

**AGENT SPOTLIGHT! A collective series ...**



**New in our Agent Spotlight series, all eyes are on Sherry Westby this week - Travel Advisor with Travel Leaders in La Crosse.** Selling destinations and experiences around the globe, Sherry has chosen to give you a glimpse of the many facets of Africa, with snippets of her adventures! From the Cape to the bush... to the intriguing and welcoming native tribes people... “Glamping” on the safari reserves and even Luxury at it’s finest - Sherry welcomes the opportunity to share with you, her personal experiences.

Get comfortable. . . You’ll be journeying into Africa!



**Luxury, World & Transatlantic Cruises, Safari, All Inclusive and So Much More!**

Having traveled extensively, I draw upon my own first-hand experiences when advising my clients and customizing the perfect trip. With over 30 years experience in this industry, I can say I am still passionate about travel. I believe the most important aspect of a good advisor is to listen; listen to get to know personal preferences and reflect them in every aspect of the itinerary - delivering the very best value for your time and money.

**Let’s get INTO “not out of” AFRICA!**

When you hear AFRICA, what is the first thing you think of... Exotic Animals, Stanley & Livingston, Out of Africa, The popular song by TOTO, Pyramids, Apartheid? The word can conjure up different meanings to different people. That is the beauty of this continent; there is something for everyone, whether you enjoy nature, history, archaeology, wine & food or a multitude of other activities.

My first trip was to Kenya in 2009. Nairobi was a sprawling busy city, but just outside of the city limits we visited the giraffe sanctuary and also the home of Karen Blixen, who was played by Meryl Streep in the movie *Out of Africa*. I experienced several safari camps - from Sweetwaters which was close to Nairobi, to up north at the Samburu National Reserve which was near the Ethiopian border, to down south in the Maasai Mara near Tanzania. It was so exciting to see the abundance of exotic animals and to view a live performance of the traditional Maasai dancers. The highlight for me on this particular trip was experiencing a sunrise hot air balloon safari with a champagne breakfast in the wild. I cannot imagine why anyone would not want to experience this once-in-a-lifetime journey.



I returned to Africa in April of 2016; visiting South Africa and Botswana. This wasn’t just about safaris; there was culture, wine, shark diving, penguins and so much more. This exciting journey took me to Cape Town; I fell in love with the city and surrounding areas.

Cape Town is a proudly multicultural city which is home to soaring Table Mountain, golden beaches and bountiful vineyards. It is also a hub of activity with great restaurants as well as entertainment options and shopping. You can enjoy a wonderful cable car ride up the famous Table Mountain for spectacular views of the city and surrounding areas. Nearby is the Unesco World Heritage site - Robben Island, used as a prison and preserved as a memorial to those such as Nelson Mandela who spent many years incarcerated there. It’s a moving experience as the ex-prisoners are tour guides who share their personal stories with you. It amazes me that they have such a positive outlook after being subjected to the horror of the prison.

Another site within close driving distance is Cape of Good Hope National Park and Cape Pointe Lighthouse. Be sure not to miss out on the fun stop at Boulders Beach to see an African Penguin colony - also widely known as the "jackass" penguin for its donkey-like bray. It’s also a great area for whale watching between August and September when they migrate along the coast.



Just outside of Cape Town is the lovely Dutch City of Stellenbosch and close by you have the Delaire Graff Estates - a Relais and Chateaux Property - which serves a gourmet lunch with delicious wines. Vineyards are dotted along the mountain sides - what a beautiful sight. If you’re a wine lover, the wine lands are a must. Several days could be spent in this area.

In Botswana, the Okavango Delta is a totally different type of safari experience. The Delta is affected by seasonal flooding with flood water from Angola reaching the area between March and June, peaking in July. This peak coincides with Botswana’s dry season, resulting in great migrations of plains game from the drylands. Not only can you enjoy the traditional jeep safari, but also the boat safari in the wetlands. These safaris focus on the waters, aquatic life and spectacular birdlife of the Delta. This makes for superb viewing of huge herds of Red Lechwe, Impala and Tsessebe as they congregate on the high ground. There are also wonderful photo opportunities of herds of elephant, zebra, water buffalo, warthog, and wild dogs. Truly a bucket-list experience in itself!

