

Live Travel's Quarterly
Newsletter

"We travel not to escape
life, but for life not to
escape us."



JOURNEYS



FOR THE



SOUL

SPECIAL EDITION

TANZANIA AND ZANZIBAR



Around The World

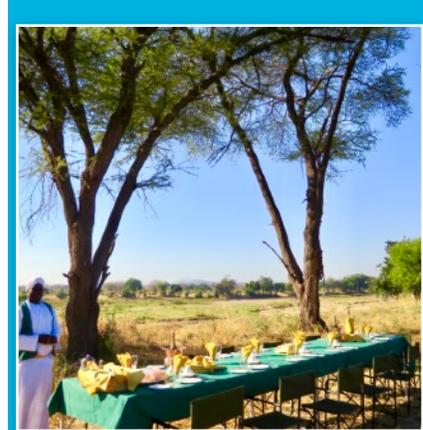
I recently returned from visiting five stunning destinations around the world and I came home with my spirit renewed and my soul filled with delight. A challenge came unexpectedly a few months before the trip yet I pushed forward for the travel. I knew the experience would heal me as I made my exploration to gather information and stories. These treasures are what I want to share with you and inspire you to travel to where you can at the level of comfort you want with a tint of luxury that you desire. Introducing in the second special edition: Tanzania and Zanzibar!

The Jungle of Tanzania

Prior to my departure to Tanzania, I was on the other side of the world exploring the islands of the Caribbean specifically St. Lucia. Exchanging the island breeze for the equatorial heat of African jungle is startling to the body but divine for the spirit and soul. Where exactly is Tanzania?

Tanzania is located on the eastern side of Africa and is known for its vast wilderness areas. In the north are the plains of Serengeti National Park and Kilimanjaro and the south Ruaha National Park and Selous Game Reserve. Offshore lie islands of Zanzibar where turquoise water and soft white sand beaches make Tanzania holidays the ultimate beach and safari destination. I joined Asilia Africa for my two stops in southern Tanzania and Zanzibar.

- Deep in the jungle, everything is as pure as it could possibly be. With stunning sunrise and the brisk air the jungle begins its day. Rustling noise and sight of hippopotamuses running, gazing upward and the sight of curious giraffes watching, chirping sound and sight of exotic birds flying and thundering breakage and sight of elephants cracking tree branches and the list goes on. Everything is raw and real yet peaceful.
- Ruaha National Park is the largest national park in Tanzania and home to 10% of the world's lion population and Tanzania's largest elephant population and countless other wildlife. Here sighting of predators and big fives particularly in large prides is not uncommon including the rare and endangered species of African painted dogs.
- Unforgettable were moments of magic throughout the trip. A gourmet buffet dinner with a full bar under a starry sky. Sinking in the chair with sand at my feet and a cocktail in my hand, I gazed at the fire in its wild dance. Human chatters became diluted in the vast space so much that I could hear crickets or other noises that animals communicated with one another. The breeze whisked my mind away. Soon I found myself mesmerized with the Milky Way high above only to jump up seconds too late and missed a shooting star that just zoomed across the sky. I caught its tail so bright, so big and with so many colors. Too late for a wish but I smiled in contentment for such a rare and beautiful sight.



- Would you love a hot air balloon ride in the middle of an African jungle? Maintaining at an altitude high enough above ground yet low enough to witness lions crossing river, water buffalos sunbathing and hippopotamuses hiding in the water, the pilot gave the guests tickets to the ultimate safari. Not enough, he celebrated the flight with flowing champagne once we landed. Only then we found a beautiful gourmet lunch has been prepared for us. The chef standing by with his assistants to delight everyone with a four-courses meal. Keep in mind, we are still deep in the jungle.
- The journey continued its magic leaving me in state of surreal as if I was living a dream. Jabali Ridge was a paradise in the bush. The lodge was built around giant rocks in the hill giving breathtaking view at every turn. Innovative design, luxurious accommodation and exquisite dining elevated the stay here to no less than cloud nine. Swinging on the hammock with a sweeping view of 180 degrees of the Baobab trees forest would leave you swinging for days to come.
- Are you still here with me or have I lost you to the jungle of Tanzania?

The Boat Safari in Selous Game Reserve



Every game drive gives different delight. The lions seen at the previous game reserve were fighting over their prey but now in Selous Game Reserve there is a display of affection while they play a game of catch me if you can. Selous is sweet, inviting and enchanting. Surrounded by so many rivers and deltas, its landscape changes from typical bushes found in the jungle to palm trees and cacti and green grass with wild flowers. The heat is softer and the breeze is more frequent. Only in Selous could you do a boat safari. An entire experience of its own and a must do to be “up close and personal” with the hippopotamuses and crocodiles, exotic birds making their nest on the bank of the river and view of the stunning sunset where the sky meets the water.

Welcome to Zanzibar!



Jungle life could be hard work. Zanzibar therefore is the perfect escape for coastal relaxation. Far from the city center is Matemwe Lodge & Retreat where it rests on a cliff overlooking the shallow, coral-fringed lagoon. Sand as soft as butter will melt your feet and heart. Pictured here are live sea urchins in my hand found along my reef walk 2.5 miles off shore. Just off the coast is the world-famous Mnemba Atoll, said to provide some of the best diving and snorkeling on the continent. A day or two should be spent in Stone Town as it holds history as one of the largest and most notorious slave trading places back in 1800s. You should wander around the town to see how it has grown if much into the city it is today. Since the drive from Stone Town to Matemwe is almost two hours long over mostly bad roads, it is advisable to visit Stone Town either before or after the trip to Matemwe.

The sun sets and rises once each day and so does life in its beginning and end. Live it for the moments that will stay with you and make them the greatest stories of a life ever lived.

“Travel is a love affair with life.” Debbie Pham

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