

# The Africa Adventure Company

*23 Years and Still Galloping Ahead of the Herds!*



## EASTERN AFRICA

### Private Safari to Tarangire/Lake Manyara/Ngorongoro/Serengeti/Gibb's Farm

THANKS Kyle. It really was a wonderful and memorable trip. Our guide Mkenda was one person who made it extra special. He is incredibly knowledgeable and very friendly. He was quite patient and willing to wait while Lana got "just the right" picture. We are already talking about going back. We really liked all of the places we stayed. I think our favorites were Migration Camp, Gibb's Farm and Lemala. Everyone made us feel welcome, and two weeks seemed like barely enough time!

Thanks for all your help. You did a great job planning our trip and your recommendations were great!!

Sincerely,

**Vikki Canfield, Oct 2009**

### Flying Safari to Tarangire/Ngorongoro/Serengeti

WOW!! What a great adventure for Liz and I. We not only had a great experience with your group, but also managed to summit Mt. Kilimanjaro as well with the Tusker group. Both were top notch from start to finish. We will certainly recommend both experiences and groups to whoever wants to listen.

All of the facilities you arranged worked out well. As someone who experienced the safari situation in Tanzania in 1982, what a world of difference in amenities and attitude between now and then.

Your company and Tanzania are certainly giving good value for the money.

Congratulations to all of you!!

**Gary Cousens, Oct 2009**

### Gorilla trekking in Volcano National Park, Rwanda

Hi Alison:

Gorilla trekking in Rwanda was unique and wonderful. Different than a traditional safari as there's no morning and afternoon game drive. Each morning we met with the other trekkers at 7:00 and the guides put you in a group of 8 people and set off in the vehicle to the starting point. After a short half hour drive, you park the vehicle and meet the porters, former poachers who, as part of their sentence, are given some farmland to feed their families and wear bright blue coveralls so everyone recognizes them as former poachers. The porters carry your gear and you start off on the trek to see the gorillas. My three treks lasted 4 to 6 hours of slow paced leisure walking up a mild grade on the slope of an extinct volcano. Finding the gorillas is virtually a certainty.

Day #1's trek was to a group called Amahoro. Amahoro group consisted of 11 animals, including two silverbacks, two blackbacks, five females and two babies. We found the group feeding in a nasty field of stinging nettles. I quickly learned what nettles were. The thistle like plant has sharp barbs in the leaves and limbs that have a toxin that caused a painful burning on exposed skin...The gorillas were eating the nettles and were in good light so I was able to get some great photos of the bigger animals. The babies were there but not shootable with all the high brush.

Trek #2 was to a group of nine gorillas called Sabyinyo. The silverback who led the group was the largest silverback in Rwanda, over 230 kilos, about 500 lbs. We found this group in a dense dark bamboo grove. The animals were very visible and I was able to get shots of them without branches, trees, etc in their face but the shutter speeds were really slow, even at ISO 2000. I was limited to shooting only stationary animals and all the shots of the gorillas moving were blurry. This group had one very young baby who came over to me while I was laying on the ground. He stared at his reflection in my camera lens...

Trek #3 was to Group 13. One silverback, 11 wives, and 13 babies. Jackpot. This was our longest trek. It took about 4 hours to find them, even the trackers got lost, but eventually we found the group. The group was in a heavy bamboo forest foraging for bamboo shoots. When they moved into a small clearing to rest, the babies started interacting, playing, wrestling, climbing on each other, and swinging on vines. The light was good enough to kick the shutter speeds up to 1/320 sec and freeze movement of the little fur balls. I still had to shoot at ridiculously high ISO and wide open aperture but I got some great shots at close range. Our one hour spent with this group went fast.

Since we started the treks before 8:00 am, we were done by early afternoon and went back to camp. Having the afternoon at leisure, one day my driver took me to the border with the Congo for a drive that cost \$200 extra but I don't think it was worth the effort. We drove about 3 hours from Kigali to the camp on day 1, through the rural mountainous farmlands. In my past safaris we flew from camp to camp and did not see any local villages or local people so this was quite interesting. We were surrounded by huge throngs of locals walking along the roads carrying heavy bags of potatoes to market or 5 gallon cans of water to their huts. It was good to see how the locals live. It makes you appreciate our way of life. Several times I stopped to take photos of the locals...I like to "tell the story" with my photos. In my opinion, the story of Rwanda is the people not the gorillas...

Gorilla trekking in Rwanda is a unique experience but not like a traditional safari. It's cool to be close to this huge endangered species. It takes time to get to Rwanda, it takes a long walk to find the gorillas, your time with the gorillas is limited to 1 hour...

I'm glad I went.

Twende,  
**Gene Covey, Aug-Sep 2009**

### **Private Safari to Serengeti/Ngorongoro/Lake Manyara/Tarangire Safari in Kenya to Amboseli/Maasai Mara**

Dear Mark and Szilvia,

Where do I begin? How to explain the most outstanding trip of my life? How to thank Africa Adventure Travel for arranging this awesome adventure, allowing us to travel in East Africa for 3 weeks without one glitch or issue in the itinerary?

Usually, I save the best for last, but want to start with the best experience that happened to us. That was in the form of our private safari guide, Robert Moshi. Not only did he understand animals, plants and climates, he was extremely learned about human nature as well. I can honestly say that I learned more about animals and nature in three weeks being in Africa than I had learned in over 60 years of living. Most of the credit goes to Robert who was astute to see that we wanted to know the whys of animal behavior rather than simply observe them and was a fountain of information. We learned why elephants die in elephant graveyards, why Maasai are not eaten by lions as they are out tending their flocks, which animals are monogamous, which animals must hunt daily, and a thousand other facts that I love to recall at will. You certainly hired the best when you hired Robert to be one of your guides. He must be in great demand!

