



EAST AFRICA

Group Lodge Safari in Kenya to Maasai Mara/Nakuru/Amboseli

To whom it may concern,

Scott and I just got back from Kenya, Africa on September 9. I just want to say that we had a wonderful time. It was definitely a wonderful experience!! The lodges were very nice, the food was good, and the safari leader, Alex, was top notch. I want to say that he took the time and effort to make sure we had the best safari experience possible.

We had the opportunity to visit a Maasai tribe, which was interesting. We took a boat ride at one of the lakes near Lake Nakuru, while there we were able to see a ton of hippos and different birds. We then had the opportunity to get out of the boat and walk around in the area where part of "Out of Africa" was filmed and walk near the animals that had been left there after the film was completed (of course the animals were the offspring of those animals original to the movie).

The hot air balloon safari was an exceptional experience in the Maasai Mara, anyone who goes to Kenya should do this. Overall it was a great experience...

It's hard to believe that we planned this trip was planned last December and how quick it came and went!!! Again thank you for arranging this trip for us. I will recommend your company to anyone who is interested in a safari in the future.

Sincerely,

Jeff Adkins and Scott Crist, Sep 2010

Flying safari to Amboseli/Samburu/Maasai Mara

Private Safari to Tarangire/Ngorongoro/Serengeti

Our second safari trip planned by Africa Adventure was just as exciting as our first to Botswana...perhaps even better! Everything went according to schedule. We spent all nights (except at Ngorongoro) in tent camps of various sizes and amenities from no running water with bucket showers to a luxurious tent as nice as any resort hotel. At all the camps we stayed, the staff was very gracious and helpful and the food delicious. Staying in these camps made us feel we really were experiencing East Africa.

We saw huge numbers of elephants in two of the National Parks, many giraffe, plus 100,000 wildebeest in the Serengeti, zebras galore, many more lions than we had expected, special sightings of cheetah and leopard, antelopes of all sizes from the little dikdik to the handsome eland, large herds of African buffalo, gazelles, three rhinos, etc.



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Tortilis Camp in Amboseli was a great way to start our safari. Our guide LePeres was very good at introducing us to the enormous numbers of elephants, many walking single file across the horizon with Mount Kilimanjaro in the background. We also visited a Maasai village that proved to be very informative about the Maasai and helped us understand them as we encountered them along our whole trip. A visit to a Maasai government school in Tanzania also enriched our knowledge of these people.

Seeing the reticulated giraffe, Grevy's Zebra and the gerenuks were the highlights of Samburu where we stayed at Larsen's Tented Camp on the banks of Ewaso Ngiro River. The Samburu staff serenaded me at my birthday dinner.

In the Maasai Mara, a dozen elephants wandered through the camp as we attempted to eat our first lunch at Little Governor's Camp. On our balloon ride, we saw three rhino.

We feel fortunate to have had Hillary as our guide/driver in Tanzania. He not only spotted the animals for us – Andy took their photos while Hillary told me about the behaviors of the animal – but also was willing to discuss politics, history, religion, etc of his home country Tanzania. We feel we learned so much about the country of Tanzania unlike Kenya where we only saw and learned about the animals and not much about the country. Hillary was always polite, on time, and ready to find animal sightings “off the beaten track” where we often had fantastic views of the marvelous animals of East Africa all to ourselves. The variety of scenery was astounding as we drove across the northern part of the country stopping at Tarangire where elephants abound, the Ngorongoro Crater which was surreal, and finally into the Serengeti for our last 5 days. While driving to our final camp Sayari, we spotted a leopard lying on the ground about 30 yards from us. We were able to very slowly approach and to take some fantastic photos of this most beautiful cat. On our final game drive, we arrived at the killing by two lionesses of a wildebeest that was still kicking and saw the male lion come on the scene to take command.

