The wonders of TANZANIA

November 3-15, 2015
With MIT Assistant Professor Hilke Schlichting
Dear MIT Alumni and Friends,

Join fellow alumni on The Wonders of Tanzania safari from November 3–15, 2015. On a journey into the heart of East Africa, travel through diverse landscapes, meet people of varied ethnic backgrounds, and witness the awe-inspiring wildlife.

Discover the wonders of northern Tanzania’s conservation areas, including Tarangire National Park, where large herds of elephant roam among the ancient baobab giants, and the wondrous Ngorongoro Crater, where we will find some of the highest concentrations of animals in the world. Then continue to the Serengeti and spend days amidst this incredible untamed wilderness where lion, cheetah, warthog and literally millions of hoofed animals roam. Also visit Olduvai Gorge, the site of the Leakeys’ remarkable discoveries of fossil humans.

MIT Assistant Professor of Planetary Sciences Hilke E. Schlichting is the faculty leader for this program. Dr. Schlichting’s talks will focus on the rapid advances in exoplanet research and the prospects for finding extrasolar life. To complement her lectures, there will be opportunities to look at some of the planets in the night sky.

Reserve your place for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity by calling the MIT Alumni Travel Program at 800-992-6749, or emailing compass@mit.edu. Space is limited to 22 participants.

Sincerely,

Melissa Chapman Gresh
Director, MIT Alumni Travel Program

Dr. Schlichting is assistant professor of planetary sciences at MIT. She received the PhD in astrophysics from Caltech in 2009 and the BA and MS in physics from the University of Cambridge in 2004. Her research spans all aspects of planet formation theory, extrasolar planets, and solar system dynamics. Her main interest is in extrasolar planets, because their diversity exemplifies the range of possible outcomes of planet formation. Her research combines observations from our solar system, which is the only place to examine the outcome of planet formation in detail, with the new wealth of data from extrasolar planets to shed light onto the process of planet formation.

“I could not imagine a better location to ponder our place in the Universe, the origin of life and the prospects for finding life outside our solar system than Tanzania with its dark night skies and with Africa being the cradle of humankind. My lectures will focus on the rapid advances in exoplanet research and the prospects for finding extrasolar life. Complementing the lectures, we will take a look at some of the planets in the night sky through a small telescope.”

– Hilke E. Schlichting
Our Exclusive

ITINERARY

November 3: Depart U.S.
November 4: Amsterdam – Arusha, Tanzania
In Amsterdam, connect with your flight to Kilimanjaro International Airport, arriving in the evening. Your guide awaits, ready to welcome you and take you to your lodge.
*Overnight: Rivertrees Country Inn (Snack)*

November 5-6: Tarangire National Park
After breakfast and a safari briefing, depart for Tarangire National Park, where giant baobab trees and umbrella acacias dot the rocky hills and verdant valleys. Watch for large herds of elephant, journeys of giraffe, sounders of warthog, and troops of baboon. Nearly 500 bird species have been recorded in the park.
*Overnights: Tarangire Nyumba (All meals included)*

November 7-8: Ngorongoro Highlands & Lake Manyara National Park
Depart Tarangire this morning, and stop for a guided walk through the village of Mto Wa Mbu, a true melting pot of Tanzania’s 120 cultures. Continuing into the highlands, arrive at Gibb’s Farm, a historic coffee estate and eco-lodge where countless activities await (some with additional fees). On the 8th, visit Lake Manyara National Park, where the alkaline waters attract flamingo, pelican, cormorant, and much more.
*Overnights: Gibb’s Farm (All meals included)*

November 9-10: Ngorongoro Highlands & Ngorongoro Crater
Spend the morning bird watching followed by lunch at Gibb’s Farm. Next stop is your camp, perched high on the crater rim, where you can hear the distant jangling of Maasai cow bells. Spend a full day exploring the crater floor and look for hippo wallowing in shallow pools, ostrich running across the savannah, and Africa’s Big Five: elephant, rhino, leopard, lion, and buffalo.
*Overnights: Ngorongoro Nyumba (All meals included)*

