

# Joan and Lloyd's African Adventure

September 2011

Editor and webmaster, Lloyd Arrd, and questioner and energizer, Joan Mills, were privileged to spend a week in the African country of Cameroon which borders on Nigeria. We flew out of Calgary on 9/11 nonstop to Amsterdam, then to Paris and Yaounde, the capital city of 6.5 million people. Here are a couple of pics taken from our room and the pool at the Hilton in Yaounde.



Chocolate ice cream at the pool



Fortunately we weren't riding on the horny elephant!

We drove out to a primate preserve 45 minutes outside of Yaounde. There were lots of gorillas, chimpanzees, monkeys and assorted wildlife.

Max the gorilla. He would strike a weird pose and then wait for us to take pictures of him. A real ham!



Joan and lion



Our group and one of the vehicles



Avi, a 440 lb. (200 kg) gorilla. His strength is so great he could easily tear your arm off or throw you 50 feet, which is why he is kept behind two very high electrified fences with razor wire at the top.



Buds like this produce chocolate!



We walked a mile or so along a narrow jungle trail

Located at the equator, the sun always rises at 6 AM and sets at 6 PM all year long. The temperature is always the same, 80s or 90s, and there are only 2 seasons: the dry season and the rainy season. As you can imagine, the humidity is quite high.

They are very concerned about their wildlife because poachers are decimating them at an alarming rate. Various groups are working to stem this pernicious trend.



Lloyd in front of jungle sapling



Typical house near preserve and in the country



Joan in native gown and Lloyd in matching shirt

Cameroon is a developing country and has a long way to go before it becomes “civilized”. There are thousands and thousands of shops, stores and stands along the streets all over the city - (no chain stores). The next page shows some photos we took while traveling around the city.

French is the official language, although there are over 100 tribal dialects. Not knowing French, we were at a distinct disadvantage at the market where they expect you to dicker over the prices. Very few of the people speak English. Wherever we showed up to buy something they zeroed in on us as though we were “fresh meat”.

I saw no emaciated or starving people on the streets. The people are generally very polite, courteous and artistically talented. They appeared to be happy as a rule.



There are thousands of little yellow taxis, all of them with dents, because they drive like maniacs. Joan was continually gasping at the close calls in traffic but I really enjoyed it!

There is no civil unrest in Cameroon and the people are happy because they are not at war with any other country. However, the only way I would live there is if I were born and raised there...

Yours in the service,

Lloyd