

WHAT'S NEW?

PETERSEN PHOTOGRAPHY & NATURE ENCOUNTERS Issue #8 Fall 2002 TOURS & TRAVEL

A Safari Report Kenya and Tanzania May 2002

Excerpts from the Safari Diary of Fern Trout (pictured with the Masai kids)



"Our first safari outing - a visit to the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust Orphanage.

Daphne Sheldrick has rescued and rehabilitated orphaned animals (other than the big cats) most of her married life but elephants have been her greatest challenge and greatest success . . . we arrived at about 11am to observe the morning feeding. They are orphans usually because their mothers were killed by poachers (for their ivory) or they lost their family in a stampede or got caught in a trap and the family could not rescue them. They are always severely traumatized if not physically emotionally, & grieve for the loss of their family for weeks." "Later on in the morning we paid a visit to another of Carols projects - a girls school. This is where the cartons of clothes and cash donations and the school supplies we all brought were to be delivered. There are 600 girls in the school but it happened to be a holiday month so only the boarders were there. The buildings were utterly utilitarian, the plumbing antiquated and the grounds unkempt. We visited two classrooms - the children (all dressed in green dresses) sit on benches and write on higher benches. Then we went to the chapel (a building) where they put on a concert for us... it was a delightful interlude." "Evening was approaching and as we drove toward our destination, the snowy crown of Mount Kilimanjaro was sparkling in the late afternoon sun as it sat on an ermine collar of white fluffy clouds resting on the blue velvet cushion of the horizon. We arrived at Amboseli Serena Lodge just at dusk and as we drove up the driveway we saw a spotted hyena slinking off and a saucy black - faced Vervet monkey greeted us from the middle of the road. As soon as we got out of our vehicles we were handed a glass of orange juice and rushed out on to the patio to see the elephant and water buck just departing from their evening drink at the water hole below us."

" . . . Amboseli is a small park but has a high population of elephants and we saw many of these magnificent animals. On the way back we came across a group of hyena cubs playing outside their dens - with no parents in sight. A big old warthog had a den practically in the middle of them and when he arrived he made a great fuss digging dirt out of his burrow and kicking it to one side. . . "

"The Ngorongoro Lodge is perched on the rim of the crater - my room was along a long, dark corridor, parts of which were open to the outside. All of the lodges where we stayed were different and interesting. This one had a shower that could have accommodated about 6 people - should one be inclined to have a shower with six people. The following day we spent in the crater which at that time of the year was a carpet of yellow flowers. We saw many animals, grazers mainly on the grass lands, but also bull elephants, reed buck, water buck, rhino, hippos and the like on the swamplands. Predators are numerous in the crater also - including the beautiful black maned lion, jackals and hyena. Both Kenya and Tanzania are a birders paradise. The crater hosts hundreds - both migratory and seasonal. Many waterfowl seek refuge here and there were hundreds of pink flamingos, pelicans, avocets, herons, hornbills, bustards and many others.

"The Serengeti Serena Lodge was a beautiful lodge - the rooms are built on the traditional African village plan with

separate rondavel huts - only ours were luxurious inside. Mine looked over a sweeping vista and had a small balcony for better viewing. This was our last stop and we were all hoping to see a leopard and a cheetah, which had so far eluded us. We told the boys it was their last chance. Godie was the driver of our Land Rover that day - it was an all-day drive - and we left about 8am. About 3/4 of an hour later Godie was talking to someone - presumably Paul - on his CB. The drivers always talk in Swahili when they communicate. Then he announced the lunches had been forgotten and we had to go back to pick them up. We all groaned - an hour lost on this crucial day. Someone suggested the lodge deliver them but Godie said there was no one there to deliver - they were all out. He turned around and drove at break-neck speed back the way we had come - and then suddenly pulled up beside a number of other safari vans, gleefully pointed to a tree and said there's your lunch. It was a leopard lying stretched out on a tree branch, tail hanging down. The boys love to laugh and this was a great joke on us. The leopard was not that close so doubtless one of the sharp-eyed drivers must have spotted it - but we all had a look through our binoculars. Later on that day we saw two cheetahs lying waiting for a herd of impala to come a little closer. However, it was a long wait so we didn't see the cheetah in action."

