

RECENT CLIENT TRIP REPORTS AND COMMENTS / JUN 07 - APR 08

South Africa and Zambia—June 2007

“One New Year’s resolution that I’m still trying to keep is to catch up on some important thank yous. [We] had a wonderful experience on our safari to South Africa and Zambia last June/July [writing this in January 08!] in no small part because of your patience, helpful advice and support! We reminisce about the trip at least once a week, and each of the kids has told me several times that we have to go back to Africa before they go off to college (mostly because Dad would be paying, I strongly suspect, but it is gratifying to know that we were able to create such happy memories and strong desires to return as a family)...

So, I wanted to finally say ‘Thank you, thank you, thank you’ from all of us, and to let you know that we will return to Africa soon. I hope my thanks rings even more sincerely as it is coming with a strong promise to use the Africa Adventure Company to assist us for the next trip.

...Thank you again, and I look forward to working with you again in the not-too-distant future.”

*Kevin and Treesh Family
Darien, CT*

Kenya and Tanzania—June 2007

“Jambo Mark & Alison,

It’s been several months since I arrived back from my amazing journey through Africa. I was part of the...group that travelled in late June/early July ’07 to Kenya and Tanzania.

...Although I know that Kim forwarded an email on behalf of our entire group, I wanted to send along my accolades as well...Since reliving the trip through pictures recently, I find myself wanting to let you know how awe struck I was during our safari. Not only was it my first trip outside the US (other than Mexico or the Caribbean), it was also my first helicopter ride, my first charter airplane ride, and my first stamped passport. Thank you for allowing me to experience all of this with great accommodations, incredible cuisines, first rate staff and rangers, amongst the spectacular terrain and wildlife. It was indeed a trip of a lifetime!

I hope to explore much more of Africa in years to come! Thank you again for making it all happen!”

*Lauri Spector
Deerfield Beach, FL*

South Africa, Botswana, and Zimbabwe—December 2007

“Dear Africa Adventure Company-

I’m finally getting around to letting you know that my trip to Africa was amazing.

...Kyle did an excellent job of setting up of itineraries and everyone I spoke with at your company was great—professional, friendly, and so helpful. Everything on my trip went very smoothly. Each of the places I stayed was lovely and all of my transfers were on time, friendly and efficient. Most of my transfers were like mini tours with knowledgeable drivers happy to share their stories and local information with me. Your local vendors are doing a great job taking care of your travelers. A particular highlight was my tour of Victoria Falls with Esther. She was so knowledgeable and made the experience very memorable—not just amazing views of the falls, but a background on the history, geology and cultural features of the falls. I never expected a private tour...

As for the time I spent at the lodges and on safari activities, I’m sure my photos will only give you the slightest idea of what amazing things I saw. The staff and guides at Djuma were so fantastic. Their warmth and willingness to share their stories of the animals, their families, and their experiences added so much to the game drives and at meal times...My friends that recommended Djuma were right—it was the best. Muchenje was also a wonderful place...At Sabi Sands we saw leopards everyday, got very close and saw lots of small groups of different animals. At Chobe we saw large groups of elephants, hippos, stalking lions and I especially enjoyed seeing the animals at the river’s edge from the boat...

...thank you for all your efforts to make sure my trip went smoothly...I am confident that you will take good care of any friends I send your way.”

*Lynne Barre
Seattle, WA*

South Africa, Botswana, and Zimbabwe—December 2007

“We had a wonderful time!

Djuma was the highlight; we spent Christmas there, and they had the local school children come in and sing Christmas carols. It was lovely. It was also at Djuma that we saw the most animals, and had the best guide of the whole trip.

We can’t thank you enough for what a great job you did and how well our itinerary worked.”

*Terry and Barbara Groh
League City, TX*

Tanzania—December 2007

“We have just returned from our amazing 2 week vacation in Tanzania. I wanted to share with you some of my thoughts...

Firstly, my intention was to expose my children to a different life, a different world and a different type of holiday vacation... all were accomplished and then some...

The 2 other families that you had us traveling with were a perfect match... we rode tandem with the family that had twin boys the same age as my son... and Elaine and Scott, who were our jeep buddies were fantastic... so that added an unexpected positive element to our trip.

I cannot say enough great things about Rassul and Seif (guides/drivers) They were knowledgeable, patient, informative and very willing to make us as comfortable as possible. They became part of OUR family...

I think my daughter Rebecca would liken the tent experience to the movie Private Benjamin. It was truly an amazing experience... and really the people are what made the trip so extraordinary...

The mobile tent at Ndarakwai was spectacular beyond belief...the staff there was wonderful... Thomas was taken on a walking safari and also to a massai village... he was so sweet...

My favorite part about traveling anywhere is the people... We loved visiting the school at Gibbs Farm... we took loads of pics, gave the kids tons of things... and donated a small amount to the school.

Our experience at Gibbs Farm School impacted us tremendously... I had a chance to read to the school children and talk with the assistant principal...

