

Our Trip to Africa – Kenya, Egypt

(and almost Morocco)

September 25 – October 14, 2023

Ray and Susan Rhew

Presented to LAA October 8, 2024



Background

- Ray Rhew retired from NASA Langley at the end of 2021 with 34 1/2 years of service
- He started his career in the Instrument Research Division after graduating with an ME degree from Old Dominion University as a wind tunnel balance engineer
- He retired as the Branch Head of the Aeronautics Systems Engineering Branch – wind tunnel test articles, instrumentation and unmanned systems development and flight testing

- Susan and I have been traveling to different parts of the globe since 1999 with their first trip out of the US to England
- We are trying to touch all seven continents with South America and Antarctica to go

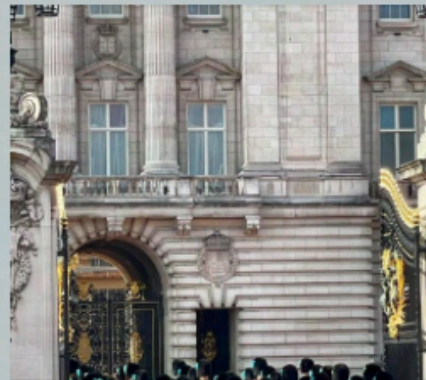
- This talk is about our recent trip to two countries in Africa, Kenya and Egypt, including some tips/lessons learned along the way.

Susan did a great job chronicling the trip on FaceBook – the slides are her material!



Our Travel Plans

- The Kenya and Egypt portion were part of Gate 1 travel packages (we have used them for 6 trips)
- Started at farthest point and worked our way back – Kenya – Egypt - Morocco



1st Stop – London, England

- We decided to break up the long travel to Africa with a stop in London for a few days
- Helped with adjusting to the time difference
- Flights worked out very well – direct from DC to London and then to Nairobi

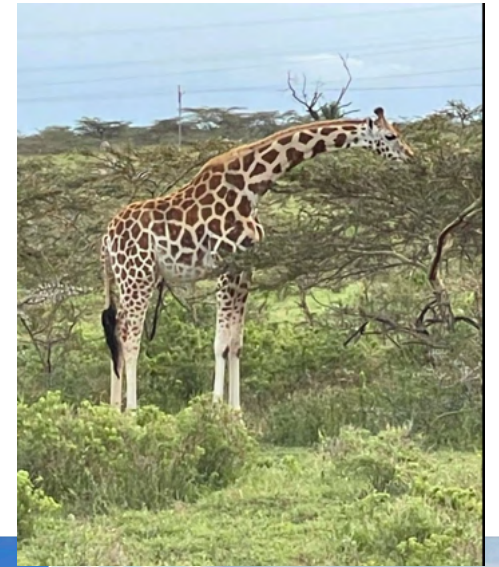
Nairobi, Kenya

- Arrived 2 days prior to the start of the GATE 1 tour
- Worked with hotel to hire a driver for the day to see some sights not on the tour agenda

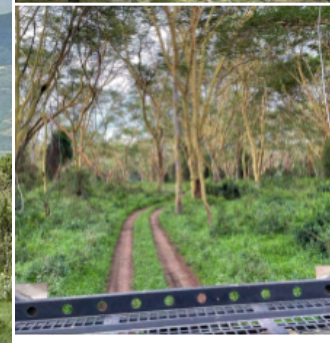


Traveled to Lake Elmentaita

- Only 4 tourist and one guide (very small group)
- Modified Toyota Land Cruiser – “African Massage” on the very bumpy roads in some areas

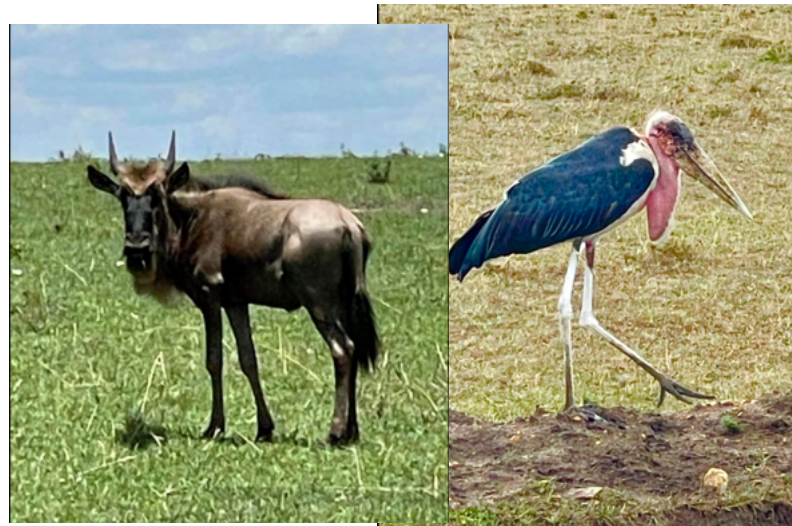


Hokies everywhere!