Thanks to Africa Adventure for another fantastic trip.
Andy and Irene Bailey, Sep 2010

Private Safari to Tarangire/Lake Manyara/Serengeti/Ngorongoro

Hi Kyle,

It's hard to believe we've been home for over two weeks already. I'm still pouring over pictures and editing my safari journal... Everything went very smoothly, starting with being picked up at Kilimanjaro by the Ranger Safaris rep and our guide, Milinga.

Milinga was a perfect match for our family. He was extremely knowledgeable, energetic, good natured, and had great instincts about spotting game. He went the extra mile in coordinating wonderful picnic lunches so that we could spend the entire day out and about and go on extensive drives. For example, one day we drove up to the Mara River and saw some of the migration! Many times, his instincts and patience in waiting for "action" enabled us to see things that others didn't, as they did not stick around. Except for rhino, we saw it all -- and then some! He clearly had our best interests in mind and always went out of his way to provide exceptional experiences for us.

I think my favorite park was Tarangire but perhaps that is because we saw it first and *everything* there was new and for the first time! My favorite accommodations were Kirurumu and Gibbs. I liked Kirurumu very much, the tents, dining, and the nature walk with the Maasai guide. And it goes without saying that Gibbs Farm was spectacular. My daughter and I did the garden tour and my husband and son did the hike to the waterfall and caves. The cottages were wonderful and I think Gibbs is a perfect end to safari.

The hot air balloon ride and subsequent breakfast were great and since we had about a 1-1/2 hour drive to Seronera and left camp at 4:45am, in effect we had an evening game drive and saw some nocturnal animals.

...On the Serengeti we were at Explorer Camp 3 nights and for the second and third nights we were the only clients there, and the camp staff told us that they were closing after we departed. So it was just a bit odd being the only ones there. But we were totally pleased with the camp and the staff there. In fact, I think the food there was some of the best we had on safari. And on the morning of our departure, we were given a tour of the camp's kitchen facilities, which was awesome.

We were struck by the friendliness of everyone we came in contact with in Tanzania. Everyone seemed genuinely interested in getting to know us, asked our names and remembered them throughout our stays.

Thank you so much for everything, Kyle, I felt comfortable and secure with you and The Africa Adventure Company from our first contact. The initial packets of information were thorough and beautifully presented. Responses to my emails and calls were immediate and that is so important. You tweaked the itinerary to our requests and the end product was a trip of a lifetime for me and my family!

Most sincerely,
Linda Baker, Sep 2010

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

Dear Lynne,

We have just returned from the safari that you had planned for us. We had a fabulous time.

Your ground operator in Tanzania (Ranger Safaris), the transfers they arranged, and the briefings they gave us before and after their part of the safari were excellent. Our Ranger Safari guide, Jabshir, exceeded all of our expectations. Pollmans Safaris also did an excellent job.

The choice of lodgings you arranged gave us a diverse experience of the different types of accommodations possible. Our favorite accommodations in order were:

1. Tarangire Treetops
2. Little Governors Camp
3. Amboseli Porini Camp

We truly enjoyed the opportunity to interact with other guests at the Amboseli Porini Camp. They had nightly cocktails around a campfire, and communal dining. ...This camp was quite a distance from the park, and we spent over one hour going to Amboseli NP, and again over an hour returning. Sometimes we felt that the traveling time was excessive.

The locations we visited were excellent. Our favorites were the Serengeti, the Crater, and Masai Mara. We were lucky enough to see the Big Five, and we witnessed over 3,000 wildebeests and zebra crossing a tributary of the Mara River. At Little Governors Camp, a herd of nine elephants visited the campground on several occasions. They came right up to the edges of the tents....

We felt that you did an excellent job. We had an exceptional trip, and would highly recommend African Adventures to our relatives and friends.

Sincerely,
Ray and Anne Belz, Sep 2010

Group Lodge safari to Lake Manyara/Serengeti/Ngorongoro/Tarangire Group Mt. Kilimanjaro Climb – Rongai Climb Visit to Zanzibar

To say this trip put together by The Africa Adventure Company was truly amazing is a harsh understatement. I asked them to put together a three week trip to Tanzania/Zanzibar with a week of safari in the beginning, a Mt. Kilimanjaro climb in the second week, and a hop to Zanzibar for the third. Everything and I mean everything was handled with the complete and total professionalism, patience/understanding, and attention to detail to be expected from a top tier travel company.

