

SAFARI REPORT - A Kenya/Tanzania Getaway (May) and The Best of Botswana (September) Carol Petersen, Photographer/ NETT Tour Leader

A Kenya/Tanzania Getaway – May 2003

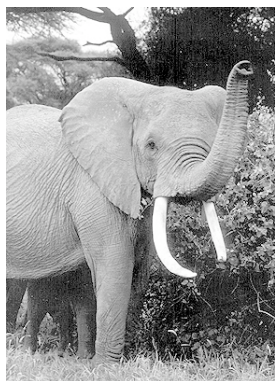
Just when you think you've done/seen it all – something new happens! This had been my 20th trip to Africa – never . . . ever gets boring even if I see the same eles over and over safari put the word organization – to new heights and tests. Airways with it's "scare" couldn't stop the hearty and eager started in our usual hangout at the Stanley Hotel – full of great cheer. This amazing hotel steeped history is a streets of Nairobi. We had not only one visit at Daphne TWO – one private, late in the day as we watched the baby evening feed and then doze off to sleep under their blankets. sight – safe and secure! Daphne and her team have been



and over. This Even British safari-ites. We friendly faces and landmark on the Sheldricks but ele's have their What a beautiful saving young

orphaned elephants for many years – through many trials and tribulations. Her work is painstaking but she is loyal and dedicated to making a difference. It is always wonderful to listen to Daphne's words – a passionate woman with great vision. Just when some felt they had used enough Kleenex on the little grey guys – bring on the Kadjiado Girl's School! What a treat to see the bright smiles and wonderful faces of these young ladies – some rescued from hurtful situations. They all have hope that someday they will become lawyers, doctors, pilots, teachers and yes – even tour leaders! We always leave a pile of school supplies – this year our contributors included Banded Peak School in Bragg Creek, Edgemont Elementary School in Calgary, Mother Teresa School in Bradford, ON and some great soccer supplies from the Sports Specialists also in Bradford. Many thanks to the above and our group for their support! Ele's – did someone want to see ele's? Amboseli National Park – under the watchful eye of Mt. Kilimanjaro gave us a thrill once again. This time – we were treated to an early arrival – elephants even before we entered the park! Man I love this place! For some, it was the first time seeing a wild ele - for some – they thought they were seeing Maasai huts! Well they are round and earth toned . . . A wonderful time was had by all as we were surrounded by a very large breeding herd – this was one of those – pinch me – times! We continued into Tanzania having great wildlife experiences in Lake Manyara and the Ngorongoro Crater – yes even getting a chance to see an ever so patient male

lion do what he must to entice his courting female to a little smooching (and stuff) – every 20 minutes! The Serengeti showed it's beauty right off the bat with what I call a miracle – a mom cheetah and her 4 – count 'em – 4 almost full grown offspring! What a treat to see such success. We watched the youngsters attempt a kill - mom was thoroughly disgusted but we were thrilled! One of the special moments on the trip was sharing wedding nuptials with new-found friends – crying through the whole ceremony and dancing with the Robondo Tribe overlooking the Mgingwe Valley. What a very special day – congratulations go to Jan and Paul! Thanks for sharing your day with us in the Serengeti! From the Serengeti – the honeymooners set off for some quiet time in Zanzibar, Karen and Jon went UP – the beautiful and challenging Machame Route to the Mt. Kilimanjaro summit. Sandy, Shirley and Glen enjoyed some time in Amsterdam while Eileen, Randy and I made it back home with stories to tell! Always sad to leave but excited to return in 2004!



The Best of Botswana – September 2003

It all started in spring of 2001 – you may have read about them already . . . a crazy group that met and became the best of friends while canoeing down the Zambezi in Sept. 2001. Well they returned for more – a private tour to Botswana was on the menu this year! The most difficult part is the long haul getting to Africa – this time we were treated to South African Airways hospitality. Once in the bush we had great experiences watching lions protect their cubs and kill while an ele tried to dominate the situation – great dirt kicking behaviour! Lions 0 – Eles 1 After marveling at how life is in a dry ecosystem (while being serenaded to lions calling . . . right outside our bungalows at 0300hrs – talk about reverberation!) we spent time mekoring (dug out canoe) in a very deep bush wet ecosystem. Here, driving isn't an option but tracking game on foot and catching all the "small stuff" was the order of the day. What a treat to spend time with the local bushmen! Next stop – a beautiful lodge – again more mekoroing but also driving and boating. Some even tried their luck at poling the mokoro . . . and keeping dry! A special experience was sitting within feet of a bull ele (on the walk way to one of the guest bungalows) watching him inhale a tree! A few ele tooth photos were had! On to a drier ecosystem where we found an abundance of cats – cheetah, lion, leopard and wild cat were all spotted and photographed to the max! Chobe was the last stop on this group's tour with some beautiful experiences watching crocodile, hippo and especially the ele's swimming across the Chobe River! I am so lucky to have such great traveling companions – especially the ones that return for another taste of Africa Up Close!