

## **RECENT CLIENT TRIP REPORTS AND COMMENTS – APR-DEC 2007**

### **Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe – June 2007**

“Jambo Mark & Alison,

It's been several months since I arrived back from my amazing journey through Africa. I was part of the Kim Smith Group that traveled in late June/early July '07 to Kenya and Tanzania. I was also part of a small group that ventured to Zimbabwe prior to joining up with our official "Lucky Ladies 13" at the Norfolk in Nairobi.

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

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

*Lauri Spector  
Deerfield Beach, FL*

### **Egypt and Kenya – June 2007**

“I want to thank you Alison and Africa Adventure for an unbelievable trip to Africa this past June and July. A week in Egypt and a week in Kenya turned out to be the perfect combination for our group.

Talk about different cultures. Our first safari camp was at Tortilis in Amboseli National Park. The individual tent camps were by far the best we experienced in Kenya. Sitting in the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro made for wonderful views and pictures. The Masai village we visited there shows how a tribe can be happy without any of the things in our modern world we take for granted. Next we were off to Little Governors Camp in the Masai Mara. The game drives there far exceeded our wildest expectations. Fred was our guide for the 4 days we were at Little Governors and he was the best. Of all the people we talked to at camp, we were the only group that actually saw and photographed the Big 5. You name it, we saw it. Antelope, too many to count, elephants everywhere we looked, prides of lions, some which numbered up to 15 was the beginning. The hippos and rhinos were both enormous. But watching lions, cheetahs and hyenas feed on fresh kills always made our drives fascinating. But everyone agreed watching a cheetah almost run down a Thompson gazelle was the best. The service at both safaris was outstanding and the food at Little Governors was wide ranging and absolutely delicious.”

*Glenn and Mary Stech, Valerie Mitchell and Scott and Susan Stratton  
Mahomet, IL*

### **Kenya – July 2007**

“Hello Alison, The 3 of us (Jeff, Dan and Judy Kaine) returned from our Kenya safari about 1 month ago and I haven't had a chance to drop you a note until now. First of all, the trip was spectacular. I don't think your company could have done a better job. All of our accommodations were excellent and people couldn't have been nicer! Our guides were also consistently good.

There is a new manager at Larsen house who is certainly a pleasant fellow. Everyone seems to think that the place is getting better all of the time.

The game watching at Samburu was fantastic and I have enclosed one of our favorite pictures with this email. Next to Loldia house which was also extremely nice and the staff was great. Low key but very nice. I thoroughly enjoyed going to the school, infirmary and one of the local villages.

The Mara--what can you say--you have obviously been there multiple times. Ballooning was worthwhile despite the expense. Having your own guide also is very worthwhile. Encourage people to visit the Masai or Samburu people, also a great experience. Our last stop was Lamu which was a nice exotic way to end the trip. I suspect many people might think that two days was not enough but I live in Sarasota so we are all used to spending time on the beach. I thought it was fine. Overall, a spectacular time. Kudos to you and your staff!"

*Jeff Kaine  
Sarasota, FL*

### **Kenya and Tanzania – August 2007**

“Well, we certainly had the adventure of our lives! This was the most exciting adventure we've done so far, and it all went off without a single hitch because of the great attention to detail and follow-up that you all did in helping us plan our safari to Kenya and Tanzania. From the first interaction with the Pollman's rep. on our arrival at the Nairobi airport, to the driver who brought us to the airport at the end of our trip, everyone was there for us. Our 3 personal guides --Clemence in the Serengeti and Eric in Amboseli, and Edwin in the Masai Mara were all excellent. They were very knowledgeable not only about the animals and flora we sighted, but also about the history of the country and the local peoples. They took us almost anywhere we wanted to see, and many places we had no concept we'd be seeing, They kept us safe and made us feel safe at all times, and helped us to feel the genuine warmth, friendliness and welcoming attitude of all the African people we met, including our 2 visits to Masai bomas. We fell in love with the country and hope to return in the future. The accommodations were fantastic, and the food was unexpectedly excellent everywhere we stayed.

And a special thank you for getting us into the Giraffe Manor on our first day in Africa---that was a major delight and a wonderful way to begin our adventure.

We will be sure to recommend you to anyone we know who's planning a trip to Africa. Carol's sending you some picture and a personal note.

Thanks once again for an excellent and very thorough job well done.”

*Alan and Carol Magner  
Yardley, PA*

### **Kenya-Tanzania – August/September 2007**

We have now finally gotten somewhat used to being home from our most wonderful trip through Kenya and Tanzania...and all three of us want to thank the both of you for all the assistance you gave us in making it truly a "trip of a lifetime". It could have not worked out better.....all the arrangements, trip transfers, lodging, guides, meals and of course sights were the best possible!!