The safari they put together was amazing! To start it off, they grouped me with an outstanding guide in Millinga. His knowledge and understanding of Tanzanian culture, wildlife, geology, and geography were astounding. He demonstrated first rate tracking skills which directly led to our group having one of the best week long safaris of his career in terms of the vast amount of animals and action seen! My safari included a Lake Manyara trek, an expedition through the legendary Serengeti, a stop and lecture at the famous Oldupai Gorge, a once in a life time experience in the Maasai village, a colorful adventure in and around the Ngorongoro Crater, and ending with a beautiful sunset in Tarangire National Park. We saw approx. 40+ lions (Eating, dragging prey, in trees, brushing against our vehicle), 6-7 Cheetah (stalking, sprinting, and resting), 2 Leopards (trees and climbing), tons of elephant (charging and protecting), hippo, Black Rhino, and tons more! In the Maasai village, our guide asked the villagers to show us something different than the normal show they display for the groups, so they performed their blood letting ritual for us and what a show! To know that we were privy to see something so few outsiders are allowed to witness was truly special and a blessing!

The second week, The Africa Adventure Company teamed up with the African Walking Company to provide one of the most beautifully spiritual experiences in my life, climbing the mighty Mt. Kilimanjaro. The guides for this journey, Charles and Damas, were completely incredible in their infinite patience during the climb. I had not prepared for the climb as I should have and thus struggled on certain parts of the climb. Charles and Damas were amazing with their experience and motivation. I was also grouped with a married couple, who I believe are now life long friends. When we reached Uhuru's Peak, I cried. It came on suddenly and the emotion of the beauty, the hard work, and the pain of making it to the top hit me very hard.

The Africa Adventure Company made this possible and as this experience made me a more complete being, I have them to thank for helping me achieve newer heights.

Chris Boney, Jun 2010

Flying safari to Amboseli, Samburu, Maasai Mara

Dear Alison,

Krissy and I are back home and I am pleased to report the trip was even better than I imagined it would be! Everything went well. Even minor changes to our in Kenya travel was handled very well by Pollmans and the airline. We saw more animals than I thought would be possible and were very impressed by the professionalism and true warmth of the Kenyan people. We enjoyed all three of our camps although the small size and closeness to the wildlife at Elephant Pepper was our favorite.

I am so glad I had many discussions with your staff while we planned the trip. Even though a lodge is more affordable it would have ruined it for me. It suits some people I'm sure but I wanted to get away from people so the camps were more my style. My only complaint, if you can call it one, was the food was so good everywhere that I ate way more than I'm used to. I have no self control on vacation....

...While at Larsen's we requested going to the Uaso Cultural Center. Our guide said it was quite a long drive but suggested instead a drive to Archer's Post to the Nangida Women's Group. It was about a 20 minute ride

and well worth going. It is a village of about 15 women who all got permission to divorce their husbands. We were told the Samburu for whatever reason can be quite violent with wives and all of the adult women in the camp had experienced female circumcision. I had no idea of what a brutal and dangerous procedure this is for women...I am sure that you are already aware of all this Alison, but it is quite an eye opener for us. I try to not put my values on other cultures. I admired the people at the Maasai village we went to. My problem is if a cultural practice routinely inflicts severe pain and suffering on half of its population, I was glad to see some very brave women trying to change it. It reminds me of the practice of binding women's feet in China. I was glad to see that fall out of favor too.

The good news is the women are safe in their new village, they have a school and have great skills at bartering for their crafts. I swear, American used car salesmen could learn from the Maasai and Samburu! I know I paid too much for the stuff I bought but so what? They sang, danced, shared their village and their warmth and that it was worth it...