...I want you to know that first and foremost we had the vacation of a lifetime... and want to thank you and your staff for creating a most memorable vacation for myself and my children.

*Nancy Gerson
Henderson, NV*

Kenya and Tanzania—January 2008

“Well, you asked for feedback and photos below is probably much more than you wanted!...

We had a wonderful time and everything went like clockwork...

...We were pleasantly surprised by the flights we took on small airlines...they were timely, smooth, and showed up at remote airstrips as promised. This first one held about 7 passengers and we were thrilled to see our first “game”...herds of zebras from the plane.

...Got to Tortilis Camp about 11:30...you enter a lovely dining/lounge complex shaded by a huge conical thatched roof, that's set high up overlooking a watering hole that attracts wildlife, acacia trees, and the mountains of Kilimanjaro and others are on the horizon...stunning!

...I loved the tent...set on a stone terrace with outside loungers, wooden floor inside, huge king bed, chest at foot of bed, large bathroom in back with stone shower, flush toilet and 2 sinks...wood paneled wall separating it from sleep area...conical thatched room extended over the canvas walls...and a bottle of champagne congratulating us on our 25th anniversary!

...Wakeup call at 6am with coffee and biscuits (cookies) delivered to your tent. Game drive started at 6:30 with a glowingly pink sunrise and top of Kilimanjaro visible. We enjoy the 2 women who share these with us...they're a lot of fun and want to see "Twiga" (giraffes) too...

...Last game drive here and we're getting mutinous for giraffe (not really!)...Our guide doesn't look promising, as there aren't many trees around here...for the giraffes to feed on. But, he takes off in another direction, asks permission from some park officials, and next thing we know, we're driving and driving across a vast, dried up lake bed...like being on the moon. At the opposite side...he finds us our target...about 8 lovely Maasai giraffes leisurely munching the tops of Acacia trees. We take picture after picture. Then, they start gliding along past Mt. Kilimanjaro as the sun comes out, the top clears, and we have the snow-capped mountain as the quintessential backdrop! Perfect! One of the highlights of our safari.

...All in all, Amboselli is a great first park to go to, and Tortilis Camp is the place to stay. Excellent accommodations, food, staff, driver/guide and scenery."

*Laura Ash Joeckel
Bonita Springs, FL*

Tanzania—February 2008

"We are back from an incredible safari experience in Tanzania. We saw so many animals and birds (over 110 birds added to our list!) with the help of the best guide imaginable, Omari. He was so knowledgeable, kind, funny and always patient and helpful. The team at Ranger Safaris was attentive and always on top of things. We appreciated Evans meeting with us before and after our return to Arusha. Our driver on the last day, Duffin was most helpful in taking us to places good for shopping and getting a good idea what Arusha is like. The food and accommodations were superb without exception. We felt so privileged to experience mobile tent camping, with no one else around for miles, while listening to the sounds of the night. Our only regret is that we couldn't stay longer, but I guess that gives us more incentive to return...

...Thanks again to you and everyone from African Adventure. We would heartily recommend you to anyone who is planning a trip to Africa."

*Dennis Berger
Rochester Hills, MI*

Tanzania—February 2008

“This was our fourth safari and best ever. Words do not easily describe the unbelievable experience we had in Tanzania and the Serengeti. Please accept our profound thanks to AAC and its marvelous staff in the US and in Tanzania for making this trip so enjoyable.

...The photographic opportunities were a dream come true since often presenting ‘national geographic’ type scenes complete with ideal lighting conditions. On several days Mkenda summed it up with ‘Wow!’ and I said a few times ‘If I missed that shot next time I bring a professional photographer with me.’

From start to finish everything was as close to perfection as humanly possible.
...Andre was very helpful in helping plan this second safari to Tanzania...

...I would like to mention Amos at Sayari. First of all he endeared himself to us when he remembered us from our 2002 stay at Kusini in incredible detail. On our first night at Sayari I was ill and had absolutely no appetite for the prepared menu but Mkenda and Amos quickly got me a plate of cold fruit that I later jokingly said “it saved my life.” Service above and beyond normal service.

One additional comment needs to be made about accommodations. Mkenda was very attentive to the quality of our accommodations and saw that flaws we had not even noticed were addressed and corrected if he believed they were less than AAC standards.

...During this trip we must have been approached by a dozen or more couples who asked about how we had arranged this fourth safari. Clearly we were enjoying our experience and most of them planned to return to Africa. We told them all about AAC and Andre and recommended you unequivocally. (We should have had more AAC business cards.) Thank you very much.”

John Montjoy
Winter Garden, FL

Tanzania and Zanzibar—February 2008

“Everything went so smoothly!!! I have never eaten so well or had such wonderful service. And Mom’s 2 big dreams of seeing elephants and the migration were more than met...

