#### **Dear Vassar Traveler**,

Please join us on a cultural and wildlife safari that will present an extraordinary opportunity to experience life and the land through the eyes of Tanzanian women. In this country, the land, the people, and the wildlife are continually interwoven. During this 11-day safari, we will take you into the homes, businesses, and villages of the modern and traditional women of Tanzania. As we take part in their daily lives, we will learn about their challenges and accomplishments and will join in discussions with the help of an interpreter; and we will gain a uniquely intimate perspective on women's issues in a developing nation. This rewarding experience will take place against a backdrop of stunning scenery, from the bustling villages on the slopes of Mount Meru to the pristine wilderness of the vast Serengeti. To complement the experience, we will observe the spectacular wildlife that plays such an integral role in Tanzanian life.

Our tour begins by meeting representatives from a local Women's Cooperative, an organization that supports various grassroots programs that empower Tanzanian women. Next, we venture into the seldom-visited rural area of the Iraqw people. Here, women work on farms alongside their extended family members. Over 80% of the people in Tanzania live as subsistence farmers, a life of difficult labor linked inextricably to the land. Women produce the bulk of Tanzania's staple food, maize.

We will have the unique honor of learning the Maasai women's way of life and the critical roles that they play in both literally creating their homes and maintaining their culture. The scenery in this region is spectacular, as we walk along the base of the Great Rift Valley escarpment. We will also have the chance to get up close and personal with the African elephant culture and come to understand just how much we have in common with these magnificent beings!

We will explore the Ngorongoro Crater, an extraordinary wildlife haven where we find large populations of elephant, rhinoceros, lion, hyena, zebra, wildebeest, and a myriad of other animals living in this self-contained environment; the famed Olduvai Gorge, where some of the earliest remains of our species were discovered; and the vast Serengeti Plains, where we will discover some of the highest concentrations of animals in the world.

I hope you will join me on this memorable Tanzanian safari. Reserve your place by calling Thomson Safaris at (800) 235-0289, or e-mail at info@thomsonsafaris.com and refer to "Vassar's Wildlife and Cultural Safari." Space is limited to 16 participants, so I encourage you to reserve your place(s) quickly.

Sincerely

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Abigail A. Baird Associate Professor of Psychology, Vassar College

#### Dr. Abigail A. Baird



Professor Abigail Baird studies and teaches human development in the Vassar Psychology Department. She is fascinated by how we become who we are and how the intermingling of our biological makeup and life experience creates our unique selves. Abigail is not only interested in the processes of development that can be seen in people all over the world,

but also how those compare to the development of animals with complex social and emotional lives. She has studied primates and dolphins, and during a memorable period in Australia, sharks. Abigail was finally able to spend time with elephants and people who research them in South Africa earlier this year. Abigail earned her A.B. at Vassar in Biopsychology, and her M.A. and Ph.D. at Harvard University in Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience. She hopes to open your minds and hearts to all that we share with the people and animals of Tanzania, and just how much their emotions, relationships, and society can teach us about ourselves. TANZANIA RADITIONAL AND MODERN WOMEN IN H

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Vassar Travel Program Vassar College Box 14 124 Raymond Avenue Poughkeepsie, NY 12604

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# TANZANIA: A Cultural & Wildlife Safari

March 11 – 23, 2013 Hosted by Associate Professor of Psychology, Dr. Abigail A. Baird

# Vassar Travel Program

Educational Excursions for Alumnae/i, Family, and Friends

#### March 11, Depart U.S.

Depart the U.S.