As far as my favorite moments Alison, I would be hard pressed to decide. It was fascinating to be surrounded by 40 or more munching elephants in Amboseli, having a sundowner on top of a hill overlooking the plains and swamp, all with a dust-shrouded Kilimanjaro in the background. Or was it at Larsen's when I watched elephants play in the river and later in the mud? Maybe it was in the Mara watching multitudes of gnu try to decide if they were going to cross the river? Night time in the tent was even wonderful, being tucked into a very comfy bed listening to a lion proclaim his territory?

Thank you again Alison for the trip of a life time for myself and my daughter. I will go again but do not know when.

Sincerely,
Lynne Calero, SEP 2010

Tanzania Flying Safari to Tarangire/Ngorongoro/Serengeti

Once again we all had a fabulous trip to Africa with our recent safari to Tanzania. The Wildebeest crossing of the Mara River was the highlight, but it was a trip filled with many other memorable moments. Your ground operator, Asilia did an excellent job with all the arrangements and we enjoyed all the accommodations.

Day 1 - Onsea Housevery nice, charming place though our stop was only overnight.

Day 2, 3 - Tarangire /Oliver's Camp. A great park with a good variety of animals. Our guide, Alex, was outstanding and renewed our recognition and understanding of the diversity of animals and birds in Africa. The setting for the camp was not the most scenic, but the staff and facility was excellent and it was a great introduction for those family members who had not been on Safari before. Overall, a great "kickoff" for our trip.

Day 4, 5 - Lake Manyara/Maasai Village/Ngorongoro/Plantation House. Although Lake Manyara was interesting, it did not match any of the subsequent safari...Plantation House was beautiful. The food and staff were excellent, but it did feel more like a hotel than an outdoor adventure. We had a wonderful house to ourselves with four bedrooms...a delight for one daughter.

The Maasai Village visit was well worthwhile. We were warmly greeted and got a full tour, including one of the "houses" and the school. We brought books, pens, pencils, etc to distribute to the school.

The Ngorongoro Crater was spectacular, both in vista and the quantity and variety of game. We did not see any rhino, but we heard from subsequent visitors at another camp that they had seen several rhino there.

Due to the stop at the Maasai Village, we only had about 5 hours in the park, which unfortunately could have warranted a full day or two. In retrospect, we could have skipped Lake Manyara and spent the two days at Ngorongoro including a stop at the Maasai Village.

Day 6,7,8 - Central Serengeti/Dunia Camp. This was our overall favorite camp. We had both a regular guide (Harry) and a trainee (Thompson). Both were outstanding and perhaps the most knowledgeable guides of any of our camps on either of our safaris. They were as much wildlife educators as they were outstanding guides. The camp was cozy and friendly, the staff was outstanding, the food was excellent and the setting panoramic. After a day, we all felt right at home in the daily routine. The atmosphere seemed to be catching with all the visitors and we had even more interchange around the evening fire than at Oliver's Camp.

Day 9,10,11 - Northern Serengeti/Sayari Camp. The game viewing in this area was spectacular. The wildebeest crossing of the Mara was the highlight, but we had sightings of a lion pride with cubs, cheetah, leopard, hippo, croc's, etc. If we had been able to stop in only one area for game viewing, this would probably be the winner. Our guide Frank, was excellent, but not our favorite.

Sayari Camp was our "most beautiful camp and setting" with a wonderful panoramic view from our tent. The tents were beautiful, with a great shower and bathtub and outside sitting area. The "tent", however, had a wooden floor that, although it initially looked great, I believe the gaps in the floorboards were the primary access point for the "critters", that bit us each night. Also our "tents" were at least 400 yds from the common areas making for long daily "hike". There also seemed to be either very few visitors or everyone keep to themselves since few people used the common areas or attended the evening fire. Probably a good camp for a honeymoon couple.

Day 12 - Kia Lodgethis place needs some renovation, but the air conditioning made up for the "tired" décor.

All our transfers went off without a hitch and overall Asilia did an excellent job. Thanks again for another wonderful trip filled with great memories of Africa.

Yours truly, The Hallden and Bass Families.

