



TANZANIA

Wildlife and Culture Safari

March 1-12, 2016

 **Commonwealth
Club Travel**

ANDY BIGGS



*Exceptional wildlife viewing,
beautiful scenery*

Dear Members and Friends of the Commonwealth Club,

I am pleased to present an extraordinary journey to East Africa where “off the beaten path” meets a wealth of culture, wildlife, and diverse peoples, eager to share their land and history with you. This 12-day journey was thoughtfully crafted to explore the best of Tanzania while treading lightly through spectacular but delicate ecosystems. Our adventure begins with a short, scenic flight to a private nature refuge located just east of Serengeti National Park. This will make for the perfect launching point, offering not only your first taste of wildlife viewing, but also wonderful guided nature walks, night drives by infrared spotlight, and personal encounters with Maasai culture. Next we will spend four spectacular days immersed in the untamed wilderness of the magnificent Serengeti during the peak of calving season for the migratory wildebeest.

After we depart Serengeti National Park, we will stop at Olduvai Gorge—the site of the Leakey family’s well-known archeological discoveries—en route to the lush and verdant Ngorongoro Crater, which is home to the highest concentration of wildlife in the world. Finishing out an already unforgettable journey, we will spend the last two days at Gibb’s Farm, a peaceful, eco-friendly sanctuary conveniently located near the village of Karatu for additional cultural interactions. In order to enhance wildlife viewing and cultural interaction for our guests, space is limited. **Call us to reserve your spot on this unforgettable adventure.**

Sincerely,

Kristina Nemeth

Journey off the beaten path,

to a land more bountiful and peaceful than you’ve ever imagined.



Tanzania is, quite simply, the ultimate safari destination. Having set aside one-third of its land for the purpose of conservation, it is no wonder the country boasts the highest concentrations of wildlife in the world.

Visiting will feel like stepping into your wildest dream. You’ll stalk with lions, roam with elephants, strut with flamingos, feel dwarfed by a 2,000-foot-deep crater, marvel at giant baobab trees, and sleep under the stars. You’ll discover unbridled beauty at World Heritage Sites, practice tracking skills in remote wild lands, and experience peacefulness and connection to the Earth like never before.

Tanzania is also one of the most peaceful and stable countries on the African continent, managing to stay free of the political upheaval that has plagued so many other African countries. With a rich cultural tapestry comprising more than 120 distinct ethnic groups, Tanzania was founded upon a spirit of inclusiveness and unity. That spirit persists today, and extends to visitors to this beautiful country; travelers are often amazed at the warmth and generosity they feel from almost everyone they meet.

For questions and inquiries, please contact Club Travel at 415-597-6720, or email us at travel@commonwealthclub.org

Our Exclusive ITINERARY



March 1-2: En route from U.S. / Arrive Arusha

Jambo! Upon arrival our guide will escort us to the lodge.

March 3-4: Eastern Serengeti Eco-System

Fly to a private nature refuge where after less than 10 years of conservation work, wildlife populations have nearly tripled. While at the refuge, guests will be treated to guided nature walks, authentic interactions with the local Maasai and night drives by spotlight.

March 5-8: Serengeti National Park

Spend four nights in two strategically placed camps as you explore the world-famous Serengeti in search of the Great Migration, the Big Five and countless bird species. At night, listen to the sounds of the wilderness under spectacular star-filled skies.

March 9: Olduvai Gorge and the Ngorongoro Crater

Stop at the archeological museum at Olduvai Gorge, where you'll learn about the Leakeys' remarkable discoveries into mankind's origins. Marvel at the world's largest intact volcanic caldera, which is home to roughly 30,000 animals including the rare and endangered black rhinoceros!

March 10: Ngorongoro Highlands

Engage with a local historian, an accomplished artisan, and visit a remarkable health clinic in the lush Ngorongoro Highlands. In the afternoon, take advantage of a number of activities or simply relax on your verandah.

March 11-12: Depart Arusha / Arrive home

Enjoy an outdoor farewell lunch at a sustainable business started by a pioneering local woman. Fly tonight, and arrive home tomorrow.