November 11-13: Olduvai Gorge & Serengeti National Park
Leaving Ngorongoro, you’ll stop at the famous Olduvai Gorge, where major paleontological discoveries have helped to answer important questions about human evolution. Continue your drive to Serengeti National Park to witness the Great Migration, a wildlife spectacle like no other on Earth. Over the next three days, you’ll explore the Serengeti’s varied ecosystem, observing lion, hyena, giraffe, elephant, impala, Thomson’s and Grant’s gazelles, ostrich, warthog, and so much more. From your camp, you will not only have excellent access to wildlife, but you’ll have an opportunity to take an optional hot air balloon excursion.
*Overnights: Central Serengeti Nyumba (All meals included)*

November 14-15: Serengeti National Park – Arusha – Depart
Fly back to Arusha, where we’ll visit a fantastic arts center featuring Tanzanian jewelry and crafts created by handicapped artisans using recycled materials. Rest and relax in your day room before your evening flight and the long journey home. Arrive home on the 15th.
*Day Room: Mount Meru Hotel (All meals included)*

Pre- and Post-Safari Extensions
You’ve gone half-way around the world; why not make your trip truly unforgettable with an extension to complement your safari? Thomson Safaris is happy to discuss your interests and make arrangements for you.

What’s Included
- Tanzanian-born, English-speaking professional guides with a minimum of 10 years’ experience
- Lectures and commentary by an MIT faculty speaker
- Accommodations in deluxe, walk-in tents (with en suite bathrooms) and comfortable lodges
- All meals and bottled water
- Airport transfers for guests who arrive/depart on scheduled trip dates
- Daily safari briefings to help you prepare for each activity
- Related fees for all scheduled sightseeing, park, and cultural excursions
- Guaranteed window seat in a custom-made, 4-wheel drive safari vehicles
- Scenic flight on tour
- Complete pre-departure information and access to a personal safari consultant

Not Included
- International round-trip flight to Tanzania
- Gratuities for guides, drivers, and camp staff (approximately $270–$450US per traveler)
- Airline-imposed fuel surcharges, upgraded seat assignment and excess baggage fees
- Meals and expenses en route to Tanzania
- Fees for passport, visa, or immunizations
- Trip cancellation/delay/baggage loss insurance
- Beer, wine, spirits, and soft drinks, laundry, phone, internet, and items of a personal nature
- Optional balloon safari

Optional Serengeti Hot-Air Balloon Safari
At sunrise, you have the option to take a hot air balloon over the breathtaking Serengeti savannah. After landing, enjoy champagne and a full English breakfast in the bush before rejoining the group on a wildlife viewing drive.

|$540/person
Space is limited and advance reservations are required. Height and weight restrictions apply.
The accommodations have been chosen for their unique African feel, stunning settings, the quality of service offered to the discerning traveler, as well as their ideal proximity to the best seasonal wildlife viewing areas. The lodges are comfortable, have private bathrooms and electricity. The Nyumbas (Swahili for home), are eco-friendly tents set on private campsites ideally located for the best wildlife viewing in northern Tanzania. Large walk-in tents come with camp beds dressed in deluxe linens, self-contained toilets, safari-style showers, and water basins (due to ecological and conservation issues, none of our camps have – or need – fixed plumbing). LED lighting is powered by solar panels and the camp chef prepares gourmet meals fresh from local ingredients. Breakfast, dinner, and some lunches are served in a canvas dining tent and restricted diets are easily accommodated with advance notice.

Rivertrees Country Inn
Nestled in the foothills of Mount Meru, in view of Mount Kilimanjaro, this peaceful country estate combines simple elegance and modern convenience. Wake up in your farmhouse-style room to the sound of the rushing Usa River, and enjoy a hearty breakfast in an open-air, thatched-roof dining area.