Traveled to Masai Mara – Pridelnn Mara Camp

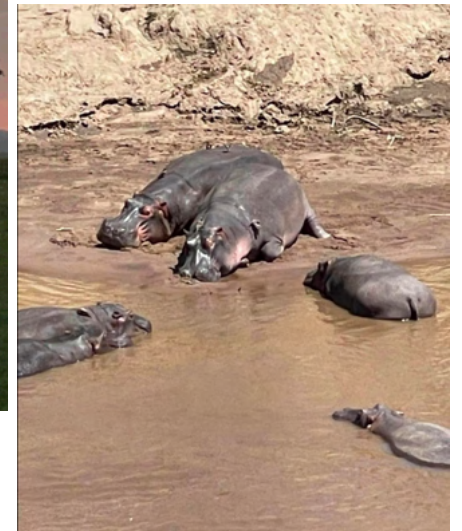
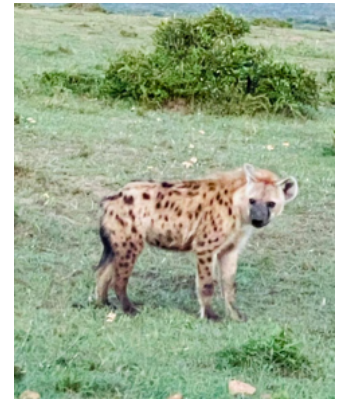
- Guide was trying to show us
 - Big 5 – Lion, Leopard, Rhino, Buffalo, Elephant
 - Ugly 5 – Stork, Vulture, Wart Hog, Wildebeest, Hyenas



Game Drive – Masai Mara



Sunrise Balloon Ride and Breakfast



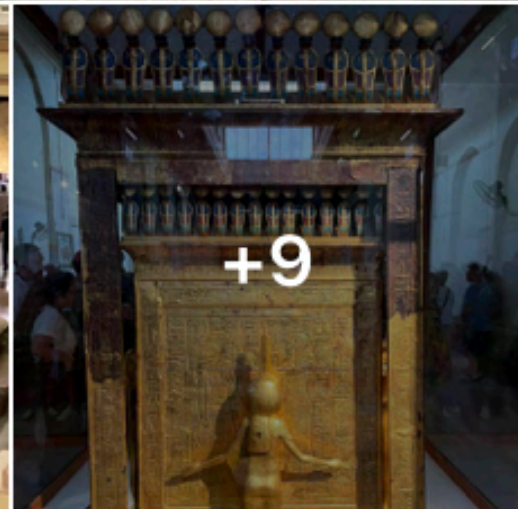
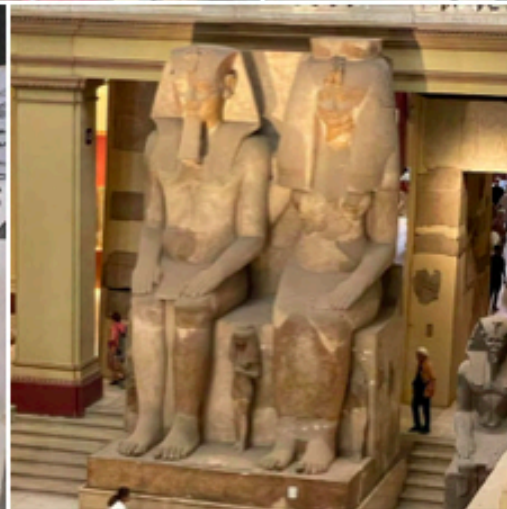
The People of Kenya