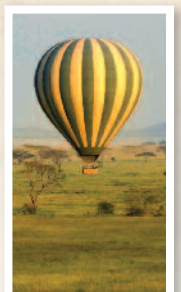
What's Included

- ❖ Tanzanian-born, English-speaking professional guides with a minimum of 10 years' experience
- ❖ Accommodations in deluxe, walk-in tents (with en suite bathrooms) and comfortable lodges
- ❖ All meals and unlimited snacks and bottled water in vehicles
- ❖ Airport transfers for guests who arrive/ depart on scheduled trip dates
- ❖ Daily safari briefings to help you prepare for each activity
- ❖ Related fees for all scheduled sight-seeing, park, and cultural excursions
- ❖ Guaranteed window seats in custom-made, 4-wheel drive safari vehicles
- ❖ Scenic internal flight to the Serengeti
- ❖ Complete pre-departure information and access to a personal safari consultant



Optional Serengeti Hot-Air Balloon Safari

At sunrise, you have the option to take a hot air balloon over the breathtaking Serengeti savannah. After landing, enjoy champagne and a full English breakfast in the bush before rejoining the group on a wildlife viewing drive.



Space is limited and advance reservations are required. *Height and weight restrictions apply.



Rivertrees Country Inn

Nestled in the foothills of Mount Meru, the Inn blends simple elegance and modern convenience.

Exclusive Nyumba Camps

Nyumba means “home” in Swahili, and these comfortable, eco-friendly accommodations will feel like one. Each spacious tent offers cozy bedding, solar lighting, and an en suite bathroom with self-contained, pump-flush toilet. Our itinerary includes stays at:

- Eastern Serengeti Nyumba**—exclusive camp set on a private nature refuge
- Serengeti Nyumbas**—two different camps strategically situated according to wildlife migration.

Gibb’s Farm

Fresh food, fresh air, and fresh perspectives abound. This award-winning eco-lodge’s cottages, set amidst the working farm’s lush gardens, are the ultimate in sustainable luxury.



Tanzania Wildlife & Culture Safari
March 1–12, 2016

\$6,490 per person
Price is based on double occupancy and does not include international flights

Please reserve _____ space(s).
Enclosed is my non-refundable deposit of _____ (\$700/person).

#1 First and last name DOB

#2 First and last name DOB

Mailing Address City State Zip

Phone (H) Phone (W)

Email

Accept my check made payable to Commonwealth Club of California.
or
Charge my: Visa MasterCard
 Discover American Express

Card # 3 digit security code
(4 digit for AMEX) Exp Date

Signature as it appears on card

- Double room, rooming with _____
- Single room (\$700 supplement)

Airfare is not included in the trip price.

- I/we would like more information on **business class** flights.
Preferred departure airport _____
- I/we will book economy class flights on our own.

Return to: Commonwealth Club Travel, 555 Post St., San Francisco, CA 94102
Contact us at 415-597-6720 or fax (415)597-6729, or travel@commonwealthclub.org.

Complete Itinerary

3/1/16 Depart From North America

3/2/16 Arrival into Arusha

Thomson Safaris staff will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your comfortable lodge.

Accommodations: Rivertrees Country Inn

3/3/16 Arusha to Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem

Fly from Arusha to the Eastern Serengeti ecosystem. The flight will take you across Ngorongoro Conservation Area with views up to Lake Natron and Tanzania's only active volcano, Oldoinyo Lengai. At the airstrip, you'll meet your local guides and make your way to a private 12,000 acre nature refuge which serves as a model for community-based tourism. Enjoy wildlife viewing along the way, one of the tangible results of conservation efforts in the area. Giraffe, eland, dik dik, ostrich, leopard and even wild dog can be seen in this unique wildlife haven. This afternoon, stretch your legs on a brief but scenic walk (a luxury not available in the national parks). A local wildlife scout will accompany you and your guide on this walk, pointing out nearby wildlife, birds and indigenous medicinal plants.

