

May-Aug 2009 Client Trip Reports

East Africa

Safari to Ndarakwai-foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro/Tarangire/Lake Eyasi/Ngorongoro Crater/Serengeti

Dear Alison:

A long overdue note to say thanks for all the July Tanzania safari arrangements. Needless to say, we had an amazing time. I have put together a short book of animal photos and will share it with you under separate cover.

Where do I start? We had a fascinating cultural experience and thoroughly enjoyed all the game viewing that the parks provided! Let's start with our driver, Ephata. He was the BEST! He was knowledgeable, sensitive to our family needs and a perfect ambassador for Tanzania, Ranger Safaris and Africa Adventure Company. He was a perfect match for our family. Our visits with the Maasai, Hadzape and Datoga tribes providing priceless experiences into the lives of local Africans. My kids especially enjoyed our visit to the school near Mto Wa Mbu. Our hunting with the Hadzape was also quite an experience. They successfully hunted a monkey but had to climb a tree to get her-- which added an extra element of drama.

Ndarkwai was a perfect starting place. It was a great introduction and also laid back enough for us to recover from our long flight from the states before really setting out and exploring. We loved the Treehouse and the Maasai visit there. Tarangire Treetops was extraordinary--a very welcoming and convivial atmosphere with luxury sleeping arrangements to boot. We enjoyed the green and the elephants of Tarangire National Park and the pool and waterhole (enjoyed a visit from 6 elephants at dusk) back at the lodge. Lake Eyasi is an oasis at the end of a long, bumpy and dusty road. It is hard to believe that there are some tribes that still exist with such a simple lifestyle.

Ngorongoro Crater lived up to its reputation. We even spotted two black rhino feeding in the distance and followed a lioness and her two cubs for a while also! What a treat. Can you imagine our surprise when we were visiting Oldupai Gorge and Richard and Jonathan Leakey, sons of Louis and Mary Leakey were there to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their mother's great discovery. We shook their hands and even snapped a photo! Local celebrities for sure.

Kembe Camp proved to be our family favorite. The character and primitive bush camp delighted us all. We had the best sundowners, campfire songs/games and laughs and dinners there after long hours of extraordinary wildlife viewing in the Serengeti. We were even lucky enough to experience a cheetah kill. We watched many lion prides, sprawled out on the plains and in the shade, laughed at the hippo pools and all their funny noises and couldn't take our eyes off of the natural beauty of the leopards. The hot air balloon flight delighted us all. At breakfast in the bush, there was a lion lurking in the tall grasses. That doesn't happen every day!

On to Migration Camp where we headed north for the Mara River and to catch a glimpse of the great migration. We saw the famous march of the wildebeest and zebra and the crocodiles that exist just to ambush! Yet another priceless adventure. Our flight back to Arusha and our day room at the Coffee Lodge was a great way to close out our two week African adventure.

I hope that gives you a taste of our travels. We would love to do it all over again, tomorrow, next year and even many years from now.

What an incredible visit! Thanks for all of your help and guidance.

Anne, Shawn, Kelly, Shawn and Karen Brosko, July 2009

Group safari to Tarangire/Lake Eyasi/Ngorongoro/Serengeti and Zanzibar add-on

I had a fantastic safari experience in Tanzania and Kenya! So much that I know I will be back for another safari!... I have joined Friends of Tanzania and hope to raise some funds for Good Hope Orphanage in Arusha. I am also considering doing some volunteer work in Tanzania. And I am considering the possibility of some kind of overland or multi-country tour as well as a possible gorilla tracking tour in Rwanda (I understand it is a bit easier to track gorillas in Rwanda than it is in Uganda.) I also definitely want to see Victoria Falls and Lake Victoria (I understand Victoria Falls is in Zimbabwe and Zambia and Lake Victoria is in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.)... I plan to use African Adventure Company again.

Anyway, I want to give some feedback on our safari in July and August now that we have been back for one month.

Kilimanjaro Kempinski Hotel. Very adequate hotel. We did not spend much time in Dar es Salaam so I don't have a lot of comments but there were no problems with pickup and the hotel and food were sufficient for recuperating from a long flight before we continued on to Zanzibar.

I don't think enough people visit Zanzibar. Zanzibar is a very short hop from Dar es salaam and makes an ideal complement to any safari. Stone Town is a quaint and historical city that is untouched by mass tourism".

236 Hurumzi. Very adequate facilities and excellent location, right in the middle of Stone Town. We had to use stairs and this was fine as we were only on the third floor. The hotel was interesting and the room we were in was quite charming. The hotel was clean and comfortable.

Tower Top Restaurant. Fun evening although I was still dealing with a bit of jet lag and was a bit tired by the time it was dinner. Still, very glad we had a reservation at this restaurant and the view was incredible.

Tour of Stone Town. Excellent. We saw all of the sights we wanted to see in Stone Town. The site of the slave market is a sight I will never forget. The market was interesting. It was a thrill to see the Freddy Mercury house.

In Stone Town, we hooked up with Blue Safari and had an excellent time! I got to snorkel and the water was beautiful. Definitely worth a day or part of a day.

Spice Tour. Another excellent experience and we did get to see the monkeys! We loved meeting the children that live in this area. Very knowledgeable local guide.

Blue Bay Resort. Excellent! Beautiful place, great food, and very nice accommodations. I let myself be pampered in the day spa. The beach was gorgeous and I enjoyed the swimming pool.

Willy's Cottages. Excellent place. Great food - they did a great job of pampering us! There was incredibly beautiful gospel music that awakened us in the morning. We tried to get back to see them but they had left by the time we returned to the cottages after our day trip.

Arusha City Tour. In Arusha, we visited a primary school and an orphanage. These were definitely two of the most treasured experiences we had. I am considering returning to volunteer for a month or two at the orphanage. They have a website and accept volunteers. The city of Arusha was interesting although the people that live in Arusha - and throughout Tanzania for that matter - have a much harder life than we do in the United States. The people are genuinely warm and open. Leaving Arusha, we had a cultural visit with the Masaai and this was another top highlight of our safari.

Tarangire National Park. Incredible! We saw a lot of wildebeest - among other animals - that we didn't see at the other national parks so I am very glad we went here. Tarangire was an excellent start for our safari adventures.

Kibo Safaris was an excellent organization. They were 98 percent of the time on time. The first day there was a short delay and a little bit of confusion but they more than made up for it! Anglebert and John (our main guide) were awesome guides and were very personable! Kibo was efficient and well experienced - they definitely knew what they were doing - and was flexible and adaptable. Their properties are beautiful.

Maramboi Tented Camp. An awesome camp. We were delighted because upon arrival at this camp, we saw our first game animals (giraffes). The food was excellent and the location was superb. We heard hyenas at night.