Cairo, Egypt



Egypt Day 1 of Tour

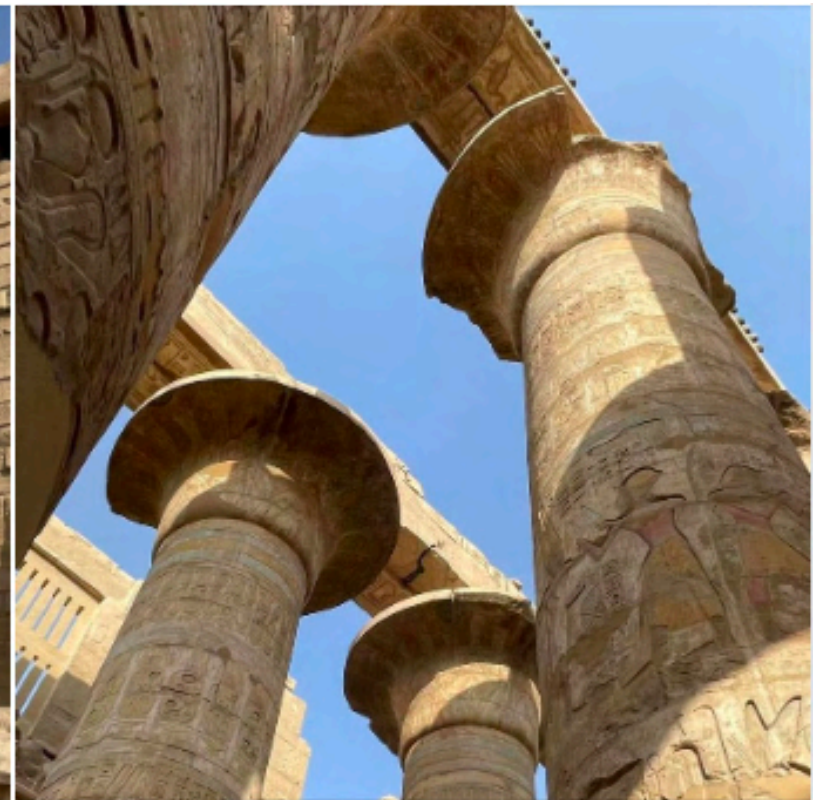


The big sites near Cai

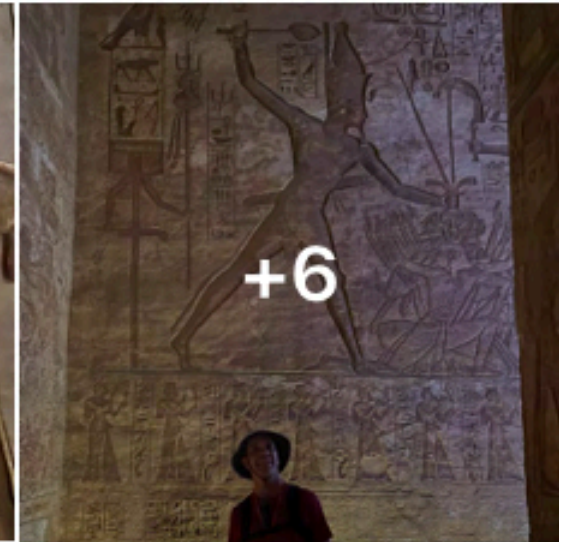
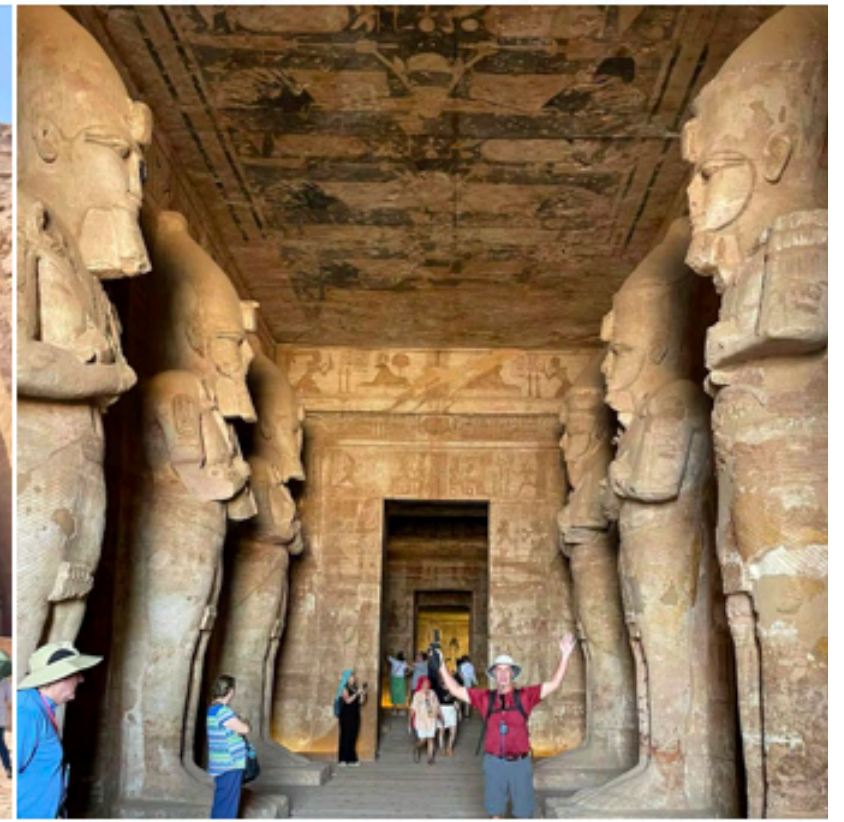
- Pyramids
- Sphinx
- And of Course a Camel Ride!



