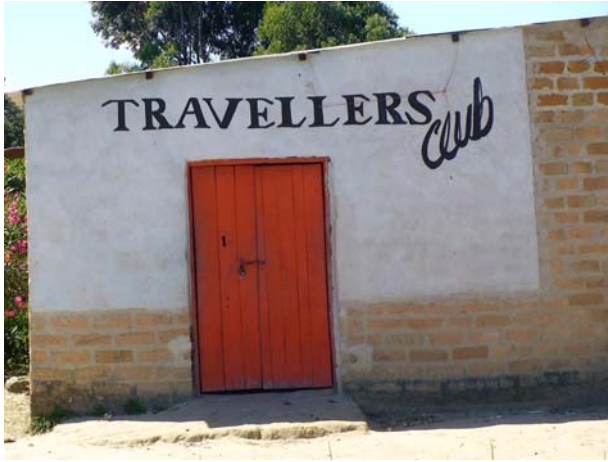


MTT's Recommendations for Private Safaris 2011



There is no time to waste. You need months to arrange a good safari. In the case of Northern Tanzania, the best located camps for February, that magical month for the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and southern Serengeti National Park, are fully booked in 2011.

Here are my travel suggestions for Africa 2011. Costs are dependent upon many variables. It is better if you write me for specifics and customized safari planning. I look forward to

working with you.

Please go to [Escorted 2011 Travel](#) if you care to join me on Zambia, Central Africa, Botswana or Zimbabwe safaris next year.

MTT TRAVEL VIDEOS: <http://www.youtube.com/user/laughyen>

Northern Tanzania

When: January through March

How Long: minimum 10 days

Why: One) the wildebeest migration is in the southern plains of the Serengeti National Park on its border with the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Two) Tanzania has announced plans for a new highway which bisects the Northern Serengeti and which will most certainly adversely affect the migration despite all the official assurances that it won't. International condemnation of this road may serve to delay it (since there is a viable, alternative route outside of national parks), but in all likelihood this misguided idea will become reality, if not this year, then someday. Go now. Things change.

Where exactly: Focus on the migration's best spots Jan through March: the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, especially at Ndutu; the Gol Mountains, which are just outside of the NCA; the southern Serengeti National Park, and depending on the month, the central Serengeti National Park, in an area known as Moru. Consider seasonal and/or mobile camps as your accommodation choice and some hikes in the NCA. I work with a number of associates who

offer wonderful camping and walking opportunities for small groups of clients at a time and the ability to get away from it all despite the fact that it is among the north's busiest times.



Southern & Western Tanzania

When: July through October

How Long: minimum 10 days

Why: Ruaha National Park has some of the prettiest bush anywhere outside of Zambia's Luangwa Valley, while Katavi National Park remains empty wilderness defined by large numbers of animals. If you want to **See Another Tanzania** then the south and west is for you. The Selous Game Reserve is also back on my recommendation list for Southern Tanzania. One of my favorite ground operators for the south and west has taken over one of its camps and it is great to have them there. Consider a combination of the Selous and Ruaha, or Ruaha and Katavi, or all three! Due to the distances involved you will have to fly between these destinations.

Where exactly: The Selous Game Reserve, Ruaha National Park, Mikumi National Park and Katavi National Park.

NEW! Northern Serengeti (Tanzania) AND the Maasai Mara (Kenya)

When: July through October

How Long: eight to 10 days

Why: the wildebeest migration crosses the Mara River into Kenya's Mara National Reserve from Tanzania's Serengeti National Park beginning in August. As a result, the Northern Serengeti is the place to be on a Tanzania safari. Likewise, the Maasai Mara is the best location if you are traveling in Kenya. To experience the migration in both Kenya and Tanzania has been

problematical and time consuming, requiring either a long bumpy day's drive to the Isabenia border crossing and then an overnight stay somewhere in Tanzania; or back tracking to Nairobi and flying to Arusha and then up to the Northern Serengeti. No longer. Orion Hotels which operate Mara Bushtops in the Siana Conservancy in Kenya and Serengeti Bushtops in the Northern Serengeti can now move their guests between Kenya and Tanzania camps by light aircraft to the Isabenia border crossing followed by a three-hour game drive. They are working towards offering flights the entire way too, from Siana to Migori airstrips in Kenya and then to Kogatende in the Northern Serengeti. They also want to share the Migori to Kogatende flight with other camp operators in the Northern Serengeti which will allow guests to diversify their accommodation choices. But you might want to stick with Orion camps. Mara Bushtops and Serengeti Bushtops are both breathtaking. Write me for more details on how to see the migration in both countries!

Where Exactly: Kenya's Siana Conservancy, north of the Mara River, and Tanzania's Northern Serengeti National Park, south of the Mara River.

NEW! Western Tanzania & Northern Zambia Combo

When: July through October

How Long: minimum 16 days. Please do not rush this one!

Why: a combination of Tanzania's Ruaha and Katavi National Parks (or just Katavi) with Northern Zambia is truly a safari of a lifetime.

Where: I suggest beginning in Tanzania and ending in Zambia. You fly in a light aircraft between Western Tanzania and Northern Zambia, where, after a few days of rest on Lake Tanganyika's white sand beaches, you embark on a road trip to key Northern Zambian sights such as the Shiwa Ngandu estate, Northern Luangwa National Park (see below for more on North Luangwa), Mutinondo Wilderness Area, and Kundalila Falls. All of these destinations are perfect for walkers, and there is the option of camping at a few of these places as well. The ground operator will provide all the gear and supplies if you do decide to take on a few nights of comfortable camping. For the truly adventurous, and those looking for an extended trip, there are several options of driving into South Luangwa National Park through its back door routes accessed from the north. The great advantage to a road trip is that you get to meet Zambian people too.



