

COWABUNGA

SAFARIS

Africa un... bow



The *JUST NOW News* - A now-and-then Newsletter for alumni and friends of COWABUNGA SAFARIS published whenever we have enough news and time to put it together.

The
**JUST
NOW**
News

THIRD EDITION 2002

TANZANIA

The Great Migration

12-25 February 2003 – \$7995.00

Some years ago we decided not to name a Safari “The Great Migration.” Weather patterns were so erratic, and the movement of the mass herd of wildebeest, zebra, and antelope so unpredictable that even when we were where the migration was supposed to be, the animals were someplace else.

But that has changed for two reasons. First, the timing and movement of the migration has been more consistent. And, second, our team of skilled driver guides are determined to scour the Serengeti far and wide so Cowabunga Safaris can behold the greatest wildlife spectacle on earth. Our experience of the past several years gives us confidence that we will see the migration — although we cannot guarantee it.

Even so, the Serengeti is always sensational and we’ll spend three nights in a mobile tented camp. In addition to Lake Manyara and the Ngorongoro Crater, we have some other fantastic highlights. Tarangire National Park is a refuge for animals of the Maasai Steppe, and we will stay in the new Kikoti Safari Camp, perched on a ridge over looking Tarangire. Kikoti lies in one of Africa’s last remaining wilderness frontiers. Since it is outside the Park boundaries in a game conservation area, we will have the option to do guided bush walks and night game drives.

Our Safari culminates with a charter flight to Rubondo Island in Lake Victoria. Far from the standard Safari trail, Rubondo Island offers unique adventures, from boating to see rookery islands, to hides at waterholes. (See “Hippos on the Lawn,” *Just Now News*, Second Edition 2002.) We also have a chance for some uncommon sightings, such as sitatunga antelope, spot-necked otters, open billed storks, and African grey parrots.

If you were not on our priority request list for this itinerary, please contact us and we’ll get it to you straight away.

“I had always found that the art of successful travel consisted in taking as few impedimenta as possible.” — David Livingstone

KENYA

Old Africa... New Mystique

9-22 September 2003 – \$8275.00

Africa has changed a lot in the nearly three decades since my first Safari, but some areas of Kenya have retained the mystique. This Safari strives to capture that flavor and romance of old Africa. Our adventures are in the far flung corners of Kenya, hence we fly to our destinations. This adds a bit to the cost, but worth it, as it is expedient and practical.

The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is 45,000 acres of thorn-bush plains located near the Laikipia plateau on the slopes of Mount Kenya. We will stay at both the Craig family home in comfortable thatched cottages, as well as the Lewa Safari Camp with its well appointed luxury tents. In addition to standard game viewing, we have the option of guided bush walks, visits to prehistoric sites, and night game drives. Endangered species include rhino, Grevy zebra, and the elusive sitatunga. Bird watching is fantastic.

Over the years Cowabunga groups have visited nearly all of the camps and lodges in the Maasai Mara. But now — a new experience awaits us: Siana Springs Intrepids Camp. Situated at the base of the Ngoma Hills just outside the eastern boundary of the Maasai Mara National Reserve, the camp occupies a lush indigenous forest on the edge of the world’s most celebrated wilderness. Accommodations are spacious tents that boast the very latest in luxury camping. Wildlife in camp (sometimes just outside your tent) includes bushbuck, black and white colobus, genet, dwarf and white tailed mongoose, vervet monkey (but not a pest), and tree hyrax (their night sounds are incredible). Optional hot air ballooning is available.

Prominently featured in the film “Out of Africa,” Tsavo National Park has some of the most dramatic vistas on the continent. Tsavo West is home to Mzima Springs (93 million gallons of pure water a day are pumped to Mombasa) and the Shetani Lava Flow, where Gary was given his Kiswahili name. In addition to the well known big game, Tsavo features many fascinating smaller creatures, including the world’s largest dung beetle and the Naked Mole Rat.

We stay at Finch Hattons, a luxury tented lodge in the very heart of Tsavo. Here mineral water bubbles forth up out of the rock and the camp is built around three huge hippo pools. The camp is unfenced, and animals (including lesser kudu) come and go as they please. One evening while Gary was having a sundowner just outside the bar, a striped hyena casually sauntered by... WOW!

If you are not on the wait list to receive this exciting itinerary, contact us now.

Africa Calls

If you're serious
about going on Safari,
don't put it off.

Do it now.

Life is so uncertain.
Everything Changes.

World politics,
personal finances,
age, health,
air fares.

