

A Safari Report – Kenya and Tanzania in May/June 2001

Once you've been a part of Africa . . .
it becomes a part of you.

If I had a dollar for every time I thought that . . .

I just spent another incredible 7 weeks in Kenya and Tanzania – sharing the land that I love with a total of 3 groups and 43 safari keepers! Some had returned for their second African visit – 4 from last year even came back to the same place - talk about keepers!



This 7 weeks brought a multitude of highlights starting with a visit for **Group 1** to an amazing girl's school on the way to Amboseli National Park in Kenya. These girls, hoping to be pilots, lawyers and doctors, have come from abusive situations and are getting their education in a safe and happy environment. We witnessed this first hand as they sang for us and then asked the group members for help with their schoolwork – math you



say! From there, the members of Group 1 would have a bit of trouble to decide exactly who had the best photograph of Mt. Kilimanjaro! As the group continued they enjoyed a host of experiences – baby lions on a kopje, pride rock aptly named for the males that frequented it, a cheetah mom and her 3 almost grown babes resting under a tree, ele's up to their tummy's in yellow flowers (my personal fav), hundreds of flamingo taking off and landing, Leonard the Maasai warrior, 3 snakes (come on now they are very cool!), a leopard with a piece of bone cruising by the Land Rover – man we saw a lot of stuff!



Group 2 came along and proceeded with their luck to see lions in trees . . . not once but 3 times! First was in Lake Manyara – a well fed female having a snooze, second – 2 females in the eastern part of the Serengeti using the tree as a lookout for lunch possibilities. The grand-daddy of them all #3 – the western corridor of the Serengeti - 6 in one tree and 7 in another tree – complete with a snarly full grown male that thankfully, was well fed (as we sat not too far away). Oh yes, did I mention the



cheetah brothers, the running flap slapping hippo, the very new baby giraffe and the leopard sleeping about 10 feet away – well not all at the same time!

Not to be outdone – **Group 3** started their safari with 2 leopard sightings in the Ngorongoro Crater, then came the lions mating – over and over, the most incredible sunset, the 3 lion brothers under a kopje, 3 leopards in one day, 10,000 zebra (we counted), the ele herd and lion cubs within spitting distance of each other – where do I stop!



There are always “firsts” for me too – this trip was the **Chimpanzees of Gombe**. To walk in Jane Goodall's footsteps was quite a task – in more ways than one! The feeding stations in the park had been closed due to 2 chimps contracting a human disease and dying



therefore we were all in for a hike – some, almost 700m! Group 1 – just 4 gals and myself had a very disappointing start with hiking long and hard the first day and not even hearing a chimp – luck of the draw I guess. We were greatly rewarded with an incredible day two when we came across Gremlin and her 3 daughters – 2 were 2 1/2 year old twins! How lucky we were – so lucky that Frodo, the dominant male paid us a visit, crashing and screaming through the forest, knocking 2 of us down and proceeding on. Were we injured – heck no! We would have had him return for a second time if the guides had let us! What an amazing experience – you must get the full story – complete with video at an upcoming slide show or art show (see Dates to Remember). Group 2 saw Frodo as well but he was better-behaved! They spent time following a good sized



and most silent troop – mostly silent because they were in another troops territory scamming their food supply – sounds like our house after a visit to Costco. And group 3, complete with my 78 year old mother (way to go Mom!), climbed higher than Jane's peak to spend time with Goblin one day and a beautiful couple hours the next day at close range with a mom and her 2 wee ones (at the feeding station). What an experience. It was said many times that it was easy to see how Jane G. got so hooked on watching chimp behaviour – we all did.

Someone asked me if I ever get bored – really! Every day is a new experience and each person that comes along gives me a new insight on this amazing continent. I know how lucky I am – care to join me for another adventure?