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South Africa Revisited Newsletter

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This was my 3rd visit to South Africa since 2014 and is where I spent my 35th anniversary. Previously I attended two invitation-only events, where the very best travel agents and advisors from across the world meet Africa's most spectacular luxury travel providers. At these meetings I was among 81 attendees with only 16 from the United States. Once thought of as a largely wild and unexplored land, Africa is rapidly becoming the most coveted destination on the planet. Development continues to gain pace as travelers seek more and more ways to experience it's magic.

This trip we only went to the bush although I love the wine lands, Capetown and have explored Johannesburg. For those who have been on safari in East Africa, whether the Masai Mara or the Serengheti, the South Africa game reserves are different as the vegetation is dense and hilly. Every day we had a game ranger-driver and a separate tracker who work very hard and it is their skill and teamwork that results in game viewing. I chose December as I knew it would be greener and there would be more birds than in the spring. I think you must go for the Big Five but you must go back for the birds, other animals and the beyond belief hospitality.

Please enjoy a few photos from my trip. If you have any interest in Africa, I would be

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group is currently developing a gorilla camp!

The Cats.

















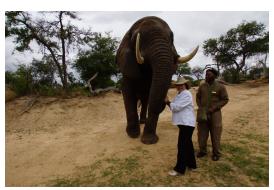


Clockwise: A rare white lion with blue eyes in the Timbavati region. A leopard that came down from its kill to drink at night. A male lion drinking. A leopard in a tree with his prey. A cheetah resting. A male lion passing behind a Land rover, yes they do get that close. A leopard approaching another open vehicle. A male lion gazing skyward watching a vulture survey his kill. A lion pride resting before going on an evening hunt.

Elephants, Rhinos and Hippos.

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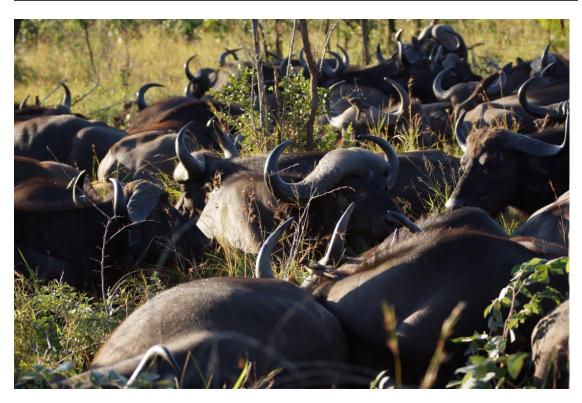






Clockwise from top: Three rhinos walking by our vehicle (look at right lower part of photo.) Elephants also get close to vehicles, this one we came out of the brush and so did he-a surprise for all. Hippos playing although not part of the Big 5. Rhinos on the road (sounds like a title for a song.) Three rhinos at the waterhole (on one trip we saw a female elephant and calf face off with a female rhinoceros and calf at a waterhole which was amazing.) A hippo out of water and this is not a common site. A large herd or parade of elephants. Claudia up close while at Camp Jabulani. This camp started as an elephant rescue camp now also a sanctuary and still has elephant experiences.

Some of the other animals.























Clockwise from top The last of the Big 5, the Cape Buffalo the most dangerous having killed more big game hunters than the others. I finally saw a pack of African wild dogs and our group decided to

fascinated with dung beetles. Three giraffes. A painted reed frog. A pair of zebras (you can tell by their stripes.)

Now for the birds.

This is a very small sample of the birds we viewed and photographed and I apologize for some of the photos. We did see a group of bird watchers who were using cameras with lenses that were over a foot in length. Most of the vehicles are equipped to help guests stabilize there photography equipment, many guests use only cellphones and the rangers always are available to help with almost all cameras. In fact they have taught how to use my equipment.







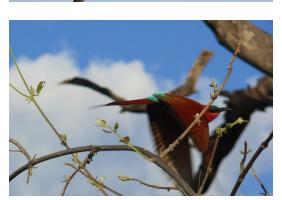












Clockwise from top One on my favorite birds is the lilac breasted roller that has 17 different colors in flight. A perched lilac breasted roller. Lilac breasted roller in flight (I loved the challenge of getting photos of birds in flight.) A woodland kingfisher. A carmine bee eater. A saddle billed stork. A go away bird. A red weaver with its nest. A yellow billed hornbill.

Allow me to help you plan your trip. I am passionate about Africa and safaris.

This a perfect family destination and in the last few years I have planned holidays for families of 6, 10, 20 and 21 with one family going 2 years in a row. You are never guaranteed to see everything but most people in a 1-2 week trip will see the Big 5.

I would be pleased to work with you to make your dream become a reality. The next newsletter will be about the accommodations and cuisine.