Accommodations: Eastern Serengeti Nyumba (B, L, D)

3/4/16 Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem

Enjoy a light breakfast before heading out on a morning hike. Being out on the plains on foot at this time of day is magical; the sun creeping above the horizon bathes the plains in a soft morning light as animals, in particular predators, are at their most active. Before lunch, you'll have the chance to visit a Maasai village school, where you'll learn more about the role of education in Maasai culture. Later, you'll visit a nearby Maasai "boma" or homestead just as warriors return home with their cattle. After dinner, take to the plains for a night drive. Because night drives are not permitted inside the national parks, few travelers in Tanzania have the chance to participate in such a unique experience.

Accommodations: Eastern Serengeti Nyumba (B, L, D)

3/5/16 Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem to Serengeti National Park

Get an early start this morning to begin your journey into the heart of Serengeti National Park. You'll enjoy outstanding wildlife viewing en route to your next camp. The big cats often spend these hours lying drowsily on the granite outcroppings of rock (also known as kopjes) that dot the plains, or up in a tree, while antelope, zebra,

giraffe and other animals continue to graze. Later this afternoon, you will meet with a local historian from the Waikoma tribe, who were some of the original inhabitants of the central Serengeti.

Accommodations: Central Serengeti Nyumba (B, L, D)

3/6/16 Serengeti National Park

Enjoy a full day with your guides exploring the rolling hills, river valleys and plains of the central Serengeti. The Seronera River provides a year-round supply of fresh water for an impressive number of mammals, most notably some of Africa's largest prides of lion. It is for this reason the Serengeti's first game wardens would set up camp nearby. At the end of the day, you will be greeted back at camp with a cold, refreshing drink and fire-side snacks before dinner and another night in this classic bush country.

Accommodations: Central Serengeti Nyumba (B, L, D)

3/7/16 Serengeti National Park

As you make your way south to your next camp, your expert guide will point out leopards hidden deep in the branches of a tree, lions stalking in the tall savannah grasses, and large herds of elephants wandering the plains (though you probably won't have any trouble spotting those yourself!). You'll enjoy a picnic lunch this afternoon so you don't miss a minute of the action.

Accommodations: Southern Serengeti Nyumba (B, L, D)

3/8/16 Serengeti National Park

Those with advance reservations will have the opportunity to view the Serengeti from a truly unique vantage-point: floating high above it in a hot-air balloon. You'll head to the launch site before daybreak, beginning your ascent just as the sun starts to rise over the stunning plains below. After a breathtakingly beautiful flight, you'll be greeted with champagne and a full English breakfast in the bush, after which you'll rejoin the group. For those who opt not to take the balloon excursion, there is much to discover within arm's reach of camp; learn how to identify animal footprints and bird calls with your guide. For the remainder of the day, spend more time seeking out wildlife and exploring the Serengeti's rich landscapes.

Accommodations: Southern Serengeti Nyumba (B, L, D)

3/9/16 Serengeti National Park to Ngorongoro Conservation Area

Just outside Serengeti National Park, lies Olduvai Gorge, a deep ravine where fossilized remains of animals and hominids that date



as far back as two million years have been found. You'll learn more about these remarkable discoveries during a brief lecture and museum tour. Next you'll visit the Ngorongoro Crater, a self-contained ecosystem absolutely teeming with wildlife. Often called "Africa's Eden," this caldera is one of the only places on earth where you can still see all of the Big Five in just one day. And that's just the beginning: baboons and warthog in the Lerai Forest, hundreds of brilliantly pink flamingo around Lake Magadi, and clusters of wildebeest and zebra dot the open plains.

Accommodations: Gibb's Farm (B, L, D)

3/10/16 Ngorongoro Highlands

After a hearty breakfast at Gibb's Farm, visit Dr. Frank's Hospital. Dr. Frank Artress was an American cardiac anesthesiologist who found his purpose after a near fatal climb on Kilimanjaro. In 2002, he founded The Foundation for African Medicine & Education (FAME) which provides not only medical care but training for medical professionals. Afterward, you'll meet with local historian and respected member of the Iraqw people, Daniel Tewa, as well as his wife, Elizabeth who is a skilled artisan. Daniel will share his encyclopedic knowledge of Tanzanian cultures and history, and Elizabeth will show you the stunning beaded "wedding skirts" she makes, explaining their intricate iconography. You'll also have a chance to visit the Tewas' traditional mound-like Iraqw home, which Daniel built in order to preserve his cultural heritage.