Loved Kikoti – In spite of the long drive to get there, well worth it, probably the best food and great service. You must have told them I was vegetarian and they went out of their way to make special and wonderful meals for me without me ever asking...

Turners Spring Private Camp – Mom’s favorite night was at this camp sitting around the campfire hearing the baboons and lions, eating warm cashews. The service, food and accommodations were absolutely wonderful. We were all amazed that they had just set the camp up the day before!!!,,,

The Palms was the perfect end to the safari. Beautiful and relaxing.

So again thank you for all your help—this was the trip of a lifetime for my Mom.”

Laurie Phillips
Lawrenceville, NJ

Botswana—February 2008

“Our trip to Botswana was fabulous!! Thank you for the great planning. Every camp was different and we really enjoyed them all.

There was certainly more wildlife at Mombo, but Jao was beautiful and Jack’s camp very interesting. Our walk with the bushmen was a highlight. The guides were extremely knowledgeable and also fun to be with. We all agreed though that Peter at Mombo was our favorite!

The flights were organized so well, it was great not to miss any activities since they were scheduled in the middle of the day. The meals were really good. We got to meet Simon, the chef at Mombo, and even got a tour of the kitchen, etc.

We would certainly recommend your company to friends, and would love to travel with you again. Thanks!”

Susan Lifeso,
East Amherst, NY

Botswana—March 2008

“The services were great. I did not expect the personal attention Wilderne ss gave me. For instance a cold towel and drink on arrival at every camp, a tour of my room, what I want to drink on the game drives, and a personal welcome from the managers after each game drive. Wilderness really knows service! The food was excellent at each camp. The ‘special’ dinner by candle light, [and] staff cultural night were a special treat...really caught me and all the guests by surprise.

My guide Chief at Tubu Tree was the best of the three guides. He was very enthusiastic aand he really loves what he is doing for a living. He loves the scenery, tracking, and watching game as much as his guests. We saw 5 leopards on 6 game drives. ON the first evening game drive Chief spotted a leopard in a distant tree. Chief pulled the vehicle up unde r the tree; we watched the leopard eat an impala leg for 45 minutes at a distance of 15 feet. Chief said, ‘This is great, I have not been this close to a leopard before, amazing.’”

Alicia Ossenkop
Seattle, WA

Botswana—April 2008

“We’re back and thanks to you and Africa Adventure Co. our trip was like a dream come true. We had a fabulous time with everything running smoothly as a result of your meticulous and thorough planning. Your arrangements and correspondence were so accurate and complete that we were able to just relax and enjoy all that makes Africa such a special destination.

...Nic Polenakis was the highlight of our vacation. He was so much more than a superb and authoritative guide, he was always energetic and animated, upbeat and optimistic, cordial and caring...Nic made our experience enjoyable and worthwhile...the rest of our mobile camp staff reflected Nic’s enthusiasm and genuine good humor. We’re glad to have him as our new friend.

As for special sightings, we greatly enjoyed the meercats in San Camp, and of course the walk with the Bushmen was unforgettable...The lion pride we saw kill a buffalo right before our eyes, two encounters with wild dogs while on the hunt, a fatal fight between two impala, and an unbelievable hour in broad daylight with a walking leopard, were among the remarkable things we didn’t expect to see and will never forget...Add to this all the other sightings of abundant animals and birds, sunsets and sundowners, African ambiance, wonderful food and drink, it is no wonder he had a truly memorable trip.

...Victoria Falls Hotel was beautiful to behold, inside and out, especially the grounds and views. The staff wonderfully helpful and cordial...

Thanks again, your care and attention upholds the best professional standards.”

Fred and Karen Peters
Show Low, AZ

Namibia and South Africa—April 2008

“Good Morning Joanna!

We like to thank you and the great crew of the Africa Adventure Company for a wonderful trip to South Africa and Namibia.

The arrangements were superb and we felt fortunate to have selected your agency to handle our travel needs. It was the first time in Africa for us and we were not so sure what to expect. What ever we did expect was exceeded by a mile or two! We are not necessarily the “nature” type of people and frankly this was the first time of doing anything like this (a safari) and we truly liked every aspect of it. Needless to say we got to “take in” a beautiful piece of scenery and experience it in great comfort.

We are not able to repeat the trip every year, but be assured we are seriously considering it!

Thank you and a round of applause all around!”

Axel and Merja Weinreich
Lahti, Finland

Safari to South Africa, Botswana, and Zimbabwe—April 2008

“Thank you for a flawless trip. Every meet, greet, charter and transfer was on time...

We loved Esther in Victoria Falls. She was very proud of her Today Show umbrella, joyfully explaining to us that in 2000 she guided Matt Lauer at the Falls...

We greatly appreciate all of the special dinners and sundowners we received in Botswana on our anniversary. There, we also saw good leopard and lion sighting at all the camps.

Would love to be a reference for anyone considering traveling with the Africa Adventure Company!”

*John and Janet Terpstra
Port Ludlow, WA*
