

TOUR TEASER

AFRICAN SAFARI

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ANOTHER MAD MIDLIFE ADVENTURE – 20 WILD DAYS – AUGUST 2020



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BY JAN 31, 2019

FOLLOWING FOUR BRILLIANT, SOLD-OUT SAFARIS we've scheduled another unforgettable 20-day adventure. We'd love you to come with us on this once-in-a-lifetime wildlife romp, and get up close to Africa's untamed inhabitants for yourself. So here, to tempt you terribly and urge you say "YES!" is another taste from John's travel-diary:



I KEPT THINKING, "PINCH ME – I'M DREAMING!" as our open-top Land Cruiser took us down 2000 feet, through zig-zaggy bends, dusty potholes and early-morning mist to the crater floor. "Hold onto your hat!" someone yelled. I'd been looking forward to this moment for ages, and here we were, in. The remarkable **Ngorongoro Crater**, a World Heritage Site, has been called the eighth wonder of the world – the biggest intact volcanic caldera on the planet and the largest zoo on earth. It encases one of the most picturesque settings we'd seen on our safari, and an animal population so used to humans that you can almost "reach out and touch ..."

We'd spent the night in a luxury lodges high up on the rim. And now, as the haze cleared, we found ourselves on the floor, surrounded by vast grasslands, dry salt-pans and swamps. Back up the track a bit we'd been stopped at one point by a young bull **elephant** who was in no hurry to move – he just stood in the middle of the road, sucking dust up his trunk and blowing it all over himself. Then, down on the flat, we spotted a lonely black-maned **lion** who seemed to have an urgent appointment off in the distance.

It was hard to know where to point my camera that glorious morning as hyenas, warthogs, buffalos, baboons, gazelles, zebras and the ever-present wildebeests just kept coming! And you should have seen the **BIRDS**: an **ostrich** having a bad-hair day ... a flock of **pink flamingo** with their heads in the sand ... a **saddle-billed stork** with its stripy red-and-yellow beak ... a **ground hornbill** sporting a scarlet, turkey-like neck ... a gorgeous **crowned crane**, looking like she'd stepped out of a salon ... and an ugly **marabou stork**

with a weird pink airbag hanging beneath its chin. But then we spotted the **rhino**, head-down in the scrubby grass!



WITH THEIR BATTERING-RAM BODIES, KNOBBLY knees, thick armour-plate skin, tiny swivelling ears, and twin nose-horns, these two-to-three-tonne monsters look utterly prehistoric. And when they glare at you with their beady eyes, they look quite scary.

So, are they dangerous? Well, yes. They can charge you at 45kph, and poke large holes in you where you least need them. And while their eyesight may be lousy, they can hear you loud-and-clear – and smell you long before you can smell them – which is why we kept our distance.



But this big fella wasn't bothered. He seemed happy to let us ooh-&-ahh and click our cameras forever ...