



**NATURE
ENCOUNTERS
TOURS & TRAVEL LTD.**

Did you know ????

Elephants have 6 sets of teeth during a lifetime

Bulls drink up to 60 gal of water per day.

A charging Elephant can reach a speed of 40 kph.

The Wonders of Egypt: Our Newest Destination

This fascinating country allows our guest to explore the worlds first civilization. Here we travel to the great Giza pyramids guarded by the Sphinx monument.

Discover old Cairo with it's markets, Coptic churches and mosques. This friendly city is home to the Egyptian museum with the worlds largest Egyptian artifacts is a fasinating adventure. The luxor area is a place were Kings and Queens reined for centuries. Visit the worlds largest temples of Karnak and Luxor.

The Valley of the Kings and queens and the tomb of King Tutankhamun. This area is traveled by luxury river boat cruises. See our web site or call for more in formation on this new exciting African destination. Our next group departure is May 2007!



The Giza pyramids and sphinx monument

Issue 13 / Spring 2007



WHAT'S INSIDE

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| NETT Takes on the World | 2 |
| Safari Reports | 3 |
| Feature Destination | 4 |
| 2007—2008 Group Destinations | 4 |
| Carol's Corner | 4 |

SIMPLY SAFARI

Now in West Vancouver!

Here we grow again... or actually Carol just over shopped on her last few African trips!

Dundarave Village, 2428 Marine Drive, West Vancouver, BC

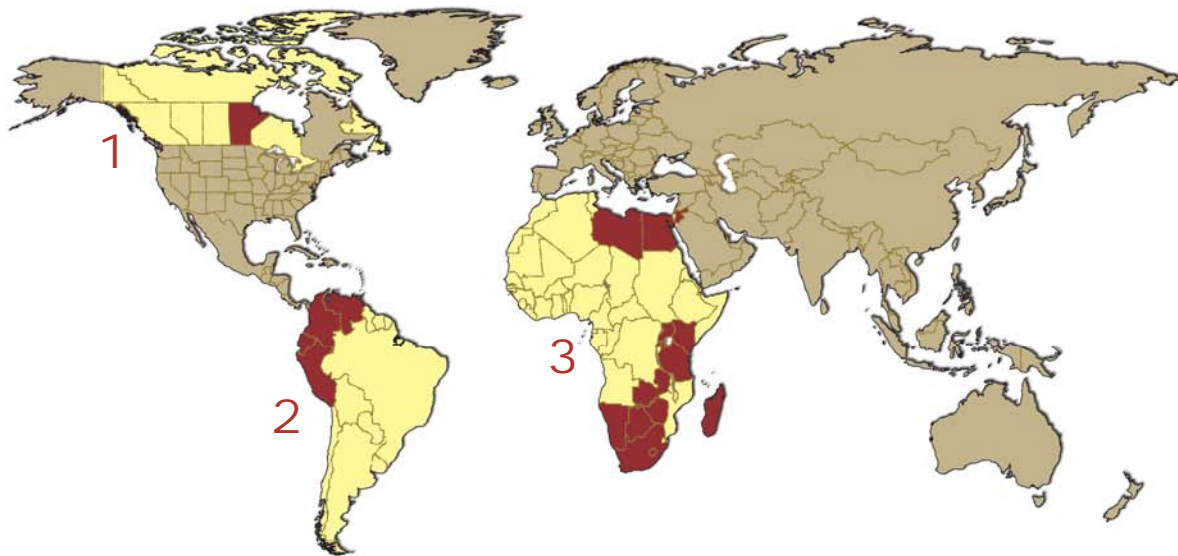
(Open 7 days a week 11am to 5pm)

www.simplysafari.com



Nature Encounters offers:

3 continents and 17 countries



1 North America

- Churchill Manitoba Polar Bears

2 South America

- Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands
- Peru

3 Africa

- Egypt, Jordan, Libya
- Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda
- Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa, Madagascar, Namibia



SIMPLY SAFARI

Simply Safari travels eastern and southern Africa for arts and crafts that supports local artisans. Often one purchase will help feed a family for months. Come visit our stores in Bragg Creek AB or West Vancouver locations.

We always have new authentic African arts, crafts and household products coming on a regular basis.

