



The
Africa Adventure
Company

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Flying Safari to Hwange and Mana Pools

Visit Victoria Falls

Elena,

Thanks for the card. We had the best trip ever!

Esther was great...met us at the airport. Did not have to pay Visa fees for Robert (16yrs). The Falls were beautiful. The Ilala Lodge was perfect. Flight to Hwange in the morning was smooth. No air sickness for me!

Loved our stay at Little Mak. Very organized. Buli was our family's exclusive guide every day. Sleeping tent was very nice. Highlights...

Day 1) Roan antelope, Lion pride including 5 cubs came right up to our vehicle and layed down and played. Beautiful male, Cecil, was also up close. Many other animals and lots of birds...the korhaan suicide dive.

Day 2) Hyena pups, 13 giraffes in one place!

Day 3) Wild cat in the AM...and the PM drive was outstanding. Lions eating a zebra and a cheetah kill! We arrived when he was still strangling the wildebeest! And a painted dog! And the prettiest sunset all year! I'm lucky, what can I say? The area by Linkwas ha was teeming with animals and birds for all 3 afternoon drives. We went other directions for the AM drives, so saw lots of scenery, birds, animals. During siesta, a line of elephants walked right by our tent! And a line of Sable antelope soon after!

Only hiccup...we arrived at the air strip for 8:00AM flight and no plane. We went on an unscheduled drive with another driver and saw the cheetah resting with his prey and saw bat eared foxes. Then back to camp for brunch, and flew out at 1:30....

At Mana Pools - Nick, Des, and Tanya (guide in training) treated us like part of the family. Amazing time we had. We were the last guests of the season, so we had the place to ourselves for 2 and 1/2 days plus the day we left!

Day 1) we saw a civet, had dinner with a famous Zim guide, Gavin Ford. Met Peter Blinston, British painted dog researcher, and his sponsor from Netherlands who were at Vundu for the first time and were hoping to dart and collar a painted dog.

Day 2) Darted and collared a painted dog! Nick got to dart it, I got to draw blood, since I'm a dog and cat vet...which they were pleasantly surprised about, and which I didn't tell them til Peter was preparing the dart. How funny to see the look on their faces. The pack just hung out close to us. 23 in all! What a morning! And it was the researchers last morning, so they left. Afternoon canoeing...so fun. Hippos, crocs, birds and more birds. I felt 100% safe with the 3 guides for the 3 of us.

Day 3) Close up elephant encounters on foot. Carmine bee-eaters during the afternoon canoe.

Day 4) Went to take Tanya for her elephant hunt (part of her training) hoping to see the hunt, but national parks said no, so we took a drive...saw 4 bachelor lions up close, 3 cheetahs looking for food, and did a walking safari with elephants. Then all day canoe trip..."swam" with 3 elephants by chasing close behind in the canoes. VERY CLOSE. Many swims in the river at shallow sandy sandbars ...



5353 North Federal Highway, Suite 300 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308 U.S.A
Tel: 800-882-9453 • Tel: 954-491-8877 • Fax: 954-491-9060
email: safari@AfricanAdventure.com • www.africanadventure.com



Muizenberg, Cape Town was very fun, too. AIMS let us stay with Rob and gave Robert his own room. They fed us, too. We went on a tour to wineries and were able to pet cheetahs at one that had a cheetah rescue project. We saw the penguins and the beautiful park and peninsula all the way to cape point. We did a township tour to Kayelitsha, which we all found very interesting. We went into Cape Town twice. Went to the top of Table Mountain. Kirstenbosch gardens. Beautiful. Flew all the way home first class on our free ticket....amazing.

Thanks for all your help,
Pat Dorsey, Nov 2010

Safari to Tuli-Mashatu

Safari in Hwange

Flying safari in Botswana to Linyanti/Central Kalahari and Okavango Delta

Dear Kyle -

Home 2 weeks now and still trying to get back in to the day to day groove. Our time in Africa is still very much with us. We miss the sounds of hyenas, elephants, and distant roars and rumblings of the lions as we sleep. I have been blessed to travel many places thus far in my 42 years, and I can say in truth that the soul of Africa, or at least Botswana and the taste of Zimbabwe we had, will remain etched deeply within me like few other places have done. My current life and work as a 'modern day shaman' means that I am always striving to connect with people, animals, and nature in a deeply spiritual manner, and Africa is a land of so many things. Big, rich, and so so special. I can't thank you enough, both Kyle individually and The Africa Adventure Company collectively for helping make this trip happen for us. Though in one way this was a trip of a lifetime for us, we hope to find a way to return.

