

HELLO READERS!

2009 is proving to be an interesting journey... nearly halfway through the ride and the road is still a bit bumpy. Some pundits predict that the tarmac will smooth out as we approach the end of the year. Others are more pessimistic. But we only know that Africa remains strong and the travelers' desire to experience a safari-of-a-lifetime still burns as bright. We thank all of our loyal clients for helping us through - and beyond - this brave new year!

- Anne Bellamy, President

OUR MISSION

A safari to Africa is a life-long 'dream come true'. African Travel, Inc. is dedicated to assisting our customers design and experience the best possible safari adventure. By sharing our firsthand knowledge and expertise, our mission is to breathe life into fantasies and help our clients truly 'live the dream'...



An elephant visits the pool at Somalisa

Hot GNUS

Where? Lake Manyara National Park, Tanzania
What? Tree Climbing Lions!

This small park is sandwiched between the Rift Valley escarpment and the large sodiferous Lake Manyara. Travelers driving from Arusha to Tanzania's major game parks often stop here for a night or two. Or even just for lunch and a swing through the pretty park. Manyara has a good range of game, including birdlife on the lake, giraffe, elephant, baboon and the tree-climbing lion. Well, okay: the *rarely seen* tree-climbing lion. But what fun to give it a try! It is *not* rare to see a safari vehicle full of anxious guests, all with faces upturned and necks craning in hopes of glimpsing a tawny hide way up in the trees. LAKE MANYARA SERENA LODGE is a popular and conveniently located lodge that caters to both individuals and groups. It wears 5 stars... but its largish size and reasonable tariff feels more like 4.



The Manor at Ngorongoro

Where? Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania
What? Africa's Garden of Eden!

Nowhere on earth can this location be replicated. Visitors descend into the caldera floor - and step right into a fairytale locale. The sprawling 'bowl' is home to a permanent population of wildlife, who spend their entire life cycle inside the crater, finding all the sustenance they need within this self-contained ecosystem. Up top, there are several lodges near or on the crater rim, and one of our favorite picks is THE MANOR AT NGORONGORO. This lovely property is reminiscent of an elegant, upcountry farm house in the Cape Dutch style of architecture. With only 20 luxurious cottage suites, the property offers a warm and intimate home base. While a visit to the crater is a 'must' on any Tanzania itinerary, environmental experts are only now understanding the fragile nature of the craters unique ecosystem. Officials are seriously considering limiting the number of visitors allowed into the crater each day. So be it: Ngorongoro is a gift that we need to bequeath to our great-grandchildren and the generations beyond.



Serengeti Migration Camp

Where? Serengeti, Tanzania
What? The Mother of all parks!

Serengeti is the most famous park in Tanzania and is also one of the most seasonal. An enormous herbivore migration passes through the area annually, so being in the right place at the right time is very important. (See our Cheetah Sheet in this Newsletter). As they have done for millennium, zebra and wildebeest travel between Tanzania and Kenya each year, in search of water and sweet new grasses. Invariably, this massive procession is accompanied by wily predators, on the lookout for the old or weak animals. At the river crossings, crocs lick their chops in anticipation of the slow swimmers. When the migration is in full swing, the herds are located in the Grumeti area of western Tanzania. SERENGETI MIGRATION CAMP is a superb tented property, perched right on the river's edge. The tents are huge and airy, and each has a verandah deck with a 360 degree view of the Serengeti plains. Sumptuous indulgence among the raw splendor of the surrounding bush!

EXTRA ROAR DINARY NEWS BULLETIN

The Jane Goodall Institute is asking for help. They want to keep the great apes out of the mass media. Like the chimpanzee featured in "Keeping up with the Kardashians", these young chimps are 'used' for entertainment until they reach 6 or 7 years old, then they are discarded to zoos.....or worse. Domesticated chimps cannot be turned back into the wild and, after they reach adulthood, they are too strong and unmanageable for commercial use. Chimps belong in the big African outdoors...not on the big screen. If you are interested in learning more, log on to www.janegoodall.org.



FREE BUSINESS CLASS AIR TICKET TO AFRICA! On our 12 day Southern Explorer visiting Cape Town, Victoria Falls and Kruger National Park. The first client pays regular fare - and the second client flies free!

FREE ECONOMY CLASS AIR TICKET TO EGYPT! Book our 10-day Royal Egyptian itinerary and the 2nd passenger receives a complimentary international air ticket. A 5-day Nile Cruise aboard the ultra luxurious "River Tosca" is included!

FREE NIGHT - WHEREVER YOU WANT! For those travellers that need to travel *where* they want, *when* they want, this offer is perfect. Just select any hotel or lodge on your itinerary - and you will receive an extra night absolutely free of charge. Valid on any inclusive safari in our main brochure (pages 14 -37).

These are just a few of our recession-busting special offers. See details on our website at www.africantravelinc.com

HAVE YOU HERD?