And Africa is
disappearing - fast.
Some of life's
greatest regrets are
missed opportunities.

Don't wait until
outside factors
prevent your going.
Get your passport.

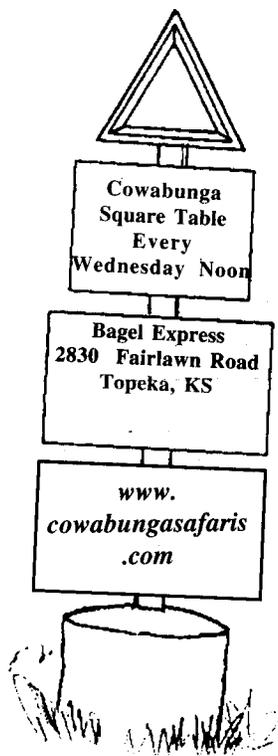
Make your
reservation.

Do your reading.
Go. Now.

Before all of
those
tomorrows
slip into never.
Preserve, forever, a
piece of Africa
in your heart.

-Gary K. Clarke

COWABUNGA!
Bringing the World
of Safaris to you one
game drive at a time.



A Special Ceremony

For thousands of years the Maasai of Kenya and Tanzania have observed four life stages for men: childhood, initiation, warrior rank, and finally elderhood.

On 6 June 2002, in a surprise ceremony outside the Maasai Mara of southwest Kenya, Gary was inducted as a Maasai Elder in the Oltukai Mara Clan. Unbeknown to him, his name had been submitted months earlier, reviewed by the council of Elders, and unanimously approved "in recognition of his more than 100 Safari and his contributions to Kenya and its peoples."

All of the Senior Elders were present for the heartfelt ceremony, which was solemn yet joyous. Gary was presented with the authentic trappings of his position and bestowed a Maasai name: Ole Isho, "the one who gives."

Seldom is Gary at a loss for words, but this unexpected and significant honor caught him unawares. Fortunately he knew just enough of the Maa language to respond properly and express appreciation. He elicited a laugh from all of the Elders when he asked "Now, where are my cows... and my wives?"

Zambia - August 2003

In July - August 2002, Gary checked out some new camps and lodges in Zambia. He plans to see a few more in October 2002 and then develop an itinerary for August 2003. We would like to determine an interest level in the program. If you would like more information (at no obligation) about a Safari to Zambia in August 2003, please let us know and we'll put you in our priority file to receive the material in late 2002.



A note of appreciation to Debbie Scanland for making each edition of *Just Now News* presentable to the reader. Thank you.

The Specter of Bin Laden

Brian Hesse

Editor's Note: In April 2002, Brian was in Senegal on a Rotary International Group Study Exchange.

Bin Laden was there less than ten feet away. His bearded, white-clad image, along with a picture of two jets, was plastered on the back of a dilapidated minibus. I was enraged. I looked out my window, through a mass of humanity lining the road, past piles of horse fodder, horses and carriages, and beyond heaps of smoking rubbish marking the beginnings of a denuded, goat-filled countryside. I longed to be away from here, on the grass-filled vistas of the Serengeti, or the apple ring acacia and animal lined banks of the Zambezi... and I sure as hell wanted to be off of this ironically named public *car rapide* minibus, neither a car nor rapid, because it was owned by the same Muslim community organization which owned the Bin Laden minibus in front of me. I was an American in the West African country of Senegal, a country nearly 95 percent Muslim. Moreover, I was in a foul mood.

My bilious disposition continued to fester as I walked the streets of Dakar, the capital, looking for the institute where I was to teach a course that afternoon. I reckoned more than a few of the many Muslim Brotherhoods in Senegal sympathized with Bin Laden's message.

Once in the classroom, my temper found barely muted respite as I settled into lecture and discussion. Later, as the students and I wrapped up our session, one man asked "How do Americans find Africa?", meaning, of course, "What do Americans know of Africa?" I immediately launched into my well worn mantra about the diversity of the continent — about it being a vibrant tapestry of 800 million plus people in 50 plus countries speaking 800 plus languages; about it being a continent of glaciated mountains, deep forest and open savannah; about it being a place where one can find wildebeest, and penguins within a few kilometers of each other. I tried to summarize by stating: "It seems so much of what Americans know about this immense continent is overwhelmingly negative —" My words ended abruptly.

I at once realized I had become one of *those* Americans, having let one image from earlier in the day, one moment, taint what I could, and indeed did, know about Africa. That is when Gnagna Cambel Dienga, a 20 something Muslim woman, stood up and said: "Tell your countrymen to come to Africa. We want to welcome them, to share with them warm Senegalese and African *teranga*. Tell them we wept for you, with you, on September 11."