As for our lodging, I wish I could say I have a favorite. Each lodge or camp we stayed in had a particular charm which makes us want to return. From the well appointed lodges in Tanzania to the luxurious camp tents in Kenya, we loved every one of them. I will say that Tarangire Treetops was the most unique and one that brings back the warmest of memories. But hearing the hippos and African buffalo near our tent in Governor's Camp in the Maasai Mara was equally special and unique. There isn't one accommodation of the eight we experienced that didn't exceed our expectation.

Our visit to a Maasai village was fascinating. How simply they live and how contented they are with life was inspiring. They are such a warm and welcoming culture and I wished we could have been in the village longer to learn more about their traditions. Our visit to Oldupai Gorge was equally fascinating for different reasons....to know I was standing in the same area as the footprints at Laetoli were formed was thought provoking.

As for game viewing, we were incredibly blessed. We saw eight leopards (six in the Serengeti and two in the Mara), at least ten prides of lions, elephants, two subspecies of giraffes, gazelles, African buffalo, cheetahs, zebras, hippos, wildebeests, elands, warthogs, crocodiles, baboons, monkeys, jackals, hyenas, and many smaller rodents and a beautiful assortment of birds and waterfowl. We didn't get to see the rhino "up close and personal" for our camera but we did see five of them at a distance.

We planned this trip at the time of the migration of the wildebeests and zebras across the Mara River. And what a sight to see! We were fortunate to see four crossings in the Maasai Mara, one of which included an estimate of 8,000-10,000 animals crossing over a period of several hours. Amazing sight to see the crocodiles waiting at the exact spot the wildebeests would enter two or three hours later...amazing to see the wildebeests note the danger associated with the presence of the reptiles, but to enter anyway.....amazing to see the zebras consistently upstream from the wildebeests, thus putting them at a lesser risk .....amazing to see the zebras calculating the danger and choosing not to cross at that time if the crocs were too close.

I cannot say what my favorite experience on this trip was; I can only say that this has been the most favorite trip I have ever taken. One thing is for certain however, I will return to Africa in the future...I must compare other regions to East Africa and I must have that picture of the rhino!

Asante sana again for arranging this most wonderful of experiences for us!

**Mary and Russell Hanson, Aug-Sep 2009**

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

Dear Andre,

Sorry to be so slow in responding to your messages. We've been meaning to drop you an e-mail to let you know that our safari to Tanzania went exceptionally well.

Our guide, Babenga Siraj, met us at the Kilimanjaro Airport and delivered us to our hotel Arusha for the night, and picked us up the next morning for our first game drive and on to our first tented camp.

We won't go into detail about the rest of the trip, but suffice it to say that it more than met our expectations. The tented sites were all great, the food was excellent, and the game drives were first rate - we saw more wild animals than we ever expected, and then some! The scheduling was well thought out and it all ran smoothly; taking care to make sure that we saw what we wanted, and always with our comfort in mind.

One last note. We couldn't have been more fortunate in having Babenga as our safari guide. His knowledge of the wild animals and the countryside was encyclopedic, and he had a true knack for spotting game - often game that we probably would never have seen. He also was a very caring person who always took care of our personal needs no matter what.

Thank you for the care that Africa Adventure puts into each safari, the planning and attention to detail made this trip a most wonderful experience. What a way to celebrate our 50 years together!

**Bob and MJ MacFarlane, Sep 2009**

**Flying safari to Victoria Falls, Hwange and Mana Pools in Zimbabwe  
Gorilla trekking in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, Uganda and Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda  
Lay over in Johannesburg, South Africa and Nairobi, Kenya  
Visit to Madagascar**

Dear Allison and all the staff at AAC who were involved in making our trip to Africa so wonderful and memorable.

This was our 3<sup>rd</sup> trip to that beautiful continent that you, AAC, arranged. We were hard pressed to believe, in advance, that it would surpass our prior trips....each of which were so unbelievable in themselves.

There was not a hitch in the itinerary, all the logistics were perfect as planned. The only minor glitch was upon checking into the Ilala hotel in Vic Falls. As we drove up there was a fire truck entering in front of us. Turned out the A/C unit in our reserved room, which you had so graciously upgraded for us as a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary "special", started smoking before we got there, so we had to wait while the firemen/hotel staff cleared it for our use. The hotel staff though treated us so special during the wait.

From that point on, in everyplace we stayed, we received special "50<sup>th</sup>" treatment. From candle lit champagne dinners, to sundowners with camp staff, including more champagne, to the special dinner we had our last night in the Nairobi hotel, which you all so graciously must have arranged.

Little Makalolo ...(elephants/giraffe and zebra greeted us for lunch at the watering hole just off the dining area our day of arrival and during our first early morning breakfast we were greeted by 17 lions in the same spot). One of the other guests while we were there, who has visited Africa 3 -4 times per year for many years, came up with a great saying "we don't need more stinking elephants" and that was said in jest but we loved them.

Vundu (we butt/crab walked within 20 ft of two male lions on our first walking safari. Bob could virtually touch a young bull elephant from his canoe on the first canoe trip). Both places were just awesome....the camp staffs so very attentive, gracious and friendly, the food was great and the wildlife was unforgettable.

In Vundu, our last day there, as we approached the shore ending our 3<sup>rd</sup> canoe safari on the Zambezi (the most awesome of all safaris) we noticed the set up on the bank; tables and chairs with canapés and a bottle of champagne in a beautiful vase. The vase was handmade in Des' pottery shop in Harare and it was a gift to us. So heart warming. They are special people in Zimbabwe in spite of the situation there. And they are optimistic, we are sorry to hear about the dissolution of the unity government.

