



Emily Anne Staples Tuttle papers.

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# Itinerary for

MR. AND MRS. LORING STAPLES, Jr.

## MR. STAPLES

Tue. July 23	Lv. Minneapolis via Northwest Flight 718 (727) nonstop	4:00 PM
	Ar. Chicago O'Hare	5:07 pm
	SPECIAL COACH	
Tue July 23	Lv. Chicago via British Airways 296 (747) nonstop	8:35 PM
Wed. July 24	Ar. London Heathrow	10:15 AM
	BUSINESS CLASS	
Wed. July 24	Lv. London Heathrow via British Airways 056 (747) nonstop	7:45 PM
Thu. July 25	Ar. Nairobi	6:05 AM
	BUSINESS CLASS	

Joins MRS. STAPLES at INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL

This reservation secured by Abercrombie & Kent

## MR. AND MRS. STAPLES

Fri. July 26	Lv. Nairobi via Kenya Airways 604 (707) nonstop	10:00 AM
	Ar. Mombasa	10:50 AM
	FIRST CLASS	
Sat. July 27	MOMBASA BEACH HOTEL	
Sun. July 28	Lv. Mombasa via Kenya Airways 483 (DC9) nonstop	4:45 PM
	Ar. Nairobi	5:35 PM
	FIRST CLASS	
	INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL	
	This accommodation included in Abercrombie & Kent safari	
Mon. July 29	Start on ABERCROMBIE & KENT "KENYA HIGHLIGHTS SAFARI"	
	Summarized itinerary:	
	Nairobi to MOUNTAIN LODGE in the Aberdares	
Tue. July 30	To SAMBURU GAME RESERVE	
Wed. July 31	To MOUNT KENYA SAFARI CLUB	
Thu. Aug. 1	To SAFARILAND LODGE, Lake Nakuru	
Fri. Aug. 2	To MASAI Mara Game Reserve - LUXURY SAFARI CAMP	
Sat. Aug. 3	MASAI MARA	
Sun. Aug. 4	Return to Nairobi	

## HILTON HOTEL

Mon. Aug. 5	Nairobi - HILTON HOTEL
Tue. Aug. 6	Nairobi - HILTON HOTEL

Wed. Aug. 7	Lv. Nairobi via British Airways 054 (after midnight Tue	12:30 AM
	Ar. London Heathrow	7:00 AM
	BUSINESS CLASS	
	Lv. London Heathrow via British Airways 297 (747) nonstop	2:15 PM
	Ar. Chicago O'Hare	4:35 PM
	BUSINESS CLASS	
	Immigration and Customs	

	Lv. Chicago O'Hare via Northwest Airlines 341 (727) nonstop	7:20 PM
	Ar. Minneapolis	8:32 PM

SPECIAL COACH

5/24/85



TRAVEL TO KENYA  
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PREPARING FOR YOUR SAFARI

We have had years of experience in Africa and would like to give you as much information as possible so that you can properly prepare yourselves for what will be a trip of a lifetime, or, who knows, the first of a series of African visits. It is true to say that many of our visitors return again and again in following years. The African mystique has cast its spell again.

WEATHER AND CLOTHING

East Africa is in the tropics. But, the only tropical air you will encounter is at the coast, where it is tempered by the ocean. The rest of the tour is at altitudes where mornings and evenings are cool and middays are warm in the equatorial sun. You will need a lightweight rain coat as some rain can be expected. Bring a hat for sun protection, especially to wear in the vehicles when driving in the parks as the roof hatches are left open for game viewing and photography. Mostly, you will want lightweight clothes. Cotton and cotton/synthetic mixtures are most comfortable. Laundering is usually available at the lodges and hotels and is fast and inexpensive. Dress mainly for outdoor comfort. A cotton bush jacket or golf jacket with pockets is a good idea. You might want to take two sets of lightweight outer clothing for travel and viewing, so that you can wear one while the other is being laundered. Africa can be dusty, and while game viewing, tan, kahki and other neutral colors are most practical. You will want an informal change of clothes for dinner at the end of the day. A wool sweater or jacket when game viewing in the early morning hours and when out of doors in the evening is a "must." Since night time temperatures in late May, June, July and early August can drop as low as 49° F adequate clothing should be taken along.

You will not need heavy footwear. There is not much walking and you stay in the vehicle during game runs. A pair of comfortable walking shoes, tennis shoes or desert boots will do. A change of shoes at the end of the day is pleasant; therefore, an extra pair of lightweight (and for the ladies, low-heeled) shoes is recommended for evenings at the lodges.

Take a lightweight cotton, silk or nylon bathrobe, plus slippers. A swimsuit will be essential for the swimming pools that are available at most of the lodges.

For the evening, men will require a jacket and tie for dinner in Nairobi hotels. Otherwise, slacks and shirts are the form. Ladies may like to change into smart slacks, a skirt and a blouse, or a dress in the evenings. At the Mount Kenya Safari Club, jackets and a tie are obligatory for dinner.

When the weather is cold in the United States, heavy articles of clothing needed for the journey to East Africa may be left in Nairobi while you are on safari. You collect them on your return to Nairobi before leaving Africa.

PHOTOGRAPHY

a) We recommend that you bring your equipment and some film with you (also, plastic bags for dust protection). However, should you run short, all normal types of film can be bought in Nairobi and most other major towns in East Africa. If you use an unusual type, write to us and we will let you know if it is available. Please check with us on up-to-date duty restrictions.

- b) Should you be in a rush, most color films can be processed locally with the exception of Kodachrome. We recommend Ektachrome X or Kodachrome X (ASA 64) and high-speed Ektachrome for low-light conditions (all for color slides).
- c) For photographing birds and game, a telephoto lens is essential. We recommend 200 mm as the minimum size. With larger ones you get better results, but with, say a 500 mm lens, you may have problems, not only from holding but also from the shimmering heat haze. As a general rule, up to 300 mm can be satisfactorily handheld but larger lenses need some form of support. And remember, tripods are generally impractical, for game photography has to be done from inside the vehicle. Essentially, the fastest type of film available should be used in the early mornings and late evenings.
- d) On a normal safari, the average photographer uses 600 exposures of "stills" and about 2,000 feet of movie on a two-week safari.
- e) Extra batteries for your camera are a "must." They are not available on safari.
- f) All film should be hand-carried and hand-inspected at all airports. No other method can completely guarantee safety from baggage inspection equipment at various airports.

#### ACCESSORIES

A pair of dark glasses is almost a necessity, as is a hat providing protection from the sun. Many people need to use protective sunburn cream or sun screen.

If you wear prescription glasses, take an extra pair and a copy of the prescription.

Carry binoculars for added pleasure in game viewing. A lightweight six-power Japanese pair would probably be adequate and easy to hold. The very lightweight, compact Leitz Trinovid 8 x 22 binoculars, made in Germany, or Bushnell Custom 7 x 35 have been recommended.

Take a small lightweight flashlight. The electric generators at lodges are sometimes turned off after 10 or 11 o'clock at night.

Electric razors and hair dryers are a problem because of voltage, which differs in different locations. We suggest you invest in a transformer kit complete with a set of plugs. Where possible, use battery-run appliances and take extra batteries.

It is advisable to have insect repellent such as Cutters. Wash'n'Dry towelettes are always useful to freshen up while in the bush, as are Kleenex packets. Chapstick or moisturizing creams are a must for the dry climate.

Extras to consider: playing cards, backgammon set; travelling alarm clock; butterscotch or other hard candy to help curb thirst on a warm day while out in the bush; a stadium cushion (handy for those bumpy roads); and, to give away to the children, t-shirts or ball point pens.

#### VISAS AND PASSPORTS

You will require a visa for Kenya, and your passport must be valid beyond the date of your return home. Remember that your passport must be signed to be valid. It is imperative that you arrive with the proper documentation. All children over the age of 12 years must have their own passport.



## MEDICAL INFORMATION

No vaccinations are currently required for entry into Kenya from either the U.S.A. or Europe. Malaria is rare but travelling in hot bush and coastal areas requires precautions. Anti-malaria medication should be taken two weeks before arriving, during your trip, and for two weeks after your return home. Your physician should be consulted for a prescription. The larger towns have drug stores and hospitals, but you should carry with you adequate supplies of your own medicine.

## FOOD IN KENYA

It is simply delicious, offering a wide variety of selections; succulent crayfish from the Indian Ocean, English roast beef, Molo lamb, and many, many other choices. Fruits are abundant - pineapple, pawpaw, mangos, avocados as well as bananas, pears and strawberries. Fresh vegetables are always available.