And with that, the specter of Bin Laden was laid to rest.

I'd Rather Be On Safari by Gary K. Clarke

First Edition, Hardbound, Four Color Dust Jacket, Maps, Illustrations, & Glossary, 216 pages

\$26.95

Gary will be pleased to personally inscribe your book or copies you wish to present as gifts.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Number of copies: _____ Subtotal: \$ _____

KS residents add 7.2% sales tax (cost of book/s x .072) \$ _____

Postage & handling: \$3.00 first book; \$1.50 each additional \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

Make checks payable to *Cowabunga Safaris*. We regret we cannot accept credit cards.

Send mail orders to: Cowabunga Safaris, 2108 SW Fairlawn Plaza Dr, Topeka, KS 66614

Please have Gary inscribe my book(s) to:

Books may be picked up at Cowabunga Safaris Main Camp, Fairlawn Plaza Shopping Center

Book Signing Near and Far

Between Safaris, Gary has been busy with a variety of regional book signings, from the Safari Museum in Chanute, Kansas to the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library. He has had a few while on Safari as well, planned and unplanned.

His book "I'd Rather Be On Safari" was officially launched in Africa at the Sarit Centre in Nairobi with a signing at the Text Book Centre, the largest book store in East Africa. And while at the Sussi and Chuma Camp just above Victoria Falls, the staff surprised him by arranging a book signing on the banks of the Zambezi, complete with fresh elephant dung on the signing table!

The View From The Loo Between Two Worlds

Gary K. Clarke

It is dark outside. So **black**. Like outer space, yet with distant stars.

And it is cold. Flesh freezing cold. Instant death cold.

It is dark inside as well. But I have a small pocket torch with a thin beam of light.

It is quite cool inside, too... but not life threatening. A blanket over my shoulders wards off the chill.

"Outside" is somewhere over the vast Atlantic Ocean, forty-one thousand feet above the planet. "Inside" is a long metal tube, full of people. The tube has wings and four powerful jet engines. A Boeing 747.

The only noise is the slip stream of the wind as it is pierced by the sleek skin of the aircraft at well over 600 miles an hour. And, of course, the "white noise" from the constant drone of the engines. The sound is not irritating; is actually reassuring.

As I cruise in the dark at close to the speed of sound, it is difficult to get a feeling of velocity, or even motion. Most of the time the aircraft is still... it seems that I am

stationary. Only now and then are there "bumps" — clear air turbulence. The Captain apologizes over the P.A. system, and calls it a "light chop". I like it when this happens, and close my eyes to concentrate on the feeling.

The chop brings a bit of life to this huge technological bird, makes it seem fallible even though it is inanimate. Ships have their own definite motion, resisting unstable waters; trains have their own particular motion, navigating iron rails; so, too, should aircraft have a characteristic "motion" - the response to unseen irregularities in the atmosphere.

Here in the stratosphere I am so far removed from Kansas: my home, my family, my office, my associates. Here in the stratosphere I am so far removed from Africa: the savannah or rain forest; the desert or bush or river.

I am momentarily suspended between the two worlds of my existence. Nothing in this encapsulated

environment relates to either world. Somehow I am being thrust from yesterday into tomorrow, with no sense of time or place. Now does not exist.

Yet, in reality it does. This journey from Kansas to Africa will traverse 9,447 miles in 16 hours and 40 minutes. That is almost incomprehensible. What used to take humans years or months to achieve can now be done in days or hours.

For nearly three decades I have regularly made this trans Atlantic crossing by air — now well over two hundred times. But regardless how many more times I may do so, I'll never take it for granted.

Each time I marvel at the wonder of it all... that it can happen... that I am a part of it... that, in some indefinite form, I am periodically suspended between two worlds.



PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
TOPEKA KS
PERMIT NO 824

“I’d rather be on Safari”

Gary K. Clarke (Mzee Shetani)
President for Life
Nancy Cherry (Mama Makora)
Administrative Officer
Brian Hesse Ph.D. (Mzungu Mrefu)
Safari Leader

Address all correspondence to:
Private Bag 4863
Gage Centre Station
Topeka, Kansas 66604-0863 USA
Visit our website: www.cowabungasafaris.com

Phone: 785/272-7604
FAX: 785/272-4746

Visit our Main Camp at
Fairlawn Plaza

Copyright 2002 Cowabunga Safaris



Third Edition 2002

Printed on recycled paper.