The Magic of the Galapagos and the Amazonian Rainforest

Feb/March 2006 By Mona

Our adventure started with a short flight from Quito in the heart of Ecuador, to the small town of Coco, along the Napo river. The Napo is one of the main tributaries to the mighty Amazon River. Then a 2 ½ hour journey in a large motorized canoe along the Napo took us deep into the rainforest. A beautiful walk along a trail alive with birds, bugs and butterflies brought us to our final leg; a quiet paddle across lake Pilchicocha to the enchanting Sacha Lodge.

The next few days were filled with birds, monkeys, butterflies, heat and humidity. Sacha Lodge offers various ways to view the local wildlife. One highlight started as a slow paddle along a narrow, meandering channel through the jungle. Suddenly overhead a large troop of Capuchin monkeys surged noisily through the canopy. They were breaking off twigs and leaves and bouncing on branches trying to intimidate us with their size and ferocity. As soon as they moved past a large troop of Squirrel monkeys filled the branches. Not as concerned with us as the Capuchins, they went about their business impressing us with their athletic leaps through the foliage.

Sacha's 90 foot observation tower offers a panoramic view at canopy level. A view not often available to our ground dwelling species and an excellent opportunity to view and ID many bird species. In the top branches of the Kapok tree around which the tower is built was a huge tarantula quietly resting in its nest.

The night walks revealed wildlife invisible to us during the day. Huge Smokey Jungle Frogs, large

spiders clinging to their webs, even a quick glimpse of a kinkajou.

The lodge itself was beautiful. The staff looked after us well and the food was superb and plentiful.

Leaving the continent we flew 1000km west over the Pacific Ocean where we sighted the Galapagos Islands. Seven days aboard the 90 foot luxury cruiser, the Reina Silvia, brought us spectacular scenery and unique wildlife. Our crew of 8 looked after us well and the food was outstanding!

Our land visits were overwhelming. Wildlife abounded and having evolved with no land based predators most had little fear of our close approach. Photography was all consuming as the subjects were abundant and cooperative. Marine Iguanas lounged in piles on the rocks, sea lions squabbled for the best resting positions on the beaches and frigate birds soared effortlessly overhead. Blue-footed Boobies displayed their incredibly blue feet during their courtship dance and the Nazca and Red-footed Boobies attended to their chicks as the heat of the day increased.

An afternoon snorkel in the turquoise water was an exciting way to cool down and experience another realm of the Galapagos. We swam with huge schools of fish, sea turtles and white-tipped sharks. Some even had a quick glimpse of a Hammerhead! Playful sea lions would torpedo passed and if lucky a quick flash of a rocketing Galapagos penguin would thrill us.

A visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station taught us how

unique and fragile the ecosystem is here, and the devastating effects man has had. From pillaging tortoises for fresh meat on their long ocean voyages, to introducing goats, cats, rats, donkeys and invasive plants, all have had a detrimental effect on the native wildlife. Many of the species here exist no where else on our planet. To lose them would be a sad legacy for mankind. Fortunately, efforts are being made to eliminate the unwanted feral animals and plants and reestablish the natural ecosystem.

The Galapagos Islands are a spectacular destination for a unique wildlife adventure.

Our time spent there was absorbing and thought provoking. Pondering the volcanic birth of these islands to the colonization and evolution of the wildlife over millions of years. All of which intrigued Charles Darwin and helped fuel his theory of Natural Selection.

The Galapagos Islands are indeed a magical place and worthy of respect and protection for both the wildlife and the visitors lucky enough to explore them.

2006 Safari Reports



[The Best of Kenya - A Family Safari](#)



[The Best of Kenya and Tanzania](#)



[The Delta, The Grasslands & The River](#)



[The Wonders of Egypt & Kenya/Tanzania Getaway](#)



[The Beauty of Balloons....](#)

WATCH FOR OUR NEXT GALAPAGOS TOUR IN FEBRUARY 2008!

Feature Destination: Tanzania

Tanzania is a diverse destination! Serengeti National Park hosts the great migration of over 2 million animals. Next door, the Ngorongoro Crater is incredible from either the top or the bottom! Gombe Stream National Park on the



banks of Lake Tanganyika is home to Jane Goodall's wild chimpanzee research. Bordering the east is the Indian Ocean with coastal conservation areas that provide the opportunity for diving, snorkeling or just enjoying the endless beaches. Southern Tanzania affords the traveler with great wildlife as well and guests have opportunity to walk close to nature exploring the African bush. Southern Tanzania is not as populated with travelers which means your time here will be very tranquil. Tanzania not only has the natural beauty of its landscape and abundant wildlife it is a country with amazing cultures that you will become very close to!

