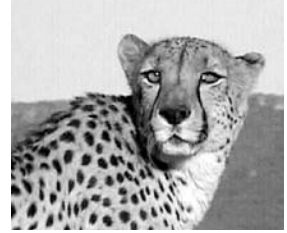


A Safari Report Zimbabwe, Namibia, Kenya & Tanzania September 2001

Zimbabwe and Namibia - Take 10 people who don't know each other, put them in a canoe for 4 days, show them the wonders of walking in the Zimbabwe bush – including a close encounter with an ele and a male lion, give them really great food and a cozy bed and what do you get – an incredibly happy group ready to book their 2003 trip! This ain't no "Survivor" baby! It had been 7 years since I had visited Mana Pools National Park on the



Zambezi River and that was waaaay too long. What a magical place! This motley group experienced true African bush – a camp surrounded by mopane trees, the smell of mahogany, the sounds of hyena, lion and hippo – or was that Chris and Jim? Yea – we had a few "snorer's". Our guides, Pat and Tommy were fabulous, showing us their land with pride and few excitements too. Just before dinner on our last night we heard a large uproar coming from the neighboring baboons. Pat had just witnessed an African Wild Dog pull down an impala very close to camp! We all scurried over to watch the feeding frenzy but



found only 2 hyena trying to get at the kill – where were the dogs? Wild dogs are very endangered; they needed to eat this carcass. Pat kept the hyena at bay (which is pretty easy, as hyena are really chicken) until a few minutes later we heard the chirping of the wild dog pack returning. Amazingly, the dog that had killed went back to collect the others for dinner! Don't you love it! We backed off to give them a chance to inhale their food and that they did! The video camera was just burning tape as we watched the tails up excitement. What an experience – on foot – a few feet away – African Wild Dogs on a kill! The group continued on to



mighty Victoria Falls (shopping their brains out) and to Namibia where we toured overland for 10 days. The landscape changed hourly! From the dunes of Sossusvlei to the Skeleton Coast to the pans of Etosha we were treated to the natural history and wildlife information from Gerhard and Jacques – our guides extraordinaire! One of the most special days was going "off road", searching for rhino, on a road that was not even on the map – didn't see Rhino but had the pleasure of tracking and viewing 2 male desert ele's. How careful they browsed – not harming the tree as they gently picked the leaves. Adaptation to it's finest! The crowning glory was a visit to the Cheetah Conservation Fund headquarters. We spent the whole day learning and touring – topping it off with a personal visit with Chewbaka – a 6 year old cheetah that had been hand raised by Laurie Marker. What a marvelous handsome guy! And he knew it! All in all a memorable trip with a memorable group!

Kenya and Tanzania - A change of pace – a change of countries as our east Africa gang arrived in Nairobi keen and eager and proceeded to get right into the African experience. A visit to Daphne Sheldrick's is never missed and always a treat. There is something about watching baby rhino, ele's and warthogs cavort in the mud! Talking with Daphne continually gives me the hope that ele's are being protected – we had the pleasure once again this time. Next on the agenda was a stop at the Kajiado Girls School where we met a number of the girls and listened to them sing! Our



group ended up showing their own singing talents along the way as well coming up with "safari songs" on some of those longer day drives. But what about the wildlife – once again we were treated to a show starting with the elephants in Amboseli National Park, Kenya. How delightful to sit quietly and have a herd walk ever so silently by you allowing you just a little piece of closeness to such a majestic species! Now have the snowy peak of Kilimanjaro behind them - breathtaking! Our Leopard Tours family in Tanzania, Godson and Paul, showed us a very handsome Rock Python, one of the biggest herds of buffalo I have ever



seen, the very rare caracal cat sneaking through the bushes and lions, lions and more lions! I never tire of watching them – even sleeping! A happy sad event – right out of National Geographic – we watched as a cheetah that had just killed a Thompson's Gazelle, pulled this ever so precious kill into the tall grass and was resting after the tiring chase. It started with vultures flying overhead – then came the hyenas – this poor cheetah had worked so hard and ended up losing it's meal to them with not so much as a whimper. I know 2 vehicles that would have personally chased off the hyena's to help the cheetah out. Let's hope dinner came again and soon! Our group experienced the friendliness of the culture and the excitement of the wildlife – what special memories we will all have of this Mambo Poa (very cool) safari!

TRAVELING AFTER SEPTEMBER 11 - By Carol Petersen, NETT Owner/Tour Leader

What a day, what an event. We all wondered how could it happen and more importantly, why is there so much hatred that would allow this tragedy to happen. Unanswered questions . . . During my art shows, I was often asked – is traveling safe now? Some wouldn't dare venture out – well sorry Mr. Taliban man – you're not keeping me at home. To begin, NETT wouldn't consider taking you to a place that is unsafe – you have our word on that and we're going with you! Our destinations are well researched and we are in constant contact with our experienced ground operators to get the latest information for you. Also, be wary of media reports. In my experience, what is reported is often miles away. If you have any concerns, check out the Canadian government for travel advisories. Most of all – be smart, be comfortable and enjoy. Life really is too short & too important to waste.