

## All Right Sir, I'm Ready For My Close-up!

Saturday, September 19, 2015

The four of us (Lillie, her mom, Vickie and me) planned a full Saturday in Nairobi as we have a free day before the rest of the group arrives Sunday. We arranged a car/driver from 8am to 6pm and our plans included visiting:

- The National Museum - this is a nice-size museum with good collections of nature (lots of stuffed animals), history, culture, archaeology and modern art. It also had some nice gift shops.



One of the exhibits I enjoyed the most was Joy Adamson's (of "Born Free" fame) paintings of women with their traditional jewelry.

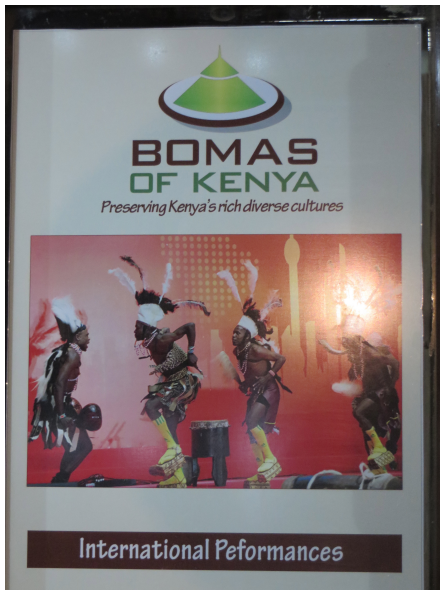


- The Peace Garden and Memorial Museum - a memorial to those who died in the August 7, 1998 bombing of the US Embassy in Nairobi. It is a beautiful, serene little park designed to fill the footprint of the former embassy. The museum also shows a 50 minute video on events leading to the bombing and its after effects.

We spent over an hour at the park and the museum. In addition to it being a memorial, it is a lovely green space in the center of Nairobi.



- The Bomas of Kenya - a large park showcasing various (recreated) villages from around Kenya. There are also craftspeople, a restaurant with “interesting” food and a very nice cultural show.



At the Bomas restaurant Vickie ordered the grilled beef which came with sauteed spinach and.... Ugali, which turned out to be a brick of carbs made from cornmeal mush.

- the Sheldrick Elephant Sanctuary -- to see the baby elephants they care for coming in from their day roaming Nairobi National Park, being fed, then put to bed. It is a great opportunity to take as many pictures as we want of the babies, and even talk to their keepers, who sleep in the same enclosure as they must feed the little ones every few hours. Each of us has adopted an elephant, though I couldn't remember the name of mine, so didn't know which one to visit.



One of the keepers shows us where he sleeps in order to be near his baby elephant to feed him every few hours during the night. The keepers enjoyed talking to us about their charges.



It was the Bomas of Kenya that turned out to be the highlight of my day as I was asked to appear in a music video! The park is a huge property and as we walked from village to village, we noticed two well-equipped vans parked next to one of the “villages” as well as three men and five women in Maasai clothing. Cameras were shooting a girl singing, with Maasai warriors dancing in the background. The rest of the entourage included back-up musicians, various photographers, gaffers, key grips and even some “best boys” (go-fers). After watching the filming for a bit (and taking lots of photos), the videographer called me over and asked if I’d like to appear as a “regular person” in support of the cause.

And their cause -- “Hands Off Our Elephants” a group against poaching. ([www.wildlifedirect.org](http://www.wildlifedirect.org)) (Is this perfect for me, or what!)



OF COURSE -- I SAID YES!

Soon I was surrounded by the (very handsome) Maasai warriors, a sign was thrust in my hands and I was asked to look at the camera and smile. The clip will be used in a montage of us “regular folks” supporting the cause. I handed my camera to one of the best boys, and he took this photo.



Yes - I've been ready for this close-up for a long, long time and loved every second of it!