Tanzania Fact File:

- Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa at a height of 5895 meters
- The Serengeti is 14,763 sq km and is home to 500,000 Zebras, 1.6 million wildebeest, 300,000 Antelope and 3000 Lions.
- The Oluvai Gorge or known as the "the cradle of humankind" has human fossils that date back 1.75 million years ago.
- On the western boundary in Kigoma Town is where Henry Morton Stanley found an ailing Dr. David Livingston and made the famous introduction "Dr Livingston I presume"

Nature Encounters Tours & Travel Ltd.

1 866 949 3007

inquiry@natureencounterstours.com
www.natureencounterstours.com

Make tracks to Africa



May 07: Kenya Tanzania Getaway

Aug 07: East Africa Family Safari

Sept 07: Kenya and Mt. Gorillas of Rwanda

Oct 07: Polar Bears of Churchill

Feb 08: Ecuador and Galapagos Islands

Feb 08: Tanzania and Kilimanjaro climb

Carol's Corner



2006 . . . where did it go?

It seems, as we get older, time moves on faster than a cheetah after a Thompson's Gazelle!

Last year was momentous for me in many ways - let me fill you in...

1. A New Home
2. A New Store
3. A New Number
4. A New Business Partner
5. Enough is enough! No more new stuff!

Details on next page...

Carol's Corner

2006 . . . where did it go?

It seems, as we get older, time moves on faster than a cheetah after a Thompson's Gazelle!

Last year was momentous for me in many ways - let me fill you in...



place....

2. **A New Store** - Simply Safari, West Vancouver opened on Marine Drive in the district of Ambleside by the Sea. We had a great year thanks to Kathryn, Tia, Marah and Mona. January 2007 we relocated to a busier retail area - Dundarave Village. Tia, Mona and Jan take care of this new location and we are all thrilled how West Vancouver has embraced our store. The Bragg Creek store is really doing well headed up by Jane, Sandra, Barbara, Kathy, Gerri and sometimes Susan. This team ensures I can carry on with all my other "hats" knowing the store (s) are well taken care off and well represented. I am forever grateful to these amazing women! Asante Sana!



3. **A New Number** - Yea - we all hit a big one once and a while - 2006 was a big one for me - 5-0! How does one celebrate? Well take 3 amazing trips to Africa (see Safari Reports) - starting in April with 4

lovely families and some of the SS Bragg gals (boy did we celebrate!) to experience Kenya and Tanzania. May brought another keen group of travelers and the wildebeest migration in full force. September - wow - canoe and walk along the Zambezi and in Botswana with some fun gals, a great father daughter pair and 2 wonderful couples! Carry on to Madagascar with a dear friend to experience lemurs, chameleons and a most interesting culture. Top off with an educational experience with my favorite business partner - ok my only business partner (see #4) to southern Tanzania and see all it has to offer. Quite a way to celebrate I'd say - pretty hard to follow that - hmmm 2007 looks pretty good or wait till you see what's coming up for 2008!!



4. A New Business Partner - Please join me in welcoming Randy Gregson (seen here celebrating - or trying



to hide his NETT shirt?) officially - to Nature Encounters Tours & Travel Ltd. Randy and I started working together in 2002 when he offered to handle the accounting - brave soul! Since then, he has guided me in all aspects of not only NETT but Petersen Photography and Simply Safari. In August 2006, we signed on the dotted line and as they say the rest is history. Randy has always been responsible for the finances and accounting - YEA! - sorry but I hate that stuff! He has taken on more of a role in marketing so the postcards, picture of the month, new website and newsletter update are his baby's (with thanks to Tanya for her creative talents). Randy has also developed our newest destination - Egypt and has done with a passion. He insists I must go

with him sometime - I keep telling him there are not enough elephants.... All in all - we are both thrilled to be growing Nature Encounters Tours & Travel Ltd and have you to thank for your support! Asante Sana! Thanks to Randy for keeping it all together too!

5. Enough is enough! No more new stuff! Seriously, I must apologize for the lack of a newsletter in 2006 and appreciate your patience. I realized last year that in fact, I can NOT do it all - probably 98%.... but not all. I am trying to spend quality time with my 4 legged family and hanging with some special old friends and great new ones. I do miss Alberta but I find BC invigorating - even in the rain! I hope any of you past guests are coming through Vancouver - please keep in touch!

All the Best -

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Cal".