North Luangwa National Park: it is not widely known that North Luangwa showcases a wildlife phenomenon that is well worth putting on a safari "to-do" list. In this park, lion have long made

the significant number of Cape buffalo their favorite prey. As the dry season wears on, and the water supplies dwindle to what remains in the Mwaleshi River, North Luangwa buffalo must stay closer to their drinking source. In an effort to protect themselves against the lions which stalk them, the buffaloes amalgamate to form massive herds – 1000 members strong in some cases. The later you go in the dry season – September/October - the better chance you have of seeing these enormous herds and any predator action that results. You may not even have to leave camp to see them since North Luangwa's three major camps are all along the Mwaleshi River, and the herds will come to the river to drink. Which isn't a bad thing since beginning in September the valley's daily temperature sky rockets, and any bush walks must be done in the very early morning and later on in the afternoon. North Luangwa National Park: I am a definite fan!



Zambia: North, South and Central

When: July through October

How Long: minimum of ten days

Why: Please see the Zambia homepage on the website for the many reasons why I love Zambia so much as a safari destination. As Tanzania grows ever more expensive and ever busier, Zambia becomes an increasingly good alternative. You won't be disappointed if you choose Zambia for your next safari. Serial safari-goers have known about it for years!

- I recommend three destinations for a Zambian wildlife safari: North Luangwa National Park; South Luangwa National Park; and Kafue National Park.
- I discuss North Luangwa in the Northern Zambia section above. It fits well into a Northern Zambia road safari and is especially good for walkers.

- For South Luangwa, I offer a diverse range of safari itineraries taking into account budget, focus and available time, and which of course include all my favorite camps based on spending time at all of them and with all their talented guides. It is a premium park and the place to have many good wildlife observations, including wild dog and leopard.
- Like North Luangwa, Kafue National Park lends itself to inclusion in a road safari. It is Zambia's largest park, divided into northern and southern sectors by the east-west highway. Wilderness Safaris monopolizes accommodations on the western side of north Kafue National Park, but there remain private camps clustered on the western edges of the north park as well as in the adjoining game management areas for anyone looking for a less corporate kind of camp/safari experience. In South Kafue there is a small family-run camp which comes into its best in the late dry season. Its young and enthusiastic owner-operator Chris knows the surrounding bush intimately. Consider at least three nights here, more if you intend asking Chris to take you fly camping. From this camp you can easily continue on to Livingstone and Vic Falls in the south by a track that runs through the park. I am happy to customize your Kafue road safari.

Where exactly: North Luangwa; South Luangwa, Kafue National Park



Central Africa: Western Lowland Gorillas and Forest Elephants

When: June through October best

How Long: 12 days

Why: I am passionate about this tour. It is a true adventure and unique wildlife experience which focuses on the world's only two families of habituated Western Lowland gorillas; Africa's

highest concentrations of forest elephants; and Central African culture. It isn't easy travel but infinitely rewarding. Brazzaville, Republic of Congo or Doula, Cameroon can be used as departure cities for these Central African parks. Brazzaville city tours can be arranged upon request for any free days in the city as well as dinner talks with professionals working in Central Africa in the fields of wildlife conservation. One such individual is Mr Naftali Honig of PALF, an NGO concerned with the enforcement of wildlife protection laws, the first organization of its kind in Congo-Brazzaville. Please see <http://gorilla.wildlifedirect.org> and <http://www.laga-enforcement.org> for more information on this ground breaking work.

Where exactly: Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic.

Go to: www.CongoWildlifeAdventures.com – MTT's ground operation which opened in January 2010 in Brazzaville – for informational PDF.

NEW! South Africa: "Species Immobilization" and "Species Specific Interactive" Safaris

When: throughout 2011

How Long: a minimum of four days

Why: This recommendation needs some explanation for anyone familiar with the wilds of Zambia or East Africa. South Africa's wildlife is sequestered now on private game reserves/ranches which are typically fenced, barriers between them and surrounding farms and human populations. Since animals can no longer migrate, their conservation ultimately



means controlling their numbers and intervening on health issues. In what is a uniquely South African approach to a safari, guests have the exciting prospect of accompanying a wildlife veterinarian when his help is sought to immobilize an animal. In some cases, the animal might be collared as a subject of a study program and in need of new batteries for the collar. In other cases, the animal needs medical attention. Guests are given the opportunity to participate as much as possible in the procedures being carried out. They can choose between immobilization safaris for cheetah, rhino and elephant. They learn about the species directly from the vet. Most importantly, without tourism's proceeds the intervention may not have been possible due to its high cost. By their participation, guests contribute directly to wildlife conservation. "Species specific interactive safaris" take guests behind the scenes of private wildlife ranches and centers to give them the opportunity to interact with researchers, ecologists, vets and guides while focussing on learning about specific species such as lion, wild dog, cheetah, leopard and elephant. Please write me for more details or to arrange such a safari.

Where exactly: These safaris typically use Johannesburg as their point of origin and may include travel to Botswana.

Kenya: Maasailand with Maasai Hosts

When: June through October

How Long: a minimum of 10 days

Why: MTT offers three unique educational opportunities to experience remote parts of Kenya's Maasailand which are seen by very few visitors and which focus equally on culture, walking and wildlife. The operators with whom I work in all three cases are indigenous Maasai. Each tour is customizable, and can be included in a more traditional wildlife safari. If you want to **See**

Another Kenya then these programs are for you.

Where Exactly: the grasslands surrounding the Mara National Reserve, Amboseli National Park region, and Laikipia in Northern Kenya.

Go to: <http://www.mamatembotours.com/itineraries.html>