#### March 12, Amsterdam - Arusha, Tanzania

In Amsterdam, connect with your flight to Kilimanjaro International Airport, arriving late in the evening. Your guide greets you upon arrival and takes you to your lodge, which not only provides stellar accommodations, but also supports its community through assistance to small businesses, local finance ventures and other social development efforts. **Rivertrees Country Inn (Meals aloft, snack)** 

#### March 13, Arusha

For over 25 years, Americans and community visionaries, Pete and Charlotte O'Neal, have lived in a village nestled high in Mount Meru's foothills. Visit their home, beside which there is a community and arts center, a vocational school, and an orphanage known as the Leaders of Tomorrow. The O'Neals have established themselves as wellloved members of the Arusha community, supporting all forms of the arts, promoting the importance of education and providing a safe and nurturing environment for young people at their United African Alliance Community Center (UAACC). In addition, learn about the 2004 PBS documentary which explores the O'Neals' lives from the riotous days of the 1960s to their peaceful state of exile. Meeting these charismatic visionaries will surely provoke interesting debate.

**Rivertrees Country Inn (All meals included)** 

#### March 14, Village visit

Today, get an early start with a village visit on the slopes of Mount Meru. Spend the morning becoming friendly with your host, a representative of the Baraka Women's Cooperative and a proud woman of the Meru tribe. Assist in the daily routine of your host, learning about her home, the community dynamics, farming, and her tactic for child rearing. After a traditional lunch, partake in a discussion with your new friends. Rivertrees Country Inn (All meals included)

## March 15, Tarangire National Park

After breakfast, drive to Tarangire National Park, where giant baobab trees and umbrella acacias dot the rocky hills and verdant valleys. Watch for large herds of elephant, journeys of giraffe, sounders of warthog, and troops of baboons. Nearly 500 bird species have been recorded in the park. Later this afternoon, arrive at Gibb's Farm, a historic coffee estate, organic farm, and eco-lodge. Enjoy bird watching, nature-led hikes, tours of the organic farms and gardens, mountain biking\*, indulge in some of Gibb's traditionally inspired spa services\*, or have tea on the verandah.

Gibb's Farm (All meals included, \*additional fees apply)

#### March 16, Great Rift Valley

Depart early this morning for the Great Rift Valley to meet with modern Maasai women. Learn about their ever-changing roles as tribeswomen and a variety of issues ranging from legal rights to living in a polygamous community. Traditionally the spokesperson at a Maasai boma is a man who, by social taboo, is not allowed to discuss women's issues. Today, listen to Happiness Lemiuret share how she organized her Maasai sisters to lobby the government for plots of land.

Gibb's Farm (All meals included)

#### March 17, Karatu

After a leisurely breakfast, travel to the seldom-visited Mbulu area set in a large marginal agricultural region. Join our new Iraqw friends-both women and men-in their daily routine and experience a lifestyle quite different from that of the Meru women. More than 80% of the people in Tanzania live as subsistence farmers, a life of difficult labor linked inextricably to the land.

Thomson Ngorongoro Nyumba (All meals included)

# March 18, Ngorongoro Crater

This geological marvel, known as the Ngorongoro Crater, is unique in the world with lakes, forests, a savanna, and an outstanding population of about 30,000 animals within 102 square miles. It is no wonder that the crater is often referred to as the Eighth Wonder of the World. Explore the crater by land rover, searching out a wide variety of wildlife such as hippo, hyena, gazelle, and all of the Big Five: bull elephant, rhino, leopard, lion, and African buffalo.

Thomson Ngorongoro Nyumba (All meals included)

# March 19, Olduvai Gorge & Serengeti National Park

Depart early this morning for the great Serengeti, stopping at the famed Olduvai Gorge, where major paleontogical discoveries have helped to answer important questions about human evolution. Over the next two and a half days, you'll explore the Serengeti's varied ecosystem, observing lion, hyena, giraffe, elephant, impala, Thomson's and Grant's gazelles, ostrich, warthog, and so much more. From your camp, you will not only have excellent access to wildlife, but you'll have an opportunity to take an optional hot air balloon excursion (\$475 per person).

Thomson Serengeti Nyumba (All meals included)

# March 20 & 21, Serengeti National Park

Continue to journey far and wide in this immense park, allowing your guides and host to lead the way. You will be in awe of the Serengeti's Great Migration, a wildlife spectacle like no other on earth. Hundreds of thousands of wildebeest, zebra and eland will be on the short grass plains, giving birth to tens of thousands of offspring. Thomson Serengeti Nyumba

## March 22, Serengeti - Arusha - Depart

After breakfast, say goodbye to your guides, and head back to Arusha on a short midmorning flight, where you'll visit a fantastic arts center with boutique Tanzanian jewelry and crafts created by handicapped artisans using recycled materials. Rest and relax in your day room before the long journey home.