Kisima Ngeda Camp. My very favorite accommodation. It took a while to get here as its about 50 kilometers off any paved road but it was worth every bit of effort! The owners of this place (Chris and Nani) are fascinating people and Nani custom-altered a necklace for me which she had purchased in Ethiopia and which I have worn every day since returning home. The food at this place was the very best. We loved watching all of the monkeys run around on top of everyone's tents.

Hunting with the Hadzabe Bushmen. For me, this was a bit depressing as these people live short lives and are not particular healthy due to their lifestyle. But meeting with them was definitely an unforgettable experience. I stayed behind while Stanley went hunting (they caught a monkey). A couple of the guys showed me how to shoot with bow and arrow.

Visit with Datago Tribe and attending village market. These were two more experiences I will never forget. In particular, our visit with the Datoga tribe was a highlight of our three weeks in East Africa.

Ngorongoro. This took our safari up a notch as we saw A LOT of animals. We had brought binoculars as suggested but we really didn't much need them (still, they were nice to have) as the animals were plentiful and close. The scenery was incredible.

Ngorongoro Farm House. Excellent. Clean facilities, gorgeous accommodations, great food, beautiful location. I again enjoyed the pool as I took an afternoon and relaxed after the excitement of the previous days.

Oldupai Gorge. Very glad we stopped here. Informative place. We paid the few shillings and drove deep into the archeological site.

Serengeti. Three incredible days of animal viewing. Was amazed at how many lions we saw! We did see all of the big five although the rhino was kind of far away. Sad to hear of their near extinction. The setting sun in Tanzania is one of the more beautiful things I have ever experienced. We stayed at a camp and it was excellent and provided superb food.

Nairobi. All of the sites we saw in Kenya were incredible. It was great to see Karen Blixen's home. The giraffe center was great even though it was touristy. It was great to see that this place is supported by the San Diego Zoo! Much of the same is true of the Daphne Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage. In fact, this latter place was particularly packed with people. Apparently, this place has become a lot more popular in recent times. Our driver and local guide in Kenya were both surprised to see the number of cars parked in the parking lot. I would have liked more time here, with fewer people. It would have helped a lot to have just arrived earlier so that we wouldn't have had to stand behind people.

The Africa Adventure Company. Excellent trip preparations and guidance. Louise was an incredible tour agent. We swapped many emails and had at least two lengthy phone calls in planning our trip. I definitely recommend The Africa Adventure Company and I definitely recommend Louise!

I will use The Africa Adventure Company again in future travels to Africa. Louise planned a superb custom-designed itinerary for us and The Africa Adventure Company used only the best local tour operators and hotels/camps (the only exception being the Boulevard Hotel). I would really like to participate in one of The Africa Adventure Company's signature programs.

Respectfully,

Renee Fulton, July-August 2009

Group safari to Tarangire/Lake Eyasi/Ngorongoro/Serengeti Safari in Kenya to Amboseli

Dear Andre

How do I describe the most wonderful trip I ever been on? Everything was wonderful and above all of my expectations. The people were great especially our guide Pascal Foster, he gave us so but information not just about the animals but about his country and people. What did I enjoy the most the Serengeti of course because there is nothing like it anywhere. Everywhere we went the lodgings were unique and outstanding, the food was great and the people were wonderful. There is no way to describe the beauty, the colors, the smells, of the whole trip. All of the accommodations were individual and gave a different experience.

Thank you for a truly outstanding trip. Everything went like clockwork.

Thank you again.

Barbara Gerber, June 2009

Lodge Safari to Arusha/Tarangire/Lake Eyasi/Ngorongoro/Serengeti Chimpanzee trekking in Mahale Mountain Park

We arrived home on Wednesday, July 15 from the most powerful and wonderful adventure we have ever been on. Everyone at Africa Adventure Company did a fantastic job. The lodges were beyond what we were expecting and the people and service were outstanding.

Your ground operator in Tanzania was as professional as you can get. Our driver/guide, Masha Mambua, is truly what made the trip such a success. Without his expertise, knowledge, dedication to us his clients, sense of humor and a willingness to share himself with us, the trip would have been superficial. He knew how to make Africa come alive for us, and he did that.

I can't even tell you what we enjoyed the most because each and every day was filled with new excitement and wonder. I will tell you that Mahale was the perfect end to an already perfect trip. It gave us a chance to stay in one spot for more than two days so we really could relax; however, climbing and hiking to the falls was hardly relaxing. It was invigorating and challenging. I learned that at 64 I could still do anything. It felt wonderful.

Everything about Africa had a profound impact on all four of us. I know I will never forget this journey. I only wish everyone in America could share the experience. Maybe then we would be more appreciative of all we have in this country. We have a lot to learn about courage from these amazing people.

Thank you to everyone at Africa Adventure for making this trip possible. Hopefully, there will be another adventure waiting for us in Africa. If so, you are the only company we would even consider using.

Asante sana,

Mike and Pam Greenfield, July 2009

Group Lodge Safari in Kenya to Maasai Mara/Lake Nakuru/Amboseli Flying Safari to Sweetwaters/Samburu

The safari to Kenya was awesome!

...The representatives or guides and lodges were extremely friendly, knowledgeable, courteous, and accommodating.

The group (6) safaris were good. It was nice being with other people but you were sharing your time and what you wanted to do with others. Each individual had their own itinerary and the amount of time in what they wanted to do and see. Therefore we moved fast.

When I was by myself, the safari moved at my pace. If I wanted to stay and see the leopard eat her kill, drag it around, climb the tree, wash herself and nap, we did so. With the group, they would have moved on and missed this part. I took about 2000 pictures and I know I will be going through them for years. The guide would move the vehicle around so I could get good shots. I am not a pro. Just have a digital camera but some of my pictures look like NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC.

I am still in awe of how close we were to all the animals and the fact that the animals ignored us and went along with their lives as if we did not exist.

Our guide for the Maasai Mari, Lake Nakuru, Amboseli was Benson. The first day he showed us 4 of the "Big Five", up close and personal. Considering we were traveling a lot, he did a great job in catering to the wants and needs of 6 people, some very demanding.

In Sweetwater, Samuel was my guide. He was good and tried to show me things I had not seen before. Sweetwater Camp was so enjoyable as the water hole very close to the tents was a constant, ever changing scene of many animals constantly doing their thing.

But to me Samburu was the best. I was by myself with Leonard, a constant encyclopedia of information on the daily lives, breeding, habits, and action of animals. He would ask what I would like to see, make suggestions and take me so close to the animals you could almost touch them. He would say let's wait a little and see what the animal will do. That was really the great part. No hurry and I really saw unusual actions of the animals.

You did a superb job in making my Safari to Kenya fantastic and I will always cherish this vacation.

Thanks for everything,
Sylvia Miles, June 2009

Private Safari to Arusha/Tarangire/Ngorongoro/Serengeti

Dear Szilvia,

We had a great trip! Tarangire was hands down our favorite for game viewing -it spoiled us for the rest of the trip. The accommodations were great and the food was good. We took 1,300 photos!

