

AFRICA - July/August 2013

Wed 24 Jul This morning we are flying from Sydney to Johannesburg on a Qantas flight departing at 10.00am.



We arrive into Johannesburg at 4.15pm. After clearing Customs & Immigration we transfer to our hotel. The Peermont Metcourt Suites is one of four hotels within the Emperors Palace complex, just a few minutes from the airport. The central part of the complex offers a variety of reasonably priced restaurants, a casino and retail shops. Access to this area is a few minutes walk (under cover) from the Metcourt Suites. While the Metcourt Suites serves breakfast (which is included), other meals will need to be taken in the central complex.



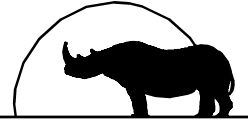
Overnight at **Peermont Metcourt Suites, Johannesburg** (B&B basis)

Thu 25 Jul This morning we use the hotel shuttle to return to the airport for our 10.50am flight to Victoria Falls.



On arrival at Vic Falls Airport we will be met and transferred into the famous Hwange National Park. The park was established in 1928 (and formerly called "Wankie") and is located on the edge of the great Kalahari Desert. A landscape of woodland interspersed with waterholes, it is home to a vast array of wildlife. Large herds of elephant and buffalo are found throughout the park, and while predators such as lion and leopard are found here, the Park is also home to packs of Wild Dog, a much rarer sighting.





Our stay will be at The Hide. Built over twenty years ago, The Hide is famous for its own waterhole, which attracts a variety of game. As time has gone on the animals have become more and more comfortable in coming to this waterhole to drink, thus affording excellent game viewing right in front of the tents. The central complex also sits in a prime position overlooking this ongoing parade of animal and bird life. As The Hide is located on its own "concession" area, we can also undertake morning walks and night drives. (These activities are not offered in any of the other camps we are visiting)



Your "tents" are spacious and well equipped, providing a place to relax during those times when you are not out gameviewing.

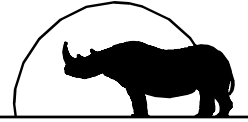


Overnight at **The Hide**, Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe (Full board basis)

Fri 26 Jul Gameviewing in the concession and National Park.



Overnight at **The Hide**, Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe



Sat 27 Jul Gameviewing in the concession and National Park.

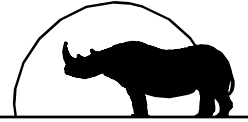


Overnight at **The Hide**, Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe

Sun 28 Jul Today we depart from Hwange and return to Victoria Falls. Our stay at Victoria Falls will be at the historic Victoria Falls Hotel.

The Victoria Falls Hotel is the 'Grand Dame' of Victoria Falls. For over a century, visiting members of royal families, international statesmen, and celebrities have chosen to stay at this elegant landmark hotel. Through the years, the 'Vic Falls Hotel' has undergone various renovations, but has lost none of its earlier charm. In fact, much of the hotel has been meticulously brought back to its former grandeur using original photos and plans. The architecture reflects Edwardian style at its height with numerous corridors, archways, and columns, and extensive wood panelling.





The terrace is the perfect place for morning coffee and fresh pastries, a casual lunch or afternoon high tea. For a more traditional colonial experience, guests are invited to don appropriate evening wear and enjoy a special dinner with dancing in the gracious Livingstone room. Stanley's refectory room and the Bulawayo Room make discreetly luxurious and cosy after dinner retreats.



The hotel's ensuite bedrooms embody Edwardian era ambience, with their high ceilings, period antiques and classically styled baths complete with black and white tiling and often with claw foot tubs. Well decorated in traditional fashion and very comfortable, the rooms are a welcome respite after a full-day of sightseeing.



Overnight at the **Victoria Falls Hotel** , Zimbabwe (B&B basis)

Mon 29 Jul While staying at the Falls there will be a vast array of options that you might undertake.

A visit to the Falls National Park (for viewing of the Falls) will be included in your tariff, but the following will provide you some idea of the options available.

