

# AFRICAN EXPLORATIONS



## SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2003

Welcome to our African Explorations summer 2003 newsletter. We couldn't possibly compete with all the excitements that have taken place within the first six months of the year so, waiting for the dust to settle, we are delighted to launch our first newsletter of the year. As well as news, in this issue we have continued to ask clients to write up their safaris for us. I'm convinced it must prove more enjoyable reading, as they are each from a refreshingly different and unbiased point of view!

Kenya and Tanzania have both been in the news recently and we, of course, would never dream of placing clients in areas that we deem to be unsafe. However we still strongly fly the flags of both countries, who we feel to have borne the brunt of so much scare-mongering over the years. On which point, we are exceptionally pleased (and honoured) to be promoting a very select safari with the legendary Jonathan Scott (of Big Cat Diary/BBC fame) in December of this year - there are three places left on a first-come, first-served basis.

### ON SAFARI WITH JONATHAN SCOTT

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to be guided on safari with Jonathan Scott on a Big Cat Focus Safari. The Maasai Mara is where the Big Cat Diary is filmed and 5 nights will be spent with Jonathan and Calvin Cottar at Cottar's 1920's camp. The Cottars team already spend time tracking the big cats and so you will join an existing and unfolding journey. A lot of the background big cat "hunting" takes place at night and Calvin has arranged for a special infrared viewing system to be specially adapted for the vehicle. After Cottars, the safari will fly north to Loisaba wilderness for 5 nights to follow lion, leopard, and cheetah. Here, a resident long-term research team monitors big cats and is documenting the story and life journey of these animals. There will be daily presentations by Jonathan Scott, who will accompany the safari throughout, and the research team as well as game drives. A night-time leopard blind will complete each day. This is a truly fulfilling safari.



### JONATHAN SCOTT SAFARI

The Jonathan Scott safari departing in December is priced at £4000.00 per person excluding international airfares. There is also a photographic departure for 8 nights with Paul Joynson Hicks, the renowned photographer, from 22-30 October which stays at the same properties and is priced at £3200.00 per person excluding international airfares. Paul has recently done all the photography for Robin and Jo Pope's book on the Luangwa.

## NAMIBIA - by Mrs Diana Rawson Serra Cafema Camp

When we planned to go to Namibia we obviously wanted to visit the Dunes and possibly Etosha for the animals but there is so much more to this beautiful unspoilt country. The real gem to our way of thinking is the newly opened Serra Cafema which is up on the Angolan border. The beauty and peace of the area is magical. It is not the easiest place to reach but we flew in, piloted by Eric, and were then driven over rough roads to the camp which is built on the banks of the Kunene River so it is all very green which in itself was a big change after the other camps. We saw the Kunene river crocodiles and to our joy a pair of Goliath Herons. With wonderful guided walks along the river and up on to the dunes and exploring further on ATV vehicles there is plenty to do. If you want a quiet afternoon, the hammocks on each balcony make the perfect place to read or just relax and watch birdlife.

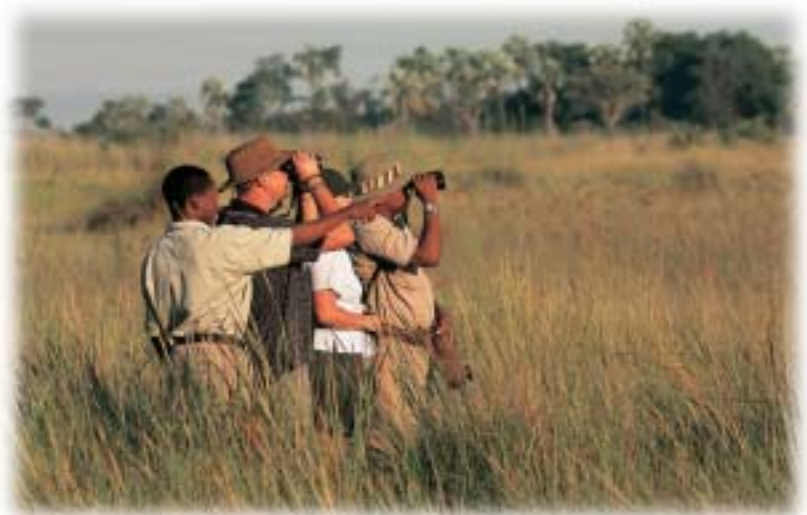


*Serra Cafema*



## BOTSWANA - Getting Closer to Nature:

If staying more than three nights at certain camps in Botswana it is possible to sleep beneath the skies on one of the evenings. This is the most wonderful experience, and mosquito nets are draped over the mattresses. In the Delta, one sleeps on beautiful palm islands and is poled by mokoro, the wooden dug out canoe used as the local form of transport. For adventurous clients, we often arrange mokoro trail safaris. There is no better way to experience the Delta than to travel by silent canoe, absorbing the atmosphere and walking and camping out on the various islands with excellent guides. We also offer walking safaris - regarded as one of the finest ways to get a feel of the African bush. These two night trips allow you to be as one with nature, accompanied by your armed guide. There is plenty of time to enjoy the wide variety of wildlife found in the area, comprising quality game viewing and birding. Nights are spent sleeping out at two hides. Lastly, for total contrast, one can sleep beneath the stars in the Kalahari desert! We have three very different safaris on set departure dates for this year on special offer.