"I had dreamed of going to Africa for many years and my only regret was that I waited so long. Carol was a consummate tour leader- no detail was overlooked. My travelling companions were equally helpful and wherever we stayed the staff were there at a moments notice to lend a hand if I needed one. They must have all thought I was an old lady or something." "My overall impression of Africa is that it is a vast and beautiful land. I realize I was in a preferred and



artificial setting and therefore may have a biased opinion but the trappings of civilization are not what impressed me. I also know my window of experience is very narrow. I was there in an area when it was the rainy season and everything was lush and green. I was not there when it is the dry season when the heat is intense and the dust storms blow; nor did I visit the vast deserts or the craggy mountains that can be hit by fierce storms or even blizzards at certain times of the year. I saw poverty but not the extreme poverty in which so many Africans live nor did I see that segment of the population ravaged by Aids and other wasting diseases. Mainly what I wanted to see and experience for my introduction to Africa was the wilderness and its inhabitants. What I saw was only a fraction of what Africa has to offer - but it was enough to make me realize what a treasure of riches Africa is. The Ngorongoro Conservation Area alone with its craters, gorges, lakes, forests, savannas, and swamps is only a microcosm. Much has been done there in the way of exploration and archeological studies in the last seventy years and yet there is so much more to be seen and learned. Learning the secrets of Africa will take generations. Africa needs and deserves help especially in the areas of health, disease control, sanitation and education. Let us hope that the modern world in its efforts to focus on Africa and render assistance do not despoil it.

Join **Petersen Photography**
and **Serengeti Imports**
for An Evening of African Wine & Art at
INFUSION

Contemporary Cuisine

Sunday October 20

Reception 5pm

Five course dinner with African Wines 5:30

For more information call 949-3007 or to
reserve your safari seat call **949-3989**
#23 Balsam Avenue, Bragg Creek AB

****KUDU'S (to be confused with KUDO'S)****

To Fern Trout author and safari-ite extraordinaire!
For allowing us to use her excerpts from the May
safari – enjoy the whole report on the websites
To all you animal lovers for your wonderful cards
and thoughts during a really lousy time (next page).

To Francine, Laurie and Shirley for labeling, stuffing
and sending again and again and yet again & again!
How lucky I am to know you . . .

Cheetah Conservation Fund Canada
Looking for committed volunteers!

We are in the process of getting our charitable organization
registration and will then be ready to sell memberships – for
now – we need people to spread the word. Would you be
willing to man a cheetah booth in a shopping mall or a cat
show? How about speaking to groups about cheetahs?
Got any corporate connections that may like to help support
cheetahs? Any other ideas? Let Carol Petersen
(carol@petersenphotography.com) know and we'll get things
going! Thank you for your consideration!
For CCF info check out WWW.CHEETAH.ORG



New Releases



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Calgary Area 949-3007
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www.natureencountertours.com
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+++ DATES TO REMEMBER! +++

November 12 & 13, 2002

Laurie Marker

**of the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia
speaks at the Calgary Zoo!
Call (403) 232-9300 for tickets!**

2002 ART SHOWS

October 14 & 15, 2002

Health and Lifestyle Fair
Skyreach Place, Kelowna, B.C

October 25 –27, 2002

Our Best to You

Parkland/North Pavilions, Red Deer, Alberta

November 22-24, 2002

Spruce Meadows Christmas Market

Spruce Meadows – South of Calgary, Alberta

November 28 - December 8, 2002

One of a Kind Christmas Show and Sale
National Trade Centre, Toronto, Ontario

February 14-16, 2003

South Eastern Wildlife Exposition
Charleston, South Carolina

2002 TRAVEL SLIDE SHOWS

October 10, 2002 – 7:30pm

Fort Calgary – Calgary AB

October 16, 2002 – 7:30pm

Kelowna Library – Kelowna BC

**Admission is \$3.00 which all proceeds
go to wildlife conservation groups.**

**Want to support some of the people?
Bring along gently used clothing for kids in
orphanages and schools on tour itineraries.**

COMING SOON!

**Wildlife Photography Course at the
Calgary Zoo in March 2003. Details in
next newsletter or on web soon!**

IN NEXT NEWSLETTER . . . January 2003!

**Hear about the Tanzania Safari and Gorilla
Trek with Garth Irvine, Calgary Zoo Keeper
and NETT Tour Leader – should be fun!**



NATURE ENCOUNTERS TOURS & TRAVEL

WELCOME TOUR LEADER PETER LLEWELLYN!

**NATURE
ENCOUNTERS**
TOURS & TRAVEL LTD.

Peter has been a professional photographer for over 20 years. During the 80's he worked as a general sports photographer

covering major events for many of the British national daily newspapers. During the 90's, Peter took the equestrian road, based centrally in France which facilitated quick and easy access to the major horse shows. This specialization prompted him to establish HorseSource, which has become one of the world's largest photographic agencies for equestrian images with a historical archive dating back to the late 1800's. His affinity with other wildlife and landscape imagery also developed during this period. Peter has diversified further and now spends much of his time in the field photographing North American wildlife nature and landscapes having established a photo agency Split Seconds. Peter's extensive photo credits include, The Daily Telegraph, The Times, Sports Illustrated, Horse International among others. Peter will be leading tours to North American destinations for wildlife viewing and photography. Not a photographer? Come along and enjoy nature at its best!

