



His second and most recent African adventure took John Landis to the famous Kruger National Park in South Africa. There was not a fly fishing element available in Kruger so John added a week of outstanding salt water flats fishing off the coast of Africa, in the Indian Ocean, at the Seychelle's sister atolls of Alphonse and St. Francois. John is pictured below with a Giant Trevally and Triggerfish from his Seychelles stop. The tigerfish, a spectacular fly rod fish similar to a baby tarpon with serious teeth (photos, left and right below), was a primary attraction and target of John's first African trip in 2012 to the Lower Zambezi National Park.



The big cats are always a major game viewing attraction and, during his two trips combined, John has captured an incredible collection of photos of the lions and leopards. His time in the Lower Zambezi Park netted a series of leopard photos in different positions and postures that, when coupled with a sampling of his "leopard with fresh kill" photos (below) from Kruger, give him a truly outstanding collection of leopard photos.



Photos above: lots of spectacular horns, most of which are prey for the big cats. Left to right above – Cape Buffalo, Ditka, Impala, Water Buck, and Wildebeast.

Below: at right, even the King of the Jungle needs to scratch occasionally. The King's pride included a large group of lionesses and two young males.



Above: The rhino can be an intimidating creature. A game viewing truck observes the King relaxing. The animals grow up with the presence of game viewing vehicles and, generally, treat them like an inanimate object. The pride at rest – lions during the day are not much fun to observe, mostly sleeping and resting. Most of their hunting is done at night.

Below: the elephant's body language at right seems to be saying, "you've come close enough."



Above: a tremendous variety of birdlife is part of the African scene. A game viewing truck with graduated elevated seating is the vehicle of choice. The most interesting game viewing sessions are those at dusk and after dark when the big predators become most active. Not all African lodges allow night game viewing anymore. The guides prepare a dusk cocktail hour on the plains before dark settles in.

### COMPARING MY AFRICA SAFARI EXPERIENCES – by John Landis



The camps where I stayed in the Lower Zambezi National Park (LZ) were a very different safari experience from the luxury Singita Ebony Lodge in South Africa (SA). The Zambezi accommodations were very good, but were luxury tents to meet the national park building restrictions. At Singita Ebony, we had chalets. The chalets were large with a private porch with wading pool that overlooked the Sand River. Food was good in the LZ camps, but it was over the top at Singita with wine pairings for every course and a 120,000 bottle wine cellar. The game drives were also quite different. In the LZ, everything is centered around the river, including the tigerfishing. During October in the LZ, it is the dry season and all of

the animals are within 1 mile of the river in great numbers. At Singita Ebony In SA, the concentration of animals is only 20% of the LZ. At Singita Ebony, an extra element of excitement was tracking the predators to locate them. Since Singita is a private game preserve attached to Kruger National Park, night game drives are permitted. The game also varied between the two locations. I saw many river creatures like Hippos and Crocs in the Lower Zambezi and none in SA. In SA, I saw giraffes and black rhino while none of those were present in the LZ. All other species were seen at both places.

On this year's trip, I overnighted in Johannesburg at a 5 star boutique hotel that was a former estate where Nelson Mandella stayed after he left prison. He wrote his book here. They deserve the 5 star rating.

### EXPLORING AFRICA OPTIONS

Attempting to plan an Africa experience can be overwhelming – so many options and possibilities. If you are looking for a good safari experience that combines the best tigerfishing, the Lower Zambezi River National Park would be the top recommendation. The best time to go would be the dry season.....September and October are best for both game viewing and tigerfishing because the waters are as low and clear as they get and all the animals from miles around are congregated near the river. We've been to the Lower Zambezi and know the best lodges and fishing guides and can assist in putting together this aspect of Africa travel for our clients.



Outside of the Lower Zambezi National Park, we have limited knowledge of the Africa safari options. However, we have an associate travel agency located right in South Africa which has expertise with all the Africa options. Because they are actually an African company, they have superior knowledge of the Africa lodges and camps. They have provided a very meaningful service for our clients in exploring the different possibilities in Africa travel. If you are interested in considering an Africa experience, we can assist where we can.....and introduce you to our African associate travel company for the options outside of our realm of expertise.

Links to photo essays of possible interest:

- [John Landis first African adventure on the Lower Zambezi](#)
- [John's Seychelles salt water flats fly fishing stop which accompanied his recent trip to Singita Ebony](#)

Below: John with his new group of girlfriends from the Singita Ebony Lodge. And, he assists with crushing dried corn as part of the process in making a corn "grit" cake, a staple food in their culture.



An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,  
Don Muelrath  
Fly Fishing Adventures  
[www.flyfishingadventures.org](http://www.flyfishingadventures.org)  
888-347-4896