Luxor

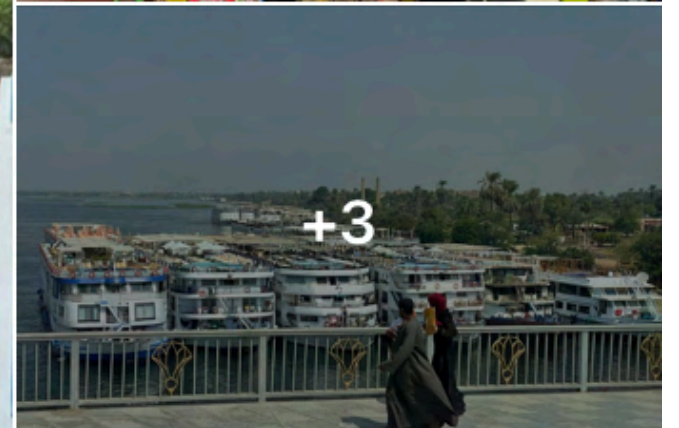
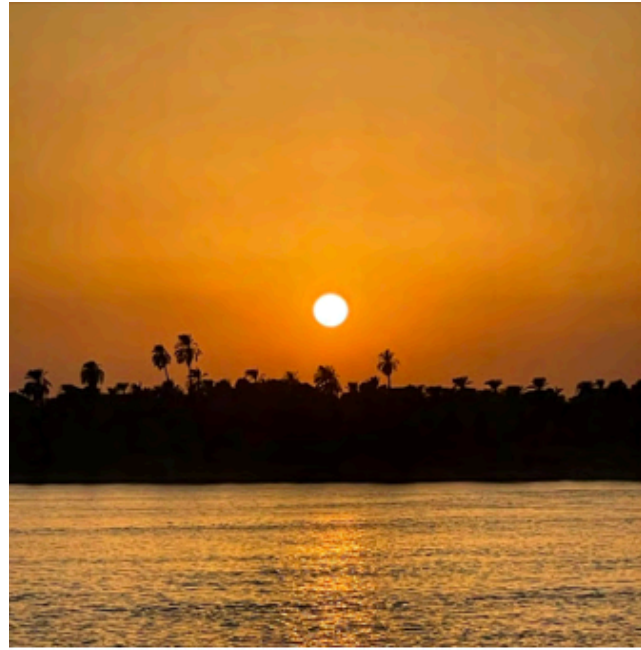


Abu Simbel



Heading Home

- Due to security concerns, we decided to cancel the third part of our Africa tour to Morocco, not a Gate 1 tour, self planned.



- We are home and thankful that we made the decision to cancel our time in Morocco!

Tens of thousands march in Morocco for Palestinians

Rabat (AFP) – Tens of thousands protested in Morocco Sunday in support of Palestinians amid the Gaza war, the biggest demonstration in the North African kingdom since it normalised ties with Israel in 2020.

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Travel Tips/Lessons Learned

- When traveling on long overseas flights, consider
 - Going at least one day early to help with jet lag/time zone changes before touring
 - Upgrading flights to provide additional leg room (economy plus for example) – if you really want to splurge, go for business or first class with lay-flat seats
 - Signing up for Global Entry – includes TSA precheck – many credit card companies offer to pay the fees, speeds up security checks in the US and upon reentry through Customs and Border Control
 - Trying to fit all items into carry-on luggage to minimize airport time and potential lost luggage – especially if you have additional short flights within the country you are visiting
 - Weather sites for outlook during travel dates for packing
 - Thin-layered clothes to enable a wide range of temperature comfort
 - Small packs for medications, toiletries, electronics and chargers
 - Small packets for washing clothes, techniques to hang dry
 - At least 2 pair of shoes
 - Rain gear – never know when you will need it

Travel Tips/Lessons Learned (cont'd)

- Check and make sure cell phone plan is what you need in each country
- Know health requirements for each country and it matters where you arrive from!
- Provided bottled water – even for brushing your teeth
- Don't be surprised on level of security – checks in and out of hotels (even before entering airports)
- Register with State Department for security alert updates
- Know monetary exchange rate to help with purchases
- KAYAK site helpful for flight searches, planning – directly with airlines to book
- Viator for local tours
- Booking.com for hotel planning and booking, sometimes direct
- Did not need to exchange for any currency – all took US dollars and preferred them