



Leopard

Tracks

TAKING STEPS TO BRING AFRICA CLOSER TO HOME

BROUGHT TO YOU BY LEOPARD ADVENTURES

SPRING 2018

Welcome to our inaugural issue!

Leopard Adventures is proud to bring you the first issue of **Leopard Tracks**, our quarterly newsletter designed to inform and inspire about the wonders of safari travel. Through feature stories, camp news, beautiful photos, tips, and more, **Leopard Tracks** brings the African continent and all that it offers close to home—to inspire you to head out on a safari adventure of your own.



Leopard's Lens

Did you know that gorillas share 98% of our DNA and have unique noseprints that can identify individuals, just like human fingerprints? And because most females have only one baby every 4-6 years, and only give birth 3 or 4 times in their lifetime, populations that decline in number often do not rebound. See these gorillas in the wild while we still can!



Photo: Caroline Culbert, during a stay at Bisette Lodge

Young mountain gorilla, Volcanoes National Park, Virunga, Rwanda



Left to right: Karie, Nashipae, Vivian

Leopard Adventures gives back with school sponsorships of 3 Kenyan girls

A safari adventure is said to change lives for the better. Our motto at Leopard Adventures is *"Touch the Soul of Africa,"* and we are now about to literally make that happen by touching the souls and lives of 3 remarkable young girls living in Kenya. Leopard Adventures is thrilled to be sponsoring Karie Mercy Parsaloi, age 9, Nashipae Kimanjoi, age 7, and Vivian Naeku Kimpai, age 5, to attend the Emurutoto Primary School in the Maasai Mara, Kenya.

For most of us, our hardships in attending school include buying the most popular type of backpack, wondering if we will be welcomed by the "cool" crowd, and what brand of clothes to wear to impress our classmates. However, the difficulties these 3 girls would have otherwise faced are infinitely more serious and complex than the issues faced by most school children where we live and in other parts of the world.

First, the region's rich culture does little to promote the idea of education for girls, and most girls worry about who and when they will marry—not about what school subjects they should learn for a better life. In fact, many girls are removed early from schools to be married off by their

families. Second, wildlife roams freely in the area, causing real dangers for children and families needing to travel to and from school each day. Third, electricity is not available in the region, making indoor classrooms and nighttime studies nearly impossible.

The Emurutoto Primary School provides a safe haven for girls so they no longer need to worry about early marriages or other circumstances affecting or ending their studies. The school has 8 classrooms, a girls dormitory, an infirmary, a grass lounge area for relaxation after classes, a generator for electricity so the girls can study in the evenings, and an electric fence to keep the wildlife out and provide a protected environment for the girls. The school is also working to build a dormitory for boys in the near future.

These Leopard Adventures sponsorships will cover all costs for the 3 girls to attend the school and to live in the dormitory there. By doing so, we will be helping to overcome the many unique hardships these girls face regarding attending school in this region.

We at Leopard Adventures could not be happier to be helping enrich the lives of Karie, Nashipae, and Vivian in such a powerful and emotional way. We look forward to providing you updates on their progress in future issues of this newsletter!



Camp News

Bisate Lodge - Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda

Opened in June 2017, this magnificent camp in Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park offers the best location for a holistic gorilla experience. Aside from tracking one of several habituated gorilla groups, visitors might also see the endemic golden monkey during their stay. Bisate is set within the amphitheater of an eroded volcanic cone and means "pieces," representing the pieces of the volcano worn away by natural erosion. With just 6 spacious spherical forest villas echoing the thousands of hills that dot the Rwandan landscape, this new camp is unlike any other.



Photo: David Crookes

Kwandwe Great River Fish Lodge - Eastern Cape, South Africa

Located on a steep bank with fantastic views over the Great Fish River, Kwandwe is located in one of South Africa's largest privately owned Big 5 reserves. Here, guests can get up close and personal with highly endangered rhinos, with a rare opportunity to assist in a rhino conservation notching experience. Other highlights including walking safaris, special children's safaris and activities, catch-and-release fishing, and visits to local communities. An added bonus is that the area is malaria free, making it a perfect family destination. Guests here can also volunteer with the Ubunye Foundation, which fosters economic development, education, and health initiatives in 11 local villages.



Qorokwe - Okavango Delta, Botswana

This brand new camp in the Okavango Delta is located on the border of the Moremi Game Reserve, and means "place where the buffalo broke through the bush into the water." Qorokwe offers game drives, walking safaris, boating, and mokoro experiences, and has 9 tented luxury suites including a large family unit. With permanent water year round, Qorokwe offers outstanding game viewing and concentrations of all the large predators during every season.



Photo: Dana Allen

Angama Mara - Maasai Mara, Kenya

Voted Best New Safari Property 2017 among other top industry awards, Angama Mara might just exemplify what an African safari is since the iconic film *Out of Africa*, starring Meryl Streep and Robert Redford, was filmed there in 1985. Meaning "suspended in mid-air," today it is comprised of two separate 15-room safari camps set on a hillside overlooking Kenya's Great Rift Valley and the famous Maasai Mara. Guests here can experience hot air ballooning, walking safaris, and cultural visits to neighboring Maasai villages.



Top to bottom: Bisate Lodge, Kwandwe Great River Fish Lodge, Qorokwe, Angama Mara

Spotlight On...



Coming soon: First Africa-based airline with nonstop flights from Chicago

Starting June 9, Ethiopian Airlines will offer direct flights between Chicago and Africa. Their nonstop Dreamliner service to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, will run 3 times a week, offer a variety of connections in Africa, and ease travel by eliminating the need to first fly to New York or another large travel hub.

Safari Tips

Here are some helpful safari tips, especially for those new to safari:

Tip #1: Don't forget to **take movies**. Your still photos will be amazing, but only videos can capture the action and sounds of Africa. Wild dog squeals, bird alarm calls, and the unmistakable thunderous roar of a lion can only be relived and shared with videos. Take a camera (with a good zoom lens) AND an iPhone or other high-definition video-capturing device.

Tip #2: With few exceptions, **NEVER miss a game drive**. The one time you decide to sleep in or relax by the pool will be when you miss something unique and special out on the drive. Trust us, every game drive has the potential to deliver your best sightings of all!