The gorilla trekking in Uganda and Rwanda was everything we had hoped for..and MORE. We have the photos to prove it. All three treks were successful, with not long walks. Gorilla Forrest Camp was absolutely perfect, in addition to being beautiful (they gave us the top tent as requested). So perfect in fact that the morning we were checking out to drive to Rwanda, one of the camp staff ran up to our tent saying "come quickly". We did and there were gorillas all over the lower part of our camp site. We like to say "they too wished us a happy 50<sup>th</sup>". After being amongst them for about 3/4 hour, the guides from the National Park arrived and told us our being "with" the gorillas was not allowed and to stop taking photos so close! We smiled and Benjamin, our driver/guide who was so good and fun ny, obliged them.

Our first Park guide in Volcano National Park in Rwanda was Francois. He was hilarious, acting like a gorilla, eating the plants they do and mimicking them so very accurately. Later we found he was a porter and subsequent guide for Diane Fossey and is a most revered person by his compatriots. Our last trek (second in Rwanda) was memorable, there were so many Gorillas to watch and 11 babies, we were enthralled. Our driver/guide was excellent in getting us in the best possible trekking group. We did not care for the Gorilla Mountain View camp, they need a few more years to get everything working and finished, and the atmosphere was not as private and secluded as other camps we visited on this trip.

We could go on and on in talking about our total experiences but this is already too verbose. Suffice it to say, you all planned an excellent trip for us and we can't thank you enough.

Attached are some photos which you may find interesting. They have been reduced for e-mail but if you would like any, we could send you the larger version. Also, we found a lovely boutique hotel in Antananarivo, Madagascar that you may want to recommend to your clients, La Varangue.

Our sincerest best wishes and thanks to you all, we will return.....

**Bob and Ardythe McCracken, Sep-Oct 2009**

### **Private safari to Masai Mara/Lake Nakuru**

Dear Kyle and Andre,

Just wanted to drop you a short note about what a wonderful safari experience my parents and I had in Kenya...

All of your arrangements went like clockwork, and the folks from Pollman's were so gracious and warm. We really liked how they met us each time we transferred to a new place and were so kind.

I think you know my family is strictly vegetarian, and we could not have been happier with the food arrangements. The Mara Serena had the best Indian vegetarian food at all 3 meals in a day, and their 24/7 self service coffee/tea bar was great. Everyone at the Mara Serena was so courteous and helpful, and made us feel really welcome. The accommodations and view at the Mar a Serena were wonderful and we loved this hotel.

The game drives were fantastic, and I am so excited that we succeeded in seeing all of The Big 5. Evidently leopards are very elusive, but our driver Frank was very experienced. We would not have seen half the things we did without his eagle eye, including the leopard. Now I totally understand why you recommended buying such high quality binoculars, although I was reluctant at first due to the high price. But the Wildlife Pro Steiners we got definitely made a huge difference, and enabled us to thoroughly enjoy the wildlife we viewed.

The only part of the trip which was difficult was the drive from the Masai Mara to Lake Nakuru. The "road" was appalling, and calling it a road for the first 3 hours of the drive is too nice a word. You should definitely recommend people fly between the 2 locations, and NOT drive...

I'm happy we went to Lake Nakuru as this is where we saw the leopard, but the Lake Nakuru Lodge was not very nice compared to the Mara Serena. The vegetarian food was more limited in choice but good however, although they only had 2 hours of self service coffee/tea per day. I am glad we only stayed here one night.

The Nairobi Serena was beyond fabulous, and ranked right up there with great hotels in the world I have stayed in like The Peninsula and many Ritz-Carltons and Four Seasons. Can't say enough nice things about this hotel!

The dinner at Haandi was delicious and all the Pollman's drivers and greeters in Nairobi were very nice.

All in all, it was a wonderful trip. My husband and I are planning to go on safari one day, and I will definitely use your company to arrange that trip. I am definitely going to highly recommend your company to all of my colleagues at work, as all of your arrangements were just wonderful.

Thank you for helping my parents and myself to have such a memorable and wonderful trip to Kenya.

**Radha Prathikanti, Oct 2009**

### **Nyungwe Forest, Cyamudongwe Forest and Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda Zanzibar Island Getaway**

Hi Ian, well, our trip was great!! The gorilla experience is really unmatched and not adequately described with words. I had to step back so a 500lb. Silverback could lumber by only two feet away. I could smell him!!!

The chimp trekking was not so great. The chimps are way up high in the trees but it was still good. The sounds they make are something....can hear them way before you see them ...

Zanzibar was absolutely beautiful! Matemwe Retreat is probably one of the nicest places we have ever stayed. The food was great, the service tremendous, and all and all a really wonderful place. Louise was right though when she said we would not want to leave. We even cancelled our Josana forest tour because it was on the other side of stone town so it would have been an hour and a half one way and we just couldn't do it with all the traveling we had already done...

We swam with dolphins in the open Indian Ocean and that almost rivaled the gorilla experience. It was truly a magical thing. The guide said most of the time they do not even see them much less get to swim among them. We were able to do it for over an hour....wow!

Rwanda is a beautiful country and the people are as well. We were very pleasantly surprised by how nice, friendly and just all around great they were. The country is spotless too.

No matter where we went you would never see even a single piece of trash on the road. They have a public works day once a month so they work hard to keep it nice.

I visited the genocide memorial...very moving . Our guide Freddy(for the whole week) had lost two brothers and two sisters during that terrible time but he like the rest of the people all are working hard to get rid of that stigma and move on to a better future all around great trip.

**Ed Rahal, Oct 2009**

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### Safari to Okavango Delta/Selinda/Linyanti/Chobe/Livingstone -Victoria Falls Visit to Cape Town

Hi Andre, we are missing Africa and ready to go back! We already are planning to go in two years!