Day Room: Mount Meru Hotel (All meals included)

## March 23, Amsterdam – U.S.

Connect in Europe and arrive in the U.S. Flights; (Meals aloft)

#### **Optional Balloon Safari**

One morning at sunrise, you have the option to take a hot air balloon over the Serengeti Plains for an unforgettable journey across the great African savanna. After landing, everyone is served champagne and a full English breakfast in the bush. Around midmorning, join the group to continue exploring the Serengeti. Space is limited and advance reservations are required.

(Price is \$475 per person.)

#### \$6,440 per adult | Single Supplement: \$990

To reserve a space, call Thomson Safaris at (800) 235-0289, or mail the reservation form with your deposit to Thomson Safaris, 14 Mount Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472. A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, or check, payable to Thomson Safaris, secures your space on safari. We cannot confirm reservations without a deposit. Final payment is due December 12, 2012 and is payable by check. Credit cards are not accepted for final payment.

Airfare: International airfare is not included. Thomson Safaris, our tour operator for this program, will be happy to make flight arrangements for you on Delta/KLM Airlines, or help you to coordinate your own. You will need to fly into and out of Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) via Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam.

Insurance: Trip cancellation insurance is available through the Vassar Travel Program for comprehensive coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident as well as damaged or lost luggage. You will receive insurance information from Vassar College after you make your reservation.

Shares: Single accommodations are limited, subject to availability at the time of booking, and cannot be guaranteed. Should you wish to share a room, we will attempt to find a roommate for you at your request. If we are unable to provide a roommate by the final invoice date, the single supplement will be assessed.

- solar panels

- Cultural and village visits



The following price is based on double occupancy and does not include international flights

#### How to Book

Cancellations & Refunds: Notification of cancellation must be received in writing to Thomson Safaris. At the time we receive your cancellation, the following per person cancellation penalties apply:

- Up to 91 days before departure:
- 90-61 days before departure:
- 60-46 days before departure:
- 45 days or less before departure:
- Deposit
- 50% of the package price 65% of the package price
- 100% of the package price

Terms & Conditions: A detailed liability statement, concerning, among other things, limitations of Wineland-Thomson Adventures, Incorporated's liability for loss of property, injury, illness or death, will be provided to passengers upon enrollment, along with an information form to sign and return to Thomson Safaris shortly after enrolling on the trip. Each of these forms is also available to prospective travelers upon request.

#### Tanzania: A Cultural & Wildlife Safari Includes:

based on double occupancy, and park fees

• Large walk-in, solid-floor tents and fine food: camp beds with linens; an attached portable toilet and separate pull shower - hot water showers are available anytime of day; a vanity and washbasin; and LED lighting provided by

· Vassar Professor Abigail A. Baird, will accompany the group throughout safari

- Tanzanian-born, English speaking professional safari guides, and a Tanzanian host/interpreter
- Scenic internal flight from the Serengeti to Arusha
   Bush lunch

- Meals and bottled water, accommodations Comfortable wildlife viewing in specially equipped 4WD Land Rover Defenders with pop-up roofs and customized, convenient battery charging outlets. Each traveler is guaranteed a window seat
  - Complete pre-departure information
  - · Daily safari briefing to help you prepare for each day
  - Baggage handling
  - Beer, wine, spirits, and soda included at welcome and farewell dinners

#### Safari Does Not Include:

International airfare and airport departure tax, unless flights are arranged by Thomson Safaris, our operator for this program; fuel surcharge; gratuities for guides and camp staff; activities not included as part of the itinerary; trip insurance; passport, visa, and immunization fees; personal items such as laundry, fax/phone/email charges, souvenirs and alcoholic beverages.