## TIMES OF THE YEAR

Everybody invariably asks, "When is the best time to visit Africa?" A hard question to answer for there are no real seasons in Kenya; the country straddles the Equator!

### June, July, August

Our weather is coolest in these months with a low of 49°F (15.5°C) and a high of 80°F (26.6°C). The country is refreshingly green. The migration will be concentrated in the Western Serengeti and the Masai Mara for June and July.

### September, October, November

Delightful times to visit East Africa -- can be compared to springtime in the USA. The jacaranda and other trees are bursting into blossom and the days are warmer -- low of 65°F (18.3°C), and a high of 90°F (32.2°C). We have scattered rains ("short rains") in November which only freshen the country and lay the dust, although they can sometimes be heavy.

### December to March

These are our "summer" months. The weather is never really hot and does not often exceed 90°F (32.2°C). There are refreshingly cool mornings and nights, with very low humidity. Wildebeeste migration can be viewed in the Southern Serengeti.

### April and May

Our so-called rainy season. We say "so-called" because in the past few years there has been more rain in January (our most popular month) than in April. We prefer these months because the wildlife areas are so delightfully devoid of people, yet full of animals. The migration is still at its height and, due to our comfortable safari vehicles, our game viewing is in no way impeded.

## LUGGAGE

While we take every precaution, we cannot be held responsible for damage to, or loss of, baggage. Insurance for tour members is, therefore, strongly recommended.

Note that while 2 checked-in bags are allowed on trans-atlantic flights, elsewhere the weight limit of 44 lbs per person is still in effect for scheduled flights and is adhered to very strictly. Where light aircraft flights are included in your itinerary, you will be restricted to one bag weighing a maximum of 20 lbs. If the aircraft is flown with spare seating capacity, exceptions can be made; however, under no circumstances will more than 32 lbs. per person be allowed. These limitations will be STRICTLY adhered to.

#### FOREIGN CUSTOMS

In general, tourists are not taxed along the way on personal effects and purchases. The standard question at most frontiers is, "Have you any cigars, cigarettes, or liquor to declare?" A reasonable quantity is allowed duty free. On NO account should sheath knives or small arms be taken on safari.

#### U.S. CUSTOMS

U.S. residents who have been out of the United States for at least 48 hours may bring in, duty free, \$400.00 worth of goods, acquired abroad, but this exemption may be claimed only upon a lapse of 30 days between one entry and another. The exemption covers 200 cigars, an unlimited number of cigarettes, and one quart of liquor.

#### VOLTAGE

The usual voltage throughout Africa is 220-240 A.C. An adaptor will be necessary for appliances that run on 110-120 A.C., the normal voltage in the U.S.A.

#### CURRENCY

All East African countries have stringent exchange control regulations; their currencies are not interchangeable. We advise clients to carry as little local cash as possible. Currency should be carried in the form of travellers checks.

When crossing the border from one East African country to another, exportation of no more than Shs. 100 per person in local currency is permitted.

Travellers checks must be kept on one's person at all times and not left in hotel or lodge rooms, even if in a locked suitcase. The same applies to airline tickets and passports.

Banking hours in Nairobi are:

Monday through Friday	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Saturdays	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Sundays	Closed
Airport Bank	Open 24 hours a day

Credit cards such as American Express, VISA and Diners Club are widely accepted.

#### MAIL AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mail you expect to receive on safari in Kenya should be sent to:  
 Abercrombie & Kent Limited  
 P. O. Box 59749  
 Nairobi, Kenya

Mail should not be sent to hotels and lodges en route. Mail received by us in Nairobi will be forwarded to you where possible while on safari. We have telex facilities in all our offices which may be used for emergencies. Our camps are equipped with radios. Such mail must indicate your name and the appropriate safari name or date of arrival in Nairobi.

Our Nairobi telephone is: 334955. Our Nairobi telex is 22853 (Answer back KENTOURS).

#### AIRPORT TAX

Upon your departure from Kenya, you will be required to pay an airport departure tax of U.S. \$10.00 per person. Please put this in your passport so that it will be ready when the time comes.

#### PERSONAL SERVICES

We can recommend excellent barber and beauty salon services in Nairobi.

#### TIPPING

Most hotels and lodges include a 10% service charge on all bills, and additional gratuities are not required. On other bills, a tip of 10% is customary.

Personal gratuities for drivers are left to the discretion of our clients but we can give advice on request.

#### RESTAURANTS

1. Alan Bobbe's Bistro - on Koinange Street. Quiet, French and very, very good food. Try the Lobster Saute if available.
2. Marino's - in the International Life building. Very good Italian dining.
3. The Red Bull - on Mama Ngina Street. Excellent European menu.

#### SHOPPING GUIDE

##### CRAFTS:

1. Pan African Gallery (African Heritage) on Kenyatta Avenue. Some really fine Africa carvings and antiques.
2. Maendeleo-ya-Wanawake - Muindi Mbingu Street. Sales outlet for baskets and sisal-work done by local women in their own homes.
3. Cottage Crafts in Kaunda Street. Handicrafts made by Cottage Industries organized by the National Christian Council of Kenya.
4. East African Wildlife Society - in the Hilton Hotel Arcade - books, prints, paintings and jewelry. PROFITS TO CONSERVATION.
5. Studio 68 - Standard Street. See the "Maridadi" fabrics made in Nairobi.
6. Jewels and Antiques - Kimathi Street. The supermarket of souvenir shopping.

##### JEWELERS:

7. Elton's - Standard Street. African gemstones and mineral specimens.
8. African Jewels - Kimathi Street. Good original jewelry.

## CLOTHING:

9. Esquire - Kaunda Street. Top quality tailored and ready-made safari suits.
10. Bentley's - Mama Ngina Street
11. Colpro's - Kimathi Street. Goods ready-made.
12. Abdullah bin Abdullah in Tom Mboya Street. Excellent selection of colorful African fabrics.
13. Bata Shoe Company in the Hilton Hotel. For safari boots.

## GALLERIES:

14. Nairobi Galleries - opposite the New Stanley Hotel. Very fine collection of oils, watercolors, drawings and bronzes, mostly of African wildlife.
15. Gallery Watatu - Standard Street. Some very good modern paintings.
16. East African Wildlife Society in the Hilton Hotel Arcade. Wildlife paintings and watercolors by local artists.
17. Firmin Gallery, Mama Ngina Street. Wildlife paintings and watercolors by local artists.

SOME USEFUL SWAHILI PHRASES

Hello.....Jambo	Hot, fire.....Moto
How are you?.....Habari?	Cold.....Baridi
Good, fine.....Mzuri	Ice.....Barafu
(like the state Missouri)	
Please.....Tafadhali	Night.....Usiku
Thank you.....Asante	Goodbye.....Kwaheri
Very Much.....Sana	Let's go.....Tuende
May I come in?.....Hodi?	Yes.....Ndio
Come in, near.....Karibu	No.....Hapana

SUGGESTED BOOKS TO READ

- A FIELD GUIDE TO THE NATIONAL PARKS OF EAST AFRICA, John G. Williams, Houghton-Mifflin 1968
- A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF EAST & CENTRAL AFRICA, John G. William, Collins, London
- OUT OF AFRICA, Isak Dinesen, Random House 1972
- AFRICAN GENESIS, Robert Ardrey, Dell Publishing Company, New York 1957
- SERENGETI SHALL NOT DIE, Bernard Grzimek, E.P. Dutton 1959
- AMONG THE ELEPHANTS, Ian and Oria Douglas-Hamilton, Viking Press 1976
- ORIGINS: WHAT NEW DISCOVERIES REVEAL ABOUT THE EMERGENCE OF OUR SPECIES AND ITS POSSIBLE FUTURE, Richard Leakey, Dutton 1977



THE WHITE NILE, Alan Moorehead, Harper & Row 1971

AFRICA - NATURAL HISTORY, Leslie Brown, Random House 1965

THE LUNATIC EXPRESS, Charles Miller, MacMillan 1971

PORTRAITS IN THE WILD, Cynthia Moss, Houghton Mifflin 1975

THE LONG AFRICAN DAY, Norman Myers, MacMillan 1972

SERENGETI: KINGDOM OF PREDATORS, George B. Schaller, Alfred A. Knopf 1972

THE FLAME TREES OF THIKA, Elspeth Huxsley, William Morrow & Co., New York 1959  
Paperback: Pyramid Publications, Inc.

YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

Despite all the information contained herein, it is very important that you contact your travel agent if you have any further questions.

STOP PRESS:

Single rooms: Since the capacity of the lodges is small, single rooms cannot always be guaranteed. If you paid for sinle room and had to share while on safari, please let us know at the end of the tour when and where you had to share so that we can send you the necessary refund.