So much for the "once in a lifetime" plan! It was by far the BEST trip we've ever taken, beyond our wildest dreams! I really had to pinch myself when I'd wake up and hear lions, or elephants, baboons, frogs, birds, HIPPOS!

Your attention to detail in planning was amazing, and our guide Russell Crossey was fantastic! All of us on safari (there were 6 in all) absolutely loved him. He worked tirelessly to track and find anything out there, and we saw nearly everything on everyone's list (and more).

I honestly cannot say enough how much we loved this trip, but thank you thank you thank you! (or, as I learned from the staff at Xigera)...Kea Laboga!

Have a great day!

**Rebecca and Marshall Dunn, Oct 2009**

### Safari to Hwange/Mana Pools/Victoria Falls

Mark and Crew:

Our trip was fabulous! I'm sorry we were such fussy grandma's in the preparation stage because we always try to be "low maintenance" customers people want to do business with. It's just that ignorance breeds fear and anxiety, more so when you get to be old fogies like us, and we just became worry warts.

We've no basis for comparison, but your choices of destinations for us seemed perfect. Godfrey Kunzi and Nick Murray knew every single answer to every single question and could go on to expound. The proper name of every animal, bird, plant, or tree was on the tip of their tongue without even a "mmm, let's see..." Awesome scholarship, indeed.

Our situation at Vundu was very special with Nick's full attention. He's quite a guy and I see why you send people to him over the Wilderness "factory" camp. That said, Wilderness did an outstanding job at Makalolo and for us in Johannesburg when we needed a little extra help.

We saw four of the big five, crept up on wild dogs and lions on foot, crept on foot to a rhino, sat in a tree with a bull elephant while he chowed down.

It was true adventure and you and your people did a first class job on your end. We were wise to put our faith in our friends and rely on your expertise. I imagine we will be sending you some business.

Many thanks for a job well done and all the best.

**Frank and Patti Foster, Sep 2009**

**Visit to Cape Town and Victoria Falls  
Safari to Chobe Game Park and Hwange National Park**

This message is for Alison, Louise and all the staff.

I simply want to thank you for organizing an absolutely marvelous trip. Alison, your suggestion of Little Makalolo Camp was a stroke of genius; I just loved the place.

Our trip to Ngamo was very important to me and I think the supplies we brought were needed. After returning home I wrote my usual note to family and friends about my trip, and several of my friends have offered to help get some additional supplies to the school. While at Makalolo I talked to Charles about Children of the Wilderness but wonder if there is a way to get such things as notebooks to the school directly and bypass the Zimbabwean postal service. I was told the Zimbabwean mail system is not at all reliable. If you have any suggestions, let me know.

Also, if you'd be interested in seeing the two notes I wrote covering my trip, let me know and I'll forward them on.

Again, I want to thank you all for making this trip so special. I hope to go to Africa again and will definitely be in touch with you when I do.

Regards,

**Kathy Gallo, Sep 2009**

**Visit to Cape Town and Victoria Falls  
Flying safari in South Africa to Private Game Reserve near Kruger  
Flying safari in Botswana to Okavango Delta/Moremi/Linyanti**

Dear Kyle,

We want to thank you for arranging a simply marvelous safari for us. I don't think you could improve upon it. We saw more big animals (as well as many small animals) in the last three weeks than we could ever have imagined. The staff at all the camps that we stayed at went out of their way to make sure we always were comfortable. We will not hesitate to recommend your company to any of our friends who are contemplating going to Africa on a safari.

Thank you again for a wonderful safari.

**Jack & Pat Howard, Oct 2009**

## Flying safari in Namibia to Sossusvlei

### Flying safari in Botswana to the Okavango Delta and Moremi

Dear Mr. Mark Nolting and Mr. Kyle Witten,

I hope this letter reaches you well.

We had the most amazing honeymoon in Africa. The Africa Adventure Company – thanks to Kyle and the rest of the team - made sure that our itinerary was flawless and the service absolutely personalized.

A 'brief' account of the highlights of our trip:

When we arrived at Little Kulala in Namibia, we were greeted warmly by Andre and his wife Lezil. Our room left us breathless - the view, lay-out and furniture were much better than the photos (which is rarely the case in hotels). That afternoon our guide Sebastian took us out on our first dune experience (which we will never forget). Sebastian was so knowledgeable about everything and an incredible guide - he was able to spot a black scorpion for us in the dark on the dirt road.

The first night we spent at the lodge they set-up a dinner by candle light by the pool. During dinner Andre asked if we were happy. I thought that was such a sincere and caring question. I responded by saying that we were "very happy but not looking forward to the 530am wake up call for the dune hike" as we had flown for almost 30 hours to get there. (But I was smiling when I responded because actually we were willing to do so...). He said he would do something about that. Then he came back and told us that he spoke to another guide and that he would take us personally to Dead Vlei and Sossusvlei in the afternoon with a sundown on top of the dunes. WOW! We were very impressed! I have never had creative and personalized service like that. With that, we were able to enjoy our evening even more. They noticed I still had a cold and cough so Lezil prepared a salt remedy for me and gave me some antioxidant tea and told me to drink some before I went to bed. The next day I felt better but not yet 100%.

After breakfast, Lezil gave me her natural remedy for colds (the same one she gives her son) it was called Fix Sniffer (all natural inhalant containing eucalyptus and pine oil). What she did added to our 'WOW factor,' truly personalized service. I borrowed this for the day and my cold went away.

The visit to the dunes that afternoon was unforgettable. Scenery was spectacular and our guide Richard was absolutely entertaining. He also prepared the most amazing sundown on the dunes with sparkling wine. That experience has made its way to our wall of most incredible experiences. He was also so great at helping me through my fear of heights. When we got back to Little Kulala, Andre and Liezl prepared an even more romantic dinner than the night before, dinner by candle light in the wine cellar. What was great about them is they treated us like friends in their home and they always called us by our nicknames Chris and Maui rather than Francis and Anna which are our passport names. Hardly any five star resort or hotel can claim that. We were sad to leave, but know we come back.