One person who stands out was our guide for 8 days while in Tanzania...Omar Seif outdid himself in making sure we were comfortable, well taken care of and learned more than we could have possibly imagined about African wildlife....his command of the English language, superb knowledge of every thing African, wit and charm, maintenance of our vehicle and willingness to stay out late, leave early, sidetrack if we wanted to and just wonderful nature contributed immeasurably to the success of our trip. I would appreciate your passing this on to his company...Ranger Safaris.

Within a few hours of our arrival in Samburu we had already began to realize that we were truly in Africa...we had seen elephants, zebras, giraffes, gazelles, baboons and we had just gotten started. All of our accommodations were outstanding....although we thought that Kikoti Camp was a little far out and perhaps something inside the park would have been better...at least for us. We truly enjoyed Samburu, Little Governors and, of course, Tortillas....what a place to end a fantastic journey!!

Anyway we are now culling through many, many pictures and will try and get some of the better ones off to you as soon as possible.

Thank you so much again for all of your work in putting this trip together for us,

*Bob Young, Ruth Hargis and Larry Rubottom  
Encinitas, CA*

#### **Tanzania – September 2007**

“We had a wonderful trip. I went to be amazed and I was!

The quality of the lodging was more than we expected. Our favorite was the tented camp experience. The food was always good, the coffee excellent and the staff was accommodating and helpful.

As an Interior Designer, I was interested in the construction and detailing both of the exterior and interior of all the lodges. My experience will undoubtedly influence some of my future designs.

All the guides knew their business, were great drivers, and answered most of our questions. Firoz, our primary guide, was particularly outstanding. We had asked for a guide who was proficient in many things including birds, reptiles, plants and animals because we are interested in everything and Peter is a biologist. Firoz was the perfect choice for us. He was also willing to stop to watch any bird or animal and share information about them.

Firoz offered to identify a few birds from our photos that we may have trouble naming. I am hopeful that our email with photos reached him so he can reply.

We are most appreciative of the planning Africa Adventure did in making this a most memorable trip! ”

*Linda Britt and Peter Yingling  
Tucson, AZ*

#### **Kenya and Tanzania – September 2007**

“We’re back, exhausted and ready to go again. The safari through Kenya and Tanzania far exceeded our expectations. The lodges were beautiful, the food delicious and the guides friendly and extremely knowledgeable. And the animals - WOW....

We saw at least 4 leopards, dozens of lions, lots of hippopotami, a few rhinoceros, hundreds of elephants and about a million zebra, wildebeest and gazelles. And some of the lions and elephants were up close and personal.

You can use us as a reference any time. The experience was absolutely wonderful. And we can hardly wait to go again.”

*John and Shirley Charles*

*Destin, FL*

### **Kenya and Tanzania – September 2007**

“I cannot begin to describe how pleased we were with the adventure you put together for us. It met all of our expectations and satisfied our desire to combine safari life with enhanced cultural immersion and activities. There were too many highlights to mention but several stand out.

The experience at Greystoke Camp in Mahale Mountain Park was one of them. We found the chimpanzees two of the three days and it was a wonderful experience. The camp guide who led our "slow" group was particularly considerate of the need to rest frequently and climb slowly. He always took the opportunity during rest breaks to give us lessons in chimp behavior and the local flora. As a result we were never bored and when we found the chimps were able to enjoy the experience fully because we were rested and knowledgeable about what the animals were doing and eating. Also the Park Ranger who accompanied us was very helpful.

Our experience with Taita Discovery Center was another standout. Our community participation consisted of Susie teaching at Kitege village Primary School and I worked on the construction of their new school. We also got involved with the other villages and schools in the Kasigau area. On Sunday of our week, which was our day off, we visited Tsavo East for a wonderful game drive. The interaction with the local villagers and participation in their everyday lives is exactly what we were looking for and thoroughly enjoyed it. Shopping for construction materials in the hardware store in Voi was great fun as well as very enlightening as to life in area commerce center. Our driver/guide Joel Korir was outstanding and contributed to our overall enjoyment.

All of the Safari Camps were comfortable and enjoyable. The game drives were quite successful in each area. As this was our fourth trip to Africa we knew what to expect during the game drives, We like to be out at first light and each camp accommodated that with picnic breakfasts and where possible, early evening sundowners. That is always a treat. We observed many animals in each area and inadvertently got caught in the middle of a cheetah hunt several times. Again the game drives were successful, interesting and fun thanks to the efforts of all the local guides.

We think your local ground operators did a fine job. All the arrangements worked as scheduled. During the transfers we were always met on schedule and picked up on time for a return to the airport. Nomad and Origins certainly do their jobs and make the transfers as painless as possible. The accommodations in Arusha and Nairobi were outstanding and we would stay there again anytime.

It was a wonderful adventure in all respects and you are to be commended for putting it together the way you did. Everything worked as planned. There were no hitches the entire trip.