NEITHER SINGLE ROOMS NOR PRIVATE BATHS CAN EVER BE GUARANTEED AT THE TREE HOTELS.

December 1, 1984



John W. McKeown  
Regional & European Marketing Manager  
Home Furnishings

AUGUST 22, 1985

DEAR SAFARI PERSON:

ENCLOSED IS A VERY PLEASANT REMINDER OF OUR RECENT TRIP TO KENYA. IT SHALL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE WE FORGET SUCH A MARVELOUS EVENT.

THE REMAINDER OF OUR TRIP WAS ALSO MARVELOUS; SOUTH AFRICA WAS DELIGHTFUL, AND RIO WAS AN IDEAL PLACE TO WIND THINGS UP -- ESPECIALLY THE BEACHES AND THE PRETTY GIRLS, WHICH WERE PARTICULARLY NICE FOR JOHN AND ME.

I HOPE OUR PATHS WILL CROSS SOMEDAY IN SOME DISTANT AND EXOTIC PLACE. DOES THE NORTH POLE DO ANYTHING FOR ANYBODY?

OUR VERY BEST REGARDS AND BEST WISHES TO YOU FOR THE FUTURE.

*Sincerely,  
John & Gracey McKeown*

*Loring,*

*Hope your pictures turned out - Mine were great - really excellent. It was very pleasant being with you for such an exciting event.*

*If you're ever in Atlanta, I hope you'll give us a call.*

*Regards  
Jeh*



Alene Greenman  
95 Clay Cliffe Drive  
Janka Bay, Minn. 55331



Emily Ann Staples  
1640 Vanthier Lane  
Plymouth, Minnesota 55447



Emily Ann,

Where are you? I think  
I'm finally back to Minneapolis  
and happily settling in.

Enclosed - a reminder of a  
happy time. It was fun, wasn't  
it? Let's have lunch - ok -

