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## SOUTH AFRICA'S LARGEST PACK OF WILD DOGS RAISED AT &BEYOND NGALA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

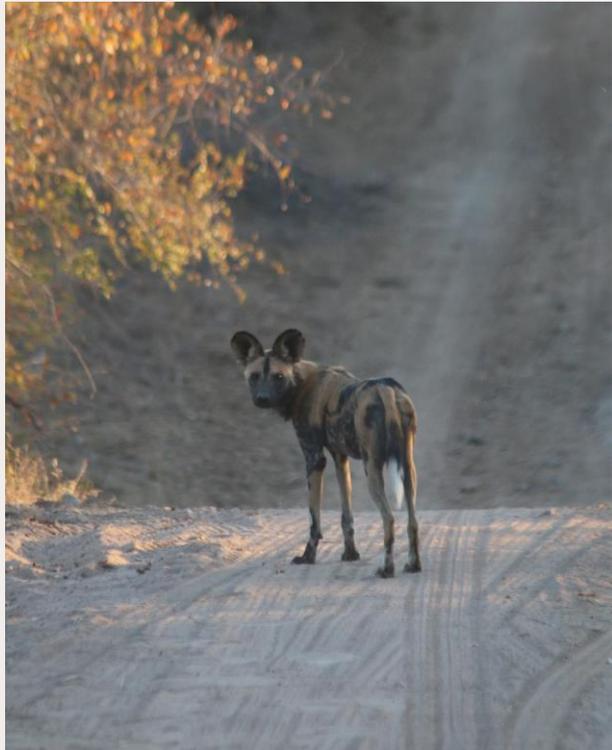
October 2015

One of the continent's most rarely spotted predators, a sighting of African wild dogs is inevitably something to get excited about on safari and a glimpse of wild dog pups is rare even for seasoned safari veterans. Andrew Nicholson, a ranger at [&Beyond Ngala Private Game Reserve](#) in South Africa has been delighted to witness the country's largest wild dog pack bringing up their puppies on the reserve.



Covering huge distances when they hunt, wild dogs seldom remain in one place long except when they are denning. [&Beyond Ngala](#) has now been privileged to be the site of a wild dog den for two years in a row.

Having given birth to her pups at Ngala in 2014, the heavily pregnant alpha was once again spotted near her former den site earlier this year. Slow and ponderous, she could barely keep up with the pack, forcing the animals to slow down their usually fast pace to protect her from attack by larger predators during this vulnerable time.



The pups were born in mid-May and a carefully positioned camera trap allowed the [Ngala rangers](#) to observe the den site over the crucial first weeks. In spite of some uncomfortable moments caused by nearby lionesses, all 17 of the pups safely emerged from the den for the first time after less than three weeks. The alpha female began suckling the pups outside the den shortly after this time, with at least one member of the pack always remaining close by on the lookout, even when the remainder of the pack went out to hunt.

In order to minimise the disturbance to the pack, guests were only allowed to view the pups for the first time at almost a month old. Even such viewing was strictly controlled, with a maximum of one vehicle allowed per game drive and the ranging team remaining sensitive towards pack dynamics at all times.

By six weeks old the pups were exploring as far as 15 metres (50 feet) from the den entrance and, at eight weeks, the pack moved to a new den, situated in a termite mound. All members of the pack were involved, escorting the puppies to the safety of their new home. Apart from hunting daily to bring back meat to regurgitate for the youngsters, all the members of the pack, including the previous year's pups, took their turn at grooming and other activities.

The entire pack temporarily left the reserve in July, returning to the Ngala property the following month. The rangers counted the pups with great



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anticipation and were happy to report that all 17 were accounted for and doing well. By the end of September, the entire pack of seven adult, seven sub-adults and 17 pups were still being regularly sighted at [&Beyond Ngala](#).

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#### ABOUT &BEYOND

&Beyond is one of the world's leading luxury experiential travel companies, designing personalised luxury safaris in 15 African countries, as well as arranging bespoke tours in India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Chile and Argentina. The company also owns and operates 33 extraordinary lodges and camps in Africa and India that positively impact more than 9 million acres of wildlife land. Established in 1991, &Beyond takes exceptional care of its guests in order to make a difference; its commitment to sustainable responsible travel, conservation and community empowerment has been globally recognised with multiple awards over the years.

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