

# Frontiers®

Specialized International Travel Consultants

*Presents*

## *Mara to Mana Invitational Safari*



A private Frontiers departure co-hosted by two of Africa's foremost safari guides

**Calvin Cottar and John Stevens**

Also escorted by Frontiers' Africa Department Head, Kathy Schulz

August 21 – September 1, 2012

***If you ask African hands to name the best guides, Calvin Cottar and John Stevens appear at the top of every list. The most essential prerequisite for a successful trip to the African bushveld is an outstanding guide and now you can experience a once-in-a-lifetime invitational safari hosted by these two dynamic safari legends in the finest game country in the world, the Masai Mara-Serengeti ecosystem of Kenya and the virtually undiscovered Mana Pools of Zimbabwe.***

***John Stevens and Calvin Cottar have lived in the bush most of their lives and have developed such a profound understanding of wild animals and their habitats that, if academic accolades were awarded for bush craft, they would have doctorates bestowed on them. This safari is limited to just 12 fortunate guests and will take place in August when the Migration should be in the Mara and the gameviewing is exhilarating in Mana Pools.***

***We have also included a unique and unforgettable visit to Victoria Falls National Park, a World Heritage Site. We have planned this expedition to occur during the full moon so that guests may enjoy the lunar rainbow over the Falls while traveling on a Steam Train across the Victoria Falls Bridge.***

## Tuesday, August 21

Arrive Nairobi, Kenya in time to board our charter flight to Keekerok Airstrip in the Masai Mara. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to Cottar's 1920's Safari Camp with gameviewing enroute.

**Spend four nights at Cottar's 1920's Camp. At the camp, accommodations will be confirmed on an exclusive basis for our party. All meals, daily activities, laundry and drinks are included (excluding premium import brands).**



Drawing on eighty years of safari service, the Cottar family will provide guests with the highest standard of personalized and professional guiding. Recalling an era of luxury and quality, Cottar's 1920's Safari Camp in the Masai Mara returns to the original spirit and essence of "safari" reminiscent of a golden era - an era of romance, professional guiding, adventure and elegance in a timelessly unspoiled setting with panoramic views and boundless game.

The Cottar's 1920's Safari Camp is situated in an extensive and exclusive concession between the Masai Mara, Serengeti and Loliondo reserves where a few Purko Maasai clan roam. This area has been untouched by any kind of tourism or development and offers the discerning client a guarantee of privacy.

The camp comprises of authentic white canvas tents, which are spacious and luxuriously furnished and incorporate original safari antiques from the 1920's; private en suite dressing rooms and bathrooms (with old-fashioned showers and flushing toilets), the main bedroom and an outdoor veranda.

Guest activities include game drives guided in either state-of-the-art modern four-wheel-drive cars; or in their authentic, old wooden car; or in oxen-pulled wagon.

As the concession is outside the game parks, guided walks and night drives are allowed and highly recommended. By walking, guests can get that much closer to nature, and if an opportunity to track wild game presents itself, our trained trackers will take guests even closer still.

On a more self-indulgent note, the masseuse is based full-time at the camp for complimentary massages, manicures and pedicures. Any other needs that guests may have will be met by butlers who have been trained to provide guests with discreet, yet attentive service.

## **Wednesday, August 22 – Friday, August 24**

Enjoy three full days of gameviewing activities on foot and by vehicle at Cottar's 1920's Camp, expertly guided by Calvin Cottar and John Stevens.



**Masai Mara Game Reserve** is widely considered to be Africa's greatest wildlife reserve. The Mara comprises 200 square miles of open plains, woodlands and riverine forest. Contiguous with the plains of the Serengeti, the Mara is home to a breathtaking array of life.

Each year the Mara plays host to the world's greatest natural spectacle, the Great Wildebeest Migration from the Serengeti. The promise of rain and fresh life-giving grass in the north brings more than 1.3 million wildebeest together into a single massive herd. They pour across the border into the Mara, making a spectacular entrance in a surging column of life that stretches from horizon to horizon. The wildebeest bring new life to the Mara, not just through their cycle of regeneration of the grasslands, but for the predators that follow the herds. The Mara has been called the Kingdom of Lions and these regal and powerful hunters dominate these

grasslands. Cheetah are also a common sight in the Mara, as are hyena and smaller predators such as jackals.

A visit to a Maasai village gives your Masai Mara safari a cultural edge. The Maasai live a traditional way of life in "manyattas," a simple mud-covered straw hut. With over 500 species of birdlife and open scenery, the Masai Mara will be the perfect combination to the Mana Pools National Park.