Fondly,  
Alene

















































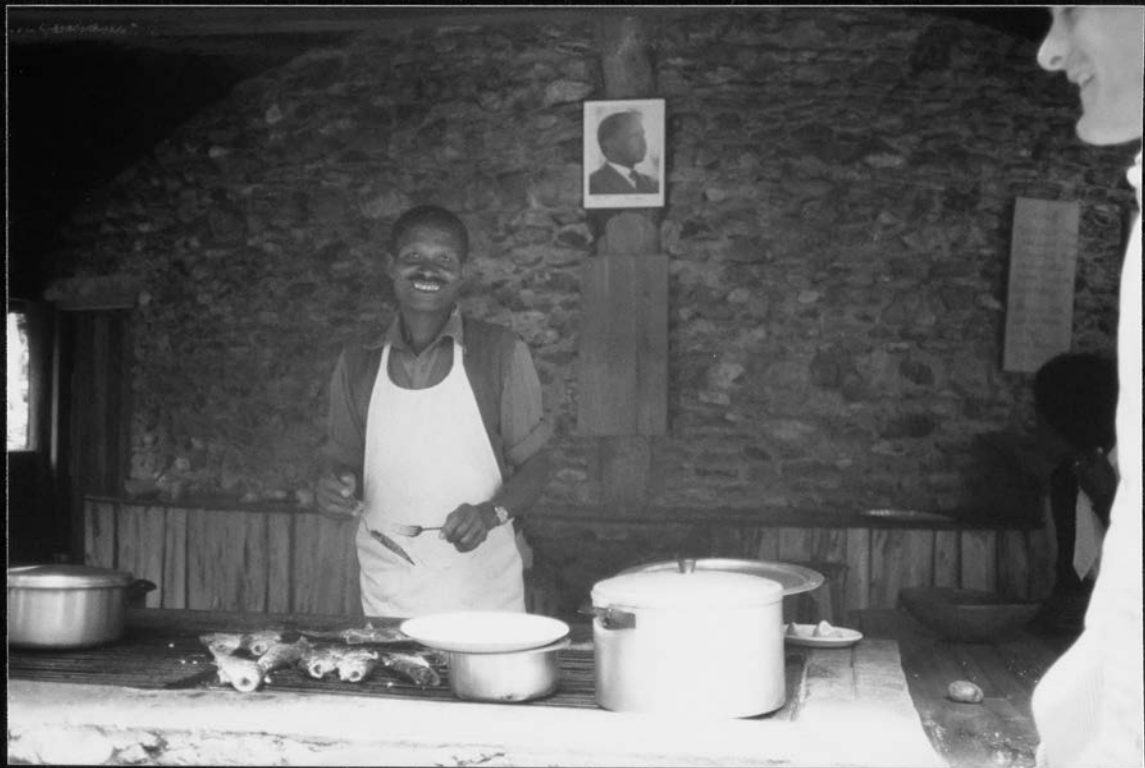


























RIVER LODGE SANBURU  
KENYA

LATITUDE 00° 36' NORTH

LONGITUDE 37° 02' EAST

ALTITUDE 2700 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL

40 MILES NORTH OF NAIROBI





























































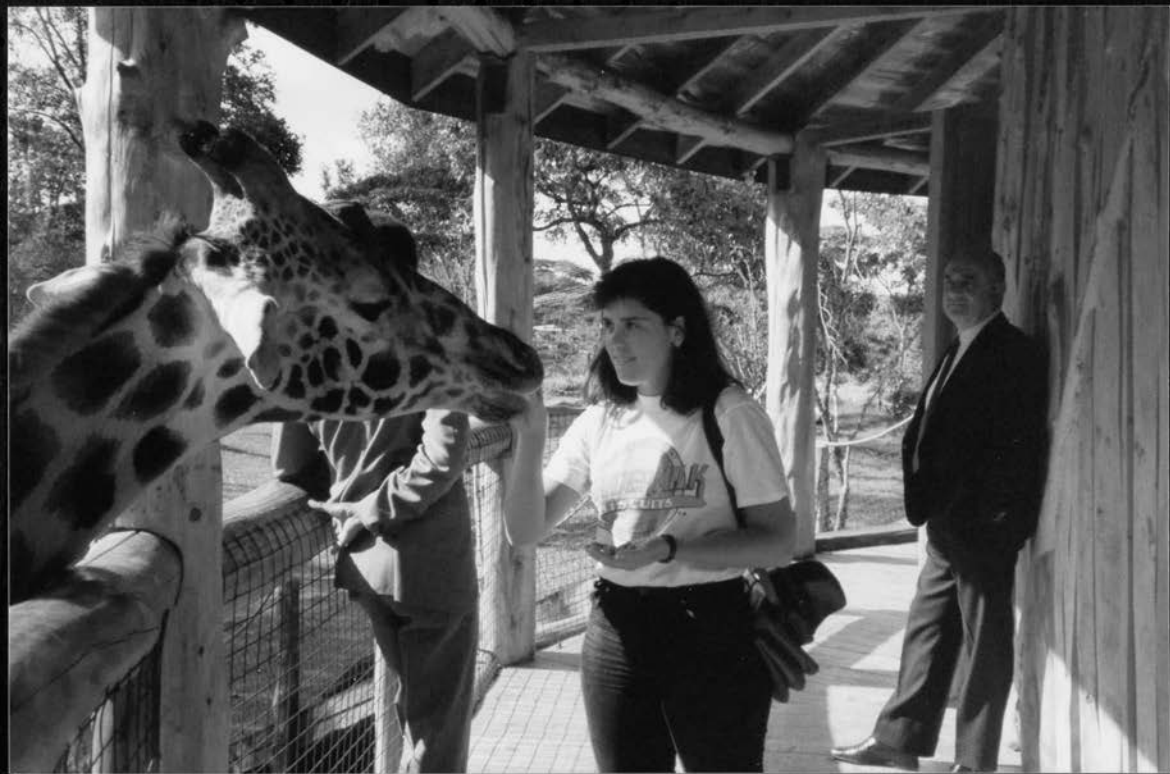






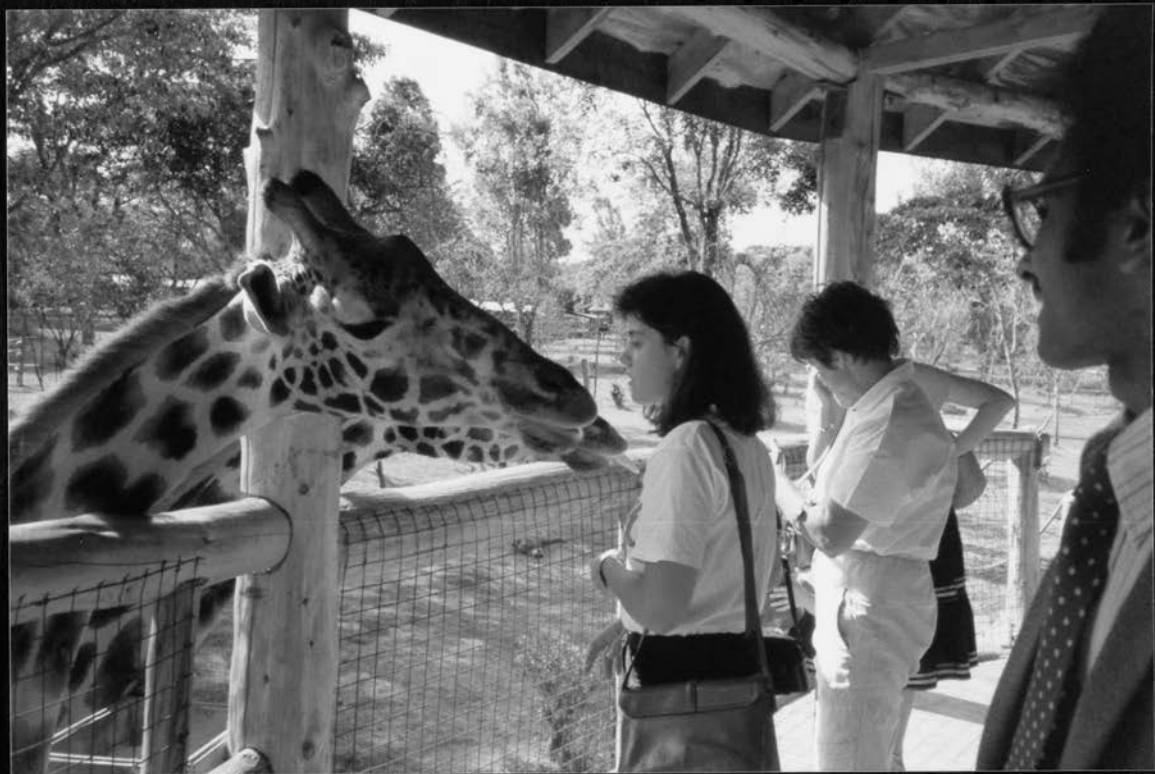






























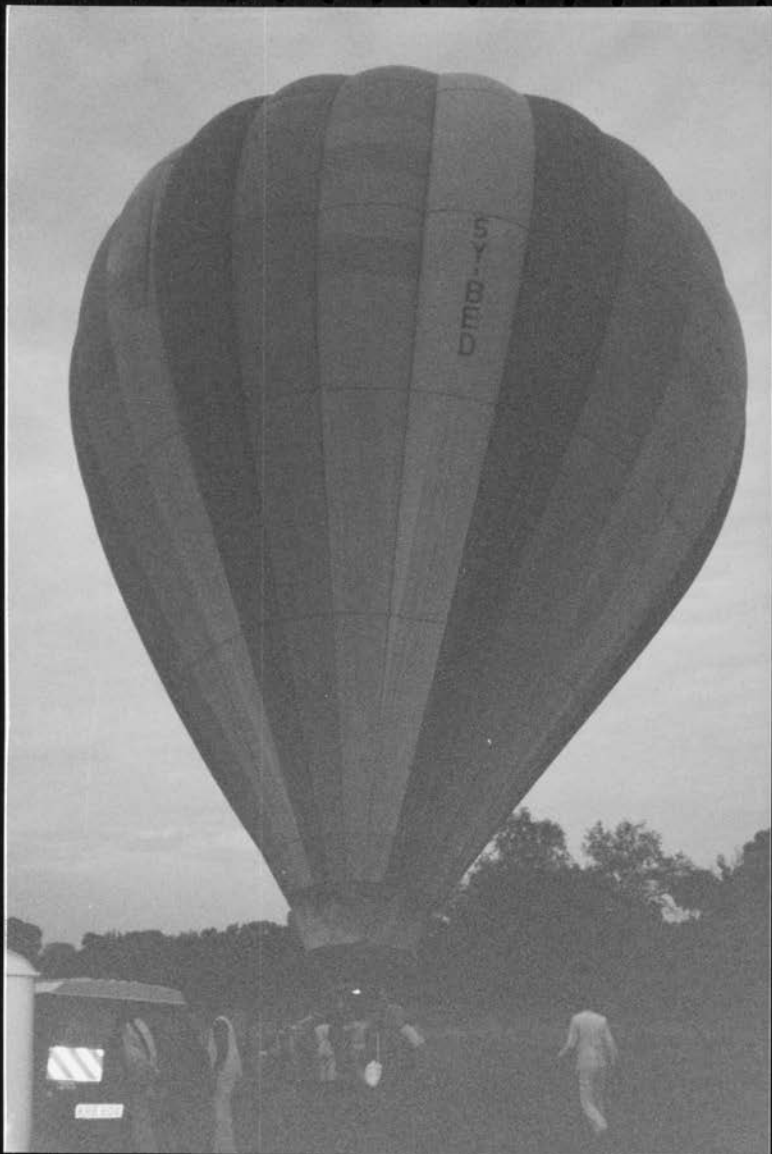
















# In Search of Karen Blixen's Kenya

Although much has changed, something of the land she celebrated remains

By ERROL TRZEBINSKI

Of the thousands of tourists who travel to Kenya each year, many have been inspired to do so after reading the classic "Out of Africa" by Karen Blixen, who wrote under the pen name Isak Dinesen. It has not seemed to matter to them that everything she described has been unceasingly compromised. Her ability to observe with the eye of a painter, to write with the sensibility of a poet, has insured that the fundamental beauty of the book remains untarnished.

With the release of Sydney Pollack's film "Out of Africa," Karen Blixen's Kenya has now been depicted for an immeasurably wider audience, from which may come a new wave of travelers. It must be borne in mind, therefore, that what is on the screen is a world long past; in the interest of verisimilitude, the land Karen Blixen wrote about had to be relocated, her house reconstructed farther up the road and the whole of old Nairobi rebuilt, from the railroad station to the Norfolk Hotel.

The reality of modern Kenya is, of course, at odds with this cinematic image. The problems that face most African countries today are well known: the overpopulation, the breakdown of tradition and tribal culture, the shifting of basic values and the decimation of the game, those legendary herds that roamed the precincts of the tented camp that once was Nairobi.

Yet for the traveler who would seek it out, some of the spirit remains of Karen Blixen's Africa, the land where she lived from 1914 to 1931, ran a coffee plantation, married and was divorced from her husband, Baron Bror Blixen-Finecke, and fell in love with the aristocrat and hunter Denys Finch Hatton. A visitor seeking it out might go to her house in the Nairobi suburb of Karen; to the grave of Denys Finch Hatton, in the Ngong Hills; to the coast at Takaungu, north of Mombasa, where he had a house; to Chiromo, once the home of Karen Blixen's friends the McMillans (it is now an extension of Nairobi University), and to Nairobi's city library, which was built as a memorial to Sir Northrup McMillan and which contained many items of furniture that Karen Blixen sold to Lady McMillan before she left Africa.

Then there is the Railway Museum, which houses the early carriages known as "horse boxes" and all the fascinating paraphernalia of the journey from Mombasa to Nairobi, which everyone experienced unless, like the early settler Lord Delamere, they trekked in from the north. Next comes the Muthaiga Club (out of bounds except to members) and, much farther afield, Voi, in southeastern Kenya, where Denys Finch Hatton died when his plane crashed.

Here is the house among the sisal plantation where he brought the Prince of Wales in 1928 and where a sprung floor was specially installed upstairs, lest the Prince might want to hold a party and dance there, after his spartan life in the bush. Then comes the coast and Takaungu, the house Denys Finch Hatton built. It has changed ownership several times and is seldom occupied. From its tiny veranda, the scenery is still as Karen Blixen described it, "of a divine, clean, barren marine greatness, with the blue Indian Ocean before you, the deep creek of Takaungu (sic) to the south. . . ." When the tide is out you can still "walk miles away seawards from the house, as on a tremendous, somewhat unevenly paved piazza, picking up strange long peaked shells and starfish."

One can read from the book here and know how utterly unchanged the place is; the water on the incoming tide sighs in the caves as she described it. Behind the house is the weathered ruin of an Arab mosque so thickly enshrouded in creeper that unless one knew it was there, one would not suspect its existence. The dhows that she wrote about still can be spotted beyond the reef, as they come in annually on the kaskasi, the monsoon that has blown them on their trading course from the Persian Gulf to East Africa.

They bring mangrove poles, dried shark, brass chests and Persian carpets, less exotic cargoes than of yore, but the atmosphere in the old port of Mombasa at Easter where they unload is still vivid despite the fact that the dhows now have engines to assist their lateen-sailed progress from the wind.