The information and detail you provided was complete and set everything out in a manner that made it easy to just enjoy ourselves. Thank you for your efforts on our behalf. We will contact you when we are ready to start putting together our next Africa adventure.”

*Jim and Susie Doyle, Sep 2007  
Tacoma, WA*

### **Kenya and Tanzania – September 2007**

“Thank you for your letter. Terry and I had a fantastic Africa adventure !

First, everything went really smooth from the beginning to the end, all the local representatives were excellent. Selemani is a very experienced guide, very knowledgeable and good personality, we enjoyed the Serengeti the most in Tanzania, and Migration Camp certainly makes the experience even greater, our tent was very comfortable and the service excellent! And we have seen all the animals we could have wish, lion's families, leopard, elephant, hyena, cheetah, zebra, etc...

Then we met with Preston (Origins) at the border who drove us to Amboseli. Preston is also a very interesting man, very educated, he told us about his "wild life" school for children in his village and a lot of projects. Amboseli was a little quiet for animal, but we had a great time, especially at Tortilis Camp, what a special place!!! And again the staff was remarkable! Although Kilimanjaro was "very" shy...

We enjoyed the 2 flights to reach the Masai Mara, it was fun to see the land so well from the sky, it's such a beautiful country.

There, Henry was waiting for us, also a very special person, Henry is a Masai and doing so much for help education in his community, I would say he has being our best guide for making every moment so exciting, always looking for the most rare animal that we did not see before. The Mara was a great continuation of the Serengeti where landscape and animals were the most beautiful. Governor II camp was very nice, and the staff outstanding, the cook made some special dishes, just for us and all of them were very, very helpful.. and gracious!

Would we go back? Definitely YES, especially in Kenya, we felt more comfortable in all aspects, with the country and people.

Kyle, we will keep the best memories from this trip, it was very true to the Dream, and we have about 1200 photos that I am trying to organize on a DVD, I will send you some very soon.

Thank you so much for your great help, all your advice was right on! Our best regards.”

*Terry and Marie Heilman  
Scottsdale, AZ*

### **Tanzania – September 2007**

“We had a wonderful time. Our first desire was to see and photograph animals, however, the people of Tanzania were so memorable and impressive that in some ways that was the trip highlight!! Our guide was terrific. Omari Mnyangala was our guide through Ranger Safaris. We heard many complimentary things about Ranger Safaris in general. Omari's knowledge of everything, his pleasant demeanor, and driving abilities were excellent.

The wildlife parks were great. We especially liked Tarangire and the elephants. Kikoti camp was our favorite. The remote location was interesting and the room was beautiful. We also stayed at Migration Camp. The room there was very nice and the dining experience was lovely. You could only HEAR the hippos because there was a lot of forest between the pool and the camp. I got a glimpse of one as he walked up a hill one morning but we did not see the hippos there except for that. We would highly recommend the permanent tented camps above the lodges. At Kikoti we saw a herd of elephants walk right by our room. Mountain Village Lodge was lovely and the dining service there was excellent. Gibbs Farm was OUTSTANDING and we wished we could have stayed longer there. We had a tour of the grounds with Moses and he was great!

The mobile tented camp experience was enjoyable because of the great staff of people. We were the last ones to use the present tents and drop toilets!! The staff again made it fun.

We saw all the animals we wanted to see, leopards in trees, cheetah, lions, hyenas etc. The only elusive one was the rhino, but it was a little windy and Omari said they don't like that. On another try to see them, it rained and we decided to turn back and not risk the deep mud near the water.

The Masai people were beautiful and so very interesting. Also the trips through the small towns were amazing. All the people walking – walking -walking!! We also visited the Tloma Primary School which was eye-opening and amazing. Such adorable and happy children. We would like to send them some things,

Thanks again for the wonderful adventure!! I will surely recommend you and Ranger and Omari to anyone who will listen and wants info!!”

*Marcee and Dennis Perelman  
Littleton, CO*

### **Kenya and Rwanda – September 2007**

“Sorry for the delay in dropping you a line about my recent trip to Kenya and Rwanda. I had to jump back in at full speed at work virtually from the day I got back - and that's always a bit of a challenge for me after a trip to Africa.

The trip was great. I had an especially amazing time in Rwanda. Not just the gorilla trek - which was incredible to say the least - but also with some locals I managed to spend time with at Gorilla Nest and in Kigali - primarily as a result of the fact that I had my driver/guide more or less to myself the entire time I was in Rwanda. He was a really good guy - Arthur, and I found the people of Rwanda in general to be extremely warm and friendly and eager to make me feel welcome in their country. And the country itself is quite beautiful.

I very much enjoyed my time at Elsa's Kopje and Meru - that park has tremendous potential it seems to me and everyone associated with that operation is top notch.