Clemence took great care of us. As he would say "great spotting".

We saw everything: lions (47, including one eating our tires), leopards (including one with a kill on a tree limb), cheetah, wild dogs, elephants, hippos, gazelles, mongoose, and literally thousands of wildebeest, zebras and impalas. Over 45 mammals and 70 different species of birds. He put in very long days and was a wealth of information and very accommodating. The day we drove from the crater rim to Serengeti there was absolutely no visibility due to fog and he did an incredible job driving us out of there safely.

Regards,
Michelle Nestler, June 2009

Safari to Lake Manyara/Serengeti/Ngorongoro/Tarangire

Hi Louise-

I have been meaning to write and let you know how much we enjoyed our Safari. All the plans you made worked perfectly. Our guide and vehicle were great, the lodges were wonderful and we saw all the animals we could handle. After not seeing my daughter for four months it was great to share this memorable experience with her. As an earth scientist I was particularly impressed by the wonderful ecosystem embodied by the Serengeti. As a graduate student, my wife worked on some of the original Potassium-Argon samples that helped date deposits found at Olduvai Gorge, so that stop was special for us.

Thanks again,
Mike Nolan, June 2009

Driving Safari in Uganda to Murchison Falls, Kibale, Queen Elizabeth Park, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and Lake Mburo

Hello Louise,

Thank you for making our before and after trip experience such a smooth transition. The trip itself was wonderful. Uganda truly is the pearl of Africa, with a variety of landscapes like no other. We enjoyed every minute of our trip. Stephen, our guide, was wonderful. His knowledge was very extensive and he never failed to accommodate to our individual needs.

He knew of my interest in birds and pointed out the different species to me. He also knew that my grandma is fascinated with maps and always likes to know where she is. Every time we would go by a town, Stephen would tell my grandma the name of the town so that she could identify it on the map.

...Ndali Lodge has a wonderful location with spectacular views... All the other lodges were spectacular though. There was never a time when we did not have wonderful views from our rooms.

They all provided the perfect blend of comfort and harmony with nature. The staff was always very friendly and welcoming.

Our encounters with the gorillas and other animals were like we have never had before.

Thank you again for everything. It truly was the trip of a life time!

Juan Ruiz, June 2009

Southern Africa

Visit to Cape Town/Safari to Private Game Reserve near Kruger Safari to Chobe Game Park/Visit to Victoria Falls

Kyle and the rest of the Africa Adventure Company Team:

Now that I have returned from our Africa trip and I'm reviewing pictures (1,200+!!) I wanted to personally thank you and the Africa Adventure Company for organizing an absolutely amazing experience! Each and every segment of our fourteen day excursion May 2 – 15 went smoothly without even an inkling of 'a hitch.' At each location, your agents were so nice and friendly, knowledgeable, and we all quickly became 'fast friends.' And, oh, the experiences! I had no idea when planning this trip that I would: (1) come face-to-face with a lion; (2) drive among a herd of elephants; (3) stand in the midst of 'hundreds' of cape buffalo sharing an evening drink at a water hole; (4) witness a shark jump out of the water to 'get a better look!'; (5) be 'brushed' by a bull elephant ... in an oh so friendly way! The accommodations were wonderful and the food excellent. Between Djuma and Chobe, I truly cannot decide which I liked better - each were so very unique in their own way and I enjoyed each one. I must say that I loved the Royal Livingstone and high tea. Thank you so very much for the delightful experience of high tea. Janice and I enjoyed it immensely.

At this time, I don't know when you will be hearing from me, but in the future, you will hear from me for my next adventure. I can't wait!

Once again, thank you and take care!

Rachel Battles, May 2009

Safari to Private Game Reserve near Kruger Visit to Cape Town and Victoria Falls Flying Safari to Moremi and the Okavango Delta

Hi Elena,

We just returned yesterday afternoon and wanted to let you know that we had an amazing time!! We loved Africa so much that I wanted to plan my next vacation to Africa already! ...I would love to tell you all about our trip.

Cape Town- We had a great time. Welgelegen was a charming guest house. The staff was very friendly. My kids would play with the office staff while I was on the computer. They taught them tic -tac-toe and hangman and they learned some African games. The breakfast was great ...

Londolozi Varty - This was our absolute favorite place!! I asked my kids which lodge they liked the best and they all agreed that Londolozi was their favorite. The service was outstanding and our guide/tracker were the best. Our tracker had been there for 25 years and our driver for five years. We saw almost every animal including a pack of wild dogs, a leopard and a pride of lions.

We really liked that we had a tracker in addition to the driver which we didn't have in Botswana. The accommodations were beautiful. The manager, Duncan, was very nice and ran the place amazingly. Our guide even let my kids drive the jeep one afternoon. I took my kids to the village where the staff lives and they played with the pre-school children for over an hour...I couldn't get them to leave. The first night we were there we stayed out late following a pack of lions hoping that we would see them make a kill. They never did but it was fun tracking them. We got back late for dinner so the staff had set up a dinner in our room. I asked for one glass of red wine and they had two bottles waiting for me!! We were sad to leave Londolozi.

Victoria Falls - We loved the Victoria Falls Safari Lodge!... It was a beautiful hotel with great service. The hotel overlooks a water hole as you know and was beautiful to watch during sunset. It was only a ten minute ride to town and they have a shuttle ever hour... My kids loved the Boma dinner so much that we went there both nights. We really liked Ester. She was very nice and gave us a great tour of the Falls and the village/school. We liked Vic Falls and only wished we had another day or two there. I also wished I had brought an extra suitcase with toys/clothes for the people there. ...

Little Vumbura - Although Londolozi was our favorite, little Vumbura was a close second. The service was outstanding. We had a wonderful guide that my kids loved. The staff was wonderful and so friendly. They went out of their way to do everything possible to make our stay great. We didn't see as many rare game as we did at Londolozi but still had an amazing time. They were so flexible with our time on the drives....one day we stayed out almost all day between our land drives and water drives and a fabulous picnic on an island. The rooms and area of the lodge was exceptional! The manager was just wonderful. We had two tents booked as you know but it worked out better just putting an extra twin bed in the family tent.

...We loved our trip and are definitely thinking about planning another trip to a different area in Africa. It is an amazing place with very friendly people. It was definitely "a trip of a lifetime". Thank you for planning it for us.

Beth Cohn, June 2009

Safari to Limpopo - Mashatu Private Game Reserve

Visit to Coach House - Tzaneen

Safari to a Private Game Reserve

Visit to Cape Town

Hi Lynne,

Finally a chance to fill you in on our impressions.....