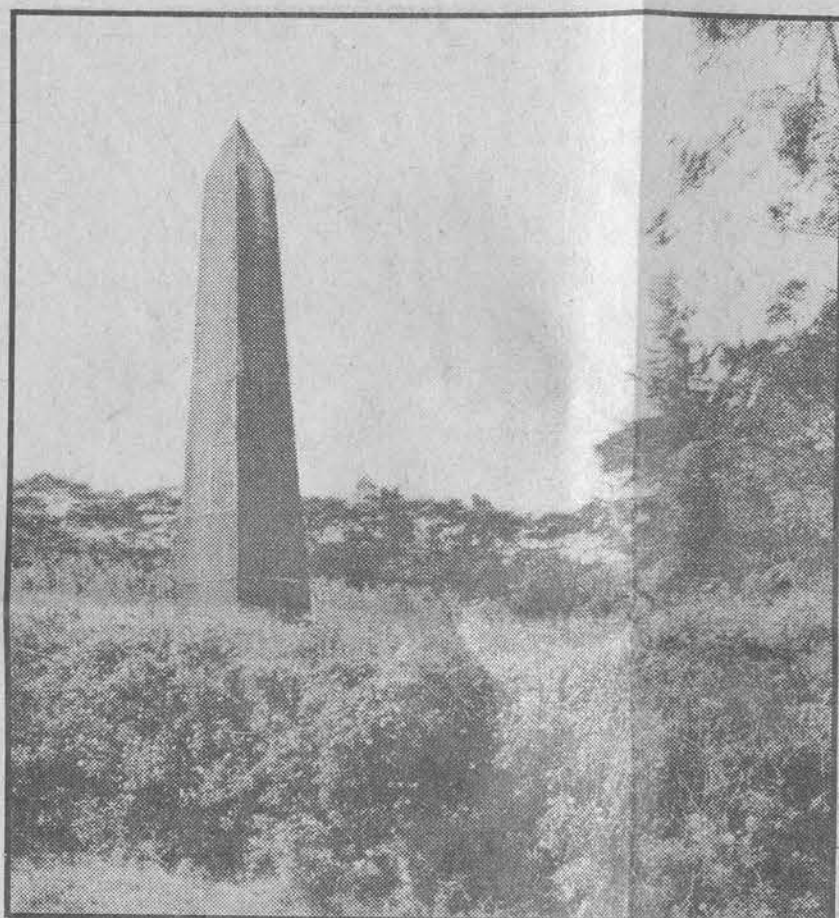
In addition to "Out of Africa," others of Karen Blixen's works, such as the "Seven Gothic Tales," contain references to things that touched the writer's life. Take "the nether millstone" in "The Roads Around Pisa," Karen Blixen told in "Out of Africa" how she acquired a millstone after the millers to whom it belonged were murdered. It was fashioned into a table where she would take tea, pay off her employees or smoke a cigarette late at night. There, too, she sat with Denys Finch Hatton one New Year's watching the new moon and the planets Venus and Jupiter "all close together, in a group on the sky; it was such a radiant sight that you could hardly believe it to be real, and I have never seen it again."

In the bush, the nights are just as radiant. There are still many experiences she described that are here for the taking; that which has since been altered by encroachment and time merely seems now like raw material for her book, and of interest purely from that aspect.

I have wondered if those visiting Kenya carrying "Out of Africa" as their talisman and guide have felt thwarted by confrontation with reality—the old house at Karen, depleted of the acres of coffee and edged in now by garden suburb, not to mention the ugly modern construction of a women's college that has been built cheek by jowl with it.

Perhaps they will have searched in vain for Denys Finch Hatton's burial place in the Ngong Hills. I have been to it so often that I am appalled by my own ability to miss the

ERROL TRZEBINSKI is the author of a biography of Denys Finch Hatton, "Silence Will Speak" (University of Chicago Press), and "The Kenya Pioneers," to be published by Norton in April. She lives in Kenya.



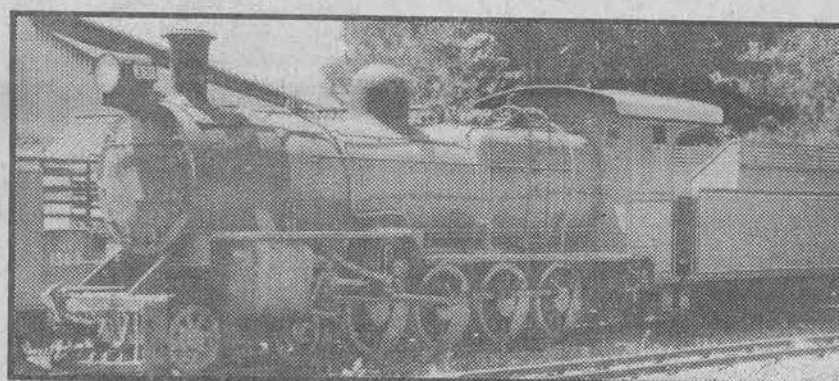
Denys Finch Hatton's grave in the Ngong Hills.

W. R. Cooper



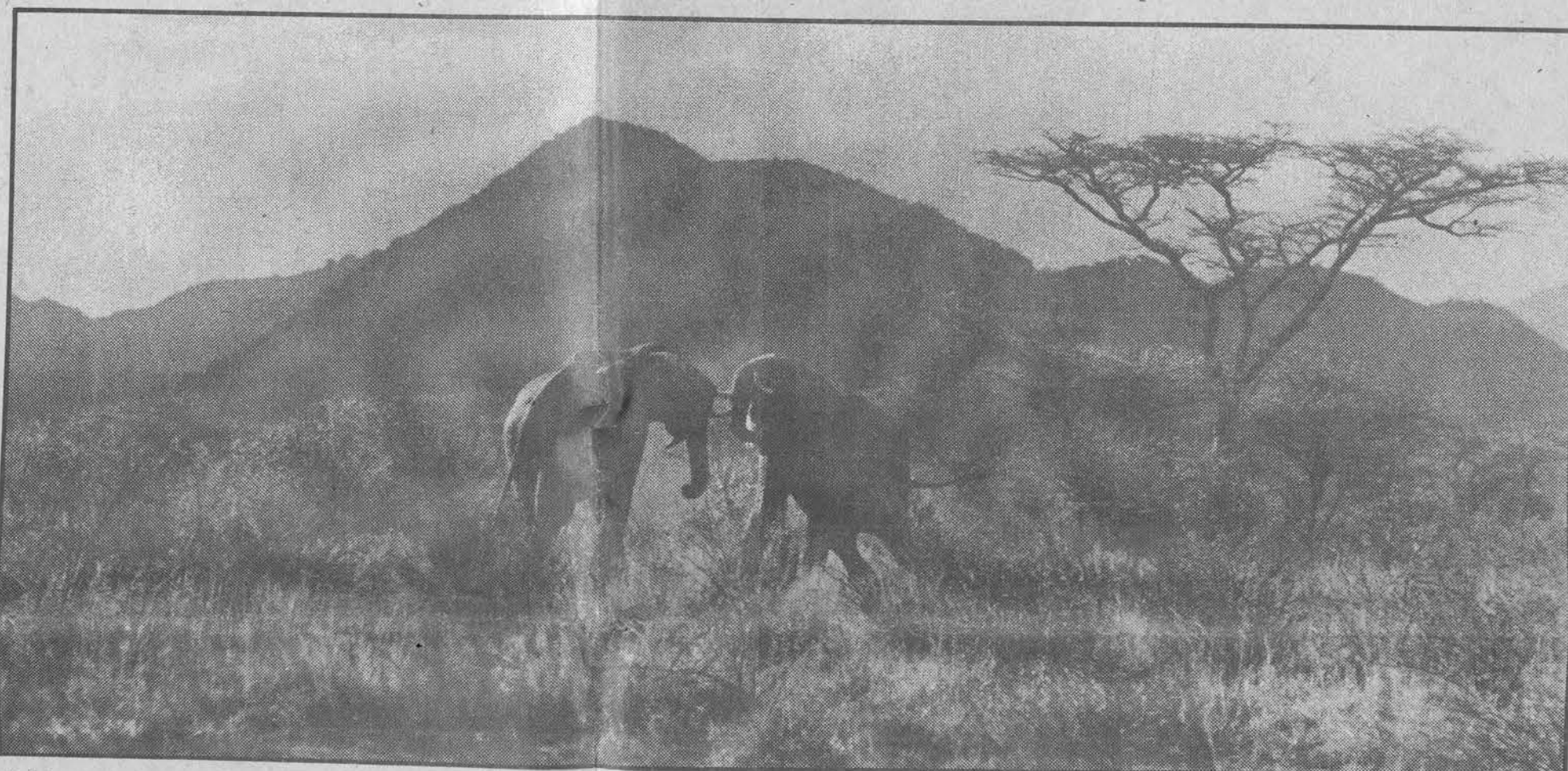
Karen Blixen's house outside Nairobi.

