

The Nolting family safari – Kenya, Tanzania, and South Africa – June/July 2007

Kenya Villa in the Hilltops

We arrived in Nairobi-Kenya at 6:00am off the new Virgin Atlantic service from London. After clearing customs and immigration we walked over to a waiting charter flight with Tropic Air to fly us north into the Laikipia region to stay at the newly opened **Sanctuary at Ol Lentille**, a fabulous property that is joint leading edge conservation tourism partnership with the Masai community and John and Gill Elias. The concept is that you have your own villa stay for a week or more. Our children now 13 and 10 years old enjoyed the camel rides, riding out on the quad bikes, climbing Ol Lentille hill with their dad, riding the horses along the animal trails and hanging out at the local Masai school and their homesteads.



Tanzania – Stampede in the Serengeti and Cross Pollination of Cultures

Our Journey through Tanzania began in the private Grumeti Reserves, with “top of the range” stays at **Sasakwa Lodge, Sabora Plains and Faru Faru – a trio of tantalizing elegance in the wilderness.** This is where we saw the migration in all its glory for 3 days with endless wildebeest columns moving through the area on their annual migration.



For the next 12 days we spent time with our private guide **Omari Muyangala** and for the first four days our children had the most incredible cross-pollination of cultures with **the Masai people at E Unoto Retreat** near Lake Manyara, the **Iraqw centre near Gibbs Farm in Karatu**, and visiting **the Datoga tribe and Hadzape bushmen using Kisima Ngeda** as our base.





We continued onto Ngorongoro Crater where we spent an afternoon and morning in the crater floor spending time looking for the elusive rhino! Even though we ran into more vehicle traffic than on the rest of our trip we still have to appreciate that 5 or more vehicles at a sighting is not huge when you consider how many travelers around the world have their heart set on seeing one of the Natural Wonders of the World!



The drive to Olduvai Gorge brought us into contact with “the old” to a visit to Richard Leakey’s Museum & Archeological Site, and “the present” with further interaction with the Masai people living in the Ngorongoro Highlands and Shifting Sands area.



The second part of our visit to the Serengeti we spent a total of 6 nights with Omari guiding to all corners of the park with time in the central Seronera valley staying at the **Serengeti Serena Lodge** and a **classic Mobile Tented Camp**. We continued through the plains visiting both **Suvan Camp** in the Loliondo area and finishing up in the far north at **Mara Savari Camp** – many, many highlights of wildlife viewing and our two boys especially enjoying the balloon ride!

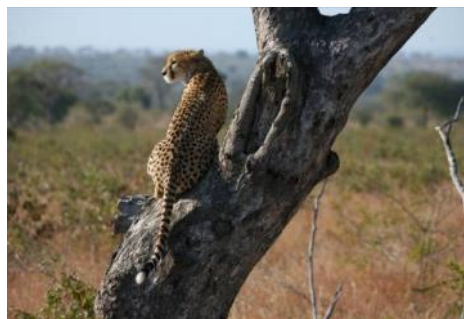
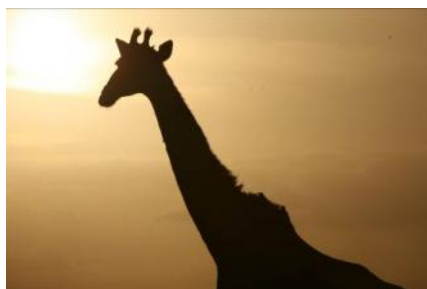




South Africa – Renaissance of two fine establishments

Departing Tanzania, our flight leaves Kilimanjaro with stops in Zanzibar and Dar Es Salaam before arriving into Johannesburg, South Africa.

This part of the safari was a reunion, celebrating our wedding anniversary at Londolozi where we had spent our honeymoon 15 years ago. The **Londolozi game reserve** has had a riveting renaissance within the Varty family, as both parents and children alike have taken the helm again at this flagship wildlife property. Shan, Dave, Bronwyn and Boyd share in their absolute delight of being one with nature. All the properties have undergone major rebuilding and refurbishment and it was sheer sublime to see the changes at Tree Lodge and Granite Suites, spend quality family time with Sandro Shilangu our gentleman of a guide, share in a joyous night in the boma with entertainment provided on the guitar, and to have Miles and Nicholas enjoying exposure to the bushveld of Londolozi, sharing her secrets with the next generation. Londolozi is setting the trend for the future focus of eco-tourism!





To finish in Cape Town at the charming Cape Grace Hotel, was as always, a comforting five-star end to our travels in Africa.