First and foremost, I want to say how totally impressed we were with the ease of the trip. From the first greeter at the airport in Johannesburg to the drivers that took us to our various stops, everyone was there on time, knowledgeable and efficient. (not to mention so very friendly) The Intercontinental Airport Hotel was the perfect choice after a long flight and so convenient.

I can't say enough good things about our arrival at Mashatu. Everyone standing outside the camp to greet us...lovely! At the end of our stay there, it was difficult to leave Bashi, our guide. This lovely Botswanan gentleman taught us so much about Africa and the animals from the smallest bird to the largest mammal. And he did it in a zen like manner. Mashatu really was a perfect first taste of safari for us all, especially the boys. The room was perfect, roomy enough for the 4 of us and quite comfortable.

We lucked out at first and were the only ones in the vehicle with Bashi and Aaron, our tracker, who was also very knowledgeable and very friendly.

...As far as the most important reason for coming: the animals; well, they were magnificent. Right off the bat, on our very first afternoon game drive, we saw a leopard in a tree crunching on an impala; an entire pride of lions with 2 juveniles, 2 lionesses, 2 cubs and the male lion ... wildebeest, giraffe, warthogs, baboons, and hyena, wild dog puppies.

It was magical! I would also like to say that Bobson, who runs the place is lovely and very accommodating. He sat with us at many lunches and teas. He also arranged for a later pick up on our departure day so that we could do a game drive in the a.m. and have a quick brunch.

The days at Mashatu were very nice with dinners at the boma in the evening and the African ladies chanting in their beautiful voices and teasing the men with their songs. We enjoyed meeting Andre and Louise from Africa Adventure Co. who so kindly sent us a terrific bottle of wine our second night there and also another Andre who was studying predator behavior and told us many interesting things ...All in all, Mashatu was a great first experience and we miss Bashi very much. Really felt like he was a part of our family by the time we left.

A fun ride on a cable car over the Limpopo River at the border of Botswana crossing over to South Africa. Mike, who picked us up, was very courteous and even stopped in a town to pick up something we forgot to bring along for the children of the village that we would be visiting. The ride was comfortable. Also, very interesting to see the fields of avocados, mangoes, macadamia and other things grown in the foothills of the Drakensburg mountains.

I cannot find enough superlative adjectives for the Coach House Inn. As anxious as I was to get to another reserve, it was terrific stopping for the night. Ate way too many macadamia nougat candies right from their factory on the grounds! Fabulous breakfast! Boys swam in the heated spa pool as it was too cold outdoors. A really lovely setting with a beautiful view of the mountains from our rooms. The photos in your brochure do not do it justice. Could easily have spent another day hiking in the area. But, alas, not enough time and would not want to miss a game drive.

The next day we were picked up promptly by our driver who (surprise!) is also very nice. Honestly, Lynne, the people of South Africa (and Botswana) are the nicest people we've ever met anywhere in our travels.... Anyway, the drive was gorgeous. The panoramic views were breathtaking. We stopped at Burke's Canyon and saw the 3 rondavels. Our driver/guide was quite knowledgeable and gave us lots of interesting facts along the way...

The staff of Djuma and our guide, Greg Posthumus and our tracker, Patrick were terrific. Greg had a different style than Bashi at Mashatu so it was really great to experience both. Greg knew tons of info (biological) about the animals and had an amazing enthusiasm, especially when we sighted an aardvark at night! We liked him and Patrick very much. I also loved the accommodations at Djuma and the general look of the camp, just the way I pictured it would be.

Kim, who is managing the place, is an absolute delight. The service was stellar and the food was better than Mashatu. We particularly loved that full English breakfast after the a.m. game drive. It seems that regarding the drives, there are 6-8 guests plus the guide and tracker on each drive. We enjoyed meeting the people we were with from Switzerland, the US, Canada and South Africa.

...Rhinoceros on the first day in the afternoon, wallowing in the mud, was a treat. Hippos in the water another day and 2 leopard cubs. A young lion mock charging us while he protected his kill. A sight I will never forget is a full moon and a leopard sleeping with the light shining on him and in the distance an elephant trumpeting. It was magical and perhaps the most amazing night of the entire trip. On the last evening, the African sky was spectacular. The stars were incredible and I savor that moment in my memory, standing outside of the jeep drinking Amarulla Cream and looking at the night sky.

The trip into the village with one of the guides was eye-opening. The day we went, the water in their reservoir was at zero and they were waiting for the govt. to bring in some. I felt guilty looking at the bottle of water in my backpack.

Our sons played Frisbee, soccer, blew soap bubbles and gave out the gifts we brought. The children of the village really seemed to enjoy it. Djuma camp is doing wonderful things there for the community and they were delighted to get the school supplies we brought for the kids. It made us feel good to be staying at a camp that was so socially responsible. My hope is that our sons will remember this experience.

Our flight to Cape Town was easy and, again, the accommodations at the Radisson were perfect for our brief 2 night stay (wonderful ocean view). Very convenient for the waterfront. Wasu for sushi, a 2 minute cab ride from the hotel, was casual and very good. Fun crowd...I must add here that the staff at the Radisson, especially Nathan, the concierge, was wonderful. He even picked us up himself one evening when the hotel driver was busy. We packed in a lot on the one day we had and booked a driver and car, managing to see the winelands, stopping in Stellenbosch for a wine tasting, (next time would love to spend 2 nights in the winelands) and then the cheetah refuge where we all were able to pet an adult cheetah. They are doing an amazing job of helping to save these beautiful animals by educating farmers so that they will not destroy them. After that, we did the coastal trip to the penguin colony and around Cape Horn. It was beautiful and the weather held out until mid-afternoon at which time we stopped for lunch at a place called the Black Marlin which was great, even in the rain. (Love those grilled prawns!)

Thank you so much for arranging this wonderful trip for us. Although it was the farthest we've ever traveled, it really was the easiest. What an amazing experience. We love Africa and realize that we have barely scratched the surface. Would love to see the delta areas and other terrains; the migrations, the gorillas and all the wonderful places and things that this incredible continent holds. Meanwhile, I will always remember the sights, sounds and even smells (I miss the wild sage especially) of this first safari. And we will look forward to the day when you can plan another adventure for us.

Warm regards,

Margaret Fishman, June 2009

Safari to Limpopo – Mashatu Private Game Reserve
Visit to Victoria Falls
Safari to Mana Pools National Park

Hi Kyle and company!

We had an absolutely fabulous safari. You did an outstanding job of understanding our desires and budget and delivering a fabulous experience. Mashatu was absolutely wonderful--the animals, the people and the facilities.

We were wondering how Ruckomechi would stack up--and as difficult as it was, they surpassed our Mashatu experience! Clea and the team at Ruckomechi went above and beyond to make us feel special and ensure we had a very special experience. Can't say enough about the team there. It is a magic place.