1. Join one of the finest mobile safaris (10/18 September) for £2500.00 per person £100.00 saving per person. Excludes flights. This safari is being led by one of Botswana's finest and most established guides, and visits the Moremi Wildlife Reserve and the Okavango Delta.
2. On Safari with Kenneth Newman – Southern Africa's foremost bird painter and author of *Birds of Southern Africa* and *Birds of Botswana*. His books are used by thousands of bird enthusiasts and he is the author of ten books including field guides. Dates 30 Nov-06 December. Price £1690.00 per person excluding international airfares.



3. The Ultimate Botswana Safari – 10 or 12 nights – on Elephant Back for three nights, Classical Mobile tented camping for 4 or 5 nights and Horse riding (not obligatory) for 3 or 4 nights. £5852.00 per person for 10 nights and £6364.00 for 12 nights. There are four set departures in October and November 2003 with a few spaces left. Please call us for dates. This is a great saving on the normal Elephant Back safari which costs £5000.00 for 4 days! Excludes international airfares.

Don't forget – for more walking safaris – we offer unparalleled walking in Zambia and in southern Tanzania.

## STOP PRESS - Best Buys:

For those wanting to revisit Africa this year, but who have been affected by the stock market and are looking for their injection of sanity – we recommend the following, individual best buys which exclude international airfares:

1. **Malawi** the best on offer– 10 days £2390.00
2. Galapagos–luxury motor yacht Parranda one week Sept and Oct £2375.00.
3. Southern Tanzania 10 days £2275.00 Selous, Ruaha, coast
4. Northern Tanzania mobile safari 12 days £1890.
5. Kenya – 13 days - £2750.00 per person - Lake Victoria, Masai Mara, Chyulu Hills, Tsavo. A saving of over £1000.00 per person for the finest owner managed experience.
6. **Battlefields of South Africa** – 12 nights staying at Fugitives Drift Lodge, home to Nicky and David Rattray, Cleopatras, Ndumo and Amakhosi. £2400.00
7. Special Sea safari – South Africa – October 2003 10 days £2200.00. See South African Fur Seal Southern Right Whale, Bryde's Whale, Humpback Whale, African Penguin, Great White Shark, Orcas Bottlenose Dolphin, Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphin, Common Dolphin, Leatherback Turtle, Loggerhead Turtle



*Mvuu Lodge, Malawi*



*Fugitives Drift Lodge, Battlefields*

## GETTING OFF THE BEATEN TRACK IN SOUTHERN TANZANIA - Katavi, Mahale Mountains and the Serengeti or the Selous

For those who, perhaps, have come to eschew the designer led lodges that now predominate, we can offer a top of the range, authentic getaway. A 10 day dream safari at the finest of properties that one can think of. We can arrange this for a minimum of two clients travelling for a cost of £3350.00 per person excluding international airfares, based on Serengeti and £3650.00 per person based on the Selous. The Mahales is the best place in the world to view chimpanzees, and the area, on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, is staggeringly beautiful. Famed for its ottoman style tented camp, positioned on a crescent beach on the crystal clear shores of the Lake, one cannot get more exclusive or remote. Six elegant sleeping tents fringe the beach looking out across the lake. Think of Arabian nights meets Peter Pan in the British Museum. Katavi Camp looks east across the Chada plains, right in the heart of Katavi National Park. This is the only tourist accommodation in the whole park! Within this wilderness, ranges an unbelievable amount of game, as if from a world where Man never Lived. Herds

of buffalo up to 3000 strong congregate around the Chada plains, together with packs of hyaena and lion. The rare and beautiful roan and sable antelope occur here and the birdlife is spectacular. One can view game both on foot (still the finest way) or by open vehicle and the camp takes a maximum of twelve guests.



## CHILDREN AND FAMILY SAFARIS

In this day and age we are arranging more and more safaris for families as a whole. We have some wonderful ideas and can help guide you to your perfect family holiday! There are extra considerations, such as health and appropriate guiding, when planning a safari (especially with younger children), we now specialise in assembling safaris and holidays to suit all requirements.

We will be attending the forthcoming shows:

Country Landowners Assoc. Game Fair, Harrogate 01,02,03 August

Blenheim International Horse Trials, Blenheim 11,12,13 September

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