In Botswana our guide, Brooks Kamanakao, made our trip unforgettable. He was the best. We were so impressed by his intelligence and knowledge of everything and anything we would ask him. What was noteworthy was his love for his job, which is a rare thing nowadays. *It was like his home was the entire country of Botswana and we were getting a tour of his home on every game drive.* This is what makes him a cut above the rest. I actually called him the walking Botswana Encyclopedia when I would describe him to other guests. The best part was that he had the most wicked and witty sense of humor which made every game drive and dinner with him so much fun. Being out in the bush for the first time in our lives, we were concerned about getting so close to some of the more dangerous animals but Brooks made us feel safe and at ease. Several of the other guests (about 4 other couples) in fact were so impressed by him that they would ask me what I did to get him as our private guide. I told them I did not know. They would ask him questions and would get so engaged talking to him that I could tell they wished he was their guide.

We shared him with another couple in Mombo for several days and they said he was way better than the guides they had at other camps. They were as impressed with him as we were.

When I asked Brooks how we got so lucky to have him as our guide, he said that it was because we booked with Africa Adventure and because Mark Nolting was a VIP client, so anyone booked by him is given the best treatment... So that's what I told the other couples who asked about him.

It is very rare to find someone so kind, hard working, extremely knowledgeable who truly loves his job and country in one person and Brooks has all that. This is why, when we said our goodbyes I actually shed a tear.

Another major surprise on this trip was the helicopter ride from Vumbura to Mombo. That was like the icing on the cake.

We loved the accommodations in Vumbura. And we also liked the pace of the drives. The mokoro ride with Sparks (another wonderful guide) was relaxing, enjoyable and very unique. Fishing in the lake was also was a peaceful experience.

At Mombo, we were super impressed with Lizzie. She was very hands on with all of us, making sure we all had a good drive, enjoyed our meals and made sure everyone got our names right (she also had everyone calling us by our nicknames which we liked). She welcomed us back and saw us off with every game drive. We believe that she is what makes Mombo personalized to us. Someday we hope to see her as the General Manager of Mombo.

We were very sad to leave Africa. We know that we will definitely go back in the future and bring our parents with us and book our itinerary through Africa Adventure. When we do we definitely want Brooks to be our guide again!

Africa has left an imprint on us and has changed how we see the world. We feel very fortunate to have had this adventure.

Thank you so much for all your help and keep up the great work!

Warmest regards,

**Chris and Anna Lanning, Sep 2009**

**Safari to Limpopo – Mashatu Private Game Reserve/Tuli Lodge**  
**Visit to Kruger Private Game Reserves**  
**Flying Safari to Hwange/Victoria Falls**

Alison,

Thank you for the Wilderness Landscape book, it's much appreciated. Being "seasoned" Africa travelers now, it's been most interesting to see just how much Wilderness Safaris is involved in preserving southern Africa...

I thought I would give you some feed back about our trip and the various camps. So let me begin by saying your suggestions were great and each camp offered something a bit unique; so allow me to elucidate. Bobbi and I probably enjoyed Masha tu the best for a variety of reasons. First, they upgraded us to the Main Lodge at no extra cost and considering the temperatures that week 5°C every morning, it was much appreciated.

The physical campsite, the rooms, bathrooms, storage were all big plusses. But the biggest plus was the game viewing, the way the guides would go off-road and the guides themselves. In our opinion, Mashatu and Tanda Tula had the best guides ...

The staff at Pafuri was the best of them all, and the manager, Ursula, was a 10 +++. I truly don't recall the last time I experienced a manager of any type putting so much energy into making their guests comfortable... The camp was exquisite and we enjoyed the schedule and the people. The downside was that the guides could not drive off-road to get up close and personal with the animals as we did in Mashatu and Tanda Tula. Also, it struck us that Pafuri was outstanding for learning about birds, trees, archeological facts and some game, but the mammal viewing was less than we had hoped.

Tanda Tula was in the same category as Mashatu and the staffs were only 10 ++. The guides were incredible and now having been with a number of guides over two years I will state that the guides/trackers at Mashatu and Tanda Tula were by far the best we encountered.

Little Makalolo was interesting inasmuch as we discovered on our last day that they were well understaffed and that some staff was working in positions they had never worked before. We were told it was because they had layoffs when the world economy began its downturn, but that they were in process of re-staffing. We also discovered that foodstuffs/beverages are difficult to get in Zimbabwe because everything has to come from S. Africa. We were surprised at canned fruit versus fresh and wine in a box versus in bottles until we found out why. In any event, the staff put a lot of energy into pleasing us and it was appreciated. The game viewing was probably the most diverse, although we never did get "up close and personal" as we did in Mashatu and Tanda Tula...

...The river cruise on the Ra Kane exceeded all expectations; how did you manage to have us take that cruise alone? It was just Bobbi and me and two crew—unreal! (I felt badly for the folks on the other dozen or so boats that had up to 70 people on board. Gold stars all around for that...

Once again, we wish to gratefully thank you and your staff, there's no doubt we will continue to use and recommend Africa Adventure Company.

Best,  
**Butch Mazzuca, Sep 2009**

### **Flying safari Skeleton Coast/Serra Cafema/Ongava**

Dear Lynne & Bill:

Our trip to Namibia was everything that was promised and more. Dr. Raab and I loved roaming the desert in the land rover, viewing the magnificent landscapes at dawn and dusk, and sighting the animals in the wilderness environment. The staff and all related personnel provided a great deal of caring for our comfort and a passion for their country. We feel privileged to have experienced this journey ...