Through your organization, there was someone there to hold our hands every step of the way, even when our departing flight from Ruckomechi got delayed in Hwange (too cold!!) ---it wasn't a problem! We simply went on a game drive while the team there scrambled up another plane and pilot and even whisked us through customs in Vic Falls so we could make our connection. Just a great experience all around.

We had a wonderful time and will certainly recommend your firm to our friends. Am busy planning the next safari (once our wallets and vacation recover)---Thinking Namibia this time, but will certainly let you know!!

Thanks again for delivering what was truly a safari of a lifetime!

Best regards,

Linda Harring and Ron Savage, June 2009

Group mobile safari to Kalahari Desert/Okavango Delta -Moremi/Savute

Dear Andre:

Finally I believe I can sit long enough to finish a history of my Botswana safari.

For the second time I went solo and both times I was extremely pleased and found some very friendly adventurous friends...

Since this was my 3rd trip to Africa I am constantly asked which one was my favorite. There is no answer to that. Each, in its own, was a dream come true. This was my second with Africa Adventure Company and was equal to my other. Different country but the animals, in their own environment, were the same. Beautiful.

Our mobile camping team was excellent: Three men and our cook Margaret.

At two camp sites we had a visit from a leopard. The first visit was sighted by the crew and was brought to our attention by the monkeys sounding like they were killing each other. The second we heard outside our tents strolling by but of course didn't realize what it was. However, in the morning I found out. Linda did see it having unzipped the canvas flap. The next day Johnny pointed out the tracks and it had sauntered by the tents...

Highlights: were seeing the elephants, all at different times and sites, swimming in the river and rolling in the mud, throwing dirt on to themselves. Happy hour at the water hole was priceless. The entire herd must have been invited. This we encountered several times.

The leopard, completely ignoring us, was chasing a bird, followed right beside us then climbed the tree to catch it.

Going out on the branch didn't make it reachable so turning around to get off the tree limb , it went completely upside down and caught its self with all 4 legs; swung back up, went to a higher branch and had the same experience. As the bird dropped onto the hood of our Land Rover the leopard flew out of the tree, ran around, picked up the bird and trotted off. Not too fast, though. We had feathers all over the hood and at one point we all wondered if we were going to have a leopard in our vehicle.

The pride of lioness, sound asleep having feasted on a cape buffalo: while sitting and watching them, taking pictures of the fat bellies, one started licking the face of one beside her (reminded me of my cats) and with that a leg came up and over her as if to say thanks.

Several sightings of lion prides on the move. One in particular had quite a few young ones that romped and played while moving along. One in particular we watched, hid behind a bush, waiting to pounce on the others as they came by.

The other kill, (we were in the middle of it) was a pride of lions attacking a young cape buffalo. We had been watching for about half an hour, a herd of them crossing the road: possibly several hundred. Johnny said the lions had to be behind them. They actually were in front of us and we had n't seen them in the bush as our eyes were on the herd...

The weather was perfect the entire trip...

All in all there isn't anything negative that I can bring to mind that ever occurred. Johnny, our guide had an abundance of knowledge beyond any guide I have ever encountered. Everything from birds to the structure of the land, flowers, and of course in depth information about each animal. There was no end to his knowledge. The history of Botswana, too.

Oh, he didn't have pontoons on the Land Rover but we forded a few rivers. (Visualize, if you will, three women wondering as we went deeper and deeper into the water if we were going to end up swimming and we thoroughly enjoyed the pioneer part of this safari).

It was a wonderful trip. Maybe one day I can make it a fourth trip. Can't say I haven't put that on the front burner.

A very happy client/adventurer or whatever,
Ellie Hill, May 2009

Visit to Cape Town/Safari to Private Game Reserve near Kruger Safari to Chobe Game Park Visit to Victoria Falls

Cape Town was great. Our guide was a 62 year old retired history teacher who has lived his entire life in Cape Town and loves the place and people. We got lucky with the weather and were able to go up on Table Rock in the late afternoon. In the meantime, he took us all over the place, looking at the penguins, the garden, out around the peninsula and a variety of places in the city. He was more than happy to talk about local and national politics. Of all of the people we dealt with on our trip, he is the one who seemed most likely to actually come visit Alaska sometime.

Our guide at Djuma was wonderful. Actually, everybody there was wonderful, but he did his absolute best to make sure we saw "The Big Five" and lots more. We did see the "Big Five" our first day. We also did a couple of walks with him and loved hearing about his family and his ancestor s.

I'm not really an ATV fan, but he made riding around in a land cruiser and looking for and at animals and plants a lot of fun.

Our guide in Livingstone was also great. Because our walking tour of the falls was abbreviated the first day (we got there a little late and had plans for the sunset cruise immediately after), he met up with us again the following day and did a full tour with us.

Muchenje was like the cherry on top of the icing! We expected to see lots of elephants, but were also very happy to eat lunch right next to them on the river and absolutely THRILLED to see so many giraffes on the way to the way back that day.

Regarding responsible eco-tourism, sustainability of the community and the use of local resources: We observed that everybody we dealt with seemed to be local and they were all very knowledgeable. In Chobe, our guide was careful to actually stay on the roads. If you have specific questions we might be able to answer regarding any of this three topics, please feel free to ask.

Several people on the trip and at home have asked us how we found your tour company. I've told them we looked around online for a while, but I actually read a book by Mark Nolting in our public library that convinced me you guys had a lot of experience and knew what you were talking about. Neither my husband nor I were even a little bit disappointed by our experiences. We had a GREAT time!

Lynne-Thank you very much for all of the help you've given us over the past year. We'll never forget our trip to Africa.

Sincerely, Lyle and Lauran Huff, June 2009

**Journey on the luxury steam train "Rovos Rail"
Visit to Cape Town and Grootbos Nature Reserve
Safari to Londolozi Private Game Reserve
Safari in Botswana to Limpopo – Mashatu Private Game Reserve**

Hi Kyle, sorry for the late response in this but life has been very busy since we have returned from our fantastic trip. Thank you so much to you and your staff for planning such an amazing trip for my parents, my kids, and Bruce and I. Everything clicked perfectly and we loved all the places we stayed. The kids loved being on the train for two nights and it was a perfect way to overcome our jet lag.

Grootbos was incredible and we want to go back during the height of whale season sometime. We had amazing animal sightings in Londolozi and Mashatu. Including 8 leopard total, 5 in one day including 2 cubs. 4 cheetahs, including 2 cubs. Plus we had loads of others. The research drives were very interesting in Mashatu and we all got a lot out of them. My children loved the trip and got more out of it than I even expected. We also loved visiting Vivian's orphanage in Kyalitsha.

Anyways, we hope to use you again soon to plan another Africa adventure and thank you.

