



Roger Dery Gem Design

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An African Buying Trip - Tsavorite and Safari

One of the incredible things on this January's trip was the Tsavorite mine we went to. It's unusual because it is the second longest running Tsavorite mining site, after Campbell Bridges' site and it is owned by a woman. The area they are working is very deep as you can see by the photo, about 80 or 90 feet. The miners were very nimble and they were quickly down in the mine as we're still trying not to slip on the gravel. Roger went in the mine which runs under where we were standing for about 450 feet.



After visiting the mine site we were given the opportunity to go through the rough material collected over the last few days. Ten kg bags of rough were emptied on this metal table to be sorted through. It was grueling work since there wasn't any shade and it was close to 100°. Alas, we didn't find anything worth purchasing.



This oval was cut from the only nice Tsavorite rough we found in Kenya at the Mkuki mine. It has some inclusions, but is much cleaner than all the others we looked through.



We started two of our mornings on safari in Kenya's Tsavo East National Park. We were rewarded with sightings of three of Africa's Big Five - elephant, lion and buffalo. It was quite amazing to see these guys cross the road right in front of our vehicle and then pose for a picture!



Tsavorite and Safari - quite the combination!

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