W. R. Cooper



The Railway Museum in the capital.

W. R. Cooper



Adolescent elephants sparring playfully in Kenya.

Karen Tweedy-Holmes

narrow path that leads to it. The terrain is domesticated now by hundreds of shambas—small farms with their neat red earth homesteads surrounded by thick shrubbery—strangely European boundaries for small holdings where Kikuyu children tend their fathers' flocks and women grow the maize.

But the obelisk is there, among these plots with tall, untidy eucalyptus trees that have subdued the wildness of the hills. The buffalo herds no longer wander freely from the thickets here to graze on the green slopes higher up. But standing on that ledge, after the steep climb from the dirt road, one can look out over the city of Nairobi and its sprawl of suburbs, and when cloud does not obscure their summits, see both Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya, far distant.

The brass plaque commemorating Denys Finch Hatton was stolen years ago from the obelisk. It bore the inscription: "He prayeth well, who loveth well / Both man and bird and beast" from Coleridge's "Rime of the Ancient Mariner." It seems to matter little that it is gone, now that one discovers that Denys Finch Hatton was responsible for the more than 5,000 square miles of the Serengeti National Park in neighboring Tanzania having been made into a game sanctuary in 1929; what more fitting monument could he have?

One can no longer detect the roof of Karen Blixen's Mbogani House from this spot—it is lost among the many others and the trees—but it is possible, if an eagle soars overhead, to imagine their picnics, in these hills, of almonds, raisins and wine; to imagine her composing her poem that begins, "The eagle's shadow runs across the plain / Towards the distant, nameless, air-blue mountains," and to reflect also on the struggle she had to get Finch Hatton's coffin to this spot.

One can understand her need to hoist a cloth banner high enough above the grave to be seen from the roof of her house in those last grief-filled months before she left Africa forever. It is not hard to imagine how the lions came later to bask on the warm flagstones of the grave, lazily in the sunshine, kings of all they surveyed below.

In the city itself, the Norfolk Hotel, which opened in 1904, has been renovated after a bombing in 1980. Old photographs and artifacts now insure that the atmosphere of the past pervades its corridors. It is still the favorite meeting place for tourists and locals and a busy watering hole at sundown.

The Indian bazaar is now mainly inhabited by African traders, but they sell the same

spices, and its flavor, if less Oriental, remains. In the outlying Parklands area, the bungalows with their fondant colors and decorative Eastern plasterwork can still be found.

Then there is the game and the primeval terrain of these animals—the green Masai Mara, where lion abound; the vast stretches of red-soiled Tsavo where elephant wander, browse, breed and, when the rains fail, perish. The bush still holds as much fascination today, because nothing is certain there, ever, except that night follows day.

One of the greatest experiences that newcomers find in Africa is the rediscovery of their own senses. The clutter of civilization is pared away as the limitless spaces are confronted for the first time; there is a renewed sense of perspective, proportion and one's own insignificance.

Anyone who enjoys watching creatures in their own habitat will not tire of looking at giraffe, gentle creatures, seeming ever to move in slow motion as they stretch their long necks even farther to nibble a succulent leaf from the top of an acacia thorn; they actually do appear to resemble Karen Blixen's perception of them as "rare, long-stemmed, speckled gigantic flowers."

One may be watching from Salt Lick Lodge

in Tsavo West National Park as 400 buffalo move forward to drink under the artificially moonlit pools at night. I have seen them emerge from the steam generated by their own numbers, and, to quote Karen Blixen again, it was just as if "the dark and massive, iron-like animals with the mighty horizontally swung horns were not approaching, but were being created before my eyes and sent out as they were finished."

But to see Africa only from the safety of a packed minibus, to experience it only in the comfort and security of a lodge, is to remain an outsider. Without walking through the bush or waking under green canvas, or listening to the cicadas, crickets and frogs at sundown; without being disturbed in the night by the haunting call of the hyena or waking at dawn as the mists roll back in the sunrise, you will not have truly experienced the magic of safari.

To know the land and its inhabitants, you must take risks, confront nature on your own feet, wash in water brought by hand from the nearest river. Then you may experience that "vital assurance and lightness of heart" that Karen Blixen described upon waking in the highlands, in those far-off days when she "woke in the morning and thought: Here I am, where I ought to be."

## Nairobi, the Ngong Hills and Beyond

By NANCY COOPER

The best time to view game in East Africa is generally from November through February; the period from August through October is also popular. November and December can be rainy. Visas are required for American citizens by both Kenya and Tanzania.

Most visitors to Kenya come on a packaged safari, sometimes combining Kenya with the Serengeti National Park and other highlights of Tanzania. Examples of the programs of several companies that specialize in tours to East Africa are described below.

It is also possible to make individual arrangements, either before departure from the United States or after arrival in Nairobi. The latter approach can be time-consuming,

and with it one runs the risk of not being able to find accommodations during popular periods. One should at least have a hotel booked in Nairobi before arrival.

It is wise to take the same precautions in Nairobi as one would in any city. Don't walk around there or in Mombasa late at night alone; one should also not go outside at Kitani Lodge in Tsavo West at night. Be careful with your wallet, and lock your car when you leave it.

### On Your Own

The individual traveler, with a little planning, the willingness to extend his interest to the entire colonial period and the spirit to go it alone, can visit sites that figured in Karen Blixen's life, such as her home in the Nairobi suburb of Karen, and then go on to places that are still as wild and almost as empty as they were when Nairobi was a sea of mud defined by the railway station at one end and the Norfolk Hotel at the other.

### Nairobi

Today international flights arrive at Kenyatta Airport; taxi fare to the center of Nairobi is about \$10. A good taxi company is Kenatco Cab (in Nairobi, 21561; in Mombasa, 20340).

The Norfolk Hotel (Harry Thuku Road; 335422) is the oldest hotel in Nairobi, with a display of old carriages in its bird-filled central garden and with many pictures that depict the original ambience of the establishment. A double room costs \$90 with private bath and breakfast. In its formal restaurant, the Ibis Grill, one can get an immaculately cooked and served meal for \$80 for two with wine. A less expensive meal or a drink is available on the Norfolk's balcony, at the Delamere Coffee Shop. It was on this balcony that all the early settlers sat drinking and eating while in transit to the various parts of the country that were to become home. A meal for two will cost about \$20. (Unless otherwise noted, meal prices exclude the cost of liquor.) Food is English style, including

very good fish and chips. The Norfolk also has a third dining room, the Delamere Restaurant, with a buffet lunch and dinner. The buffet, which includes salads, cold meats and perhaps a curry, costs \$20 for two. The Norfolk accepts American Express, Diners' Club and MasterCard.

Highlights of Nairobi include the McMillan Memorial Library on Banda Street, where there is an Africana Room that contains many first-edition books. Downstairs, in the reference room, are newspapers dating from 1906 onwards. There is also a box of photographs dating from the 1880's. A few hours in the library can be a very rewarding experience. The library is open from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. weekdays and until 1 P.M. on Saturdays; admission is \$1.25.

The Nairobi National Museum, on Museum Hill, near the Museum Roundabout, offers fascinating exhibits on humans and animals alike. Admission is \$1.85. Hours are 9:30 A.M. to 6 P.M. daily. There is also a Snake Park

Continued on Following Page



# Kenya Seen Through Writers' Eyes

The works of Dinesen and her contemporaries still enhance visitors' perceptions

By NANCY MILLER

Early Friday morning Abde pulled up in front of the Norfolk Hotel in Nairobi. Lean, with light black skin and dark wavy hair, he was impatient, even moderately disdainful, of the tourists who come to visit Kenya's game preserves. Most often he spoke in a hoarse bellow, as if to make up for the gaps in his English.

For all his deficiencies, Abde had one major attraction. As he put it, he is the brother of Saufe, son of Farah — Farah, who merited an essay named in his honor in Isak Dinesen's "Shadows on the Grass." As her personal servant, Farah is inextricably linked to the story of love and loss told in "Out of Africa," perhaps one of the most enlightening literary guides to Kenya.

For Western visitors an African journey can be a humbling event: the landscape is queer, undecipherable. And the guidebooks, with their maps and explanations, cannot easily teach those born on other continents how and what to take in. But when viewed through some of its great memoirists, Kenya reveals its intimate self. Patterns emerge as when seen from high above in an airplane. It was just this vantage point that caused Dinesen to exclaim about her flights over Kenya in 1930 and 1931: "I see. This was the idea."