Our thanks for your assistance enabling us to travel with great ease and enjoyment.  
**Rosanne Raab, Oct 2009**

**Private Safari to Arusha/Lake Manyara/Ngorongoro/Serengeti  
Visit to Victoria Falls and Cape Town  
Botswana Wing Safari to Okavango Delta and Moremi**

Hi All,

We had a fabulous time on our Africa Adventure Safari. Seiff, our guide in Tanzania, was very knowledgeable and very friendly. We couldn't have asked for a better introduction to the country and it's wildlife. Ester gave us a terrific tour of Victoria Falls, lots of information and statistics, and an introduction to the culture and country of Zimbabwe. Jonah and Luke were our guides at Kwetsani and Chitabe and both were very professional, knowledgeable and friendly. Accommodations in Capetown were lovely although the weather, super up until then, quit cooperating. All of the transfers went smoothly and people were there to meet us when advertised.

If we had it all to do over again I think the only thing we would change is the African dinner at Vic Falls, very touristy and not very good food. The folks there with young kids seemed to enjoy it though.

Best Regards,

**Ray and Barb Rodgers, Aug 2009**

**Flying safari to Private Game Reserve near Kruger  
Flying safari to Okavango Delta/Moremi  
Visit to Cape Town and Victoria Falls**

FANTASTIC!!!!!! When can we go again?

Szilvia, Thank you so much for planning such a wonderful trip for us - actually, I keep telling everyone, it was not a trip, it was an "experience" - we absolutely loved it and did not want to come home. Below is a brief recap, but just in general, all of the transportation people we had were on time, polite and informative. Your advice to have a private guide in all the camps was right on - we made friends with a cute couple at Mala Mala - they were alone with their guide for 2 days - then another couple arrived and joined them - it was a disaster - the other couple always wanted to go back early, and the woman smoked non-stop! Our friends joined us for our last drive; otherwise, they would have been miserable. Also, we were so glad that we were not in Kruger and restricted to staying on the roads - half the fun was dashing or should I say bouncing through the bush searching for game!

**Johannesburg** - The Grace in Rosebank was very nice - thanks so much for the complimentary upgrade to the Club Floor. We did go to the Apartheid Museum and drove by Soweto - quite an eye opener. You were right - again - about the great curio market there - we did not buy anything since we were just starting out and wanted to make sure we were within the 44 pound limit on luggage - we later regretted it, since it was the best market we saw - but we still managed to buy plenty!

**Mala Mala (Rattray's)** - our absolute favorite!!!!!!

We loved everything there - every day saw something new and exciting. On our very first safari experience - saw all of the Big 5 - had a very close encounter with 2 male lions that sauntered by our jeep one night - they were about 5 inches away from me - looked us straight in the eye and kept on walking - all 3 of us were like statues - did not move a muscle - quite a rush! We loved tracking all the animals - night drives were always exciting - saw a leopard watching possible prey, so sat in complete darkness for about 15 minutes with the leopard right in front of our jeep - we were the only people there, and it was so quiet - kept expecting the leopard to jump in the jeep. Superb accommodations and food and a great staff and excellent guide - Donald. We almost cried when we left.

**Victoria Falls** - great visit. We loved everything we did - elephant safari was fun - Esther is a sweet heart and gave us a great tour of the falls - we even sneaked in a walk with the lions before the helicopter tour and sunset cruise - we were very busy - the hotel was great and we had dinner on the terrace both nights - very pleasant.

**Vumbura Plains** - left Vic Falls at 9:30am and arrived Vumbura at 3:30pm - I underestimated the time it would take - once we arrived, everything was great - though, very hot in the middle of the day. The camp offers great accommodations and staff and guide, Lettie.

Also saw our only kill (one was plenty for me) - 10 wild dogs got a baby steenbok after a failed attempt at a young sable antelope that was protected by 3 adult antelopes - the chase on both was exciting - to see how all the animals work as a team both hunting and protecting their own.

**Little Mombo** - 7 minutes by helicopter from Vumbura - we loved it. Loved that there were only 3 cabins in our section. We arrived at our room to find an elephant with his trunk on our porch - nice greeting great accommodations and staff and we had an excellent guide, Lebo. Super game viewing, especially large fields with multiple animal species all coexisting - way cool. The nicest surprise - after a morning drive, stopped to find a brunch set up outside by a pond full of hippos - had a full length table, bar, buffet table, etc great setting.

It was our favorite sundowner - sitting in the jeep with a glass of wine - watching a leopard in a tree eating her kill - a hyena standing below her watching for any morsels she might drop and a giraffe standing behind the tree - all at sunset. You don't see that very often!

**Cape Town** - beautiful city - had no luggage for 24 hours but did not let it slow us down. Graham was great - said he would always remember us as the 2 ladies with no clothes! We covered as much as possible in 2 1/2 days - Table Mountain was closed the whole time - the last day was very clear but too windy - still went up high to see the great view - went to Botanical Gardens, wine country, Cape Point, saw whales and penguins. We had dinner at the waterfront - a great time. We loved the Radisson - very clean and sleek looking with great view of marina and Table Mountain. Walked in Cape Grace Hotel - just to see it - we liked the Radisson better

I could go on and on, but know you have better things to do!

It was absolutely the best experience ever - If you ever need any extra recommendations, just let me know.

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!!!!

**Sally Stalker and Caroline Davis, Oct 2009**

### **Private Guide and Shared Mobile Tented Safari to Moremi and the Khwai Concession Safari in Zambia to Lower Zambezi**

Elena:

Our trip to Botswana and Zambia was wonderful. The wildlife was plentiful and fun to watch. In Botswana, Dave Carson was a great guide. He obviously loves the bush and animals and his enthusiasm was contagious. We enjoyed our accommodations, as well. In Botswana, we were expecting to share our camps with other visitors, however, we had our own private camp, both in Moremi and Khwai. With a 6 to 4 staff to guest ratio, our needs were well met. We had no shortage of food, and the food quality was wonderful...