Accommodations: Gibb's Farm (B, L, D)

3/11/16 Departure

Rise early to take in the delightful chorus of songbirds from your verandah and start the day off with a farm-fresh breakfast at Gibb's. Back in Arusha, you will visit the heartwarming Shanga workshop. This socially conscious business creates new jobs and a sense of purpose for disabled local people who had few, if any, employment opportunities elsewhere. As the employees learn new skills, they are able to become active members of the community and make contributions to their families' wellbeing. You'll then have a chance to say goodbye to your guides and travel companions at a delicious farewell lunch at River House. Transfer to a day room so you can freshen up and enjoy a light snack before your evening flight home.

Accommodations: Day Room at Mount Meru Hotel (B, L, Snack)

3/12/16 Arrive home

Please note: Thomson Safaris (TS) will attempt to adhere to this itinerary as much as possible. Any unforeseeable changes in fees, such as fuel surcharges, increased park fees, or other fees that are out of TS control will be the responsibility of the guest. Some conditions (political, climatic, environmental, cultural, or wildlife migrations) may also necessitate changes in the itinerary. TS reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participant.

Hot Air Balloon Optional Safari

Take in sweeping views of the African plains from a hot air balloon during your stay in the Serengeti. Launch at sunrise and, depending on wind conditions, float over the Seronera River Valley for 30 minutes to an hour. Upon descending, celebrate with a champagne toast, and enjoy a full English breakfast right on the savannah. You may see wildlife, but the most incredible part of the experience is the unforgettable bird's eye perspective as you skim over the tops of acacia trees and observe the pristine landscape from above.

\$540 per person, Advance reservations required; height and weight restrictions may apply.

Pre- and Post-Safari Extensions

No extensions are offered in conjunction with this trip however, the experts at Thomson Safaris are happy to arrange customized extensions upon request.



Why Tanzania?

Visiting Tanzania will feel like stepping into your wildest dream. You'll stalk with lions, roam with elephants, strut with flamingos, feel dwarfed by a 2,000-foot-deep crater, stand beneath giant baobab trees, and sleep under the stars. You'll discover unbridled beauty at World Heritage Sites, practice tracking skills in remote wild lands, learn about dozens of fascinating and unique cultures, and experience peacefulness and connection to the Earth like never before.

You'll feel safe and comfortable every step of your journey. Known as "the Switzerland of Africa," Tanzania is a peaceful country. The people of Tanzania are some of the most warmhearted individuals on Earth, and they graciously welcome visitors into their homes and delight in sharing their culture with guests.

Experience amazing wildlife viewing year-round at Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Crater, and the Eastern Serengeti Nature Refuge, all of which are teeming with the animals you've dreamed of seeing on safari. Hone your wildlife spotting skills with the help of an expert guide, and make unforgettable memories on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure.

What to Expect

Your itinerary is specially designed to maximize your cultural and wildlife-viewing experience as well as your comfort. There is virtually no bad time to visit Tanzania. Rains in November and April motivate the perpetual movement of animals in search of water (also known as The Great Migration). The climate is typically dry, sunny, and warm. In northern Tanzania, expect temperatures with daytime highs in the 80s and lows in the 50s in the evenings and early mornings. Temperatures will be cooler at higher elevations, such as the rim of Ngorongoro Crater (7,200 feet). The timing of this trip was specifically chosen to occur around calving season. Over a million wildebeest and zebra young will have been born just weeks (possibly days) before your arrival!

Activity Level

This tour involves exposure to the outdoors, full days of touring, and some walking, often along uneven terrain. This is not an active safari, but you should be in good physical condition in order to enjoy it to the fullest. Wildlife-viewing drives may last up to five hours on bumpy, dusty, and occasionally muddy roads. Since your comfort is a priority, these drives are minimized with wildlife viewing and/or cultural stops along the way.

Sustainable Travel

Recently named to Travel + Leisure's 2013 World's Best List in the category of Top Safari Outfitters, Thomson Safaris was selected as the tour operator for this trip because of their extensive expertise in northern Tanzania and award-winning reputation in the adventure travel business. Working exclusively in Tanzania for over 33 years, they are leaders in ethical, sustainable, and responsible tourism. Below are some of the many ways Thomson Safaris continues to give back.

