



MIGRATIONS

THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS FROM THE AFRICAN BUSH &

Dear Friends and Fellow Travelers,

BEYOND

This year has been a full and challenging year for A.K. Taylor International. We have expanded our conservation projects in the Masai Mara and opened a new office for Farley and Kayhan. All three of us have traveled a lot this year and have all been to Africa since September 11th. It is nice to get away from our media-filled lives and see that the world is moving on and that America is not alone in its fight against terrorism. We believe now more than ever it is important to have an understanding of other cultures and avoid isolating ourselves.

In this newsletter, you can read about our special invitational trip that Kayhan is escorting in Zambia, with Robin Pope from June 29 - July 14, 2002. We were very lucky to be able to book Robin, a legendary guide, to lead this departure. Kayhan is also an experienced guide, Wildlife Biologist and an incredible "birder". This combination of Kayhan and Robin is hard to beat as they both have a passion for truly wild places and love to share their knowledge. This trip is only open to a total of five people so please contact us soon if you wish to join.

If you really want to escape we recommend following Shackleton's footsteps in Antarctica for incredible wildlife and scenery.



Please think of us when you need help with any of your travel plans. We act as your agents and represent you to the best of our ability. Should you want to go to a destination that we are not personally familiar with, we will thoroughly research it and see whether we are able to assist you, if not, we will refer you to one of our many well-qualified contacts.



A New Year's Day in the Masai Mara, watching elephants. Farley, Marett, Jim, Kayhan and Anne

Farley and I recently explored new destinations, in Botswana and Namibia. Walking for an afternoon with three semi-habituated elephants in Botswana was the highlight and an experience that I hope to be able to repeat again and again. All three of us think this is a must for those of you who love elephants!

With Farley and Kayhan in the office we have expanded our world coverage to include the Americas, specifically Costa Rica, the Galapagos Islands, the highlands of Peru, Bolivia and Patagonia and the contrasting mists of Amazonia. These are perfect destinations for those of you who want to stay a bit closer to home.

In closing, I want to thank so many of you for your continued support and for providing me with friendships I treasure. I look forward to the opportunity to travel together with you soon. Please see page 5 for other upcoming trips and a letter from a friend that recently traveled with us. I hope you enjoy our newsletter and please let us hear from you, if only to touch base and chat.

With regards,

Anne



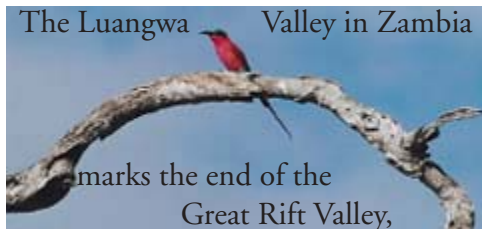
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ZAMBIA SAFARI WITH FIVE DAYS OF WALKING IN SOUTH LUANGWA

June 29 - July 14, 2002

June 29, 30 Travel from the U.S., July 1 Arrive Johannesburg (Grace Hotel), July 2 Fly to Zambia and South Luangwa Park (Nkwali Camp), July 3 Nkwali Camp, July 4 -8 Walking Safari, Mobile Camping, July 9,10 Tena Tena Camp, July 11 Fly to Livingston, Victoria Falls (Tongabezi Lodge), July 12 Tongabezi, July 13 Fly to Johannesburg (Day Room) and depart to U.S.

For a detailed itinerary please look on our website in the Special Invitations section. Select the Zambia trip and enter the password "wild dog"



and is one of the last unspoilt wilderness areas in Africa, covering over 9000 sq. km. In the dry season, animals congregate around water holes and oxbow lakes providing perfect viewing opportunities. This safari will combine the use of open vehicles for two days before and after the walking portion. In the permanent camps

The highlight of the trip is the traditional walking safari, which takes place in a remote region of the South Luangwa Valley, providing a chance to experience Africa as it was when Western explorers first ventured into the "Dark Continent." Here the game is unaccustomed to man, requiring patience to find or approach an animal but added excitement when they are found. Robin Pope, one of the last classic safari guides, will share his wealth of knowledge teaching us animal tracks, bird calls and other bush skills. This trip will give us all a chance to escape from the noise and speed of our modern lives and gain a deeper understanding of the African bush.

The walk-in tents have two beds draped with duvets and feather pillows. A hurricane lamp lined trail guides you to the two long drop loos equipped with wooden thrones, and bucket showers which are filled with hot water before each use.



"To walk through such an untouched part of Africa is indeed a privilege."