White water rafting:

Elephant Back Trails: Morning or afternoon interactions and rides with elephants

Upper Zambezi Canoeing: short canoe trails upstream of Victoria Falls

Zambezi River Cruises: Breakfast, lunchtime and sunset cruises on the upper Zambezi

Helicopter Flips: Short flips over the Falls *** THIS IS RECOMMENDED ***

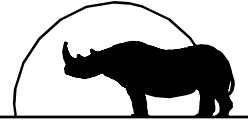
River Boarding:

Kayaking:

Bungee Jumps:

Jet Boating:

Micro Light Flights:



Overnight at the **Victoria Falls Hotel** , Zimbabwe. (B&B basis)

Tue 30 Jul Exploring Vic Falls.



Overnight at the **Victoria Falls Hotel** , Zimbabwe. (B&B basis)

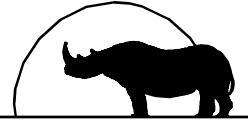
Wed 31 Jul Later this morning we will transfer from our hotel to Victoria Falls airport and join our South African Airways flight departing at 1.25pm for Johannesburg, arriving there at 3.05pm.



Overnight at Peermont Metcourt Suites, Johannesburg (B&B basis)

Thu 1 Aug This morning we use the hotel shuttle to return to the airport for our 9.40am flight (SA184) to Nairobi.





On arrival at Nairobi at 2.45pm we will be met and transferred to our hotel.



Overnight at **Southern Sun Mayfair Hotel**, Nairobi (B&B Basis)

Fri 2 Aug

This morning after breakfast we will meet our driver/guides and commence a road journey which will take us from the hustle and bustle of Nairobi through rural landscapes and past the villages and towns of central Kenya. The journey will not be rushed so we have opportunities to stop and have a closer look at the people and their daily lives. Our destination today is at the foot of Kenya's highest mountain, Mt Kenya.



The views of the mountain vary from our approach from the south, and then become quite different as we progressively pass to the west of the peak.

Tonight we will stay at **Serena Mountain Lodge**, which is around 6000' above sea level.



Sailing like an ark amid the primeval forests of Kenya's highest mountain, this timbered tree hotel offers champagne-clear mountain air, sweeping views across the tree-canopy, sparkling trout streams, and gentle forest walks. Located on the lower slopes of the mountain, the lodge is cool, tranquil and hushed for optimum game-sightings. The open-air viewing-deck looks down on to its own water hole and salt-lick, which attracts numerous herds of elephant and buffalo. There is also a tunnel leading to a photo-hide, which offers spectacular viewing and photographic opportunities just metres away from the wildlife at the water hole.

Overnight at **Serena Mountain Lodge**, Mt Kenya (Full Board Basis)



Sat 3 Aug

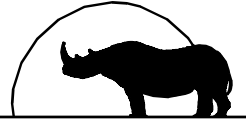
This morning we continue past Mt Kenya and travel on to Samburu Reserve.

Samburu National Reserve is within the lands of the colourful Samburu people, close relatives of the Maasai, and harbours a number of wildlife species rarely found elsewhere in any numbers. These include Grevy zebra, the reticulated giraffe and the Beisa oryx all species found only north of the equator. The long-necked gerenuk is a graceful antelope, which spends much of its time in a bi-pedal stance seeking succulence among the withered scrub, which dots this harsh terrain. Other animals commonly seen are elephants, lions, cheetahs, gerenuks, buffalos, grants gazelles, dikdiks and waterbucks. There are over 350 varieties of birds. These include the famous Somali Ostriches (distinguished by their unique purple/blue legs during mating season), kingfishers, humming birds, eagles, guinea fowls and vultures.



Scenically and faunally dramatic, for most of the year Samburu National Reserve is under the unsympathetic equatorial sun. But relief comes from the wide swathe of the Ewaso Nyiro River which rises some hundreds of kilometers to the west on the foothills of the Aberdares and which vanishes beyond Samburu in the recesses of the Lorian swamp. The river is at its best in the Reserve, broad and sluggish with a large population of crocodile seen on sandbanks at almost every bend. In the lower reaches, where permanent pools have formed as a tributary joins the river, are hippos. The river is fringed with giant acacias, figs and doum palms all of which provide shade and sustenance to the wildlife, which comes to water. Elephants roam the gaunt hills, which punctuate the scrubland and where occasional clusters of the vividly coloured desert rose challenge the arid surroundings. These elephants seek solace and contentment in the shallow waters of the river and from time to time a visitor finds herds bathing and drinking in a spectacle of unconscious pleasure.

