



I believe in heaven, I call it Africa!

OLIVE TREK SAFARIS "TREK TAILS 2024"

We continue to revel in the boundless beauty of our continent. Each safari provides truly unique experiences, not only for our guests, but for us too.

We had the privilege to hosting a group of very keen 'birders' in February. Two of this group are old friends and this was their second safari with us. The others in the group had not been to Africa before, and it is always such a pleasure to hear them say Our first adventure was in February, with old friends on their second Safari with Pete, although it was more focused on birdlife, the wildlife was exceptional.

Our total bird count was over 240 different species, quite a feat to achieve this in only 12 Days, considering East Africa has 1,448 different species.



Quailfinch



Fan-tailed widowbird



Cinnamon-chested bee-eater



Golden-winged sunbird



Grey-headed Kingfisher

Aside from the myriad of exciting bird sightings, our exciting game drives were interspersed with fascinating wildlife experiences too.

Our readers may consider our stories as speculative, so perhaps our photo's will tell the story better...

The views and scenes of our home in Africa are a speechless description of beauty.... Even the moon you feel as if you can hold it in your hand!

We love to take you to places that are off-the-beaten track, with so much more to offer than just your average safari.

Luxury, stunning scenery, breakfast/lunch with a view, wonderful and most importantly cultural experiences that are still being traditionally practiced and have been handed down from generation to generation!

Believe me, it is more than an experience, but truly humbling being able to be part of this ancient practice!

There is so much to do here and explore, as well as visit the highly successful orphaned elephant project, run by the community in Northern Kenya!

These and many more experiences on our Safaris will be told in pictures, as these say it all.

But before I go further, an optional extension to your African adventure is a visit to the Gorillas in Rwanda, is one of the world's truly memorable experiences!

A look into one of these magnificent creatures' eyes brings home the bond that exists between them and us.

To walk into the stunning tropical forest, and follow the winding paths on lush slopes of the volcanoes, then to be with the gorillas in their natural setting, is perhaps the most poignant and thrilling wildlife experience to be had anywhere!

After your trek and to return to your luxury hotel for a late lunch, overflowing with so many emotions and memorable moments, is a time to celebrate.

There is so much more to tell, but for now, we turn to the photos, of some of our many wonderful sights, scenes and delightful settings.



On Safari, our early mornings begin, the sun has not yet risen, but as they say 'the early bird catches the worm!'



The white Rhino has risen and a leopard is on the prowl....



The waterhole will keep us busy for a while...



While the lion feasts, the hyena's circle, waiting for scraps, but the cheeky jackal is ever present!



As tradition dictates, we always carry a 'picnic' bush breakfast eaten when and where we want it, making the most of the African wilderness.



However, we do lay on a surprise bush breakfast when you are least expecting it, with a view to soak in, that MMBA moment (Miles & miles of bloody Africa!)



It is not all about wildlife, as the most important part of many of our safaris, is including the rich and vibrant culture, which we highly recommend.



Culture is not only included, but an alternative option, is further North to a wonderful cultural managed elephant orphanage, where rescued young elephants are tenderly cared for by the Samburu community, then released back into the wild, a truly heartwarming experience.

Some wonderful friends visited this



area and we spent 4 fabulous days taking in the ambience, culture, elephants and even a chance to head out for a bush walk, all whilst staying in a fabulous eco lodge/camp, but the tents were beautifully positioned on a giant raised walkway amongst the trees, with a bird's eye view of the waterhole, coupled with open air shower attached to your tent, wonderfully romantic!



From one eco friendly Lodge/camp to another, as we explored the vast wilderness either on foot or vehicle, resulting in some gorgeous views, loads of wildlife and another spoiling 'surprise' bush breakfasts set in some truly spectacular settings!



However, the icing on the cake was a day's helicopter scenic flight, down the Great Rift Valley to Lake Turkana. An exciting and breathtaking flight, with huge beautiful scenes unfolding everywhere you looked – vast areas that no tourist visit, with huge fascinating archeological vistas, that offers untold stories of how it all formed and became. Many areas offer the inevitable desires to explore this magnificent country, hoping it will reveal some of its secrets.

Your camera finger begins to tire as you attempt to capture many pieces of photographic masterpieces on film.