- Thomson owners Rick Thomson and Judi Wineland also own the Tanzanian operations, where they hire locally and provide excellent benefits, job security, and training.
- To minimize the impact on Tanzanian landscapes and wildlife, Thomson Safaris insists on adherence to Leave No Trace ethics at all its camps and on its Mt. Kilimanjaro treks.
- Thomson cares about the environment: your mobile camps utilize solar lighting and water-conserving technologies, and the U.S. headquarters has 110 solar panels, providing 1/3 of its power.
- Through personal giving and their many partner philanthropy organizations, owners Rick Thomson and Judi Wineland have helped to set up sustainable Tanzanian businesses, support Tanzanian schools and women's empowerment initiatives, and fund a 12,000-acre conservation project east of the Serengeti.
- Thomson Safaris works with the organization Green Living Project in an effort to educate individuals and communities on diverse sustainable practices around the world.
- In 1996, a group of Thomson guests were touched by Tanzania's limited educational resources and, along with Thomson owner, Judi Wineland, founded the nonprofit organization Focus on Tanzanian Communities (FoTZC). The heart of its mission is to partner with Tanzanian communities on sustainable development projects. In addition to funding, building, and donating much-needed supplies to local schools, FoTZC provides funding for healthcare, clean water and women's empowerment initiatives.

Experienced Guides

Thomson Safaris was one of the first safari operators in Tanzania to insist on local, Tanzanian guides. All your guides have a minimum of 10 years' experience in the field. More than just leaders, spotters, and wildlife experts, they are true ambassadors for Tanzania. In addition to superior wildlife spotting skills, your team of guides offers local insight that can't be found in guidebooks. They can't wait to share their country's treasures with you!



Transportation while on safari

You've gone halfway around the world to be on safari; you don't want to waste a single minute stuck in the mud or unable to cross the river. Luckily, you'll be traveling in specially customized vehicles. These reliable, rugged vehicles are tough enough for river crossings, wild terrain, dirt roads, and anything that comes your way!

Benefits of your customized safari vehicle:

- While the vehicle is built to accommodate 8 passengers, a maximum of 6 guests per vehicle means room to move and guaranteed window seats for everyone
- Better views because the seats have been lowered
- Protection from the sun due to the pop-up roof
- The ability to stand up and get 360° views when the roof is "popped up"
- Easy battery recharging via multiple US-style outlets in each vehicle
- Worry-free river crossings with a custom snorkel that keeps the engine going
- Complimentary snacks and bottled water, throughout the safari
- No mileage restrictions – you'll go wherever the wildlife is

Accommodations

Accommodations have been chosen for their unique African feel, stunning settings, and ideal proximity to attractions. All lodges are comfortable and have electricity and private bathrooms. Your camps, which were designed exclusively by Thomson, are called Nyumbas (Swahili for "home"). They are eco-friendly mobile camps set on private sites that allow direct access to wildlife. The large walk-in tents feature real beds dressed in deluxe linens. En suite bathrooms include water basins, showers, and self-contained, pump-flush toilets. Due to ecological and conservation issues, none of the camps have fixed plumbing, and they utilize the abundant sunshine to provide solar-powered LED lighting. The camp chef prepares fresh gourmet meals from local ingredients, and restricted diets are easily accommodated with advance notice.

Accommodations for your trip include:

Rivertrees Country Inn (1 night)

Nestled in the foothills of Mount Meru, in view of Mount Kilimanjaro, this peaceful country estate combines simple elegance and

modern convenience. Wake up in your farmhouse-style room to the sound of the rushing Usa River, and enjoy a hearty breakfast in an open-air, thatched-roof dining area.

Eastern Serengeti Nyumba, 2 nights

Wake to exceptional views of the Serengeti at this private, remote site. After a day of adventure, you'll appreciate the comforts of the camp. Enjoy a hearty dinner prepared fresh from local ingredients, and discuss the day's excitement with your fellow travelers and attentive staff.