Our stay will be at Samburu Intrepids. Samburu Intrepids is a lush oasis on the banks of the great Uaso Nyiro River in Samburu Game Reserve. The tented lodge is a delight to be in - deliciously cooled by the river breeze and the forest. The luxury tented camp sits on raised decks overlooking the brown river where the elephants sometimes make an appearance or the crocodiles come out to lounge by the river's banks.



Overnight at **Samburu Intrepids Camp**, Samburu Reserve (Full Board basis)

Sun 4 Aug Gameviewing in Samburu Reserve.



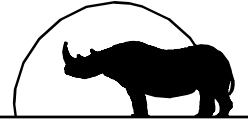
Overnight at **Samburu Intrepids Camp**, Samburu Reserve

Mon 5 Aug Gameviewing in Samburu Reserve.



Overnight at **Samburu Intrepids Camp**, Samburu Reserve

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Tue 6 Aug

This morning we transfer to the local airstrip for the Air Kenya flight to the Masai Mara. The flight goes down the Great Rift Valley, and depending upon the weather great views of this area can be enjoyed.



On arrival at the Mara we will be met and transferred to Ashnil Mara Camp for lunch and then a mid afternoon game drive.

Masai Mara National Reserve is Kenya's finest wildlife reserve. Everything about this reserve is outstanding. The wildlife is abundant and the gentle rolling grasslands ensure that animals are never out of sight. Birds, too, are prolific. Including migrants, well over 450 species have been recorded, among them, 57 species of birds of prey.

Each year, far south in the great vastness of the Serengeti, the wildebeest raise their dignified but quaint heads, sniff the air and, as if by one accord, start the long trek to the Kenya border and the Masai Mara. After exhausting the grazing in Tanzania's northern Serengeti, a large number of wildebeest and zebra enter the Masai Mara National Reserve around the end of June drawn by the sweet grass raised by the long rains of April and May.

It is estimated that more than half a million wildebeest enter the Masai Mara National Reserve and are joined by another 100,000 from the Loita Hills east of the Masai Mara. Driving in the midst of these great herds is an unimaginable experience. Whilst the eyes feast on the spectacle, the air carries the smells, the dust and the sounds of hundreds of thousands of animals. There is nowhere else on earth to compare with this wildlife marvel.



Located at the very centre of the famous 'Mara Triangle' of the world-renowned Masai Mara National Reserve, Ashnil Mara Camp sits on the 25 million year pre-historic land which spans virtually all stages of life's evolution and the fossil record. It comprises 30 luxury tents, located within the Maasai Mara National Reserve adjacent to the Mara River, famous for the wildebeest migration.

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From our base at Ashnil Lodge we will explore the Masai Mara Reserve.

Overnight at **Ashnil Mara Camp**, Masai Mara, Kenya. (Full Board basis)

Wed 7 Aug Morning and afternoon gameviewing in the Masai Mara.



Overnight at **Ashnil Mara Camp**, Masai Mara, Kenya.

Thu 8 Aug Morning and afternoon gameviewing in the Masai Mara.

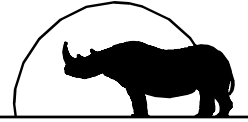


Overnight at **Ashnil Mara Camp**, Masai Mara, Kenya.

Fri 9 Aug Today we depart from the Masai Mara and travel west through rural Kenya and cross into Tanzania at the Isebania Border Post. We will be undertaking the first part of this journey from the Mara to Migori with Safarilink in a Cessna Caravan (40 minutes).



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From Migori it is a short 20 minute drive to Tanzania (Isebania Border). From Isebania we shall continue south and enter the western area of the Serengeti known as Grumeti, and then continue on through the National Park to Mbalageti Lodge.. Our afternoon shall be a fascinating traverse through one of the rarely travelled parts of the Serengeti.