Sincerely,

Bruce, Kristi, Taylor, and Ryan Jacobs, June 2009

Visit to Cape Town Flying Safari to Hwange/Mana Pools/Victoria Falls

Kyle,

First, let me tell you how thankful Brooke and I are of your professionalism and patience throughout the booking phase. You listened to all of our needs and tried hard to stay within our budget and safety concerns throughout the entire process. The vacation we ultimately laid out was perfect and went almost without a hitch from the minute we left my parents' car at JFK. Please bear with me, because I have never written a review of any of my vacations before, but I feel that this has to be done.

Based on many recommendations, upon our arrival in Cape Town, we took full advantage of the clear skies and ventured to the top of Table Mountain. We spent about 3 hours on top and enjoyed a well-needed lunch at the top of the mountain. Dinner was at Blues, which was recommended by the concierge at Four Rosemead.

...The next day we were on our own and visited Robben Island, Green Market Square, and the Waterfront where we had the best dinner - Balthazaar's. I got to try oryx, impala, wildebeest, kudu, ostrich, and warthog. Delicious!!!

Our next day was a full day tour of the Cape Town area.... We saw the seals, the jackass penguin colony, great white sharks, botanical gardens, Cape of Good Hope, and the lighthouse...

Four Rosemead was amazing. Great view of the mountain and very clean. The breakfasts were perfectly filling and tasty. The staff was very friendly and made our stay a delight. Would definitely recommend this B&B to anyone going to the area...

Cape Town was amazing. It was like a combination of Europe and Southern California. Absolutely stunning and very unexpected.

...All of the transfers and interconnecting flights to Hwange were well planned out. We did not have to worry about a thing.

From the minute we were picked up by our guide Dennis at the landing strip in Hwange, we were spoiled by amazing sites, wildlife, sounds, stories, food, food, and more food. The staff and amenities at Little Makalolo were top notch. We felt like we were definitely on our honeymoon having the tent away from everything else, and a private guide throughout our stay.

We were lucky enough to see all of the Big 5 in less than 24 hours. We had an elephant throw a rock at us. And had the pleasure of having an elephant and hyena fight right outside our tent on our first night. I don't think I have ever held my wife so tightly. Dennis taught us so much about the wildlife and we were in awe to actually see it all right in front of our eyes. How these guides can spot over 500 species of birds from yards away still amazes me.

The highlight of the trip was of course our canoe trip down the Zambezi with Mark. I never felt so alive, scared, and safe before. Brooke and I are novices at best at the canoe, and Mark helped us successfully maneuver through, over, and around 1500 hungry-hungry hippos, crocs, buffalo, and elephants.

We loved every minute of it. We had the opportunity to see a few packs of African Wild Dog, which I heard is unheard of. We tried to follow them in their hunt of impala but were unsuccessful.

...We took about 2400 pictures and I can't wait to blow some of them up and frame them for our new house.

It was an incredible two weeks and again I thank you and your office for making it as smooth and as comfortable as it was. You know you're enjoying your vacation when you have no idea what day it is.

We definitely will recommend your company to anybody interested in booking safaris and hope one day to visit Africa again.

Thanks again,

Craig and Brooke Kirschner, June 2009

“Call of the Wild” safari to Botswana and Zimbabwe

“Trip of a lifetime,” seems like a cliché but our recent safari to Botswana and Zimbabwe was truly an adventure of a lifetime. Having been on incredible trips to Alaska and Costa Rica, our group of three families (6 adults, 8 children ages 11-17) had sky high expectations before our African safari and those expectations were blown away. From the awe inspiring wildlife, to fantastic accommodations and seamless travel transitions, our trip was truly unbelievable, primal, exciting and at times a little scary.

Three days at Moremi Game Reserve (Okavango Delta).

From Johannesburg we flew to Maun, Botswana and quickly transferred to our chartered flight, arriving shortly thereafter at the Xakanaxa Airstrip in the Moremi Game Reserve. From the moment we landed, our self proclaimed mission and enthusiasm to maximize wildlife viewing were matched or rivaled by our two outstanding guides, Dave Carson and Brian Gibson. Each day in Moremi brought incredible but unique experiences. Our mobile tented camp site overlooked a hippo pool at Bodamatau.

Elephants ruled this part of our trip in more ways than one. We were overwhelmed by the beauty of these magnificent mammals, but also learned that they demand the utmost respect. Even on our first day, several agitated elephants made their massive presence known by trumpeting and making a bluff charge while only a few feet from our vehicles. [Perhaps this bluff charge was a foreshadowing of our second day in Moremi as our vehicle took a head-on hit from a cow elephant that did not appreciate our presence. Fortunately, no one was hurt, but the vehicle was damaged and nerves were “slightly shattered.”] Our next days in the Moremi bush included more “close encounters” not only with elephants, but also wild dogs feasting on a recent impala kill, and a spectacular male cheetah posing tirelessly for sunset photographs only a few feet away from the entire group. One evening, we were lucky enough to observe a lonely male lion in a field next to our camp roaring under the celestial skies. Such a moment is impossible to describe, particularly the decibel level of the roar. Huge kudos to our guides David and Brian who were beyond entertaining and were relentless in their search for whatever we seemed to be craving.

Other highlights included African wildcat and steenbok, serval, giraffe, wildebeest, hyena, warthogs, honeybadgers, lechwe, tsessebe, reedbuck, kudu, buffalo, zebra, black-backed jackal, hippos, impalas, waterbuck, baboon, vervet monkeys, cape clawless otter, crocodiles, hippos and birds galore - ostrich, hornbills, bee-eaters, rollers, fish eagles, red necked falcons and saddle bill stork.

Our mobile camp at Moremi was such a warm place to return each day and to wake up to in the “winter like” mornings. The staff were incredible and the accommodations/food left us wondering - how did they pull it off? The sounds at night were distractingly beautiful, with the hyenas, lions and hippos providing a constant chorus of reminders that were not back home.

For those who enjoy star gazing, it would be difficult to imagine a better view of the Milky Way and the Southern Cross.

Two days at Kings Pool, Linyanti Reserve.

Wondering how we could top 3 spectacular days in Moremi Game Reserve, we took the next step of our adventure to the Linyanti Confluence in the Northeast part of the Okavango Delta. Once again we were not disappointed!! Here we stayed at the luxurious Kings Pool Camp. We were greeted by our guides OD and Moss that provided 2 days of superb guiding for our group of 14. While we continued to see an amazing diversity of wildlife, it became clear from the beginning that this was leopard land. Our guides talked about the various leopards in the area and were extremely knowledgeable about their habits and where they could be seen, which only compounded our expectations. We were unbelievably fortunate to not only see two different leopards at close range feeding on recent kills, but some of our group saw a young leopard make an acrobatic kill of a squirrel.

The other male leopard had dragged an impala up in a tree and feasted on that kill during our entire stay at Kings Pool, while snarling at the hopeful hyenas below. As in Moremi, the photographic opportunities were endless, and included a lioness and her two cubs taking a siesta.

