

Is this email not displaying correctly?  
[View it in your browser.](#)



# **Flying Safari, June 2019**

## **Special Report**

### **By Olga Mitchell**

This June, I was privileged to participate in a Flying Safari Adventure, along with several other Ninety-Nines from the New England Section: Mary Build, Jenny Jorgenson, Brenda Thibodeau, Denise Robinson, and Teresa Camp. In all, our group included nine women, seven of whom were pilots, and three men.

It was exciting to be able to fly in African airspace. We had fabulous support from the Hanks Aero Adventures team with airspace around Johannesburg, flight plans, refueling, and customs & immigration. The Hanks C210 escorted our five C182s.

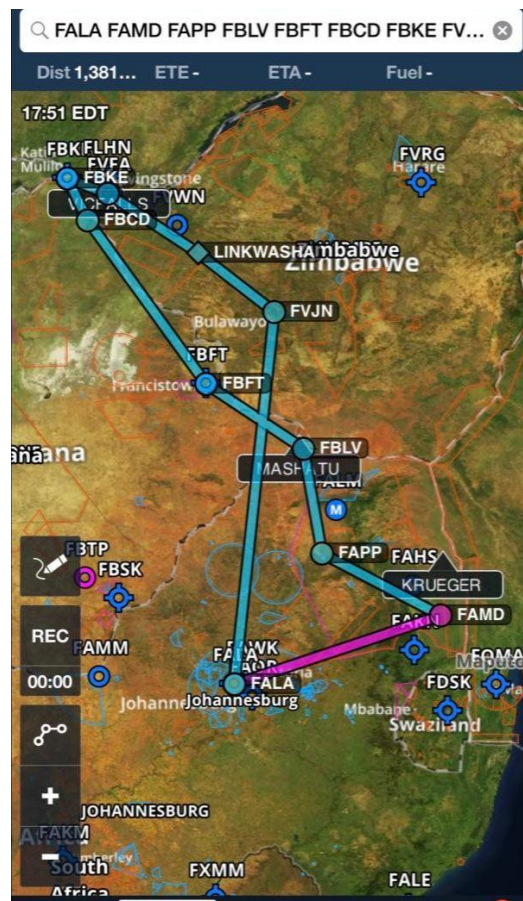
We stayed in four camps in National Parks and Game Reserves in luxurious cabin or tent accommodation (two nights in each) in order to see African wildlife on the ground. In addition, we flew over Victoria Falls and stayed at the world famous Victoria Falls Hotel.



Olga Mitchell, Mary Build, Jenny Jorgenson with our red and white C182 ZS-IWP before departing from Lanseria International Airport.



At Mala Mala, we could see baboons and impala from the deck of our luxurious cabin.



Here's a Foreflight map of our route in three countries in Africa - South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe. We flew about 1400 nm on five mornings. Johannesburg Lanseria International Airport FALA is located near the bottom and Victoria Falls near the top. Our first leg was to Mala Mala in Kruger National Park (FAMD). Each camp had a landing strip. In addition to landing at these, we landed at several other airports for Customs & Immigration and for refueling. .



There was much wildlife in the parks and it was difficult to choose photos. Our first lion sighting of a lioness was very exciting. We found her sleeping. She woke up, yawned, and walked to a pond for a drink.



One of our first elephant sightings. They are known as “a parade”. They had the right-of-way. In one of our camps, they paraded right past the dining area.



Giraffes, AKA a 50 foot obstacle if they were near the landing strips, were taller than the trees.



Zebras near a water hole. Many of these water holes are created by solar-panel driven pumps to help keep the animals in the parks during the dry season.



After our first game drive, coming back in the dark, we spotted a white rhino at a pond.



At the second camp - Mashatu - in Botswana - Olga with Denise Robinson CT 99, Teresa Camp formerly CT 99 and now working for Boeing in OK, and Professor Cheryl Conrad, Teresa's sister. The couple in the back of the Range Rover was from San Diego and were experienced in group flying in other countries.



At the end of the day, our final sighting was a cheetah. We were alerted by the other vehicle, and we drove 30 minutes to see it. Cheetah population has decreased by a factor of 10 in the last 100 years. It's quite surprising that we can get so close to these animals and are completely ignored.



Our next camp, Shindi, was in the Okavango Delta where there was water for boating. Mary and Jenny in a canoe. Later in a larger motor boat we saw hippos in the water.



Later, Jenny learning to basket weave.



Finally at our last camp, Linkwasha, in Zimbabwe we spotted hippos out of the water.

There are many photos - impalas, baboons, leopards, ... and many birds. It was very difficult to choose photos to include.



## Victoria Falls

The most surprising thing was how narrow the gorge was at Victoria Falls. It has twice the flow of Niagara Falls but is



not as visually impressive since there is not as good a viewing point on the ground. On the other hand, it was quite impressive to be so close to it that you had to wear a raincoat to stay dry in the spray. The roar was almost deafening. (See the picture at the top of this article.)



The spray is visible from the Victoria Falls Hotel.

Aside from the aviation adventure, I learned that I didn't know much about African history. We went to the Apartheid museum in Johannesburg and discovered that Apartheid started in the 1960's. I thought it was much earlier. Very interesting history with Dutch and English (Boer war) - I want to learn more about that.

[friend on Facebook](#) | [forward to a friend](#)

*Copyright © 2019 Eastern New England Ninety-Nines, All rights reserved.*

As a member of the Ninety-Nines - you opted for this list to the news from Flylines!

**Our mailing address is:**

Eastern New England Ninety-Nines  
350 Revere Beach Blvd.  
Unit 3-4I  
Revere, MA 02151

[Add us to your address book](#)



[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)

- 
- 
- 
- 
-

---

## **ENE 99s - Flylines Editor**

Flylines@womenpilotsene.org  
(603) 528-0001