

TWO WORLDS COLLIDE (A VISIT TO AFRICA)

A journey that spanned more than two months brought five fellow Servas friends and I from Servas Korea to the vast land of Africa, a country filled with enchantment, from its wondrous landscapes to its beautiful people.

Through the opportunity to attend the Servas Africa Regional & Youth Meeting conference in Uganda's capital city Kampala, the six of us traveled through many countries, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa.



Servas Korea Travel Africa 2019



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During our travels, we truly experienced all of the beauty that Africa has to offer. We connected with local people and children through delicious meals and traditional dance performances. We additionally went on a safari in Akagera National Park, biked along the Jinja Nile through the Servas Peace Riding expedition, got a taste of walking through the vast desert, witnessed the overflowing splendor of waterfalls, and so much more.

There are so many people I would like to thank, including other Servas members, as well as individuals we met along our trip.

Thank you to Margaret (Uganda National Secretary), Philip (Kenya National Secretary), Lourence (Tanzania National Secretary), Fidele (Rwanda) and Lele (Botswana) who all participated in the Servas International Conference and Gathering (SICOCA 2018) (held in Korea last year); all of their

amazing help was greatly appreciated. Additionally, only through the Ugandan Servas members' hard work was the Uganda conference this year able to successfully take place.

I would like to thank Margaret, who played a specially important role. As we prepared for the African conference, she kindly hosted the six of us at her home. If it weren't for her, we wouldn't have been able to plan our extensive journey in Africa. An additional thanks to Nampijja, who prepared Servas Uganda Peace Riding 2019 for us.

I would also like to thank Philip. He introduced us to Ruth (who resides in Nairobi), and Ruth even came to the airport to greet us upon arrival and treated us to a lovely, grand dinner. Philip hosted us for a couple of days in Mombasa and while he was away at work, Ruth's sisters, Linda and Shila, kindly gave us a tour of Mombasa. Last year when Philip participated in the SICOCA conference, he unfortunately didn't have the chance to go sightseeing around Korea, but he finally had the opportunity to visit Korea again in November! We were also lucky enough to see him again during our trip to Africa this time around.

I would also like to thank Lourence from Zanzibar, Tanzania for hosting us. Two other Servas members joined us at his house and all of us had such a fun time! Servas member Said is the general manager of the Bahari View Lodge, so he kindly took us there in the afternoon and we had a lovely time there as well.



I was also very thankful to the Rwandan Servas members who hosted us (which gave us the amazing opportunity to see how locals lived in person), Allen (a Servas member who lives in Moshi and operates in tourism work and helped us with visiting Kilimanjaro in Tanzania), and Clare (who lives in Livingstone, Zambia, and invited us to dinner at her house, where we were able to meet other members such as Anxious). I would also like to thank the lovely couple who owned the Korean guesthouse where we stayed in Botswana. After we told them about Servas, they decided to join as well!

I'm so incredibly thankful to my fellow participants on this expedition: my husband, Dongwon Na, as well as Byungwan Choi, Misook Kim, Eunduck Song, and Sungju Ha for being part of such a wonderful and meaningful journey with me in the beautiful land of Africa. I'd especially like to thank Byungwan Choi, who is the former Korean National Secretary. He had come up with the idea of this trip and he put in a tremendous amount of work into planning it.

A final huge thanks to Servas and all the members we met on this trip, we received so much love and support from Servas during our whole journey! It was truly an experience none of us will ever forget.

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