The US State Department has once again placed Zimbabwe back on the "good to visit" list and has dropped the travel sanctions that have been in place for many years. The Zimbabwean people are giddy with anticipation and hope that Americans will flock back for a visit to their beautiful safari destination.

Our current top pick for a Zimbabwe safari: **Somalisa Tented Camp**, located in the heart of Hwange National Park. This camp embodies all of the romance and adventure of yesteryear, while pampering clients with absolute luxury and comfort.

Our special rates for Somalisa are equally extraordinary: from \$350.00 per person per night, including all gameviewing drives and walks, meals and drinks! Access to camp is via road or air from Victoria Falls. The gameviewing is positively wonderful within Hwange Park, featuring up-close and personal encounters with all the beasts of the bush. Don't be surprised to have an elephant or two join you during your outdoor shower!

You can now follow African Travel's blog at africantravelinc.blogspot.com where you can read our staff's personal comments and insights on their experiences.



Staff SPOTLIGHT

Gerda D'Nino

Accounting Manager

Looking after our company's pocketbook since 1993, Gerda is an integral part of African Travel. Like any good accountant, she is superbly detail-oriented and a stickler for accuracy. Born in Germany, Gerda was trained in the classical European style of accounting. In other words, EVERYTHING is done ahead of deadline. All of our suppliers in Africa heap kudos onto Gerda's department: invoices never linger on her desk and late payments are as rare as a white lion. Over the years, Gerda has traveled to Africa many times. Her favorite destination is Kenya, which she plans to revisit sometime later this year. That is, if the numbers add up!

THE CHEETAH SHEET



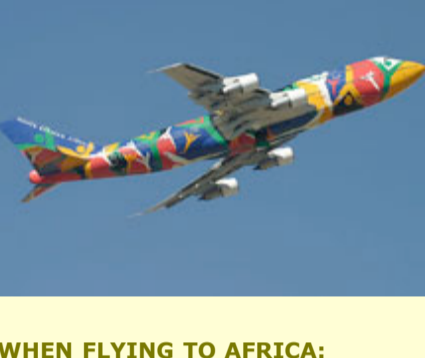
WHERE IS TANZANIA'S GREAT MIGRATION?

- January:** S. E. Serengeti, near the Ngorongoro Crater. Baby zebras.
- February:** Still roaming around the area. Wildebeest birthing.
- March:** Dispersing & straggling in Northwest direction.
- April:** Moving into the central Serengeti. Predators follow.
- May:** Now huge columns moving into Serengeti's western Grumeti.
- June:** Ambling in & around the Grumeti just as the rains stop.
- July:** Nosing a bit north - but not in a hurry.
- August:** Picking up the pace - near the Masai Mara border.
- September:** Entering Kenya - cross waiting in the river for annual feast.
- October:** Concentrated in the Masai Mara.
- November:** Leaving Kenya fast - back into N. E. Serengeti.
- December:** Arriving into S.E. Serengeti. Good to be home!



SAFARI DAVE'S DOS & DON'TS

By Dave Herbert, CTC, Founder & Managing Director



WHEN FLYING TO AFRICA:

- DO** wear warm socks and comfortable shoes on the airplane. Feet can swell up during the flight and tight shoes may no longer fit when you land!
- DO** take (at least) an extra set of underwear on the plane. In case your luggage is lost or delayed.
- DO** double-check your seat assignment when you arrive at the airport. Last minute airplane equipment changes can result in unexpected changes to your reserved seat assignments.
- DO** take on board a small bag that you can take out of your carry-on and store in the seat pocket or under your seat. Keep flight essentials in this such as reading book, toothbrush, tissues, medication, gum etc. Then you don't need to access the overhead bin during the flight.

SAFARI SO GOOD

"Our trip was amazing, inspirational, fun...what else? This was the best vacation we have ever had and we travel a lot. Hard to say what we liked the best. Maybe Somalisa Camp? The Vineyard hotel was a perfect choice. I fell in love with their old tortoise! We are already planning next year's safari." -M.Boomgard, Los Angeles



Stripes & Spots

Just 7 minutes after it is born - a young wildebeest can run fast enough to keep up with every member of the herd!



AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

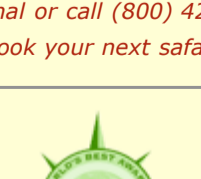
- Winner of the prestigious Conde Nast Gold List for 2009 as "Best Hotel" and "Best for Food": **The Twelve Apostles Hotel and Spa** in Cape Town, South Africa. Congratulations!
- Voted #4 "Top Hotel Overall" by Travel + Leisure with a rating of 98.08: **The Fairmont Mara Safari Club**, Kenya. Great accomplishment!
- Big time winner of the coveted "The Good Safari Guide 2009" awards is **Jacks Camp** in the Kalahari region of Botswana. Accolades from fellow industry professionals!

African Travel, Inc.

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THANKS TO THE ENTIRE STAFF FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS.

CA Sellers #20714420
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