My week in the Maasi Mara... was just fantastic. It's funny, there are certain things I didn't like about the Mara - mainly the crowds - but on the other hand - I saw stuff there that was truly amazing and that I'm not sure you'd easily see anywhere else - a lion taking down a wildebeest - a cheetah taking down a young impala - a leopard getting bit in the face by a snake - a topi being born and 10 minutes later taken by a lion. How can you not go back to a place like that even if you do have to share many of the experiences with 10 other vehicles?

In any event, my passion for Africa continues to grow. Thanks again for everything. You guys at AAC do a great job of making things smooth and life easy while I'm in Africa. I'm sure we will work together again."

*Walt Turner  
Oakland, CA*

### **Uganda and Rwanda – October 2007**

"I knew this trip would be the greatest of my entire existence...and it was. Uganda and Rwanda are truly breathtaking places to experience.

It's hard to put into words the experience of seeing the chimpanzees and gorillas in person. There is nothing I could say that would even come close to putting that into words.

My guide Emmanuel "Emmy" was professional, knowledgeable and absolutely wonderful!!! I felt comfortable with him from the start and he always put my safety first.

I will return to Uganda and Rwanda in two years time. I will definitely want Emmanuel to be my Guide/Driver again!

Thank you Andre for helping me during my planning stages of this magnificent experience. You have been very patient, kind and truly professional. I will call you when the time is right for me to go back to Uganda and Rwanda...the adventure continues..."

*Raemonde Bezenar  
Alberta, Canada*

### **Tanzania and Cape Town – October 2007**

"I'm finally settling down following an amazing two weeks in Africa. My expectations of our African Adventure were far exceeded, due singularly to you and your company's gifted and talented efforts. Nothing was overlooked. Everything was on time. There were no miss-steps.

Sure, we saw 40+ mammals and 140+ bird species; however, the experience far exceeded those incredible moments. Which brings us to Omari. His 25 years of experience was a gift for us. We learned so much and saw beyond the expected. His insights, manner, and style, were so contagious and enhanced our trip ten fold.

Omari brought us to an AIDS orphanage, to schools where we gave away inflatable soccer balls from America. We had dinner with him as often as possible to learn as much as possible and had the pleasure of meeting his family. Thank you so very much for assigning this talented guide for our safari. We always will remember his beautiful smile and gentle manner.

We fully understand why Africa Adventure Company is constantly rated one of the top companies in the safari business. You all worked so diligently, communicated so well, and gave us memories which will influence our future years and provide memories that will last forever.

And Kyle, you are the best, the very best. Thank you for your skill, professionalism, and the gift of AFRICA that you gave to my friend Morrie and me. All the best!"

*Jack Heffernan  
Bridgeton, ME*

### **Tanzania – October 2007**

"The itinerary was excellent – not only as planned with you but with some additional items such as the Olmoti Crater hike and visit to the Masai Village which were pleasant surprises. The internal flight from Serengeti to Arusha was a great idea. After getting bumped and jostled for 10 days, avoiding the 7 hour drive back to Arusha was a delightful relief.

We had a very good briefing at the outset and everything took place as scheduled. The Toyota Land Cruiser performed amazingly well without any break-downs – I didn't know vehicles could take such a beating day in and day out. The raised roof was a nice feature – many of the vehicles we saw had open roofs. We loved the fact that we had a vehicle designed for 6 or 7 clients but there were only 4 of us – it really made for ample room to maneuver in game viewing and photographing.

Our guide, Rassul, was first class. He is an excellent driver and a very nice, gentle man whom we came to feel quite close to. In particular, his patient, relatively slow style was very successful in finding game. In most cases, we were the ones to discover game that others would charge over to see. He clearly was the primary factor in a very successful safari, for we saw every significant animal there was to see: lions, cheetahs, leopards, elephants, giraffe, rhinos, hippos, ostrich, cape buffalo, wildebeest, zebra, gazelle, baboons, Colobus monkeys, warthogs, a variety of antelope e.g. Hartebeest, Waterbuck etc. and a great variety of birds. We were also privileged to have a very good sighting of a Serval – somewhat of a rarity according to Rassul.

The Serena lodges were all excellent – friendly staff, comfortable rooms with great views (in Ngorongoro and Serengeti) and very nice food. I particularly liked the extensive breakfast buffets with eggs to order. We decided that Ngorongoro Serena had the best food.

Kikoti camp was a particularly nice change from the lodges. The huts themselves are quite unique; and Jenny and her staff were very pleasant and accommodating. Also, we were delighted with the "add-ons" they provided including a late afternoon nature walk, a Masai dance performance and a night game drive.

All in all, it could not have been a better experience. Thank you from all of us for making it possible with your thoughtful planning and arrangements. Best regards,"

*Dan Tracy  
Baltimore, MD*