Our hotel in Livingstone was great (David Livingstone Safari Lodge). We really enjoyed our activities, including the Sunset Cruise, Breezers tour to Livingstone Island, and the Elephant ride. My personal favorite was the trip to Livingstone Island and swimming in Devil's Pool. What an adrenaline rush that was! Barbara, Sara, and Jeff were a little apprehensive, but did manage to make the leap into the pool.

The final three nights in Lower Zambezi NP at Chiawa Camp were a perfect way to complete the trip. The accommodations at Chiawa were so good that it is a big stretch to call it a camp. Though we only caught a fleeting glimpse of a Leopard in Botswana, we saw 3 leopards on our first evening game drive in Zambia, and had a fourth leopard sighting on our last morning as we were preparing to leave. All four of us went fishing twice in the Zambezi River, and each caught at least one Tiger Fish on both trips. On our second trip, all four fish were over 10 pounds. It was fun meeting the other visitors at Chiawa, and the staff was great.

I definitely made the right choice in increasing our weight limit. My photo gear ended up weighing over 25 pounds by itself. I took nearly 6000 photos (Many duplicates) and am very pleased with the results. It may take me until Christmas to finally narrow down to a manageable number, but I am working on it.

Flights went fine and all of our luggage did arrive, both in Africa and on the return home..

Thanks for all of your help in planning our great adventure. Someday, I hope to return to Africa.

**Woody Stone, Sep 2009**

### **Safari in Botswana to Linyanti and Okavango Delta – Moremi Safari in Zambia on the banks of the Zambezi River**

Hi, Lynne. We've finally gotten over our jet lag and settled back into home, so I wanted to send you a report on our recent trip to Botswana and Zambia. First and foremost, thank you (and Allison and the team at African Adventures) for putting together a fabulous trip. We had a remarkable time and everything went very smoothly. We have recommended you to everyone we know! Now to the details:

**Zarafa:** ...We loved this camp and like the eco-friendly approach of Great Plains.....solar energy, extensive use of reclaimed wood from the Tsunami, etc. The camp is furnished British Campaign style and is at once elegant and casual... The view from our tent (and the main area) overlooked the lagoon and provided a beautiful backdrop for this wonderful property... While there was not a huge amount of general game, we were blessed with major predator sightings, especially leopards, everyday...

Everyday at brunch, as if on call, elephants would walk up to the dining deck and walk through the camp. Our favorite, who we saw daily, we named "Buddy". He had very uneven tusks, so he was easy to recognize. While we were there, he never missed a brunch, and sometimes kept us confined to our room for a while in the afternoons. He truly seemed to be just curious and to want company. We got to know him well during our four days at Zarafa...

**Savuti Camp:** ...Our first game drive we saw a mother lioness with two cubs and two male cheetahs (we suspect these are the same cheetahs we saw at Zarafa, but aren't sure). ..

...We felt at home right away at Savuti. We loved the fun and casual feel of the place. One of our favorite sightings of the trip came on the first afternoon as I was sitting on the deck of our tent writing in my journal. I looked up to see a beautiful Malachite Kingfisher right in front of me, and he stayed and hunted bugs among the reeds for over 30 minutes... It was beautiful!...

...That afternoon, it turned out, however, would be what our guide, Sefo described as the best game drive of his life. We were in search of the pack of dogs and stopped to watch some elephants playing in the water. It was a lovely sight as they turned somersaults, dove, got on top of one another and generally just had fun playing in the cool water. George later said this was his favorite sighting of the entire trip!... On the way, we found very fresh lion poop and quickly saw the five male lions from that morning over on an island across the channel. We were watching them when we realized they were in crouch position intently looking at something on our side of the channel. We looked around and in the grass found the wild dogs. We watched as the wild dogs, unaware of the lions, looked for a place to cross the channel. We kept silently urging them to turn around and not go to the island since the lions clearly had their sights set on the dogs. The dogs kept going into the channel and then turning back. They did this for about 30 minutes while we watched....holding our breath and hoping we wouldn't see a tragic ending to a dog's life. Then, two dogs decided to make the swim. They were further down from the lions and for some reason the lions stayed fixed on the main pack and didn't notice the two (including the alpha female) cross. All of the sudden, one of the dogs on our side of the channel saw the lions and started alarm barking. The rest of the dogs noticed the lions and saw their two "pack mates" in danger and the entire pack started to whine. We could barely stand the suspense. Finally the two dogs sensed the danger and ran, literally, for their lives. The entire pack ran as well and I had no idea how fast wild dogs could run. They continued their running and there was no way we could follow. They were safe, but we wouldn't see them again....We then made our way back for a late dinner at camp. What an afternoon!

We landed at **Xudum**...Ona, our ranger and S.K., our tracker - I can't say enough good things about Ona and S.K. They were great rangers and trackers and they were very knowledgeable and enthusiastic...the places where Xudum excels is its excellent guiding/tracking, its beautiful and comfortable lodging, excellent service and the best food we've ever had in Africa (and probably top 10 of places in the world). While the wildlife was sparser here than in other places we stayed (they are in the process of converting a prior hunting concession into a photographic concession), we had an amazing day of tracking and finding a wonderful pride of 5 lionesses. Later that evening we watched as they took down a male wildebeest. It was one of the most exciting times of our trip. To add to that excitement we also saw a rare Pel's Fishing Owl, a first for us, as it was roosting in a tree right in camp.