Nyumbas
Nyumbas are eco-friendly, tented camps, well-located for outstanding access to wildlife. Our itinerary includes stays at:

Tarangire Nyumba – Set inside the park in a scenic, private location close to the Tarangire River, this camp offers easy access to both seasonal and resident wildlife. Beneath towering baobab trees, you will experience exceptional service from the friendly staff, eat gourmet meals prepared with fresh, local ingredients and enjoy the privilege of sharing the landscape with the wildlife.

Ngorongoro Camp – The Ngorongoro camp is set on the eastern edge of the Ngorongoro Crater’s rim and offers the best possible access in and out of the crater. In the morning, you have the eastern floor of the crater almost completely to yourself. In the evening, head to the campfire before dinner then enjoy a traditional Tanzanian meal – a specialty of the camp chefs here.

Serengeti Nyumba – This semi-permanent, seasonal camp is strategically located in the central Serengeti for this departure due to proximity to the wildlife. The camp is conveniently located within striking distance of the herds, which are expected to be making their way towards the southern plains and non-migrating big cats and other predators who reside year-long nearby in the central region.

Gibb’s Farm
Fresh food, fresh air, and fresh perspectives abound at Gibb’s Farm. At the end of full days of exploration, relax in your eco-friendly cottage, set amidst the farm’s lush gardens. Gibb’s Farm offers a variety of activities, adventures and opportunities to rejuvenate, from guided walks around the extensive grounds of this working coffee estate, to bike tours through the hills of the Ngorongoro highlands, to Maasai-inspired spa treatments. Whether you wish to relax and recharge, explore the diverse natural surroundings, or learn more about the local culture and traditions, you have a variety of experiences to choose from.
What to Expect

The Wonders of Tanzania Safari is specially designed for those seeking an unsurpassed wildlife viewing experience while traveling in safety and comfort. Days will be spent viewing wildlife from specially equipped safari vehicles with pop-up roofs for easy wildlife viewing and photography; window seats are guaranteed for every passenger. This is not an active safari, but you should be in good physical condition in order to enjoy it to the fullest. Wildlife-viewing drives may last up to five hours on bumpy, dusty, and occasionally muddy roads. Since your comfort is a priority, these drives are minimized with wildlife viewing and/or cultural stops along the way.

There is virtually no bad time to visit Tanzania. Short rains in late November and April motivate the perpetual movement of animals in search of water (also known as The Great Migration). The climate is typically dry, sunny, and warm. In northern Tanzania, expect temperatures with daytime highs in the 80’s and lows in the 50’s in the evenings and early mornings. Temperatures will be cooler at higher elevations, such as the rim of Ngorongoro Crater (7,200 feet).

All your guides are local, Tanzanian guides with a minimum of 10 years’ experience in the field. More than just leaders, spotters, and wildlife experts, they are true ambassadors for Tanzania. In addition to superior wildlife spotting skills, your team of guides offers local insight that can’t be found in guidebooks. They look forward to sharing their country’s treasures with you!

A note about the tour operator

Recently named to Travel + Leisure's 2013 World’s Best List in the category of Top Safari Outfitters, Thomson Safaris was selected as the tour operator for this trip because of their extensive expertise in northern Tanzania and award-winning reputation in the adventure travel business. Working exclusively in Tanzania for over 33 years, Thomson Safaris are leaders in ethical, sustainable, and responsible tourism. Below are some of the many ways Thomson Safaris continues to give back.

• The Tanzania operations—which are also owned by Rick Thomson and Judi Wineland, providing a seamless experience for travelers—hire locally and provide excellent benefits, job security, and training.

• Environmental conscientiousness is a priority: mobile camps utilize solar lighting and water-conserving technologies, Thomson’s U.S. headquarters has 110 solar panels, providing 1/3 of its power, and the Tanzania office maintains an organic garden.

• To minimize the impact on Tanzanian landscapes and wildlife, Thomson Safaris insists on adherence to Leave No Trace ethics at all its camps.