## **Saturday, August 25**

This afternoon, you will be transferred back to the airstrip for our private charter flight from the Masai Mara to Nairobi.

Upon arrival in Nairobi, you will be met by our local representative and transferred by road to Ngong House where we will spend one night before flying out to Mana Pools, Zimbabwe.

Ngong House is an eccentric, luxury hotel perfectly situated in an area to the north west of Nairobi known as Karen. This district is so named after the famous author Karen Blixen who had her coffee plantation here. The rooms themselves are set high on stilts and are constructed out of beautiful pine and the salvaged wood from coastal dhow sailing boats. They all command fabulous views of the Ngong Hills, the range made famous by Karen Blixen's book "Out of Africa". This is a fabulous place to relax or enjoy some shopping and sightseeing.

**At Ngong House, accommodations will be confirmed in luxury tree-houses with en suite facilities. All meals, drinks (with the exception of champagne) and laundry are included.**

## **Sunday, August 26**

This morning, you will be met by our local representative and transferred to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in order to board the scheduled flight from Nairobi to Harare. Upon arrival in Harare, you will board our private charter to Mana Pools.

On arrival in Mana Pools, you will be met by Milo Harrup and Sarah Stevens for your road transfer through the park to Mana Pools Safari Company Tented Camp on the banks of the Zambezi River. The camp is managed by Sarah Stevens, John and Nicci Steven's daughter, and her husband, Milo Harrup.

**Spend four nights at Mana Pools Safari Company Tented Camp where accommodations will be confirmed on an exclusive basis for our party. All meals, daily activities, laundry and drinks are included (excluding premium import brands).**

Take the tradition and values of colonial-style safari hospitality, add a modern edge that's fresh and playful, and you've got Mana Pools Safari Company Tented Camp. The camp is tucked away in a private spot on the banks of the Zambezi River. For the duration of your stay, the camp will remain in one site and be for your exclusive use.



The camp consists of spacious and comfortable en suite tents (including shower and long-drop toilet) made complete with full beds, a soft rug, wooden decking, toiletries, linen cushions, a vivid silk throw, and cool Egyptian cotton sheets. Under the veranda of each tent are two director's chairs and a table – the perfect spot to enjoy a book and afternoon tea.

The camp is run on solar power, gas and sustainable wood supplies – no noisy generators.

Dining is al fresco – under a shady tree in the heat of the day, on the banks of the river in the

moonlight. At night the campfire is where everyone gathers for a drink before dinner and where the day's experiences are discussed and the following day's activities planned. Dinner is a three-course affair served under canopy, romantically lit with hurricane lamps and candles – the African night punctuated by gently burning flares.



## **Monday, August 27 – Wednesday, August 29**

Enjoy three full days of gameviewing activities on foot and by vehicle in Mana Pools National Park, expertly guided by John Stevens and Calvin Cottar.

Over the years, portions of the Zambezi River have slowly moved north, leaving small streams and pools known as Mana Pools. Mana Pools National Park extends over approximately 1,600 square miles and is one of the most beautiful and dramatically located wildlife sanctuaries in Africa.

From Lake Kariba, the Zambezi River runs through the Kariba Gorge into the Zambezi Valley on its way to the Indian Ocean. Here the Zambezi, so different from the one that challenges the white-water rafters at Victoria Falls, is home to the second of Zimbabwe's World Heritage Sites, the Mana Pools (the place of four pools) National Park. The river has left behind the remains of old channels forming small seasonal pools scattered over 773 square miles surrounded by the valley escarpment. The four main large pools are near the river, with smaller pools dotted here and there, enabling a wide spectrum of animals to utilize the area.

During the dry months of May to October, the Park attracts a staggering profusion of big game, including elephant, buffalo, kudu, eland, zebra and waterbuck. The acacia albida tree, which dominates both banks of the river, has a clearly visible browse line. The protein-rich pods are highly prized by numerous game species with the elephants paying particular attention to them. Mana Pools abounds with birdlife - over 300 different species having been found there at various times of the year.

## **Thursday, August 30**

After breakfast you will be assisted to our private charter departing from Mana Pools and flying to Victoria Falls. Upon arrival, you will be met by our local representative for your road transfer to the Victoria Falls Hotel.

**Spend two nights at the Victoria Falls Hotel in an Executive Suite Room with en suite facilities, inclusive of breakfast.**



The Victoria Falls Hotel, popularly known as “the grand old lady of the Falls,” is situated in the Victoria Falls National Park, a World Heritage Site. The Edwardian-style 5-star hotel, built in 1904, was recently redecorated and refurbished and now combines the charm of the old with the convenience of the new. Set in lush tropical gardens with lily ponds, palm trees and semi-tropical shrubs, it provides the tranquility and seclusion that many guests seek.