Kyle, we loved each and every one of the camps you arranged for us. They were beyond our expectations in so many ways. We chuckled on many occasions that they are called 'tent camps' only because as a someone who has done much mountaineering, they were like no other tent I've experienced. We were completely spoiled and I told Scott numerous times that I could easily adapt to this kind of camping if only we could afford to do so. Unfortunately, I think we'll be stuck with the way I've known far more often than not, ha! Anyway, I thought I'd highlight what we loved about each one and give some feedback.

Mashatu Tented Camp was our favorite overall and in a general sense. This is perhaps due to the fact that it was our very first camp on our very first safari experience, but it blew the others away in wildlife experience over the course of the 4 days we were there. Within our first 2 hours of the very first drive we saw a cheetah, elephants, impala, kudu and eland. We loved the rocky outcrops and the landscapes. In those 4 days we sighted amazing birdlife, leopards on 3 different occasions (a few hours with Andrei the cat specialist which was well worth it even though our guide Richard had already found both lions and leopards before our time with Andrei), lions, zebras, giraffes, mongoose, hyena and pups, warthogs, jackals, etc etc. Honestly, Mashatu offered us so much wildlife that if I had to pick only one camp I could go to Mashatu would be it. This is from a wildlife perspective. It does help that because it was a private game reserve we could drive off road to get close to the wildlife. I understand why many places this cannot be done but from a visitor's standpoint, I am glad we could do so in several of the camps. All of our guides were fantastic, but I would say that Richard was one of the best with 25 years of experience and it was the one camp we also had a spotter which was great for the night drives. Food and staff all excellent. I would like to see them get rid of their bottled water like Wilderness Camps have done.

Ok, Little Makalolo Tented Camp. Loved it's small, quiet, and simpler feel although the tents were quite luxurious. Perfect for us. Lewis our guide was the most amazing tracker we had and he had a wonderful sense of humor. He was like a little kid with his excitement of things he must have seen a thousand times. Actually, most of our guides were like this. Passionate about what they do and sharing it with guests. ..

We loved that we chose Dec. to travel because at every camp we had at least one night where we were the only guests and on other nights, there were so few people. Because Little Mak is small, I wouldn't mind visiting at other times of year as well. Couldn't say the same for Kwetsani or Kalahari Plains if they were full. It would have been a bit busy for us. We loved the feel of being remote and having the area to ourselves for the most part. This came as quite a pleasant surprise for us. We wouldn't want to stay at any larger sized of camps or more luxurious. Kyle, you did a perfect job in setting us up with accommodation that was so nice and fit within our budget and our wants. I honestly would not have wanted anything higher end. If we do get to return, we'd want the same or to be able to do a mobile tented safari but know the tradeoff is coming at a busier time of year.

Again, Dec. with its few guests and greenery was outstanding - Scott took over 7000 photos, so from a photography standpoint it was great. Too, we were surprised at our interest in all of the birds- we aren't birders by any means but thoroughly enjoyed the hundreds of varieties we saw and because it was summer, we got to see many that were migrating or not from the immediate area. Nice bonus. It was from Little Mak that we got to visit a local village and I am so glad we did this. Next time I would want to schedule in a bit more time with visiting and meeting with the villagers who can share more of their local and traditional ways, especially medicinally and spiritually since this is where my life work is. (Again, the walking safari at Kwetsani with Maipa was fantastic and right up my ally in this respect. Could easily have done more walking safari and sad that we didn't take the opportunity with the San Bushmen in the Kalahari- we'd had a day and a half of hard rain which pushed Scott to want to look for wildlife rather than do the walk - that was our mistake).