Overnight at **Mbalageti**, Grumeti-Serengeti, Tanzania. (Full Board basis)

Sat 10 Aug This morning we shall depart from Mbalageti and spend our day travelling across the Serengeti, viewing the wildlife diversity of this region. We shall be carrying a picnic lunch to have on the way.

The Serengeti is Tanzania's oldest and most popular national park, also a world heritage site and was recently proclaimed a 7th world wide wonder, the Serengeti is famed for its annual migration, when some six million hooves pound the open plains, as more than 200,000 zebra and 300,000 Thomson's gazelle join the wildebeest's trek for fresh grazing. Yet even when the migration is quiet, the Serengeti offers arguably the most scintillating game-viewing in Africa: great herds of buffalo, smaller groups of elephant and giraffe, and thousands upon thousands of eland, topi, kongoni, impala and Grant's gazelle.

The spectacle of predator versus prey dominates Tanzania's greatest park. Golden-maned lion prides feast on the abundance of plain grazers. Solitary leopards haunt the acacia trees lining the Seronera River, while a high density of cheetahs prowls the southeastern plains. Almost uniquely, all three African jackal species occur here, alongside the spotted hyena and a host of more elusive small predators, ranging from the insectivorous aardwolf to the beautiful serval cat.

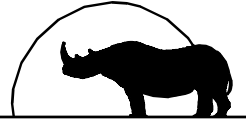
In the mid afternoon we will leave the Serengeti Plains, and pass the Olduvai Gorge.



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Olduvai Gorge is where remains of early man were discovered by Louis Leakey. The museum is fascinating, and a resident specialist gives an interesting talk on this area in the past and present. If time permits we shall pay a visit.

We have now entered the Ngorongoro Conservation area. Ngorongoro Crater is the largest unbroken caldera in the world. The crater (610 metres deep and 260 km squared) is a microcosm of East African scenery and game. Here are 25,000 larger animals within the crater itself, mostly zebra and wildebeest.



Ngorongoro is possibly the only place to see black rhino in Tanzania as well as prides of lion that include the magnificent black-maned males. There are lots of colourful flamingos and a variety of other water birds around the soda lake on the crater floor. More than a 100 species of bird not found in the Serengeti have been found in the crater. Other game includes: leopard, cheetah, hyena, elephants, warthog, impala, buffalo, hartebeest, eland and lots of other members of the antelope family.

Our stay at the crater will be at the Sopa Lodge, which is perched on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater at 2375 metres (7800'). The lodge is spacious, offering luxury appointed rooms that command a majestic view of the crater. Open fireplaces are features of the bar, lounge and dining room. The lodge offers a bracing "high altitude" swimming pool.



Overnight at **Sopa Lodge, Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania.** (Full Board basis)

Sun 11 Aug

This morning we descend into the Ngorongoro Crater. To avoid congestion in the crater, a six hour permit is issued to all vehicles - during that time we will experience the vast array of wildlife concentrated into this wonderland and we shall have lunch next to a freshwater lake where hippos watch our every move.



After leaving the crater we return to our lodge's viewpoint of the crater highlands.

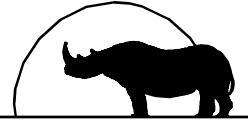


Overnight at **Sopa Lodge, Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania.**

Mon 12 Aug This morning we depart the crater and travel to Arusha, and then to Kilimanjaro Airport where we join our Precision Air flight to the island of Zanzibar.

Zanzibar was first settled some 3000-4000 years ago, and was once the seat of government for faraway Oman. Persian descended Parsee's from India moved here while it was under British rule. In the mid 1800's it was the world's largest exporter of cloves, while at the same time around 20,000 slaves were sold from the island each year. From this complex and chequered history this island now is a combination of cultures, historical vagaries and still a leading spice centre.

It may not have a particularly romantic name, but Stone Town is the old city and cultural heart of Zanzibar, and little changed in the last 200 years. It is a place of winding alleys, bustling bazaars, mosques and grand Arab houses whose original owners vied with each other over the extravagance of their dwellings. This one-upmanship is particularly reflected in the brass-studded, carved, wooden doors - there are more than 500 different examples of this handiwork. There will be opportunities to witness the busy port and the charming "dhows" which still work here, and then to turn around and enter the labyrinth of streets that Stone Town is. Discover cathedrals, mosques and temples alongside traders offering wares from all over the world.