Through such writers as Isak Dinesen (Karen Blixen), Elspeth Huxley and Beryl Markham one almost acquires the gift of time. With these women as companions and commentators, the newcomer can almost catch them whispering in the wind: "Now, do you see?"

The heart of any visit to Kenya entails a safari — Arabic for trip — to one of its famed game preserves where the giraffe, zebra and gazelle mingle together as if they were guests at an open-air cocktail party. At the Masai Mara astride the Tanzanian border in western Kenya, the animals magically appear and disappear. The sun and the silence are unnerving.

"This country frightens me," says Lettice Palmer in Elspeth Huxley's childhood memoir "The Flame Trees of Thika." Huxley ar-

NANCY MILLER writes frequently on travel and literary subjects.

rived in Kenya in 1913 at the age of 5. Lettice Palmer was one of her early neighbors, singular for her femininity and the incongruity of her presence in a raw, untamed Kenya.

"I don't mean the insects and the idea of snakes (I haven't actually seen one)," Lettice Palmer says, "or even the lions and rhinos. No, it isn't that which alarms me. It's a sort of quiet, smiling, destructive ferocity. Doesn't it strike you as strange that nothing people have created here has survived? Not even a few traces? No ruins or cities or temples — no ancient overgrown roads — no legends of past empires — no statues hidden in the ground — no tombs or burial mounds? No sign that generations of people have lived here, lived and died."

In "West With the Night," Beryl Markham also recognizes the animate void Lettice felt in Kenya's game preserves. But Markham, who came to Kenya as a small child in 1906, has a more benign attitude. Of the Serengeti Plains cutting across the Masai Mara, she writes: "They are endless and they are empty, but they are as warm with life as the waters of a tropic sea."

Nonetheless, to the newcomer, the sky and large billowing clouds seem a touch too close to the ground. And at night the southern and northern constellations creep out, crossing the heavens at an unnaturally quick pace. But for Dinesen, it is the air itself that distinguishes her Africa:

"The air in Africa is more significant in the landscape than in Europe, it is filled with loomings and mirages, and is in a way the real stage of activities. In the heat of the midday, the air oscillates and vibrates like the string of a violin, lifts up long layers of grassland with thorn-trees and hills on it, and creates vast silvery expanses of water in the dry grass."

Nairobi, Kenya's capital, has changed drastically since these women first set pen to paper. It is no longer a muddy, one-street town, but Nairobi still has some of the places they frequented, including the Norfolk Hotel, where Huxley's family first stayed in Kenya, the Government House, the Indian bazaars and the Nairobi racecourse.

Once she had grown too old to hunt barefoot in the bush with her friends of the Nandi tribe, Markham — who was also the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean from east to west — spent a great deal of time at the Nairobi racecourse, where she



Collection of Peter H. Beard/Visions

Karen Blixen around 1930 with Denys Finch Hatton, left, and an unidentified companion.

watched the horses she had trained compete. (She apparently still visits the race course every Sunday, though she does not appreciate being approached.)

To prepare for the most important race of her career, Markham took her prize thoroughbred to the shores of Lake Nakuru with its famed bird sanctuary lying just 97 miles north of Nairobi in the Great Rift Valley. In "West With the Night," she shares with the reader the best place from which to view the lake: the Menegai Crater.

The Menegai Crater? When I asked Abde to drive there, he quickly developed a long list of reasons why he couldn't possibly detour from the main road. It would take too long. The road was terrible. He hadn't been there in years. He didn't know where it was.

The six-mile road to the crater was terri-

ble, but not hard to find. Narrow and badly rutted, it climbs up and up far above the Great Rift Valley. Tiny houses, barefoot boys with small herds of goats and fields of maize appear sporadically along its slope. About halfway up is a turnoff to an office of the Voice of Kenya, the state radio station. Then, suddenly, a wide open space appears, embellished only by a signpost noting the distances to such places as New York City, Calcutta and Tokyo. Just a few yards beyond, the hill abruptly ends. To one side is the 1,640-foot deep depression of the crater, which is now covered with lush greenery. To the other side lie the township and lake of Nakuru.

"There were no subtle strokes in the creation of Nakuru," writes Markham. "As long as the day lasts Nakuru is no lake at all, but a crucible of pink and crimson fire — each of

its flames, its million flames, struck from the wings of a flamingo. Ten thousand birds of such exorbitant hue, caught in the scope of an eye, is a sight that loses credence in one's own mind years afterward. But ten thousand flamingos on Lake Nakuru would be a number startling in its insignificance, and a hundred thousand would barely begin the count."

To the south, also overlooking the Great Rift Valley and just 15 miles southeast of Nairobi, are the Ngong Hills, rising more than 8,000 feet above sea level and 2,000 feet above the home of Karen Blixen. The landscape is astonishingly familiar from her "Out of Africa" narrative. "The trees," she writes, "had a light delicate foliage, the structure of which was different from that of the trees in Europe."

"Do you not see?"

## Nairobi, Ngong

Continued From Preceding Page

with many outdoor exhibits opposite the entrance to the museum. Admission: \$1.85.

At the Railway Museum, on Moi Avenue just beyond the station itself, visitors may climb up and sit in the old engines, passenger cars and dining cars. There are also displays of original documents, including menus, and photographs. Admission: 30 cents.

Wandering around Nairobi, one can find many unexpected places where its character comes to life. Walking toward the city from the vicinity of the Norfolk Hotel, one can stroll down Muindi Mbingu Street and pause at Jeevanjee Gardens. In this seedy-looking park, there is a small statue of Queen Victoria, her now-unwashed face set in its regal expression. Farther up the same street, past the open-fronted shops selling a seemingly incongruous array of dusty goods, is the City Market, offering a profusion of vegetables, flowers, local crafts and mingled smells. (Bargaining is a tradition.)

### Restaurants in Nairobi

Lunch is served at the Railway Restaurant, which probably hasn't changed since the railway station was built. The china and silver often dates from Kenya Uganda Railway days. Lunch is \$15 for two.

A good spot to stop while strolling around the city is the New Stanley Hotel (Kimathi Street; telephone 333233). Here you can sit outside and have a drink or eat European-style fare while contemplating the Thorn Tree, which was used as a kind of message center long before a postal system was instituted in Kenya. People would skewer a letter for someone living elsewhere, and a traveler heading in that direction would carry the letter, perhaps months later, to its destination. The tree is now encased in concrete, and the traffic roars by a few feet away, but you can sit back, tune out the street sounds and try to imagine receiving a letter that had been written weeks before being brought unexpectedly by a traveler you might not even know. A meal at The New Stanley's Thorn Tree Cafe will cost about \$10 for two. The food is very good, rather simple fare served in a leisurely fashion.

Virtually every eating establishment in Kenya offers some form of excellent curry, thanks to the country's early Asian arrivals. The Three Bells (Tom Mboya Street; 20628) is a casual spot that is popular with local residents. A meal costs around \$10 for two. A slightly more exotic atmosphere is offered by the Minar (Banda Street, near the library; 29999; reservations recommended). In a décor of carved wooden screens and Indian tapestries, it offers an extensive menu of well-prepared dishes. Specialties include chicken kebab and seafood. A meal costs around \$20 for two. American Express and Diners' Club are accepted.

### On the Road

Using a hotel in Nairobi as a base, visitors can rent a car and spend several days exploring. A week's unlimited-mileage rental of a small family car will cost around \$370; a small four-wheel-drive vehicle, which should not be necessary unless it is raining, costs about \$450. Driving is on the left, and standard shift is the norm. (Contact a local travel agency such as Let's Go Travel in Nairobi.)

29539.) Taking water with you on the road is always necessary (cheap plastic bottles are readily available), as is making sure you have informed the hotel of your destination and time of return. Check that the car's spare tire and jack are in order and that you have a tank of gas before going off the main roads. (Gas — actually gasohol here, with 10 percent of an alcoholic product mixed in — costs about \$2 a gallon.)

### The Suburb of Karen

In the Ngong Hills outside Nairobi, the house where Karen Blixen lived is being turned into a museum. At the moment one can only see the outside, but it will be formally opened to the public in the near future; the date has not yet been set. Admission will be about \$1.85. The house, on Karen Road, is next door to Karen College and no longer bordered by bush country. However, by walking down into the garden with its immense cactus trees and heavy foliage, one can look out to the Ngong Hills above the habitation line and feel some sense of what the atmosphere must have been like when the house was built.