**Luxury experiences in Africa you may ask?**

On my most recent trip in April 2018, the focus was on luxury travel. I was privileged to receive an invitation for ILTM (International Luxury Travel Marketplace) Africa. First launched in 2013, ILTM Africa is now the leading luxury travel event on the continent. It is a *travel specialist invitation-only event*, where qualified agents from across the world meet Africa’s most spectacular luxury travel experience providers. I was given the opportunity to meet with 55 of these suppliers over the 3-day event in Cape Town. This being my third trip to Africa, I was able to meet with the suppliers that I felt would allow me to expand my knowledge of the continent and the locations I have not personally visited such as Namibia, Uganda and the Gold Coast. There are so many “out-of-the-box” and boutique/luxury experiences available that I was able to learn about and now have contacts for.

A highlight during my ILTM time in Cape Town was a sponsored lunch at GOLD, a very unique restaurant that celebrates all the various cultures and cuisines of the African continent. We were served a 14-dish tasting menu; each dish was brought to the table with an explanation of the country of origin, cooking techniques and spicing. During the meal we were entertained with music, singing and dancing from various African cultures. This restaurant is a must for any visitor to Cape Town.

After the busy three days in Cape Town, I was fortunate to be invited to experience a wonderful, *boutique camp* in Kruger National Park. The *Outpost/Pel’s Post* is a *Rare Earth* camp in an area of Kruger that is actually the Makuleke Contractual Park located in the northernmost section of Kruger. Two rivers converge here, the Limpopo and the Luvuvhu, which form the border with Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Being in the contractual park meant that public visitors to Kruger are not allowed off the main roads in the area, this allowed us to safari all day without seeing any other people. I felt this enhanced the feeling of remoteness and wilderness. While on one of our evening drives, I was able to see the one animal that had eluded me on previous trips, the leopard!! This was such a special experience for me. I stayed in the Pel’s Post area which overlooked the Luvuvhu River; the property is eco friendly it runs on solar power. At night I would lower the powered screens to keep night visitors (monkeys) out which allowed me to fall asleep to the open-air sounds of the African night. To my delight, there were two rival troops of monkeys below my room in the valley that I could hear challenging each other in the early morning hours. This camp also had a resident Black Mamba snake which they said was friendly, which I was glad I did not have a chance to meet!



While on one of our evening drives, I was able to see the one animal that had eluded me on previous trips, the leopard!! This was such a special experience for me. I stayed in the Pel’s Post area which overlooked the Luvuvhu River; the property is eco friendly it runs on solar power. At night I would lower the powered screens to keep night visitors (monkeys) out which allowed me to fall asleep to the open-air sounds of the African night. To my delight, there were two rival troops of monkeys below my room in the valley that I could hear challenging each other in the early morning hours. This camp also had a resident Black Mamba snake which they said was friendly, which I was glad I did not have a chance to meet!

I hope you’ve enjoyed my stories and this small sampling of what I experienced on my three amazing trips - each uniquely different. Africa has so much to offer... Whether you are looking for a “Big Five” Safari, an intimate weekend getaway to your favorite destination, an exploration adventure at the tip of the earth, or wine tasting in the vineyards of Tuscany - I can turn your dreams into reality. Please contact me at 608-791-8363 or [Sherry.Westby@TravelLeadersgo.com](mailto:Sherry.Westby@TravelLeadersgo.com) - you’ll be glad you did!



To view my bios, stories, photos and - most importantly - testimonials from the many of my repeat clients - please check out our website [www.TravelLeadersgo.com](http://www.TravelLeadersgo.com). Or, if you’re interested in my credentials, you’ll find them on [my agent page](#). . **Check it out!**



2404 State Road | La Crosse, WI | 608 784 9820 | [www.TravelLeadersGo.com](http://www.TravelLeadersGo.com)  
Like us on [www.Facebook.com/TravelLeadersgo](http://www.Facebook.com/TravelLeadersgo)

**Celebrating 70 years as a locally owned and operated business!**

**Click here to view more in our Agent Spotlight series!**