

# CLIENT TRIP REPORTS - EAST AFRICA

JULY 2008 – OCTOBER 2008

## SAFARI TO TANZANIA

### Safari to Tarangire/Lake Eyasi/Serengeti/Ngorongoro

First, let me give you just some general comments. The whole trip was fantastic. I really liked the fact that we got to see many different parts of Tanzania (different terrain, animals etc.). I also liked that cultural activities such as visiting the Masai and going to the Leakey museum. My daughter, being a biology and environmental high school teacher was ecstatic about standing in the same place that the Leakys found early man.

Something about the agenda etc.:

- Wildebeest crossing the Mara
  - From the Sayari camp we headed out at 6am and saw a large herd of wildebeest standing on the cliff looking into the water that was loaded with crocodiles. We waited for an hour and then two more herds came from the north and west and joined up with them. Then after one hour and forty-five minutes the first small one eased down the cliff, went to the water's edge and waited again. Then in a few minutes went in and the other 50,000 followed. It was just so unbelievable, it took our breath away. The crocs did not get any and only looked like they may have tried just a little.
- Hunt with the Wahadzabi tribe
  - This rates very high on the most exhilarating things I have done in my life. We went with two adults and two boys. They chased baboons but did not get any. They shot four birds and a squirrel and tried chasing a number of ratel out of bushes but were not successful. I watched as the one guy who I think was their chief shot a francolin that was very high up on the top of a tree. He hit him dead-center and the arrow with the bird on it kept flying through the air. One of the boys shot an arrow that came down about one foot in front of me so I told everybody I was dodging bushman arrows. We stopped and they cooked the birds by starting the fire rubbing two sticks together and used dung for fuel. I tried to start a fire with the sticks but could not make it happen. Then they threw the francolin and other birds on top of the sticks and dung. We ate some of the francolin and it tasted great. Then the chief smoked a clay pipe and offered it to me and I of course smoked it.
- At the crater we saw black rhino which highly excited my daughter since they are so endangered. And of course we saw massive herds of wildebeest, zebra, cape buffalo, and lots of hippos, male and female lions and cubs.
- There were many other highlights including seeing a lion get a hold of a warthog but the n lost him and lions eating a zebra. Also, one night around 5:30pm before going back to Sayari camp we came across a pride of about 12 lions that we got very close to. In fact we were the only people there. About 100 yards away was a large herd of wildebeest. We kept waiting but it was probably too early for them to hunt but the pictures and video of them are just magnificent.

*Gary Henkel, July 2008*

## **FAMILY WILDLIFE AND WILDERNESS SAFARI TO TANZANIA**

### **Safari to Tarangire/Lake Eyasi/Ngorongoro/Serengeti**

We have reluctantly returned from Tanzania. What an amazing trip! Words simply cannot adequately describe the adventure. What a beautiful country - the scenery, the people, the culture, the animals ... we just couldn't absorb enough.

The greatest gift of all for us was experiencing Austen's reaction to everything ... from his first sighting of animals in Tarangire (and every animal and bird afterwards) to his sheer joy hunting with the Hadzabi bushmen, to seeing his wonder at the vastness of the Ngorongoro Crater, and his delight in being able to spot so many cheetah (his favorite animal of all) in the Serengeti plains. The balloon safari was incredible - what a way to welcome the sunrise. To view the plains and animals from the air is a real treat. I highly recommend this to everyone.

Austen seemed to thoroughly enjoy interacting with the school children. We practiced a few questions in Swahili and our guide ensured we had pronunciation correct. The students were quite proficient in English, which made interaction so easy. Many of the adults (including me) were teary eyed when the older students immediately stood up when we entered the room ... what respect. I gained a pen pal - an adorable 7th grade girl and my daughter now has the name and address of the 4th grade teacher (my daughter teaches 4th grade) and she hopes to establish a continuing relationship with her and her students.

Though not a great conversationalist (Austen is sometimes a quiet, shy teenager), he did eventually open up more with our guide Hassam. Austen was nicknamed Duma (gee ... wonder why ... Swahili for cheetah) and in turn, he chose Kiongozi (leader) for Hassam.

The itinerary was perfect ... all your efforts, and everyone's at AAC, are greatly appreciated. The camps and staffs were amazing ... Kikoti, Ksima Ngeda, Ngorongoro Farm House, and Serengeti Mobile Camp. The food delicious, such a variety, and abundant. Our picky grandson surprised us and tried almost everything, finding some new favorite dishes. One thing I know for sure ... this will not be our only trip to Africa.

*Lyle and Kathy White, July 2008*

## **SERENGETI - EXPLORED SAFARI TO TANZANIA**

### **Private safari to Ndarakwai-foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro/Tarangire/Lake Manyara-Rift Valley Ngorongoro Crater/Serengeti**

My wife and I recently returned from two weeks in Tanzania. Selecting a tour company was one of our more difficult choices. One of the reasons we chose African Adventure Company was your high regard for their service. We were very pleased with our choice. The trip met, or exceeded, our every expectation. The accommodations were wonderful, the staff attentive, and the food was fantastic. Our guide, Clemence Kiriambata was wonderful. He asked for a 'wish list', and delivered on every one of them. I particularly enjoyed the moment in the northern Serengeti when he stopped the Land Cruiser, turned off the engine, and announced with great satisfaction, "Jim, there are your cheetahs on a termite mound". Your high rating for this company is well deserved.