Serengeti Nyumba, 4 nights at 2 different camps

These semi-permanent, seasonal camps are strategically plotted across the Serengeti according to wildlife migration patterns. Each location offers comfort in the heart of the wilderness. With spacious tents, cozy bedding, and en suite bathrooms, you'll have to look outside to remember that you're deep in the bush. Best of all, with eco-friendly features like solar lighting, you're not harming the stunning landscape.

Gibb's Farm, 2 nights

Fresh food, fresh air, and fresh perspectives abound at Gibb's Farm. At the end of full days of exploration, relax in your eco-friendly cottage, set amidst the farm's lush gardens. Gibb's Farm offers a variety of activities, adventures and opportunities to rejuvenate, from guided walks around the extensive grounds of this working coffee estate, to bike tours through the hills of the Ngorongoro highlands, to Maasai-inspired spa treatments. Whether you wish to relax and recharge, explore the diverse natural surroundings, or learn more about the local culture and traditions, you have a variety of experiences to choose from at Gibb's.

Mount Meru Hotel, Day Room

The Mount Meru Hotel has been a mainstay of Arusha accommodations since it opened in the 1960s, when Tanzania tourism was still in its infancy. It was recently renovated top to bottom, and the finished product is even better than the original. With reliable modern conveniences, a variety of dining options, and a central location, it is an ideal place to end your safari.



Included on Your Safari

- Accommodations (based on double occupancy)
- All National Park fees
- Meals as noted in itinerary, inclusive of restaurant staff tips
- Beer, wine, spirits, and soda at welcome and farewell dinners
- Complete preparation materials including helpful tips, packing list, trip expectations, tipping guidelines, etc.
- Access to a personal safari consultant by phone or email, five days a week
- Full-color, 120-page Safari Journal
- Safari briefings throughout the trip
- Services of highly-trained guides, drivers, and Nyumba staff, including chef and wait staff
- Land transportation in a customized, 4-wheel drive safari vehicle with unlimited mileage
- Guaranteed window seating in vehicles
- Village, school, and cultural visits as noted in itinerary
- Scenic internal flight(s) as noted in itinerary
- Complimentary bottled drinking water and snacks throughout your safari
- Keep Fit Kit at each Nyumba camp
- Airport transfers for Delta/KLM flights on scheduled arrival and departure days
- Baggage handling
- A Commonwealth Club tour leader with a minimum number of travelers

Not Included

- International round-trip flight to Tanzania
- Gratuities for guides, drivers, and camp staff (approximately \$290-\$410US per traveler)
- Airline-imposed fuel surcharges, seat assignment, and checked baggage fees
- Meals and expenses en route to Tanzania
- Fees for passport, visa, or immunizations
- Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
- Beer, wine, spirits, and soft drinks, laundry, phone, internet, and items of a personal nature

How to Book

To reserve a spot, call Commonwealth Club Travel at (415) 597-6720 or email travel@commonwealthclub.org. You may also fax your reservation to (415) 597-6729. A non-refundable deposit of \$700 per person by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, or check,

payable to Commonwealth Club of California. We cannot confirm reservations without a deposit. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and is payable by check or wire transfer. Credit cards are not accepted for final payment.

Airfare

International airfare is not included in the trip price. Thomson Safaris can assist guests with purchasing their airfare. While economy coach fares are generally more favorable when booking direct with Delta/KLM, Thomson Safaris is usually able to secure business class seats at a discount. A sample group air itinerary will be provided upon booking. Guests who book their own flights will be asked to share their final itinerary with Thomson Safaris prior to departure.

Insurance

It is highly recommended that you consider purchasing trip insurance that offers comprehensive coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation, illness or accident as well as damage or loss of luggage. Information will be promptly sent to you following registration and payment of deposit.

Shares

Single accommodations are limited 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 accommodation fee will be assessed.

Cancellation and Refunds

Notification of cancellation must be received in writing (by letter, fax, or email) to Thomson Safaris. At the time we receive your cancellation, the following per person cancellation penalties apply:

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

Terms and Conditions

A detailed liability statement, concerning, among other things, limitations of Wineland-Thomson Adventures, Inc.'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.