

Travel

The Grumeti Reserves; an Extraordinary New Tanzanian Property



Travel With John Daye

New York, NY-eTN-- Many travelers to East Africa are in search of not merely a life-changing encounter with the continent's wild animals, but also of an opportunity to be drawn into a reverie of grandeur and cossetting that bespeaks an earlier, more leisured era. "Which is why we are the first to offer our clients the privileged opportunity to experience the newly created Grumeti Reserves in Tanzania's Serengeti," says Dennis Pinto, New York-based Managing Director of Micato Safaris.

"The name sounds Italian, but it isn't," says Pinto. The Grumeti Reserves border Tanzania's Grumeti River. It is private game land of enormous proportions—550 square miles, roughly equal to the size of Kenya's entire Maasai Mara—yet with only three intimate lodges offering hospitality to never more than a mere fifty-three guests. And the land is rich in wildlife, from the Big Five to limitless hordes of giraffe, wildebeest, zebra and hippopotamus.

Grumeti Reserves' secret of hospitality is its series of elegant lodgings designed to combine a colonial aura of service, luxury and wildlife with the comforts and amenities expected by 21st century travelers, from plunge pools-with-a-view to the finest cuisine and wines. The sitting rooms and cottages of Saskawa Hill Lodge, with their grand piano, fireplaces, chintz, silver tea services



and four poster beds, recall the Africa of Karen Blixen. Sabora Plains Tented Camp is a vision of khaki, beige, cream and fawn, where every amenity is provided in an atmosphere that recalls the romance of the 1930's. And Faru Faru River Lodge is a stunning combination of unspoiled nature and limitless luxury.

Celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, Micato Safaris was born in East Africa. Winner of the "World's

Best Tour Operator" award from Travel+Leisure magazine in 2003, 2004 and 2005, more than half of Micato Safaris' clients choose custom-tailored safaris in Kenya, Tanzania, Botswana, South Africa and India. And a fortunate few have the opportunity to experience Grumeti Reserves.

For more information contact Micato Safaris at 1-800-MICATO-1. www.micato.com

Travel Professionals of Color Conference Won Big in Las Vegas

TPOC to Develop 15 Chapters



The Travel Professionals of Color Organization held a winning conference and trade show at Treasure Island Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada May 4th - 7th, 2006, attracting close to 200 minority travel professionals.

The travel professionals who attended the four year old conference left the meeting filled with excitement and enthusiasm and ready to organize 15 local TPOC Chapters. Each of the 15 local Chapters will be fully functional by July 2006 and will assist the TPOC headquarters office with membership growth and training. With the inception of the local Chapters, TPOC board members feel confident conference attendance will double in '2007' and will continue to grow at a rapid pace. The '2007' TPOC Conference will take place in the State of Florida, April 19 - 22, 2007.

Many top minority executives within the travel industry, as well as Commissioner of Tourism for the US

Virgin Islands, Pamela Richards, other Caribbean representatives and several U.S. Convention and Visitors Bureaus were present and have indicated their desire and intent to collaborate with TPOC. Also offering their support were African Suppliers from Accra, Ghana, West Africa.

Along with many exceptional speakers, workshops and certification classes, Solomon and Gloria Herbert, Editors and Publishers of Black Meetings & Tourism Magazine, sponsored the APEX Awards Luncheon which honored minority executives who have had a positive impact on the travel industry. This impressive luncheon and presentation of Awards was very well received by all conference attendees and will remain a regular segment of the conference.

In addition to the Annual Spring Conference, TPOC will soon unveil other programs that will be of value to minority travel professionals and the minority travel market.



Double Deckers Tours, Hop On and Off in Rome

Libertyville, IL, May 23, 2006/ eTN - TourCrafters, the dependable tour operator that specializes in Italy, has a new product: "Ciao Roma," a full day, hop-on-hop-off sightseeing tour of the major monuments of Rome. The double decker, open-top buses make 13 stops and passengers can hop off as many times as they like, then hop on one of the buses that circulate hourly from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM. The 13 stops include the Colosseum, Via Veneto, Piazza Barberini, Piazza di Spagna, Villa Borghese, Campidoglio, Vatican Museums, St. Peter's Basilica, Piazza Navona, Ara Pacis, Piazza del Popolo, Trevi Fountain, et al. In the first two weeks of operation, 5,000 clients enjoyed the tour.

The comprehensive commentary is tape-recorded in 12 languages and passengers are provided with individual ear phones. They are also given a 168-page Rome and Vatican guidebook (one book for each couple) that is full of pictures, descriptions of various sites, a map and information on restaurants—with approximate prices—and shopping.

The "Ciao Roma" tour runs daily, except Monday, and passengers can board at the Appian Line office, Piazza dell'Esquilino, or at the Ciao Roma office at the Stazione Termini. The full-day ticket costs \$23 and can be bought in advance from TourCrafters, 28085 North Ashley Circle, Libertyville, IL 60048, +1-800-621-2259, www.tourcrafters.com.

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