Although Kings Pool offers luxury in the bush, the wildlife is prevalent in and around the campsite. The food was spectacular and we were pampered like royalty. Needless to say it was a great break for the kids to have a chance to catch their breath and just relax, while at the same time experiencing the wilderness of Africa.

Victoria Falls.

Our return to civilization to Victoria Falls was a welcomed change for some! We stayed at the Safari Lodge which was perfect for our families and the restaurant within the lodge offered an outstanding first night dinner. Our one and only full day at Victoria Falls, we made the most of it, starting out with an elephant ride safari, which was an interesting contrast given our close encounters with these unbelievable animals in Moremi. Our tours of the magnificent falls were conducted by a local legend, Esther Gwekwerere. Her knowledge was incredible as she took us through the mini rainforest to the different lookout points to view the falls. That night we had dinner at the Boma and both nights at the Safari Lodge we enjoyed a beautiful sunset from the hotel terrace which overlooks a large waterhole.

Four days at Mana Pools, Zimbabwe

Camp Vundu in Mana Pools is a spectacular destination. The setting is very dramatic along side the Zambezi river with a wonderful view across the river of the mountains in Zambia. With the economic crisis still weighing on vacationers and the bad press coming out of Zimbabwe; we almost had the park to ourselves. This setting and timeframe combined with a great camp and amazing guides made for an exhilarating finish to our African adventure.

We had been “forewarned” that Nick Murray was a special and unique guide -and he did not disappoint! Joined by guides Doug MacDonald, Darryl xxxx. And Steve (part time guide), we were provided outstanding wildlife expertise, great fun, excellent security and demonstrated superior skills in finding and approaching wildlife. Nick Murray, however, is definitely the spiritual leader. He is Mufasa. He has a commanding presence which instilled confidence in the kids and parents. We quickly understood that if we followed his lead, we could have amazing and safe animal encounters. Nick also slips in a prankster fun-loving side that kept a great balance. Doug and Darryl provided a perfect complement of humor, incredible knowledge and skills.

Mana Pools offers unique opportunities for adventurous tourists....walking safaris and canoeing.

The area is veritable wildlife Eden. Our group, including all the children, went canoeing down the Zambezi river each day. The proximity to hippos, crocs, elephants and birds was simply breathtaking and never boring!! Once you come face to face with a bull elephant on foot or in a canoe; you are pleased that you have some of the best trained guides in the world. As you walk through the tall adrenaline grass, your heart is going wild....only to come out on the other side and see a pair of lions as startled as you are.

Wild Dogs and lions were seen throughout our stay. Nick even invited our entire group to “crabwalk” within a few feet of small pack of wild dogs. Something none of us will ever forget.

Our children were constantly entertained by all the guides and had several adventures with just Nick. Whether being carried across a swamp on Nick’s shoulders or marching back into camp with the enormous skull and horns of freshly killed Kudu, every trip with Nick was a thrill.

We were very pleasantly surprised by the accommodations at the Vundu Camp. When we arrived at the camp, we were escorted to a very large thatched-roof common building on stilts. This central camp building along with all the tented guest lodges had wonderful views of the Zambezi river and the mountains of Zambia on the opposite bank. The building was laid out with dining areas, sitting tables, a game table and a fun bar area. The whole structure was practically brand new and was the center of activity.

Vundu has approximately 7 large guest tents on cement slabs. These rooms felt more like permanent structures with sturdy frame structures and electric lights. The rooms easily accommodated up to 3 comfortable double beds. Each room had open shelving, a desk, small table and chairs. A rear door led to a nicely adorned, walled, open air bathroom with a full toilet, bucket shower, sink bowls. We were told that running water for sinks and the shower were to be installed shortly after our stay.

Nick Murray has built a skilled and loyal team that supports the camp. The days started early (5:30) with a light breakfast by the campfire on the beach of the Zambezi. We would head out for the first game drive between 6-6:30. Typically we would drive to an interesting part of the Park via the Land Rovers, park and head out on foot. The guides were totally flexible as to how spent the rest of our day -but chose the canoeing adventure each afternoon. One day we had a beautiful full brunch on a sandbar in the Zambezi river surrounded by Hippos! We would usually wrap up the afternoon with a cocktail delivered down river or at the central camp to watch the sunset over the mountains. We would then have a chance to clean up and relax before dinner. The dinners were excellent with a diverse selection of salads, main courses, and deserts. The meals were extremely good without even considering the logistics of getting fresh ingredients to this remote location.

Mana Pools is a special and unspoiled place. While perhaps not as well known as other African destinations, it would be hard to imagine any place offering a better adventure or a more genuine African safari.

Paul Klockenbrick and Family, July 2009

**Group mobile safari in Botswana to Kalahari Desert/Okavango Delta -Moremi/Savuti
Safari in Zimbabwe to Matetsi
Visit to Victoria Falls**

Dear Andre,

We had a GREAT trip! The time spent in Botswana couldn't have been more enjoyable. Our guide, Johnny Ramsden, was the most knowledgeable, capable, considerate, and fun guide we could have wished for. We felt very fortunate to have had him on the trip.

He and his staff took such good care of us. Margarette's cooking was amazing! We never imagined that such good and varied meals could come out of a camp kitchen. We had unforgettable animal experiences.

The luck of seeing a lion kill and leopard kill were the highlights, plus many wonderful elephant sightings. Sunsets and sunrises were breathtaking.

Our stay at Matetsi was also great. Victoria Falls was amazing and so beautiful.

...I'd like to thank you and everyone at Africa Adventure Company for all your help in arranging such a great trip. Having only 3 people on safari has also spoiled me. It felt like a private safari...

Thanks again.

Linda Moskowitz, May 2009

**Visit to Cape Town/Safari to Private Game Reserve near Kruger
Visit to Livingstone
Safari to Chobe Game Park**

Kyle,

I just wanted to drop you a note and thank you for the wonderful vacation you put together for our family. It was amazing. We could not have asked for better. Everything went perfectly. All the flights, transports and transfers were seamless. We loved the hotels and lodges. As for the safaris and tours, it was an experience of a lifetime. I must particularly compliment the guides, rangers and trackers. Our guide in Cape Town was a retired teacher and we had a fascinating couple of days learning about everything from the history to the culture to the wildlife of South Africa, in addition to everything we saw on the tour. Thornybush was also just wonderful with great accommodations, food, and the best ranger and tracker I can imagine. Thanks again for all your help. I would definitely recommend you to anyone interested in a trip to Africa.

Debbie North, June 2009

**Safari to Private Game Reserve near Kruger and Chobe Game Park, Botswana
Visit to Cape Town and Victoria Falls**

Dear Kyle,

Upon returning from our African trip we just had a whirlwind of things going on in our lives and we were negligent in relating the wonders of our trip back to you! And to tell you *thank you* for everything you and AAC did to make it wonderful.

