

Dear Fellow Travellers,

“The greatest reward and luxury of travel is to be able to experience everyday things as if for the first time, to be in a position in which almost nothing is so familiar it is taken for granted” – Bill Bryson

Happy New Year! We hope that 2018 will be happy and successful for you all, filled with lots of exciting travels!

We are delighted to be able to send you our newsletter, which we hope will whet your appetite for a future African adventure. Whilst there are many fascinating countries to visit in Africa, we have focused our news on the countries we visited last year. 2017 was busy for [African Sojourns](#) and we have all travelled to some remote and far-flung places to make sure that we offer you the best experiences and advice.

Charlie visited Kenya in March, and discovered some wonderful, good value family camps offering a wide variety of activities for all ages travelling together. These included walking with the Masai, horse riding amongst the wildlife, and enjoying excellent all year-round game viewing. The Kenyan beaches offer some of the most un-spoilt opportunities to enjoy a relaxing time after a busy safari.

[Kenya family Sojourn – bush to beach](#)

KwaZulu-Natal, in South Africa, is often overlooked in favour of the more well-known Cape area. Charlie took his family on a self-drive trip around this area - on our doorstep - to really see what it is all about. The region offers a complete holiday in itself, from the dramatic Drakensberg Mountains, where you can enjoy world-class hiking for all ages, to one of several private game reserves where they saw excellent the wildlife in a two-day stay. The final stop was on the beaches of KwaZulu-Natal. where you can snorkel, swim, dive and frolic with dolphins.

[KwaZulu-Natal – South Africa - A hidden gem](#)

Robyn had an adventurous, and interesting, trip to Madagascar in May. This, the 4th largest island in the world, and one of the poorest countries, offers a combination of cultural interactions with unusual landscapes and wildlife experiences. Later in the year, Tracy and her family spent a week on a catamaran sailing around the northern islands of Madagascar. It was a perfect way to spend time with the family, snorkeling and diving in water temperatures of 29 degrees and exploring some of the more remote islands.

[Madagascar – a central and southern adventure](#)

[Madagascar – Madagascar Boat Charter – the northern islands of Madagascar](#)

[Miavana – a 5 star eco retreat](#)

Mozambique was the location of the next road trip for Tracy and her family. They drove 4,500km in a week, travelling all the way from KwaZulu-Natal to Pomene in the central part of Mozambique, visiting several lodges en-route. One of the favourites was Machangulo just off the coast near Maputo, offering easy access and lots of activities. Machangulo combines really well with a safari near the Kruger.

[South Africa and Mozambique - Bush to Beach extravaganza](#)

If you are looking for an opportunity to participate in wildlife viewing on foot, rather than in a vehicle, nothing is better than a walking safari. Here you get to really experience “authentic” Africa and spend time up close to wildlife as you fall asleep in your tent listening to the sounds of nature, hosted by professional wildlife guides. Zambia offers a fantastic opportunity to participate in these experiences, and Robyn was lucky enough to enjoy a fabulous trip around the country in June.

[Victoria Falls and Zambia – Africa on Foot](#)

As part of celebrating World Rivers Day on 24 September, and South Africa’s unique Heritage Day, Tracy and Charlie set off to explore a remote area of the Northern Cape. They had a day exploring Kimberley where the diamonds were found, which set off a chain of events that was to change South Africa’s future forever. The next stop was 4 days canoeing the Orange River with their families. The trip gave them a chance to bond with their children and friends, experience a superb remote eco destination as they paddled down the river, navigating the rapids and sleeping under the stars, hosted by professional rafting guides.

[Orange River Rafting – a family adventure](#)

“As a parent there are few things more rewarding than seeing one’s own likes and loves inherited by one’s children” - unknown

Robyn and Tracy were privileged to enjoy a visit to Tswalu Game Reserve in the Kalahari. One of the largest private reserves in South Africa, this is a conservation success story where one can enjoy wildlife viewing on foot, by private vehicle or on horseback. Wildlife includes many of the more unusual species such as wild dog, pangolin and porcupine. Combining Tswalu with a big 5 game reserve gives you a complete combination of experiences, as does combining Cape Town with Tswalu.

[Tswalu – Cape to Desert delight](#)

Robyn visited Zimbabwe in November, and was there just in time to celebrate the many changes that the country is facing with the new leadership. We are confident that this gem of Africa will once again be on everyone’s bucket list.

[Zimbabwe – Victoria Falls and Mana Pools – a Zambezi River Adventure](#)

Tracy participated in the Drakensberg Big 5 Hike in May, raising funds for the Royal Drakensberg School, a primary school located deep in the heart of the Drakensberg Mountains, far away from many facilities, and run by dedicated and inspiring individuals. Her family all managed the 18km of strenuous hiking in the day along with many others with ages ranging from 8 years to 70 years! She is doing the challenge again this year, and if you would like to support the school with any small donation, please click on this link below. Reference your name and African Sojourns.

[Royal Drakensberg School](#) [Big 5 Hike](#)

Accessing some of these remote areas is challenging and expensive if travelling on your own, however it becomes much easier if you are a group of friends, two families or a multi-generational family travelling together. This helps enormously with the costs of light aircraft, as well as allowing exclusive use of camps and lodges.

As our phones have become more and more sophisticated, we are now able to take incredible photos with them. Click on this [link](#) to read about some photographic tips with your smartphone.

We do hope that you enjoy exploring these ideas, and that we will have the pleasure of arranging a holiday for you in the not too distant future.

“To Travel is to Live” – Hans Christian Andersen

“Once a year go someplace you have never been before” - Dalai Lama

Wishing you a wonderful 2018.

The [African Sojourns Team](#)

Tracy, Robyn, Charlie and Melissa