The famous Victoria Falls are just a ten-minute walk away using the hotel’s private pathway, and “the smoke that thunders,” or “Mosi-O-Tunya” in the local dialect, is clearly audible and visible from this luxurious landmark.

The ambience of the 161-room hotel is steeped in history with all suites decorated in the gracious Edwardian style of Zimbabwe’s colonial era. Its corridors reflect and tell the history of this unique part of Africa, with particular reference to the building of the railway from Cape Town to what is now Zambia.

The opulent Livingstone Room for fine dining and dancing and the Jungle Junction with its famous breakfast and dinner buffets and ethnic entertainment in the evenings offer variety and wide choice. Stanley’s Terrace, with its clear view of the Victoria Falls Bridge connecting Zimbabwe and Zambia, is renowned for its cocktails and afternoon teas. The Terrace has been a rendezvous for adventurers in Africa for over a century.

After check-in and settling into your room, enjoy a stroll through the lovely gardens or a refreshing cocktail on the hotel terrace.

In the afternoon, Russell Gammon will escort us on a guided Tour of the Falls followed by the Life of Livingstone.

*Russell Gammon traces his ancestry in Zimbabwe back three generations. His family’s prominent position in the formative years of his country inspired a fascination with Africa’s history, and over time Russell has developed a keen understanding of past events as well as great insight into how they have shaped the culture and lives of the people of Africa. He has also made a detailed study of the life of David Livingstone, who is a distant relative by marriage. This research included accompanying an expedition led by the British explorer Sir Ranulf*

*Fiennes that retraced a portion of Livingstone's journey to Victoria Falls for the 150-year Centenary. Russell's passion for natural science combined with a love of the outdoors led to a career as a Professional Guide and for over 20 years he has been leading canoeing and walking safaris throughout Southern Africa. He has built an outstanding reputation as a Guide and Master Story Teller and his presentations on The Life of David Livingstone are highly acclaimed.*

At 4:00 p.m. you will be transferred to the Dubula Jetty to board a dinner cruise on the "Ma Robert," lovingly named after Livingstone's wife who was known as "Mother of Robert". The cruise on the Zambezi River will be hosted by Russell and Leanne Gammon. Enjoy sundowners and canapés cruising up the river as the sun sets before sitting down to a three-course dinner.

At approximately 8:30 p.m., you will be transferred back to the Victoria Falls Hotel for a 9:00 p.m. arrival.

Accommodation: Victoria Falls Hotel – Executive Suite

Meals Included: Breakfast and Dinner

### **Friday, August 31**

At 6:50 a.m., you will be picked up at the hotel and transferred to enjoy a half day Elephant Back Safari with breakfast in the bush included. Return to the hotel around 10:30 a.m.

12:30 p.m. – Optional lunch may be enjoyed on Livingstone Island. Water levels permitting, there will be an unforgettable opportunity to walk out and swim in the Devil's Pool – a natural pool on the edge of the Falls, one of the most exciting experiences ever! (Zambia visa and cost of lunch and tour not included).

Another option would be to take the 'Flight of Angels' over the Falls.

At 4:00 p.m., we will take a short walk to the Victoria Falls Station to board our carriage for departure to the Victoria Falls Bridge.

The Steam Train is a Class 14A Garret built and designed by Beyer Peacock in 1954. A marvel to see in action with its 262+262 wheel configuration, 3600 gallons of water and 7 tons of coal - culminating in a total weight of over 131 tons.



Lounge 4096, built in Gloucester, England accommodates 37 guests in luxurious surroundings. It was originally a Third Class Coach until a massive interior refurbishment in 2000 brought it to its present comfort – aptly named the David Livingstone Lounge.

We will stop at the Victoria Falls Bridge for sundowners and canapés as we watch the full moon rise and then later



disembark the train for a short walk to view the Falls. Russell will tell us about Rhode's Vision of the Cape to Cairo Railway and the building of the Victoria Falls Bridge.

At approximately 6:30 p.m., return to the Victoria Falls Hotel. This evening, you may opt to enjoy dinner and the Jungle Junction Show at the hotel (not included).

Accommodation: Victoria Falls Hotel – Executive Suite

Meals included: Breakfast

### **Saturday, September 1**

Transfer to Victoria Falls Airport to connect with your international flight home.