*Dr and Mrs James Kfeeman, Sep 2008*

## SAFARI TO KENYA

### Flying safari to Amboseli/Samburu/Masai Mara

Just wanted to e-mail you about my adventure in Kenya! I don't even know where to begin! It was absolutely amazing!!! Everything went smoothly, not a single glitch. The trip was even better than described in the itinerary! You and your company did an absolutely amazing job and rest assured I am going back!! Visiting the 3 different parks and ecosystems was the best way to see Africa. The 3 different parks offered very different views of Africa and the wildlife. Excellent way to enjoy this continent!

Every place I stayed was amazing. The Norfolk hotel was beautiful, and I am so glad you suggested booking the extra night for immediate check in at 0430. It felt so good to finally lay down after traveling on a plane for a day and half.

Tortilis Camp: My absolute favorite place of them all! It was more beautiful than I could have imagined and the views of Mt. Kilimanjaro were spectacular. The tent was spacious with all the accommodations I could have asked for! The wildlife was abundant in Amboseli and I loved the dust! The staff was amazing, the food spectacular the guide Nixon was informative, accommodating and so very willing to share stories about his Masi upbringing. Actually I hated to leave this camp, but I knew there were more adventures in store for me.

Samburu Intrepids: Loved the ecosystem here as well. The climate was so different from Amboseli. Here the wildlife was extremely abundant!! Elephants to the left, Lions to the right, Giraffes in front! It was a photographic dream! Again, food was amazing and the staff really took care of me. Might have been because I was traveling alone. When I did not go to lunch on day, opting to nap instead, they came to check on me.

Mara Intrepids: This was my favorite park! I loved the vastness of it, the thousands of Wildebeast and Zebra. The best part here were the 3 safaris a day. The other camps were 2/day. The balloon safari was amazing, but truly the best part was the breakfast afterward! Here we are eating breakfast and zebras and baboons are walking around us! I can't say enough about this place!

I loved that all the camps employed local people who were more than willing to answer any questions I had about their life and their culture. Everyone was very open and honest, even with some of my more personal questions. I learned a lot about the Masi and Samburu and they were very willing to help me learn Swahili words and phrases. All three camps did an amazing job with responsible eco-tourism, sustainability of the community and the use of local resources. I loved that many of the vegetables we ate were grown right in the camp! The tents had handicrafts made by the local people.

The moment I arrived in Amboseli, I knew I would return to Africa and I will definitely use the Africa Adventure Company. You will be hearing from me soon to start planning my next adventure! Thank you for all you did to make this childhood dream such an amazing reality!

*Catherine Krabath, Sept 2008*

## **GREAT PLAINS SAFARI TO TANZANIA**

### **Safari to Arusha/Tarangire/Gibbs Farm/Ngorongoro/Serengeti**

I just want you to know that Eileen and I had the adventure of our lives in Tanzania. This was a birthday gift to Eileen as she has always wanted to go on an African safari. We celebrated her 64<sup>th</sup> birthday while we were at Treetops Lodge. A wonderful experience and everything Eileen dreamed that it could be. I was somewhat reserved about the trip, but I am now so happy that I went!

Most of our joy was in seeing the animals and meeting the people, but the success and reason for that joy was the excellent organization of the Ranger Safari group and the absolute fantastic job of our guide, Ephata Lotashu. He is the best! We are still marveling at his ability to find animals and his steady and upbeat personality. After a life of travel as a corporate executive and having the opportunity to stay in top hotels, I considered the accommodations that we had in Tanzania were excellent and the staffs of all the lodges and tented camps were five stars. The staff of the mobile tented camp in the Serengeti was so great that I wish that the management of the top hotel chains would consult with them to establish a similar degree of excellence in service for their hotels.

I know that there will be another visit to Africa in our future! We will, indeed, call on African Adventure to organize it for us. We look forward to the next time we can visit an exciting and beautiful land of Africa.

*Chuck and Eileen Manley, Sept 2008*

## **SAFARI TO TANZANIA, KENYA, RWANDA, SEYCHELLES AND VISIT TO CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

### **Private Safari in Tanzania to Ngorongoro Crater and Tarangire**

### **Safari in Kenya to the Masai Mara**

### **Gorilla trekking in Volcano National Park**

### **Island-hopping the Seychelles**

### **Visit Cape Town, South Africa**

Dear Mark,

I knew about your Company in the early 90ties, and I enjoyed my first safari with the The Africa Adventure Company in the year 1992, it is very difficult to grow up an excellent Company, but it is even more difficult to make the Company better 20 years later.