This past weekend we visited family and shared pictures and was talking about and describing our adventure in detail and *what an amazing adventure it was*. We realized we had not told **you** that it was a perfect trip.

Every person who met us, drove us, guided us was gracious, pleasant, knowledgeable and just all together enjoyable. We cannot say enough nice things about the people who were our connections to each locale. We did not meet one person anywhere that was disagreeable or unpleasant (not that it would have been your fault if we did!!).

We especially enjoyed Margrit and Danny in Cape Town and Matias in Zambia – but I think that is partly because we got to spend more time with them than others. Andre our driver from Nelspruit to Djuma was very informative and entertaining, Moses in Jo'Burg was great, we loved Ester our Zimbabwe guide and wished we could have spent more time with her! Everyone was patient with our sometimes loud, often times distracted and always slow group!! I realize I am gushing, but a month later – I still am gushing. Every accommodation was without flaw. Djuma and Chobe Chilwero were actually absolutely brilliant. I can see why you thought we should stay at Chobe Chilwero and appreciate your work to get us in there. I don't know if Cathy has told you, but we did see the “Big Five” in Djuma. The Lunar Rainbow was a spectacle to behold – I have attached one of my pictures of the Lunar Rainbow in case no one else on the trip has shared one. We loved our time on the Chobe River - just an incredible experience...

...Thank you again for your work with Cathy, your planning and your patience with all of our pre-trip questions. You did a fabulous job and John and I do appreciate it.

Best regards,

Crystal and John Phillips, May 2009

Flying Safari to Zimbabwe to Hwange and Mana Pools

Andre,

I wanted to give you some feedback on our trip.

It was terrific. It exceeded my high expectations. You were exactly correct about Zimbabwe. The level of guiding there was exceptional. Let me break down the four separate parts of our trip.

Our first four days were in Hwange at Little Makalolo. David was camp supervisor and Charles was our guide. The accommodations were excellent, David was attentive and kind, and Charles was excellent at finding, observing and teaching about game. Our walking portions there were a real highlight. As you know, I wanted to get out of the truck and Charles did a fine job fulfilling that desire. And we did see each of the big five including close encounters with a rhino and a female leopard. The many elephants were spellbinding to sit and watch. A trip to Hwange should be first on every safari list.

Next was our trip to Mana Pools. We stayed at Vundu which was very nice. It was more rustic than Little Mae, but very adequate. But the guide was a true ten. Mark McAdam was attentive, supportive, a wealth of information, a great educator, enthusiastic, capable, and flexible. Our first two days were spent in short canoe trips, staying in the permanent tented camp and doing drives and walks in addition. Stalking lions was thrilling! The next two days were all day canoeing with ample breaks. The mobile tents were sparse, but adequate. Food was surprisingly sumptuous. A highlight was watching lions devour an impala surrounded by hooting hyenas at midnight. Overall, less game than Hwange, but an incredible bush experience worth every moment. Mark's dividing it up was excellent. I would not have wanted to spend four full days on the river. Two part days and two full days with some range rover drives and walk s was ideal. That was at Mark's direction. As you know, I expected four full days on the river, but Mark knew best and I was very pleased with his direction.

Please communicate with Mark our deepest gratitude and our lasting respect. He will be my most enduring memory. If we return, I would love to work with him again.

Finally, a word about your service. Andre, you did an excellent job. You worked with me to craft the trip I wanted, the trip was in fact what I expected, the local companies were reliable, and the complex travel arrangements came off like clock work. Zimbabwe was better than you promised.

You did a first rate job and I would unhesitatingly use you again. You have our sincere thanks.
Jim Reynolds, June 2009

Visit to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
Flying safari to Linyanti/Okavango Delta
Flying safari to Private Game Reserve near Kruger

Szilvia,

We really enjoyed Africa...

We loved Victoria Falls and Esther. The Victoria Falls Hotel and grounds were elegant and well maintained, and the location/setting is wonderful...

All in all, we saw all the animals we hoped to see, and then some.

Selinda was fabulous. We loved our guide (Dennis), the manager (Sharon), and our cabin (#7). Lots of game. Arrived too late for the afternoon game drive, but on the way from the air strip to camp we saw Roan Antelope, Giraffe, Cheetah, Elephant, and Zebra - so it felt like a game drive.

Chitabe Lediba was a bit more rustic, but still very nice. Good game drives and a couple of spectacular sunsets.

Mala Mala Rattray was even more luxurious than we expected. The view from our veranda was terrific. The bush was high, and while the game viewing was fine, it was not quite as good as the Botswana camps. We did see 7 different leopards, which seemed unlikely based on what we have read...

Thank you so much for setting up our trip.

Phil and Nell Schaefer, May 2009

Flying safari to Sossusvlei/Swakopmund-Skeleton Coast/Damaraland/Ongava-Etoshia/Serra Cafema/Otjiwarongo

Hello Lynne,

I decided to write down our adventures in case you needed or wanted to follow up on something. I have a lot to say and you may not remember it all -- so here goes----- All in all it was a wonderful trip. Namibia is more beautiful in person than in the beautiful photos. Most people were very nice and professional. Our favorite part was of course the Cheetah Conservation Fund.

We met Chewbaaca, and the 3 nine month old cubs. We got cheetah kisses and it was fantastic! Babson House is beautiful and the organization is top notch. They are doing wonderful work for the cheetahs. I think you should recommend all of your guest to visit them!

Serra Cafema was the best lodge in all ways, how it was built, size of rooms, decoration, food and most of all the people. We felt so at home and yet so special.

Our guide Francois was the best, most caring and educational one we had. The camp manager (Victoria Cooper) was also so on top of things. She was the perfect hostess and so was her assistant Florencia.

I would love to have adopted the staff and taken them home! We were lucky to be able to visit the Himba family with an interpreter so we could actually talk to them. They were beautiful and enjoyed looking at themselves on the cameras. I loved seeing them smile.

Little Ongava was beautiful and we did sleep outside on the roof one night. Got chilly but was warm under the thick comforter...

...The boat trip in Swakopmund was excellent as we had the company of 2 cape fur seals. They took turns hanging out with us in the boat. And the lunch on the beach was yummy. A plus to those folks. We would have liked more time to shop and look at Swakopmund. We had an hour. It was lovely. I snapped a picture of a Herero woman and that I guess was rude, but when she put her hand out for money, I didn't feel so bad.

All in all the transfers were smooth, on time and convenient. It was a lot of moving. The flights were wonderfully scenic and well worth it. Near the end we were getting a little tired of the traveling in between, but hey if I never get back, I've seen most of Namibia...

I will of course continue to recommend Africa Adventure Travel and you... I hope you are feeling tip top and that business stays good for you and all those people in Africa who depend on us travelers!!

I am now and will always suffer from Mal D'Afrique and yes I cried my eyes out again as I was flying away from her.

Most sincerely,
Natasha Zapata, May 2009