P.S. The fleece jackets were perfect for the trip...we wore them daily in the morning and evening.

Al Hallden, Jun 2010

Private Safari to Tarangire, Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti

Dear Alison, Ian, and Irene:

Thank you for creating an absolutely spectacular safari for us. It is clear to us that all of you understood exactly what we hoped for in such a journey, and we have congratulated ourselves on selecting The Africa Adventure Company from among the companies we initially contacted. (In fact, someone behind us in the security line at the airport in Boston said his fabulous honeymoon on the Zambezi River had been planned by Mark Nolting in 1993--he had recognized our duffel bags!)

Ephata Lotashu was a perfect match for us--we're so grateful that you encouraged us to have a private guide. His level of knowledge, articulateness, personality, friendliness, energy, and prodigious spotting skills impressed us throughout our trip. He so clearly loves his work; his professionalism was impeccable. We saw cheetahs, leopards, and black rhino (with baby), every other possible mammal in gorgeous settings, hundreds of birds, and incredibly, got right into the wildebeest migration.

The food and accommodations were consistently wonderful. Gibbs Farm was lovely! Our visit to the Maasai village gave us much to think about; what a complex and beautiful culture.

Throughout my trip I felt absolutely thrilled, joyful, awed, and really moved. I could not have imagined that our long-awaited "trip of a lifetime" would so far exceed my sky-high expectations.

Thank you again for all of your work, and Ian, for the African music, which we are enjoying. I am sorting through the 1700+ pictures we took and promise not to send more than 15 -20--

Sincerely,

Polly Herz, Jul 2010

Private Kenyan Safari to Samburu/Laikipia/Lake Nakuru/Maasai Mara

Hello Africa Adventure team,

We are writing to report on our trip to Kenya which is no easy task because it was all fantastic! People keep asking our kids what their favorite part of the trip was and they can't answer because every part of it was a favorite.

Upon arrival, we were exhausted from the flight and a little overwhelmed by our new surroundings, but Lydia and Lazarus were there to greet us and we felt taken care of as they got us settled into our fun hotel. The next morning, there was a small mixup regarding our Church service (Origins did not know we wanted to go to a specific Church, but after some help from the concierge, Stanley was able to get us to our meeting.) and we appreciated all of the work done to get us to the right one. The Church meeting was a very positive experience for our whole family and we enjoyed meeting the people.

The rest of our trip was just one highlight after another. We feel like we had the BEST guide who was suited perfectly for our family. Stanley would tell us stories about growing up without school shoes, African animal tales and different adventures he experienced through his work. He taught us Swahili words and a song. He made everyone feel at ease and comfortable to ask any questions. He arranged picnic breakfasts so we could go on longer game drives. He also always seemed to find the best stopping point so that an animal would walk right in front of our truck. Our kids adored him. On our last day, after we had said good-bye to him, we were eating lunch in a restaurant and our 8 yr old son burst into tears and just kept sobbing. When asked what was wrong, he said that he missed Stanley.

We had requested from you that we see different topographical areas. You did an excellent job. It was really fun to see the different animals in the different regions and we were amazed with all the animals we got to see. We thought, date-wise, we would be ahead of the wildebeest migration, but we were delighted to find out it had already begun and were able to see them cross the river. (We even saw a crocodile catch one of them.) We were amazed with how close we could get to the animals and never got tired of game drives. The kids were also just constantly intrigued with the idea that they got to stand on the seats while driving --better than Disneyland!!!--and then pull up right beside an elephant!

