**Spotted hyaena safety advice**

Spotted hyaenas are generally not very aggressive to people or vehicles, but there are some situations that you should be wary of.

**Be cautious:** always approach slowly and carefully, and do not force yourself into their space. If you see one hyaena, look all around you to determine if there are any others around.

**Be respectful:** don’t lean out of the vehicle, tease or throw things at the animal or get out of the car. Remember that the animal perceives the vehicle as one object, but when you stand up or lean out of it then the animal can identify individuals on the back, which can cause them to run away or become aggressive.

**Don’t feed hyaenas:** some hyaenas will prowl around lodges and campsites at night in the hope of an easy meal. By feeding them you can make them dependent on humans, and hyaenas may become intimidating or destructive when trying to get food from people.

**Don’t keep food in the tent:** hyaenas are able to enter some campsites. Never keep food, especially meat like biltong, in the tent with you as you sleep. Hyeanas have been known to bite through a tent to try to get at an enticing smell, and ended up grabbing a person instead.

**Don’t leave food lying around:** never leave any food lying unguarded at night when hyaenas are around. They will easily chew through cooler boxes or plastic crates to get to something they want, so make sure everything is locked away.

**Be wary of hyaenas in clans:** hyaenas are usually quite scared of people, and will run away if you shout and chase them. However, be careful if they are in a group, as this gives them confidence, and they may become aggressive if challenged.