Savuti was probably the nicest camp but the least exciting for wildlife in Dec. I say this but it was here that we got to see the wild dogs so we are so happy we came. Loved being right on the water and getting to see the young bull elephants play in a way we didn't see anywhere else. Staff was fantastic here and our guide Grant really made it special for Scott. We had Grant to ourselves and Grant picked up right away that Scott has an interest in photography and went out of his way to help Scott with tips and share his expertise. We couldn't have done this had other guests been present or if Grant simply hadn't taken Scott in. One evening when Scott and I were the only two guests, Grant took Scott aside and helped him for several hours with post editing stuff while Helena and staff set up a DVD show and discussion on the Kids in the Wilderness program just for me. I was touched that regardless of being the only guests, the staff never slacked and still went out of their way to treat us like kings and queens. This was true at every camp and I have to say I was way impressed. I've been places in the offtime where staff tend to slow down or not provide full treatment because the pace has slowed- this simply did not happen anywhere! The hospitality was stunning to me.

The Kalahari was my favorite of landscapes, especially Deception Valley. Next time, I would love to arrange camping out for 2 nights in Deception. We had an amazing experience getting caught up in torrential rain while in the Valley. Scott I had laughed and laughed because never in our wildest dreams had we envisioned the rain that came down in the Kalahari. We even joked that they must have gotten 90% of their annual rainfall in that one day. We felt that Wilderness had done a great job of getting the camp to fit into the natural surroundings. Our guide Ona worked tirelessly to find the black maned lions but it wasn't in the cards- the rain put so much of the wildlife into hiding. However, we got caught up in finding bullfrogs, honeybadgers, and the myriads of other wildlife that were available. I know I'm not done with the Kalahari - need to return for many reasons but the lions and the Bushmen are high on the list.

Ok, so we loved Kwetsani Camp being in the trees. Way cool and glad we were up 20 feet when Scott spotted a black mamba on the forest floor (until I learned that the mamba can climb trees - I actually love snakes but was ever watchful in the trees after that!). Like Savuti, I think this camp would be better in the winter season and with high water. Wildlife was tougher to find but we still got to have a Delta experience in a mokoro and fishing on the boat, that was really fun! The walking safari was a highlight for certain and for someone like me who has a big interest in the 'small stuff,' this is a must.

So, for Dec. we would go back to Mashatu, Little Mak, and Kalahari Plains in a heartbeat. In no way were we disappointed with the others because we saw and did things there that we got nowhere else, but these were the best for this time of year.

On a personal note, I think I would do fewer camps next time - maybe 3 and throw in more time for a village stay, camping (weather permitting and seasonal), and a day layover in Johannesburg coming and going, or a side visit to Cape Town. Coming from MT and heading straight into safari was hard. When we left Atlanta we'd already been travelling 14 hours so that flight seemed extra long to Jburg. Coming back was really tough- 45 hours from camp in Botswana to finish since we had air travel problems in Minneapolis. So, a day upon arrival to catch up would be good and Kyle this was my doing. I remember you and I talking about this and it was me that didn't want to waste time. I'm not as young as I used to be, ha!

Really believe in supporting Wilderness Camps and what they are doing environmentally and community wise. So glad that all but Masatu were run or partnered with Wilderness. Please keep pushing your guests this way if budgets will allow.

Oh, we spent time with the headmaster of the Ziga school outside of Hwange. Kids were out for the holiday but we got to see firsthand the school and hear about the needs. Buildings were being repainted and the headmaster expressed incredible gratitude for the lunch program thru AAC. A water well was being drilled for while we were there- amazing the toil and means they were doing this by, wow! This sidetrip was invaluable for us and inspiring. Sounds like many guests don't know about it though and camp staff doesn't really seem to bring it up. Our guide said he'd like to see more guests make the side trip and I forgot to share this with the camp manager so they can make sure guests know about it as an option.

I could write on and on about our experiences but will end it here for now. Once Scott has done some editing we'll send some photo highlights.

Kyle, you were superb and I am beyond impressed with how smoothly all went down to the smallest of details. Thanks to all staff and the AAC!!!!!!!!!!

In gratitude!