• Owners Rick Thomson and Judi Wineland have helped to set up sustainable local businesses, support local schools and women’s empowerment initiatives, and fund a 12,000-acre conservation project east of the Serengeti through their many partner philanthropy organizations.
How to Book
The trip price is $6,190 per person in double accommodations; $990 single accommodations supplement.

To reserve a space, call the MIT Alumni Travel Program at 800-992-6749. Or email the Travel Program at compass@mit.edu Or complete and mail the attached reservation form to MIT.

A non-refundable deposit of $700 per person payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, or check, payable to Thomson Safaris along with your full name and contact information, reserves your space on the trek. We cannot confirm reservations without a deposit. Final payment is due August 6, 2015, and payable by check, wire transfer, or money order. Credit cards are not accepted for final payment.

Airfare
International airfare is not included in the trip price. Thomson Safaris has access to competitively priced business class flights on Delta/KLM Airlines (based on availability). For the best rates in economy class, guests should visit Delta.com or KLM.com and look for routing into and out of Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO). Guests are welcome and encouraged to call Thomson Safaris for questions and guidance.

Insurance
We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for trip cancellation insurance will be sent upon confirmation. Depending on the level of coverage purchased, the pre-existing medical conditions exclusion can be waived if the insurance is purchased within 15 days of initial deposit. Neither Thomson Safaris nor the MIT Alumni Travel Program accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline ticket or other expenses incurred by tour participants in preparing for the tour.

Shares
Single accommodations are limited, subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. Should you wish to share a room, we will attempt to find a roommate for you at your request. If we are unable to provide a roommate by the final invoice date, the single accommodation fee will be assessed.

Cancellation and Refunds
Notification of cancellation must be received in writing (by letter, fax, or email) to Thomson Safaris. At the time we receive your cancellation, the following per person cancellation penalties apply:

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<th>Days Before Departure</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
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<tr>
<td>Up to 91 days</td>
<td>Deposit</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-61 days</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<td>60-46 days</td>
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<td>45 days or less</td>
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Terms and Conditions
A detailed liability statement, concerning, among other things, limitations of Wineland-Thomson Adventures, Inc’s liability for loss of property, injury, illness, or death, will be provided to passengers upon enrollment, along with an information form to sign and return to Thomson Safaris shortly after enrolling on the trip. Each of these forms is also available to prospective travelers upon request and are posted on MIT Alumni Travel Program’s website at alum.mit.edu/travel.

Please note: Thomson Safaris (TS) will attempt to adhere to this itinerary as much as possible. Any unforeseeable changes in fees, such as fuel surcharges, increased park fees or other fees that are out of TS control will be the responsibility of the guest. Some conditions (political, climatic, environmental, cultural, or wildlife migrations) may also necessitate changes in the itinerary. TS reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. TS will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participant.
Please reserve _____ space(s). Enclosed is my deposit of $700.  

*Final payment is due August 6, 2015 and payable by check, wire transfer, or money order.*

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<tr>
<th>#1 First and last name (as it appears on passport)</th>
<th>MIT Affiliation</th>
<th>Date of birth</th>
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<tr>
<td>#2 First and last name (as it appears on passport)</td>
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Address  

City 

State 

Zip 

Phone (H) 

Phone (W)  

Email  

☐ Accept my check made payable to Thomson Safaris or  

Charge my: □ Visa □ MasterCard □ American Express □ Discover  

Card # 

Expiration Date 

Security Code  

Signature as it appears on card  

☐ I would like more information on booking business class flights through Thomson Safaris.  

☐ I will make my own flight arrangements.  

☐ Please reserve _____ space(s) on the balloon safari at a cost of $540 per person.  

☐ Double room, rooming with ________________________________________________________________________________ 

☐ Single room ($990 supplement)  

☐ I would like a roommate. If one is not available, I will pay a single supplement for the safari.