

Kyle Witten in Tanzania – May 2007

My first safari to East Africa began with two nights at Ngong House in Nairobi. The first morning we toured the Giraffe Center, Karen Blixen Museum and the Daphne Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage. You can feed the giraffe at center and they are much bigger close up!



The next morning I departed by scheduled flight to Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. I was met by my guide Hillary Mandia and we drove to the Ngorongoro Crater.



My guide Hillary



Elephant in Crater



Shifting Sands

The next morning game drive began at 5:30am and we made it the gate by 6:00am. We were the only vehicle on the crater floor for about two hours. We exited the crater after about 4 hours and descended on the Serengeti Plains. The view from the crater rim to the Serengeti defies words. We made a side trip to the Shifting Sands and then onward to Kirawira Camp in the western corridor of the park.

We drove through pockets of the migrations at least three time – all of which we were the only vehicle around surrounded by wildebeest and zebra. One of the highlights of the Serengeti was the hot air balloon ride over the plains. The champagne bush breakfast at the end of the balloon ride was excellent.



Champagne breakfast



Migration



Kirawira Camp

From the Serengeti we drove to Lake Manyara and stayed at the Lake Manyara Serena – amazing views of the lake below. The next morning we game drove through the park and passed through Mto Wa Mbu village. The village is real slice of Africa. My last stop was Tarangire Park. I loved this park. Where else can you unzip the front of your elevated tent and watch the sun go down over the Rift Valley Wall from the comfort you bed – sherry in hand.



Lake Manyara Serena



Mto Wa Mbu



Tarangire Treetops