We loved visiting the villages. We enjoyed singing and dancing with the village people, being invited into their homes, taking pictures with them and asking them questions. We enjoyed buying crafts in the Samburu village, but were quite overwhelmed and unprepared for the assertiveness of the Maasai vendors. Wow! They surrounded us individually and decorated our arms with bracelets and put things in our hands. As we tried to take them off, they would put more on, pull on our arms and push on our backs to get us to go to their table. It was hard to walk away because we were surrounded and being pulled on. We finally got out, glad that we had the experience, but not sure if we want to do that kind of shopping again. :)

We loved all of the places we stayed! Our youngest, a boy, made friends with one of the Samburu warriors who worked at the lodge keeping monkeys out of the restaurant. The warrior gave our son a slingshot and our son gave him an American bracelet. He also gave our son an email address and we are looking forward to hearing back from him. I commented on how I loved this one dish, so at the end of the meal, the chef came out and gave me the recipe. On our final morning, Stanley and the hotel staff completely surprised us with an outdoor "bush" breakfast. (We thought we were going on a river walk with the staff to see a hippo!) We had numerous offers from people who wanted us to leave our youngest child with them. One Maasai warrior wanted to raise him as a Maasai warrior and then we could come back. :)

It was a fabulous trip and we appreciate all of the work you put into it to make it so incredible.

THANK YOU--

The Sean and Joanne Murphy Family, Jun 2010

Gorilla trekking in Volcanoes National Park Safari in Tanzania to the Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater and Tarangire

Mark:

Thank you for a fantastic trip. It was everything that was advertised and more. Seeing the mountain gorillas is magical experience we will never forget. The sunsets in the Serengeti and baobab trees in Tarangire were stunning. We saw the migration, the big five, cheetah, lions stalking prey, lions in trees, lions mating, lions feasting on a kill, and much more.

Our guides were outstanding. Both Theo and Rasul were experts in the art of flexibility with meals, game drives, sightseeing, etc, taking the best advantage of the situations on the ground. Both were also great ambassadors for their countries and their people. Rasul lived up to his reputation as guide of the year. He knew when and where to find the animals and reacted quickly to sightings by other guides. He was helpful in steering us to reliable shops for souvenirs. We also appreciated his concern for the environment and for the animals as shown by his actions and often expressed in comments about other guides and drivers.

The Bushtops camp was over-the-top luxury. Soaking in the outdoor hot tub after a game drive was sublime. There was only one other family in camp for most of the time that we were there, so we practically had the camp and staff to ourselves. The food was the best of the trip. The camp had only been in operation for 6 weeks, so the staff was still learning, but that should shake out quickly. Deus, our guide at Bushtops, is a real gem. The managers were warm, welcoming, and attentive. The Sayari camp appears to have a better location, closer to the Mara River, but Bushtops is a great alternative when Sayari is full.

...After Mark's honeymoon and now this experience, it's clear why the Africa Adventure Company is regarded as the best in the field.

Thank you for the "trip of a lifetime".

Mike and Mark Nickelsburg – July/August 2010

Family Wildlife and Wilderness Safari to Tarangire/Lake Eyasi/Ngorongoro/Serengeti

Hi Kyle,

I am not sure how to thank you and The Africa Adventure Company for the most amazing trip ever! What I am most amazed about was that there was **not one single glitch** during the entire vacation. Everything went as smoothly as possible and according to plan. From the moment someone met us at the airport to the time we were dropped back off for our returning flight we were completely taken care of!

Thank you for providing us with a guide who had to endure my son's countless (and repetitive) questions. Ephata rocks! Beyond being extremely knowledgeable, he is a kind, patient, wonderful man. My kids simply adored him! My only complaint was that he laughed at all of my husband Steve's jokes which unfortunately has given Steve the impression that he is funnier than he actually is!

Of course the animals were amazing! I expected them to be! My only problem was with the gazelles. There were so many of them that I dreamed about them in my sleep! However, when we really needed them (like when a Cheetah or Lion was on the prowl) they were nowhere in sight!

What I guess I didn't expect was how much of an impact the cultural aspect of the trip would make upon myself and my family. The experience reinforced to me that you don't need much to be happy and in fact all the stuff that we have just adds more chaos and stress to our lives in many ways.

I have to admit that I thought the "day with the Bushmen" was going to be hokey and yet it ended up being the most memorable aspect of the trip. (I would not kiss my son for days after he ate the dove they killed on the hunt). We were blown away by how they live! The experience still seems surreal. Other visits were just as memorable. With the Toga tribe, we will always remember the husband's offer of 50 cows in exchange for Lindsay becoming his fourth wife! The vision of the kids running to the truck wherever we went and the shouts when my kids handed out candy will always be with us.