After leaving the house, drive to the Magadi Road, turn off onto the C148, clock 4.6 kilometers and turn into the track on your left. This will lead you to the grave of Denys Finch Hatton, in the middle of an African shamba, or farm. The climb is somewhat steep, and it can be muddy in rainy weather. Also, some caution should be used in the Ngong Hills area; travelers are advised not to go there alone. From the grave you look over the area where the house in Karen is, and although it is virtually impossible to single out the house, you can see how each place once would have been visible to the other.

Completing the circuit, you can follow the C148 until reaching Ngong Town, where you should bear left, following the D523, which will take you to the northernmost end of the Ngong Hills. The road follows the shape of the hills and will bring you back to the Magadi Road. This part of Ngong is far less inhabited, and there is a fair amount of game to be seen, especially giraffe. There are some of the Masai manyatta, or encampments, and every so often you will come across a herdsman in his traditional garb.

There are not many places to eat in the Karen area, as the residents either go to their clubs or drive into Nairobi; you may wish to plan a light picnic in the car.

The one restaurant in Karen is arguably the best in Kenya. It is called the Horseman at Karen Roundabout (882033). With its English country-pub décor, it is a cozy place to get an excellent meal. The menu changes frequently, often including some form of game; one recent dinner featured saddle of impala and a coconut fish soup. A meal for two with wine will cost around \$50. Reservations are required and Diners' Club is accepted. This is not the place to go after a day's driving; it should be saved for an evening when you've had the time to change for dinner.

### Wildlife Reserves

The Nairobi National Park, literally part of Nairobi, offers 40 square miles of game reserve right next to the city on the Mombasa Road. The entry fees are \$1.85 for the car, plus \$1.85 a person. This park abounds in virtually every type of game except elephants. Maps are available for \$1.85. You can get out of the car at the hippo pools and take a stroll



Marc and Evelyn Bernheim/Woodfin Camp

Curious giraffes peer at a car on the Mombasa highway.

along the river. The biggest hazard is generally from the monkeys, who will grab anything left lying around. Lock your car and don't leave anything on the hood; it will not be there when you return.

Some three and a half hours from Nairobi on the Mombasa Road is Tsavo West National Park. Among the simpler accommodations inside the park is the Kitani Lodge, which consists of small cottages (bedroom with camp beds, bathroom, small kitchen and a veranda) that have no electricity, no telephone and no fences. Visitors bring their own provisions and cook their own meals. It is a good idea for them to bring drinking water as well. Tour groups rarely come to this lodge. The cost is \$2.50 a person, with an additional charge of \$1.50 a person for bedding (or you can bring your own sleeping bags) and \$1 for cooking and lighting fuel (either paraffin or gas). Cooking and eating utensils are supplied. The park's entry fees are \$1.85 for the car plus \$1.85 per person. You must arrive well before the 6:30 P.M. closing time; in an effort to minimize poaching, the park forbids driving around after dark.

The Masai Mara Game Reserve has excellent tented camp facilities. The two main camps in the Mara are called Governor's Camp and Cottars Camp. Governor's Camp is an hour's flight from Nairobi (\$83 per person round trip). The rate of \$145 per double per night includes food, laundry and one game drive per day. Cottars Camp is a four-and-a-half-hour bus trip from Nairobi and can be reached by bus (\$150 round trip). Rates are \$70 double, including meals. Game drives are extra; unless shared with other people, they cost \$49 for a half day.

Arrangements for a trip to either Governor's Camp or Cottars Camp can be made through a travel agent in Nairobi. An agent can also make arrangements for the accommodations at Tsavo West.

### On the Coast

The coast of Kenya figured prominently in the colonial era. Settlers arrived at the port of Mombasa and took the train upcountry. The train from Nairobi to Mombasa leaves twice a day, at 5 P.M. and 7 P.M. It is an overnight journey during which dinner is served. The first-class sleepers are comfortable and well appointed. Morning tea is avail-

able on request, and breakfast is served prior to arrival. A round-trip ticket including meals, bedding, tea and breakfast costs \$56 a person. You may book directly with the station (21212) or through a travel agent.

In Mombasa, the Manor Hotel (Nyerere Avenue; 21821) is a comfortable place with British atmosphere within distance of the old town. A double room costs \$30 per night for bed and breakfast; rooms are air-conditioned, and most have private bath. The restaurant serves an abundance of good, occasionally unusual, food for around \$10 for two.

Mombasa's old town is still very similar to the vista that greeted all visitors to Kenya before the days of jet travel. There is a museum, Fort Jesus, a jumble of architecture, curio shops, spice shops and a very relaxed atmosphere. Ricodas on Nyeri Street serves excellent traditional Swahili food; about \$3 for two.

Another former colonial haunt is the coastal town of Lamu. The Peponi Hotel is an old, rambling structure with more modern chalet-type accommodations along the beach. Rates are \$70 double, including very good meals; most rooms have private bath.

The flight from Mombasa to Lamu is via Pioneer Airlines (Mombasa: 432355; Lamu: 139). The fare is \$74 round trip.

A 19-day trip that includes the above-mentioned destinations can be arranged from the United States through a company such as Donald Young Photographic Safaris (2808 Winthrop Road, Lincoln, Neb. 68502; 402-488-4192/800-228-7712). The company estimates the cost of such a trip at around \$3,380 a person, double, including air fare from New York to Nairobi and back, hotels, some meals, game drives and flights and train travel within the country. This company has a large organization in Nairobi that can assist you during your stay in Kenya. The company will also arrange custom-designed tenting safaris.

### Package Tours

Lindblad Travel (1 Sylvan Road North, Westport, Conn. 06881; 203-226-8531; 800-243-5657), has an 18-day "Kenya and Tanzania" program, including two nights in a luxury tented camp in the Masai Mara Reserve. The price is \$3,200 a person for a double. Air fare, which is extra, starts at \$1,100 from New York. The company is also developing a day's sightsee-

ing program in the Nairobi area that will take in some of the sites associated with Karen Blixen, such as her house in Karen and the Muthaiga Club; all Lindblad safaris are to include this feature, possibly as soon as February.

Abercrombie & Kent (1420 Kensington Road, Oak Brook, Ill.; 800-323-7308) has a 16-day "Livingstone" tour of Kenya and Tanzania that includes three nights in its luxury tented camp in the Masai Mara; price is from \$2,995 in April and May to \$3,295 in July through October and December through March. More time in tented camps is featured on a 16-day "Hemingway" tour of Kenya, which has a total of eight nights in camp in the Amboseli, Aberdare and Masai Mara reserves. It is priced from \$3,951 to \$4,695 per person. Air fare is extra.

Ker & Downey (250 West 57th Street, Suite 1222, New York, N.Y., 10107; 212-757-0722; 800-772-3274) offers solely custom-designed tented camp programs. Priced on a per-day basis, they start at \$310 a person for each of eight people and range up to \$570 a person for each of two. Both Kenya and Tanzania can be included; options include a horse safari.

All tented camps used in these programs have beds rather than cots and have private toilet and shower facilities.

The State Department has recently issued an advisory about a "severe fuel shortage" in Tanzania, particularly in the areas outside the capital, including the northern game parks. The department suggests that individual travelers be sure to have an adequate fuel supply before starting out on a trip and that those making arrangements through a tour operator be sure that the company is aware of the problem and has made arrangements to deal with it.

### Practicalities

The United States Public Health Service requires yellow fever inoculations if travelers are going from Kenya to Tanzania or vice versa; they are recommended for travel to one of the countries only. Anti-malarial drugs are also recommended.

There is usually little problem eating local food or drinking water in Nairobi. Bottled water is available, but very expensive; some hotels will supply boiled water for concerned visitors. Travelers who are going on the road should bring water with them.

Bring cotton clothes with a jacket or sweater for chilly evenings. Long-sleeved shirts help prevent sunburn. Kenya is generally a very casual place. However, there are some restaurants that require men to wear jackets and ties.

Bring sunglasses, sunblock and toiletries and an absorbent hat (or you can buy one here for around \$5). Bring binoculars if you have them, camera and plenty of film.

Be sure to bring enough cash for souvenirs; not every curio shop accepts credit cards. Very few places in Mombasa will take credit cards, and those that do usually accept only American Express. Most hotels will cash travelers' checks, but because of the tight currency-control laws in Kenya, shops will not generally accept them in payment.

A map of Nairobi and environs is available for about \$1.85 in any bookshop. A map of Kenya is also useful. A good guide to dining is "Eating Out in Kenya" by Kathy Eldon (Kenway Publications), which is readily available for about \$2. Two books that are useful for game viewing are "Field Guide to the Birds of East Africa" and "Field Guide to the Mammals of Africa" (both published by Collins, \$15 each). Both are available from any bookshop in Nairobi.