We will be up early most mornings, listening to the distant roar of lions and a variety of bird songs. On our walks we will be accompanied by Robin and an armed game scout.

we will have the chance to walk, explore in vehicles, and go out on exciting night drives. South Luangwa has perhaps the best night game viewing of any park in Africa, with plenty of hippos out grazing, leopard, lion, genets, bush babies, civets, mongoose and my favorite, the elephant shrew!

The mobile camp accommodations will allow us to enjoy raw Africa at its finest. While you may feel like one of the first intrepid travelers to have explored this continent, comfort and luxury are never compromised.

Each day we will cover approximately six miles at a reasonable pace, stopping to examine animal signs along the river bank and investigate sounds from the bush. During the heat of the day, we will rejuvenate ourselves with a siesta letting the cooing of doves lull us to sleep while the warm hours of the day drift by. On these walks we will take the time to study anything of interest from the small and beautiful carmine bee eaters to the enormous and ancient baobabs.



WALK WITH ELEPHANTS IN THE OKAVANGO DELTA, BOTSWANA

Possible Pre-Trip Extension

June 25 - July 1, 2002

For our final two days, we will stay at Tongabezi Lodge, which many people believe is the best place to stay when visiting Victoria Falls. If the water is not too high, we can lunch just above the Falls, an impressive location that only Tongabezi has access to. The rooms are all individually designed with large airy mosquito-net canopies and ensuite bathrooms. This will be the perfect place to take a couple of days to unwind after our South Luangwa Expedition.



On our final day, we will return to Johannesburg and then to the U.S. If we were lucky, we may have had a glimpse of African wild dogs. There are few places left, like South Luangwa, where they can still be seen. If luck was not on our side then we have a good excuse to return. This place is truly magical and will make a lasting impression on all of us. At some point back in the U.S., you will long to hear the sound of African doves cooing in the South Luangwa. 🐾



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This six-day excursion will include two of the best camps in the Okavango Delta and provide a wonderful complement to the walking safari in Zambia. Aside from incredible game viewing in Botswana, the lodges we have selected have both been beautifully constructed and are on large private concessions.



Botswana is a striking country with vast flat deserts like the Kalahari covering most of the land. What makes the country even more spectacular is the seasonal “inland sea” called the Okavango Delta. Of all the countries in Africa, Botswana has done one of the best jobs of conserving their wildlife resources. The country has chosen a sustainable strategy of low-volume tourism in small properties to generate income from their conserved land. One of the special things about the Delta is that there are so many ways to explore and observe



wildlife. Depending on the level of the flood-waters, you may have the chance of stalking game in mokoros (canoes) which provide a wonderfully peaceful way to approach wildlife without the sound of a vehicle engine.

During one day, we will spend time with three semi-habituated African elephants and their caretakers, Doug and Sandy Groves. It takes time to adjust our fast paced human lives and short attention spans to become in tune with the lives of another intelligent creature. However, the peace and security that one feels when walking with the three elephants through the bush and being welcomed into their social group is an experience beyond compare.

This elephant experience is a privilege and can only be done while staying at Stanley's Camp, which is a beautiful tented camp, situated on a 260,000-acre private concession bordering the southern section of the Moremi Game Reserve. The camp is located in an area where there is year-round access to permanent water for mokoro and boating activities. If you are interested in this pre-trip extension and would like to see a detailed itinerary please check our website or give us a call. 🐾


“Tented” Accommodations in the Delta





COMMUNITY BASED CONSERVATION

WILDLIFE RESCUES


Last year we were able to coordinate the rescue of three lions, two giraffe and three elephants. This year these numbers were lower – a trend which we hope will continue, as long as we keep a presence in the region. This year we assisted with two lion rescues and one elephant, all injured from wire snares. 




Elephant tusks found while on patrol


ANTIPOACHING

This year we were able to complete six (two-week duration) anti-poaching patrols. These patrols began in the middle of the TransMara Reserve uncovering large permanent poachers' camps. With the help of the rangers, we destroyed the camps, and rechecked them on each project ensuring that the

poachers did not return. In these camps we confiscated hundreds of pounds of dried meat, skins, 395 snares, spears and arrows and assisted in the arrest of ten poachers. Scientific estimates of the number of animals killed for the commercial bush meat industry each year by poachers in the Serengeti/Mara ecosystem range over 20,000. Snaring is indiscriminate and results in the death of non-target species such as lions, leopards, and elephants. 

During the last year, A.K. Taylor International has developed what was originally a wildlife rescue fund into a multifaceted organization, supported to a great extent by A.K. Taylor Intl., Born Free Foundation, Youth for Conservation, Friends of Conservation, Amara, as well as, generous donations from friends and clients. We believe community education and participation in our projects are vital to the success of conservation work in the Masai Mara. 


COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Our relationship with the local communities continues to strengthen with the employment of young Maasai who now join our patrols. They have been so enthusiastic that they started their own Youth for Conservation branch in the Maasai Mara. Our educational talks at the schools cover wildlife conservation topics and the importance of wildlife and tourism. We often end these talks with game drives into the Reserve for the school children to learn about the game that is just at their front door but rarely seen. 




Water tanks provide clean drinking water while children are at school.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We now sponsor three schools totaling over 600 children. After holding meetings with the communities and the school boards, we determined the most pressing needs for the schools. This year we delivered and installed three large water tanks and gutters to catch rain water so that the children will have clean drinking water while at school. In addition, we provided text books for all classes at two of the schools. 

Many children are actually bringing in snares that they find while walking to and from school or while watching livestock on the weekends.

CONTINUED HOPES FOR THIS NEXT YEAR

A major decline in tourism after September 11th has put an ever tightening squeeze on conservation funding. It is amazing the effect a single action can have around the globe, the number of human lives that are changed and the ensuing environmental consequences. We hope that with everyone's continued support we will do much more this coming year. We plan to expand our projects even further into the surrounding areas and communities of the Masai Mara. 

Over 50% of our funding comes from private donations. If you wish to assist us please send donations to:



CAMEL & HORSE SAFARI FEBRUARY 2003

This safari will be a delight with a variety of activities available from horseback and camel riding, to walking and game viewing from vehicles. In northern Kenya, we will ride and walk with camels through wild and enormous landscapes with unbroken vistas, interacting with the nomadic tribes who live in this region. We will combine private camping, and a permanent camp made famous by the late George Adamson and his lioness, Elsa. We will end in the Masai Mara where we will ride amongst the wild animals over the open plains - an experience that is hard to describe in words. 🦁



My imagination is fired and my wander-lust is in high gear! I have wanted to go to Brazil for a long time and perhaps the time is now! I am planning an exploratory trip this May to visit areas unavailable to the masses due to logistical difficulties.

This would be a fly-in safari where we would visit three ecosystems in Brazil, including the cerrado (brush land), Pantanal wetlands and Amazonian rainforest. How wonderful it would be to see a jaguar? I hope some of you out there will be as excited as I am at the prospect of exploring this wild region. I have a good contact of an American and Brazilian couple that formed an adventure travel company to share the many wonders of Brazil. 🦁

PHOTOS OF FRIENDS



LETTERS FROM FRIENDS

I want to thank you for the most memorable trip I have ever taken. I'd also like to comment that there was an enormous difference working with you vs. the company that booked our group to Botswana. That company could learn a great deal from you - I got very tired of sorting out their administrative bangles. I so appreciated your professionalism, follow through, organization, and personal attention. Everything happened as you said and exceeded all expectations. I cannot thank you enough for making a lifelong dream trip come true for me.

Of all the places I went in Africa, the Masai Mara stole my heart and will always be treasured by me as one of the most special places in the world. In addition, every aspect of my trip was absolutely perfectly suited to my taste. Our guide, was by far the best guide of all the eight different guides I have traveled with in Africa. His passion for the land and the wildlife is contagious, but who can ever match his knowledge. I will always treasure these memories and use the 800 odd pictures I took to keep the images vivid. With warmest wishes to you for the wonderful work you do, thank you again and again with all my heart. 🦁

J.M. Aspen, CO



THE ODD COUPLES

One of the things that we all love about Africa is that every day brings something new and interesting. Recently, an unbelievable friendship between a lioness and a young oryx calf astonished tourists and scientists. For fifteen days, this unlikely pair roamed and grazed their way around Samburu Game Reserve in Kenya.



They walked side by side and curled up next to each other. The lioness had the watchful and protective eye of any mother, and repeatedly guarded the oryx from other predators. Nobody can fully explain how this typically predator/prey relationship has resulted in a mother/child relationship. For days, the mother oryx remained close-by and watched in disbelief as her young calf followed the lioness.

Unfortunately, as the lioness succumbed to exhaustion resulting from the hours spent looking after the little one; another lion took advantage and ended this puzzling friendship. The lioness reportedly was devastated and hounded the other lion for hours. 🦁

Again in Kenya, another unlikely couple was spotted in the Masai Mara Reserve. For the past several years there has been a lone female black rhino without a mate. During the last couple of months, she became very interested in a male eland. They bed down next to each other and keep each other company. We hope that eventually a male rhino will cross the Mara River to provide her with more compatible company. Until then visitors will have the chance of seeing just one of the many wonders of Africa. 🦁