DeeDee McMillan, Dec 2010

Visit to Cape Town/Safari to Private Game Reserve near Kruger

Safari to Okavango Delta and Linyanti

Visit to Victoria Falls

Hi Alison,

Still editing our pictures and thought if I waited till completed, I would never get this letter off to you!

People are all the time asking us "what was the highlight of your trip." The only answer we could give them was that each day brought a new and exciting adventure - so - I would say the anticipation of the next day and the next day,

Cape Town: Welgelegen. You could not have picked a better place for the three (3) of us to stay. Without a doubt, the perfect choice. The hospitality, character, friendliness and attitude of all involved at the Welgelegen were exceptional and their ability to make you comfortable was effortless. What a wonderful way to have started our first day in South Africa. To experience the flavor of South Africa and Cape Town – this was the place to have started at. Needless to say Fiona, Danielle and Anine were outstanding. It seemed that Danielle was always nearby to offer help or take our pictures!

Tours: We were very fortunate that you were able to have Charlie Ratcliffe for our guide. He was fabulous. We did the full day Peninsula tour and the full day Hermanus & Dyer Island Cruise Tour and Charlie with his knowledge, warmth and humor made it a perfect tour.

Cheetah Plains: This was exciting. Our first time in the “Bush” and again, that same eagerness to provide a wonderful first time experience was evident from all the staff at the camp site. And had it been our first trip, I know they would have shown the same attitude. Andrew was our guide and he made sure that we saw the “Big 5”!

Vic Fall: The falls were impressive, but, Esther was without a doubt the highlight of the day in Victoria Falls. She is a Gem. Her personality and knowledge of the area was exciting and fun. She is wonderful. We did not find the same friendliness in Zimbabwe – Victoria Falls as we did in all the other parts of our trip. I had originally mentioned to you that I thought that the day we arrived at Victoria Falls and did the sightseeing we could leave the next day. You had disagreed.....That would have been the only change we would have made. We no longer Bungee Jump or Zip Line -so this day was not necessary.

Jao Camp: Good camp. Again the staff and accommodations were wonderful. Our guide - Mai Pah (sp) was good. Naturally the height of this camp was our kids joining us!

Duma Tau: Great Camp. Our Guide – Ron – warm friendly (as the others) again was super. One night after dinner we were held up at the dining room – elephants in front of the room and we could not get out to go to our room- ah, the life in the “Bush”!!...

...Your selection of areas and camps was perfect. Each one offered a slightly different flavor of Africa that helped make this trip special. We would not hesitate to recommend our itinerary for “first timer s”.

We met other couples that had on their “Africa Adventure” caps! One was from North Carolina (a Dermatologic) and his friend was also a Dermatologic - nice people.

Sandy had no reason to expect anything to be done for her birthdaywron gthat was just another beautiful touch to this outstanding trip. Both camps, Jao and Duma Tau both helped her celebrate “her day”! Again, thanx for your follow thru.

So Alison, what else can I say – this was one trip that not one of us was ready to leave and come home.

You, Ian, Janet and the rest of your organization made possible for us to enjoy the “very best” trip ever! David (our son) said it was his best ever and this is one kid that is hard to please!

Best regards from the three of us, Sandy Judy and Ira.....Happy and Healthy Holidays to all.....

Ira Smith, Nov 2010

**Okavango Delta and Linyanti
Visit Cape Town and Winelands**

Hi Elena,

Thanks for all of your help in planning our trip. We had a terrific time and I would not have done anything differently. Both the Safari Camps were great (Little Vumbura and Kings Pool), the staff was excellent and we had great guides that I would definitely recommend to other travelers (Rain in Little Vumbura and ND in Kings Pool). It was a nice time of year to go because it was not very crowded but there were plenty of animals to see. We also got lucky with the weather as it was not very hot the week we were there.

The Cape Grace was also exceptional as was The Country House in Fransch hoek. Our guide there (Graham) was also terrific and we would certainly use him again.

Thanks again and we look forward to planning our next trip with you (hopefully, we will not wait 10 years to go back).

Sincerely,

Rick and Noreen, Nov 2010