

Monday, 23 August 2021

# KENYA

Land of Mystery and Marvels



Habari, All!!!

Here's another beautiful sunrise to begin another beautiful day in Kenya!

You may wonder why I keep using "habari", "asante" and "kwa heri" ... Greetings are more important in Swahili than in English. A nod and a smile are not enough and without the spoken greeting, that nod or smile may be misconstrued as you're laughing at them!

HOWEVER, a woman need never return the greeting from a man, unless she knows the person or wishes to ask a question. Returning the greeting from a strange man can be construed as a "come on"!!! All in all, it's better to be polite and say "hello", "thank you" and "good bye"... you can always say "jambo". To take a quote from MASH, "it's nice to be nice to the nice" and you're going to meet some very nice folks!!! :>)

BTW: I keep referring to our "interpreters" ... We really don't need one. Just about EVERYONE in Kenya speaks English!



As mentioned before, the women do beautiful beadwork ... some of which will be for sale. They also build their homes while the men tend their cattle or relax!

If we visit a Maasai village or "engang" (a private single family enclosure), we may be invited into one of their huts. Go for it! It's an honor not to be missed, just don't agree to drink anything!!! That's also an honor, but one to be politely passed!!! The Maasai live on a diet of milk and cattle blood. You may notice a number of them, including children, have spaces between their front teeth. This is because the lack of fruit and veg in their diets caused lock-jaw and those teeth were removed so they could eat ... or rather drink!



Here's an example of "the guys" leaning against one of their houses. The houses are constructed of cattle dung and straw-like fiber. No, the huts don't smell!



This is one of my favorite photos! Back in '97, my friend Carol and I were in Nairobi when we were invited to visit a private "engang". It's a long story, but our interpreter had to ask the Elder for permission to enter and then for permission for us to take photos. He explained we wanted to share their culture, not steal their souls. We entered and were shown one of the Elder's wives building her hut. He had 3 wives and six sons. We were invited into a hut and then entertained by the sons dancing and singing. I took video (which has since disappeared) and because my camera allowed viewing, I showed it to them. Carol took this photo.



That's about it for this week ... remember, let me know by September if you're serious. Once we have a headcount, we can firm up the land prices. Until then, those prices may go up. We have to book the land as early as possible. Many of the properties have limited space, so we want to be sure we have ours!!! We'll be leaving the US in 433 days!

Kwa heri!

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