One of the most sobering experiences was visiting the Kakoyi Primary School at Tarangire. It is one thing to intellectually know that the schools are in bad shape and it is another thing to see it firsthand. 5 teachers for 600 students was staggering! It was so discouraging to see that these kids have nothing, yet listening to them sing and welcome us was such an uplifting, wonderful experience. The excitement and the gratefulness for the soccer balls we left at the school brought me to tears. (Our family is looking into raising money to get new desks for the school.)

As far as the accommodations went I was really pleasantly surprised. The view at the Tarangire Safari Lodge was like no other. We sat there for countless hours watching all types of animals. Kisima Ngeda Camp was paradise! (Kyle, I remember calling you asking why I would want to stay on a lake when there was no water and you assured me it was worth it -**thank you!**) Chris and Nani were the most welcoming, gracious hosts and the place and food were amazing! The Ngorongoro Farm house was beautiful and my son fell in love with the four security guard dogs that roam around the premises. Finally the Serengeti Shared camp was an experience, and it was great meeting and talking to all of your other clients! Every night my son would help the staff get the fire going while we enjoyed the most incredible sunset. The service and staff **everywhere** was excellent.

Kyle, I am so grateful to find you and your wonderful company. You really understood probably more than I did what I was looking for. As a result, my family had the most incredible experience. I have a feeling that this is the first of many trips we will be booking with you.

Thanks,
Julie Reich, Aug 2010

Group Mt. Kilimanjaro Climb – Rongai Climb Safari to Serengeti/Ngorongoro/Tarangire

While I have 166 emails to respond to in my inbox, I wanted to FIRST take the time to stop and say THANK YOU for an amazing, life-changing adventure. Our trip was so much more than we expected. We were touched by the beauty of the country, the people, the history, the wildlife and the welcome we received.

Everyone was truly professional, and I would like to send a detailed feedback, but before I do anything else, I have to single out two incredible people.

First, William was Christopher's guide on the climb. He was an amazing person with an expansive English vocabulary and knowledge base. He was kind and caring and patient. Beyond feeling safe and cared for, we felt we were actually in the hands of people who loved us. Wow! Please keep him in mind for work with anyone and everyone. He was exceptional.

Also, Emmanuel Mkenda, our safari guide was an absolutely amazing person. He knows EVERYTHING. He taught us about the wildlife, the history of the parks, the history of Tanzania, evolution, conservation, and a million other topics. He was unbelievably professional and patient at all hours of the day and night. We LOVED him.

Our trip was absolutely magical and more than we could ever have imagined. I want you to know how much I appreciate your planning all the details and your encouragement, and I want you to know that you have some very special people helping you out in Tanzania. Please let me know if I can be a reference for you in any way.

All the best,
Lisa Schroeder, Jul-Aug 2010

Private Safari to Lake Manyara/Serengeti/Ngorongoro

We have been home about a week or so and I have been so delinquent in writing to you. Thank you to your staff (especially Sylvia).

We absolutely LOVED every moment of our safari. Our guide (Rasul) was amazing--his keen knowledge of the animals, birds, and flora was awesome. He has a wonderful sense of humor and never once seemed impatient with our questions (which were never-ending). If I could recommend him to absolutely everyone who visits Tanzania, I would do just that!!!

I think we enjoyed the mobile campsite the most--the other lodges were fine (don't get me wrong) but the staff at the campsite (led by Jackson) was even more special. We met other wonderful people there and especially enjoyed our breakfasts and dinners at the site. We opted for box lunches (so much good food!) in order to spend more time out looking for amazing animals. We felt especially well cared for.

I cannot say enough good things about the way we were treated and how memorable the trip was for my son, daughter, and myself. Thank you for putting together this once-in-a-lifetime adventure for us.