We will be staying at Kisiwa House which was constructed in 1840 by Nassor ibn Abdullah Al Barwani, a rich and influential Omani merchant. The property was amongst one of the first buildings in Stonetown. It was built during the reign of the greatest 19th-century sultan of Oman, Said ibn Sultan, who made Zanzibar his main place of residence in 1837.



Kisiwa House has been in the same family for generations and has only recently been renovated into a luxury boutique hotel. The impressive wooden staircase and the brass-studded door date back to its construction 170 years ago. It is faithfully restored and lavishly embellished with a private collection of antique furniture, brass fixtures, persian rugs and original photographs. The interior design concept is a fusion of authenticity and opulence that reflects the very essence of Zanzibar history.



Overnight at **Kisiwa House, Stone Town, Zanzibar** (B&B basis)

Tue 13 Aug

While in Zanzibar there will be ample time to explore the alleyways and historic sites of Stone Town.



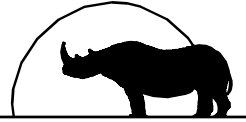
In the evening we shall visit one of the very special "eating places" that abound around Stone Town.

Overnight at **Kisiwa House, Stone Town, Zanzibar - Tanzania**

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Wed 14 Aug During our stay we shall undertake a "spice" tour, to discover the vast array of spices that have made this island so famous.



Overnight at **Kisiwa House, Stone Town, Zanzibar - Tanzania**

Thu 15 Aug This morning we will depart from Zanzibar and firstly take a short flight across the channel to the neighbouring city of Dar es Salaam. We then join South African Airways 2.50pm flight to Johannesburg.



Arrival at Jo'burg is at 5.30pm. We will transfer to our hotel for a restful evening prior to our flight home.

Overnight at **Peermont Metcourt Suites, Johannesburg (B&B basis)**

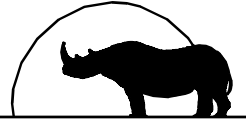
Fri 16 Aug This morning is at leisure and you have the option of undertaking some local tours of Jo'burg.

We shall return to the airport by 3.30pm for our check-in for the Qantas 6.15pm flight direct to Sydney.



Sat 17 Aug We will arrive back into Sydney at 2.05pm.





AFRICA - July/August 2013

The cost of this tour is made up of two components:

- (1) **International Airfare** - Between now and the time of travel all airlines will release special fares, and it is our intention to offer these as/when they become available. Our estimate is that the economy airfares will total between \$2,960 (which is an instant purchase version available from time to time) to \$3,870 (including airline taxes and charges). We will assist you to get the best possible airfares for this trip.
- (2) **Tour cost US\$**. We are quoting this tour in US Dollars. This will be converted to Australian dollars when final payments are made. (Our policy is to use the prevailing exchange rates [NAB Selling Rate] at the time of full and final payment. This gives clients the advantage of improving exchange rates. Many operators use a "forecast rate" which is much lower than prevailing rates and which "loads" the quote to protect them. We believe it is fairer to adjust the final price according to prevailing rates, thus giving clients a possible benefit of an improved rate, and a current quote which doesn't have to be loaded to cover variations.) You may also elect pay this amount in advance when exchange rates are very favourable (details of this scheme will be forwarded when you book on the tour). The US\$ component is US\$9,675.00 per person sharing. (A single supplement applies when not sharing)

The costs include:-

- ✓ The complete tour as per the itinerary
- ✓ International Economy Airfares and Domestic Airfares extra (as outlined above)
- ✓ All International and Domestic Airport and Airline taxes & charges will be included
- ✓ Meals as specified
- ✓ Visa fees are included: based on November 2012 for Australian Passport holders. Should this change, the additional cost of visas will be charged.

The cost does not include:

- Travel Insurance (we have a special offer for SureSave Travel Insurance)
- Any expenses of a personal nature (such as laundry, phone calls, personal tipping etc.)
- Any drinks (alcoholic or non-alcoholic)