Yes, an expensive flight, but until you have experienced this magnificent flight Here's what a few people have said - "it was a huge expense, but the entire experience was well worth it! We shall treasure this day for the rest of our lives!" "An amazingly, exhilarating, thrillingly, emotional experience and one of the exceptional highlights, of our Safari!" "It's expensive, but a truly priceless experience, you will ever have on safari, we loved it!"

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'There is something about Safari life that makes you forget all your sorrows and feel as if you had drunk half a bottle of champagne – bubbling over with heartfelt gratitude for being alive'
Karen Blixen

To the Maasai Mara where the first sight of this natural wonderland is breathtaking. Throughout the year the Maasai Mara is a place of natural drama, a kaleidoscope of colour and life....







We bid farewell to the Maasai Mara and head to our final safari destination – Rwanda, ‘a land of a thousand hills’ and the gorillas, in the mighty Virunga Mountains, what an extraordinary experience!

Just a few photos of our gorilla treks.....



Wonderful 'Silverback' gorilla.....



(* Photograph - courtesy of Larry Lohman)



Sundowners.....

As the sun begins to set over the distant horizon, a special tradition is to celebrate with a 'sundowner' and enjoy your favoured cocktail, and reminisce on the scenes and treasured memories of another wonderful day on Safari with Olive Trek Safaris!

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WHAT SOME OF OUR SAFARI FRIENDS HAD TO SAY:-

"Thanks so much for a wonderful Safari! We so appreciate you helping us find so many beautiful birds (240 species) and unique animals. All of our accommodations (camps) were just perfect for us and very comfortable! You are the best!"

Cecilia & Mike – Texas

"Sometimes I wonder how I got so lucky. This trip was filled with sights and stories to fill our souls and enrich our lives for many years to come. We appreciate the careful planning and attention to detail Meeting your son and learning about the elephants was a highlight! We wish you health & happiness and many more inspirational trips. This world needs more inspiration & nature, and you are providing it!"

Sarah & Don - Texas

"Thank you both for making this trip one of our favorite & most memorable trips ever! With your expert knowledge & guidance we have been bitten, by the 'African bug!' All of the animals and birds we enjoyed, but learning about the culture was the icing on the cake – and the helicopter flight wasn't bad either... .. (smiley) We cherish and will use our African names with fond memories of our time together.

16 Olive Trek Safaris – Trek Tails

We consider ourselves lucky to have gotten to know you both and consider you our newest friends. We look forward to spending more time with you in Africa and hopefully Washington or Alaska!

Looking forward to our next visit

Akiki (Wayne) & Nashipai (Liz)" – Washington, Anacortes

"What can we say except thank you for all your hard work! From the start of planning to eventually making it after all these years of dreaming about it! Your attention to detail certainly showed, as I felt we were the best informed group there!

The Lodges were all spectacular (House of Waine, Lewa House, Kicheche Mara Camp, Serena Hotel, The Bishops House) and the Safaris were mind blowing! ...Cheetah, leopard, elephants and everything in-between. The Gorillas were the icing on the cake! We look forward to coming again and enjoying all that is Africa!

Cheers & Hugs"

Kelley & Bob – Washington, Anacortes

"Peter, Thank you for an incredible Safari adventure in your beloved Kenya and gorilla Trek in Rwanda. You are a man of integrity and passion. Your love for wildlife shines through you. We learned so much from you over the past 2 weeks. We appreciate your attention to detail to make our trip easy and memorable. Every place we stayed provided exceptional hospitality and service! On top of all that you helped us with our photography to achieve the best shots possible. We enjoyed our conversations and we think of you as a dear friend. We would be remiss to not thank your wife, Ali, her welcome gifts were timely and covered so many details that made our Safari better. We also enjoyed meeting Ali and your son, Torsten, they are delightful people!

In closing, you provided us a lifetime experience and we are forever grateful!

Blessings – John & Elaine – St Louis

We've welcomed many guests on their first venture into Africa and it gives us great pleasure to share what one of our guests said within the first few days of their safari with us:

'I thought Africa was dry desserts and very hot, huge open savannahs, with lots of flat topped acacias, but what I have realized is that there is so much more to Africa, than just dry country, it is rich & diverse in so many ways!'

To all our friends, new and old, we love what we do and take great pride in our beautiful wilderness that we can share with you all!

We look forward to many more Safari adventures with you all!

Until next time

Warmest wishes

Pete & Ali



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