If you have specific questions you'd like us to answer, please do not hesitate to send them to me.
Laurie Stark, Jul 2010

Group Lodge safari to Lake Manyara/Serengeti/Ngorongoro/Tarangire Gorilla trekking in Volcanoes National Park

Pre-Trip Information: E-mail, written, telephone information/contact with the African Adventure Company was first class.

African Adventure Travel Bag: What a beautiful bag! However, it was too small for all of our shipping items and too heavy for a carry on bag, since we had a weight limit for carry on and shipping luggage. We will use it at home.

Africa Adventure Hat: We both wore the hat the entire trip. The quality, like the bag mentioned above, is excellent.

African Safari Journal: A superior, informative book...

Airline Reservations: Africa Adventure did a wonderful job fulfilling our seat requests.

Connections: We were met at every venue and hand held throughout the transfers from place to place.

Exit Taxes: We put money aside for Visas and Exit Taxes but there were no exit taxes in Tanzania or Kenya. Visas were as stated in our travel information.

CDC Information: Never asked for this information but it was good to be prepared.

Extra Passport Pictures: They were not needed. But, again, we were happy to be prepared just in case.

Tanzania Lodges: All lodges/hotels were nice and comfortable. The staff at each were very pleasant and willing to assist us in any way. The food was as expected and there was plenty. In the future, we will request the upper floors of multiple dwellings. This will give us a better view of surrounding areas and no one walking over our head during the night...

Tanzania Parks: Each had their own magic. We saw the **BIG FIVE** and so many other mammals/birds/reptiles/insects/trees/flowers and a variety of new born babies.

Tanzania Guide: EMMANUEL MKENDA from Ranger Safaris was SUPERIOR. I would recommend that future clients try to request his services. How he could spot animals in the distance (while driving at the same time and then track their path so they would walk right in front of our jeep) was amazing. He has excellent historical knowledge of the different reserves and animals. He knew all the bird varieties and animal habits.

Many of the other guides would follow his lead and maneuver their vehicles around ours and/or follow our paths. He had a good sense of humour and was very energetic. We had him all to ourselves the first day and then we added 3 more people. The jeep was not crowded so we could move around for better pictures. He did his best to attend to all 5 passenger requests.

Maasai Village: A 5 minute visit was stretched into over an hour. It was a waste of time for us. The Maasai only wanted to sell us their crafts.

Richard Leakey's Museum and Archeological Site: This museum was not really up to date. There were many things that were proved to be incorrect in the scheme of the world. We could have skipped this, too.

Hot Air Balloon Ride: This was so much fun. The breakfast was grand. The landing was an adventure in itself - a crash one like we were told. We happened to be on the bottom seat.

Rwanda Guide: KAMUGISHA KIRENGA from RANGER SAFARIS WAS EXCELLENT. There were only the 2 of us in the Land Rover, which was perfect. His superior driving skills got us through a pouring rain storm with a mud and rock slide on the way back to Kigali. A very scary situation especially for Ronni. Some guests at the lodge recommended a particular Gorilla Trekking Guide and a specific Gorilla Group. We asked Kirenga if he could arrange this for us and he did. The second day we requested an easier trek and he arranged that for us also. He gave us a nice Kigali city tour and let us keep our pace on the rest of the trip with him.

Gorilla Guides: Mr. Felix was the guide that was recommended. He was truly **OUTSTANDING** and seemed to have been very pleased to be requested. I hope other trekkers can ask to be in his group. Our other guide was very good, too.

Porters: The porters were a **tremendous help** getting us up and down the slippery mountain paths. Our backpacks were very light so we really didn't need to have them carried, but we did need their help on the trek up and down. It was worth paying them for their assistance.

Money: Your recommendation of many ones, fives, and tens was excellent. We used about 50 ones.

Thank you again for a wonderful adventure/experience. Larry got to see his lion walk up a tree and pose for him which was a bonus. Now we have to go through our 2,000 + pictures and relive our journey plus show all of our friends.

Ronni and Larry Weinberg, Sep 2010