight to Bloemfontein or meet with one of our transfer vehicles and drive the three and a half hours to the lodge. Transfer by road often proves to be preferable for teams as the flight connection between Johannesburg and Bloemfontein can sometimes result in lengthy delays. Also, it is certainly easier to import guns if there are no onward internal flights.

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## ACCOMMODATION

While shooting Rock Pigeons, the majority of our teams stay in one of the following two exceptional locations.

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### THE TREDENHAM BOUTIQUE HOTEL

Situated in the calm setting of the secure Tredenham Valley on the Northern edge of Bloemfontein, this stunning accommodation is renowned for its warm hospitality, exceptional service and impressive cuisine. The Tredenham Boutique Hotel offers spacious and luxurious accommodation with a comfortable and modern feel. Teams are always impressed with the quality and quantity of food served in generous portions, usually across five courses. Further to this, an extensive list of South African wine complements the food and offers teams the opportunity to enjoy some impressive pairings.



To find out more, please click or scan the QR code to access the Tredenham website.

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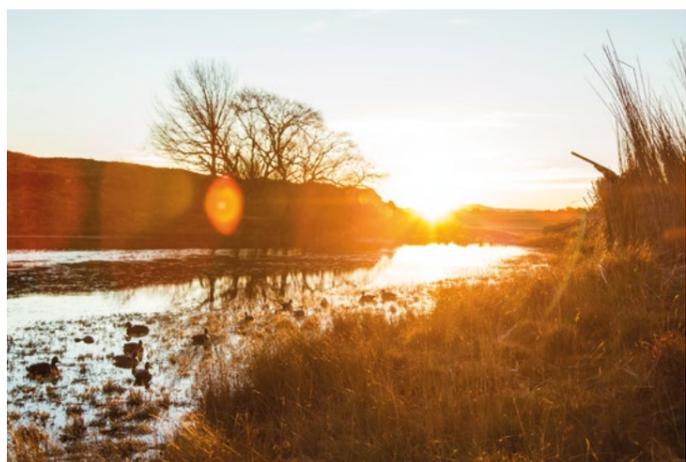
### DE OUDE KRAAL COUNTRY CLUB & SPA

This stunning country club location offers teams a more rural and authentic option. As with Tredenham, the cuisine is impressive and often takes guests by surprise offering a range of impressive dishes through its extensive five course dinners. In addition to this, the renovated wine cellar is something all guests must visit and provides an exceptional venue for dinner should teams wish to eat amongst this hugely impressive collection of wines. De Oude Kraal also boasts an extensive Spa which can be enjoyed by shooting and non shooting guests alike as well as offering evening game drives which are always a firm favourite.



To find out more, please click or scan the QR code to access the De Oude Kraal website.

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## ITINERARY

Our suggested itinerary would be as follows;

### DAY ONE

Arrive in the morning at O.R Tambo international airport Johannesburg. Transfer via road or air to Bloemfontein. Relaxed afternoon settling into the accommodation.

### DAY TWO

Full day shooting Rock Pigeons.

### DAY THREE

Full day Rock Pigeon shooting, with the option of a mornings goose flight, subject to availability.

### DAY FOUR

Full day shooting Rock Pigeons.

### DAY FIVE

Depart Bloemfontein via road or air for O.R Tambo international airport Johannesburg to meet onward flight home.

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## PRICING STRUCTURE

For an itinerary such as this, guests can expect a cost of £3,120 + VAT per gun.

Teams typically range from four to eight guns.

### THIS INCLUDES;

1. Three days Rock Pigeon Shooting
2. Four nights all-inclusive accommodation
3. One morning goose flight
4. All expert field guidance
5. All transport from airport collection to drop off
6. Both soft and alcoholic drinks
7. All required equipment for the success of the trip

### THIS EXCLUDES;

1. Gratuities
2. Airfares
3. Cartridges
4. Shotgun pre-clearance/import

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If shooting Rock Pigeons in Africa is of interest to you or your syndicate, please do not hesitate to contact Ollie or Will who would be delighted to discuss our fixed or tailor made packages with you.

Please email [info@williampowellsporting.co.uk](mailto:info@williampowellsporting.co.uk) or call us on 01295 661033.



**VISIT**  
US ONLINE

**WILLIAM POWELL**  
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Call: 01295 661033

Email: [info@williampowellsporting.co.uk](mailto:info@williampowellsporting.co.uk)  
[williampowellsporting.co.uk](http://williampowellsporting.co.uk)

William Powell Sporting, Carrs House, Tramway, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX16 5TD