Our flight was a short hop to **Little Vumbura** where we were met by Kay, our guide. Kay, I understand, is legendary in his ability to find animals, and he proved this while we were there. Before I forget, thank you for requesting Tent #6. This was the "honeymoon" tent and was wonderful. There was an outdoor bathtub and it was the most remote of the tents. I think the one honeymooning couple was a little surprised that we got the tent and they didn't. It helps to book early with a wonderful agent!

...we went out on mokoro before heading off to **Little Mombo**. We loved the silence and calm of the mokoro and enjoyed seeing the Delta from that perspective. We were surprised with a helicopter transfer to Mombo. This was one of the highlights of the trip since we hadn't been on a helicopter before. It was a nice experience.

Little Mombo was the perfect mix of rustic and elegance. Within a few minutes we were already wondering how we might save our pennies to go there again!... As you know, the property at Mombo is outstanding and I wouldn't say anything to detract from that. It was sumptuous.

Tsile was our guide and we loved him from the moment we met him. He reminded me of one of our best friends, so we felt like we knew him immediately. The wildlife is very abundant....what we had heard and expected turned out to be true....there was general game everywhere. The concession was also much more lush than any of the other places....palm trees, acacias, large plains -type areas breath-takingly green. It really looked like Eden...At Mombo there is this sense of calmness and serenity and it seems to extend to predators and prey....everything seems very calm ...

We searched for leopards but didn't see the famous Legadema. We did see a strange sight...it was so hot that a male lion had settled down for a nap in a small pool of water. Who says cats don't like baths!...

...We were very happy with the Royal Livingstone. It was comfortable (although the rooms were not great for the price) and the staff was nice. We loved being able to walk to the Falls and sitting by the river was very pleasant. We would definitely recommend this hotel.

You put together a magical trip for us and there were no glitches anywhere. We knew we'd love &Beyond and we equally loved Wilderness. They did a great job of taking full responsibility for our trip and they have a remarkable organization.

Take care and thank you again for a wonderful trip!

**Debbie and George Warren, Sep 2009**

### **Mobile Tented Safari to Moremi and the Okavango Delta**

Hi Kyle,

We had a great time in Botswana, and all the arrangements you made went smoothly. First, the mobile tented camping with David Carson. The safari gods did not smile on us weather-wise, our first night there was about an inch of rain. Combined with the flood levels and other rainfall this year, it made for a difficult time in finding predators - we had more punctures than predator sightings, even with 12 - 13 hours/day searching (David was really working hard to find the big cats).

We did, however, have lots of enjoyable experiences in Moremi/Khwai including seeing an albino lechwe, watching mating ostriches, sitting by a pan watching game come in to drink (elephants, giraffe, wart hog), multiple other awesome elephant encounters, and being next to a large male lion roaring out his presence. David did an outstanding job and I do not think anyone could help but enjoy themselves with him.

Little Vumbura is a great camp, and the safari gods did smile on us with plenty of predator sightings there - hyenas feeding on a lechwe, lions hunting and killing a buffalo, two male leopards (the younger one being very relaxed so had a great sighting), a brief look at wild dogs taking off to hunt, and some quality time with a male cheetah on our last morning game drive. Lots of giraffe, elephants, and other game also. To top it off, we went to the air strip for our departure and the plane had to buzz some elephants to get them off the strip before it could land.

We had a wonderful time and thanks for all your help in arranging the trip!

**John & Kathy Wingard, Oct 2009**

## **EGYPT AND JORDAN**

### **Visit Cairo and Luxor**

#### **4 Night Nile Cruise – Luxor, Edfu and Aswan**

Lynne:

We wanted to let you know that we had an absolutely fantastic trip to Egypt! Everything went extremely smoothly -- from the moment we arrived in Cairo until the day we left.

On the ground, TRAVCO was terrific -- extremely professional -- first rate greeters, leaders, drivers, vans, etc. And, our Egyptologist Mohamed Salah Shaban was excellent.

Thank you for all of your help with the planning.

This is our second vacation with Africa Adventure Company, and we have been delighted with both trips. We will continue to recommend you.

Thanks again,

**Kristin and Dave Koehler, Oct 2009**

### **Cairo/Pyramids/Nile Cruise Petra, Jordan**

I just wanted to send you a quick email to let you know that our Egypt and Jordan trip was spectacular. Everyday provided new discoveries and things to wonder at. Our Egyptologist, Mohamed Shaban, provided a wonderfully personalized perspective, and was always trying to ensure that we were happy with the itinerary.

The pyramids in Giza were awe inspiring, both inside and out. How did they accomplish so much with so little? It's hard to pick my favorite moment, but I'd have to say that it was sitting in a Mosque with our Egyptologist as he explained his personal view of being a Muslim. It was very heartfelt, and presented in such a beautiful and loving manner that I was deeply moved. It's certainly not the "media" view of Muslim's that we are presented here in the US. We can visit lots of wonderful places in the world, but it's truly unique to be allowed to share in a very personal part of someone else's beliefs. I came away with a much better appreciation and understanding of true Muslim beliefs and customs.

Petra just got better and better with each step we took. On the first day we climbed to the Monastery, and worth every step we took. On the second day, the guide acquired a special pass for us to climb the mountains to get a look at the Treasury from on top. We'll never forget the last part of the journey, walking along the side of the mountain, on a cliff where the footing was only about half the width of our shoes. It was heart pounding and exhilarating, and the final reward was a spectacular view of the Treasury from the top of the mountain.

An excellent adventure!

On a side note... I was wondering about a trip to see the Gorillas in Africa. We were toying with going in 2011. I'd like to get an idea about an itinerary, cost, when we need to book, and when is the best time of year to go see the gorillas.

Thanks,

**Sandy Verboom, Oct 2009**