

Tulip Travel offers exotic safaris

Ever thought of going on a wildlife safari?

Now you can let your exotic travel plans blossom with Tulip Travel, a family owned company headquartered in Kenya, which has established a new La Jolla branch at 828 Prospect St., Suite D.

The travel company, named for the tulip flower, which is not native to Africa but has long served as an international symbol of friendship and trust, offers experienced guides and specialists from Kenya who can help you plan every phase of a luxury safari trip. The company hosts safaris to Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Botswana, South African and Seychelles.

Safaris can include any number of alternative "experiences," everything from a hot-air balloon ride to fishing, golfing, beach holidays, bird watching, photography, even ocean boating to observe marine life, including swimming with dolphins.

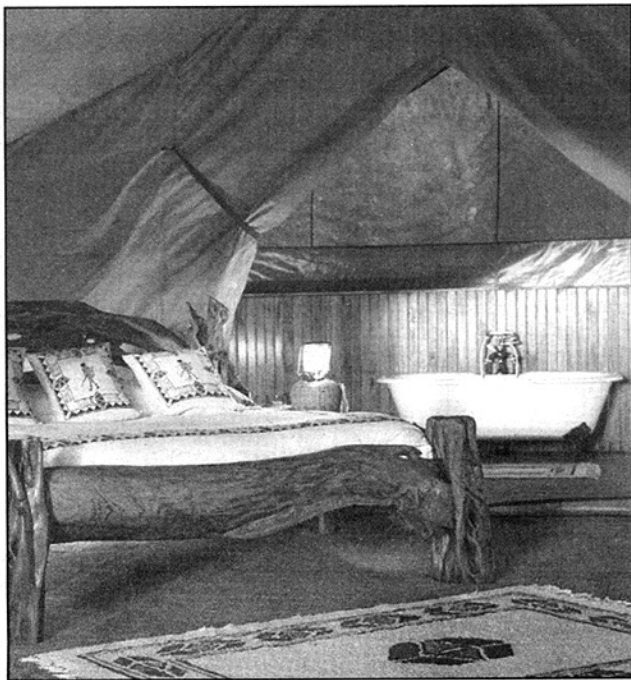
La Jolla and a safari-oriented travel group were a perfect match, said Soniya Hayat, safari specialist with Tulip. "We especially wanted to target La Jolla, they have a lot of people who have the time to travel to places like Africa," she said.

What makes Tulip Travel unique among safari excursion companies?

"The main difference between us and other safari companies running around America is we don't deal in groups, we deal solely on personal safaris, mostly one or two people traveling together," said Hayat. "Most other travel groups just hook up tented camps in the middle of a (game) reserve. Our main focus is on more permanent facilities, more luxurious safaris."

As a personalized service, Tulip Travel offers clients the choice to decide how exclusive they want their holiday to be. Customized itineraries offered seek to pamper customers giving them whatever they want — exclusive hire of beach resorts or safari lodges, game drives in a private safari vehicle with a personal driver guide. "Every safari in our catalogue can be customized to suit your personal interests," promises Tulip's glossy brochure.

Brought up in Africa, Tulip's staff are courteous and knowledgeable, and have an extensive six-year experience on



Going on safari doesn't have to be a hardship, as shown here in Tulip Travel's brochure. Photo Courtesy

African Safari scene. Combined, they possess 14 industry qualifications between them, including co-producing the Kenyan Tourism Marketing CD-ROM "Pictorial Kenya." Staff speak fluent Swahili and English, and have worked with safari guides and property managers in Kenya and Tanzania.

The most important reason for booking your safari with Tulip is that the travel agency's excursions are more than just geography lessons. "We can plan a safari beyond your expectations to some of the world's most respected and revered areas," states the company's brochure. "In all of our safaris, we greatly emphasize local cultures and the local environment because we believe that your understanding of these elements adds to your enjoyment

through better appreciation and value of the areas being visited."

Safaris can be undertaken year-round, but the very best time is mid-summer with the spectacular wildebeest migration. Most safaris take seven to 10 days including two days travel, which is not included as part of the safari package. Tulip recommends safarigoers book passage three months in advance because "it's busy most of the time," according to Hayat.

Feel free to drop by the company's La Jolla office and chat, or pick up free safari travel brochures.

For more information call Gaurav Walia at 551-0065, toll free to 1-888-807-2327, or visit the Web site at www.tulipweb.com.

• By Dave Schwab