I thought it would be impossible, but our safari in September 2008 was better than the one in 1992. Please let me give you some opinions of other people before I write you our experience in this marvelous safari

Geoffrey John Milinga, our Safari Driver Guide in Tanzania, " I'm very proud to work for the African Adventure Company, it's a dream for me "

Nanny Schmelling, owner of the Kisima Ngeda Tended Camp, " The African Adventure Company is the best company working in East Africa "

Michael Fuchs, General Manager of the Kempinsky Hotel and Lodge Projects in Rwanda, " Your Travel Agent chose the best representative in Rwanda, Primates Tours "

Hugo, Free Lance Driver Guide in Cape Town, " Your Company chose the best representative in Cape Town, Tours & Trails "

In our 28 days safari, we visited 5 countries, we had 18 landings, and we stayed in 16 different lodges, camps and hotels, we were met and assisted by 6 different representative companies, and all happened as your Company planned it.

All the lodges, their staff and the food have been excellent.

Let me give you some commentaries, about any of them

Tarangire Treetops, the lodge is really luxurious but the food is a bit under the standard for such a place, and the location of the lodge is not convenient for the safaris in the park, there is a long and bumpy road to reach the gate, but the place and the staff are outstanding. The owners decided to protect the bats, which is a very good initiative, but they have to look for another place for them, because now they live on the roofs of the treehouses and the bats are very noisy all the day and all the night.

Kisima Ngeda, here the food is over the standard, and the place is worth a visit, the experience with the Datoga and the Hadzabe people is unforgettable

Gorilla Nest Lodge, during our dinner in the Norfolk the day before we went to Rwanda, we met a very nice person called Michael Fuchs, with whom we shared some drinks after dinner, and he told us that he would give us a surprise in the Gorilla Nest Lodge. We spend one of the nights in the Jack Hanna Cottage, it was a very nice experience, and for free

Sunset Beach Hotel, the location of the hotel, the beach and the service are excellent, the food is a bit under the standard.

Our representatives and our driver guides have been super excellent, only the People of Creole Holidays were real under the standard, only the drivers of the Creole were very good. A special mention for the driver guide Milinga, he makes all the time the best effort to make us feel very good. During the nine days with him we spend a great time, we learned a lot, he took care of the ecology, he was always attentive to our needs and he tried always to give us more than the program. Patrick from Primates Tour in Rwanda and Hugo from Tours & Trails in Cape Town were excellent too, both made more than the program

#### The highlights:

- The landscape in the Tarangire National Park
- The hunting with the Hadzabe people
- Sharing an afternoon with the Datoga people discussing our different way of life
- The lions in the Ngorongoro Crater
- Learning from the Masai people in their Boma
- The balloon safari in the Masai Mara
- The two leopards in the Masai rainy evening
- A zebra crossing in the Mara River
- A gorilla trekking alone with Monica and the guide
- A day at the Jack Hanna Cottage
- A visit to an Rwandan Village with two pigmies
- The Anse Source d'Argent Beach in la Digue Seychelles
- Snorkelling in the Glacis Beach in front of the Sunset Beach Hotel in Mahe Seychelles
- The white shark cage diving in Gansbai
- So many highlights that I might forget some
- The staff of The Africa Adventure Company

A special mention for the entire staff of the Company, fifteen months before my safari began, I send the first of a lot of mails, written in my bad English, and asking about so much information of the safari. I always received a quick, professional and friendly response, every member in the staff did the job excellent, and Milissa ever had to coordinate everything and put all her patience to endure our anxiety Please congratulate all the staff for the excellent safari they arranged for us, and thank you very much  
!!

Please do not consider the comments I did about some food or the service of the Creole Holiday representative as a complaint, they are only a feedback to improve ( I think it will be impossible, your service is excellent ) the service of The Company

In the next days I will send you some photos of our marvelous safari

Thank you again

*Ricardo Maitisch and Monica Escarra, Sept 2008*

**SAFARI TO TANZANIA AND GORILLA TREKKING EXCURSION TO RWANDA**  
**Private Safari to Lake Manyara/Ngorongoro/Serengeti**  
**Gorilla trekking in Volcano National Park**

We had a wonderful trip! More than either Kathryn or I was hoping for. The connections were always perfect. The information you sent in the pre-departure packet all came true without a hitch. It was so simple for us having people meet us to help us make the connections.

The scheduling of Lake Manyara then the Serengeti and finishing our trip in Tanzania in the Crater were perfect. The accommodations were all great. I am not a camper by any stretch of the imagination, and the mobile tenting was a thrill of a life-time. The staff, the food, the accommodations, was more than I could have ever expected. To think we were "camping." That's the only way I will ever do it in the future.

Our guide in Tanzania, Mkenda, truly made the trip for us. He was knowledgeable about anything we asked him. He is pursuing an advanced degree in the travel industry with specific focus on eco - tourism. He was so informative about the efforts the country is making toward that end. He was exceptional, and I would recommend him if anyone is planning a trip to Tanzania. He was truly great!

Seeing the gorillas in Rwanda was a wonderful way to end the trip. I am glad we were scheduled for two days as the first day was rainy and it was a difficult trek up and down and the gorilla family was more mobile than the second day when we could actually "be with them." Quite a wonderful experience. Difficult to be back in my real life.

Could not have been more pleased with this trip of a life -time. Anyone going to Africa will certainly be referred to you. It was just fabulous. I really felt prepared for anything.

*Mary Joe, October 2008*