FEATURE ARTICLE

A Tribute to the Domestic Side by Carol Petersen

1. Get Kleenex
2. Hug your dog
3. Proceed

June 12, 2002 Animals! How privileged I have been to watch the spectacle of nature around me on my travels. A baby giraffe being born, 2 lionesses killing over 10 wildebeest and zebra, wild dogs inhaling an impala, a gorilla mom sit on my knee or Frodo the chimpanzee giving me a shove! How lucky I am! All of these events, happening in the wild have had their impact on how grateful I am to be a lover of animals.

Let me tell you a little about the domestic side of my animal life. It is with a heavy heart that I write this, you see I just lost 1 of my 2 Irish Wolfhounds, dear Elizagh. She and her brother have taught me more about the intricacies of human/animal relationships that I could have ever imagined. To begin, try disciplining a 40lb 3month old puppy because she has escaped every possible situation to keep her in her "puppy room". I remember coming home at noon, peeking around the corner looking down the stairwell to the walkout and lo and behold – there she was, out of her room - every time, leaving her brother behind! Those brown eyes just had the look that softened any kind of "bad girl" reaction – after all –

how could a princess be a bad girl! Then there was the time that she had finished her "hurry" (named that because it was -30C when we were potty training) and was warm inside. Endagh and I were out for a walk on our secluded 10 acre parcel, returning to find our dear girl had jumped up on the door, setting the locking mechanism to the LOCK position. My boy and I just about froze to death as I had to break a window to get us in. Again the brown eyes prevailed. To see our 140lb "Liza" and our 5lb Maggie the cat, nestling together for a nap, had to be one of the best sights. Our gentle giant laying ever so carefully trying not to disturb this little creature that had known Elizagh to be her only mom. Yup, there were a lot of comical, upsetting and tender moments. We only had her for 6 1/2 years, but the legacy she left behind – teaching me not to worry as she would take care of her pack while I was away and giving me the waggy wag when I got home – will always be there. This is a tribute to my girl – an animal with a spirit I was lucky to know.

June 27, 2002 He couldn't live without her . . . need I say more? How incredible that an animal could feel such devotion to another, yes even an alpha sister, that he could give up on life to be with her. Yea, it's been a pretty rough summer.

Our boy, Endagh, named for a Gaelic warrior (I like to think it meant "big dog who sleeps on couch") went to be with his sister just short of 2 weeks after her. This majestic, handsome boy was a lover of nature himself – sniffing the air in the spring when all the good smells came pouring out of the ground, watching the moose and deer skirt the fence of his yard, finding the ever precious dead stuff on walks and bringing it home as proud as can be and standing up to his knees in a fast flowing river biting at the water flowing by.

What they teach us? I like to think I am more sensitive and caring to the species (human and otherwise) around me. I sniff the air and look for cool dead stuff on walks. I treasure the time I have in nature as it's really the only thing we have that is pure. You don't have to go to Africa to enjoy the love of animals – just open your eyes to the ones in your house, street or neighborhood – you won't regret it. For now – I keep Kleenex with me at all times & look forward to the day I spend time with another Wolfie. Thanks for the ear.



MAKE TRACKS 2002/2003 Departures

**PAYMENT BY VISA & MASTER CARD
NOW ACCEPTED!**

**If Paying by Credit Card
Please Add 3% to Tour Cost!**

Call or look at our web site for detailed itineraries. Prices quoted in Canadian dollars, ALL-INCLUSIVE of air, accommodation, meals (exceptions noted on the detailed itineraries), gratuities & priced per person sharing! *Just show up and enjoy!* Groups are 8-18 travelers so book early to ensure your safari seat!
HAVE YOUR OWN GROUP? Let NETT design your very own eco-tour – complete with tour leader! Groups can be as small as 6!

**CALLING ALL
POLAR BEAR ENTHUSIASTS!
SPACE STILL AVAILABLE!**

**November 14-18, 2002
Polar Bears Abound!**

Led by Carol Petersen \$1875CDN Land Only

Join Carol to Churchill, Manitoba to visit the great white polar bears. We will spend time on tundra buggy's observing their behaviour and gaining a personal experience with these amazing carnivores. We also spend a full day and night on the tundra on a mobile lodge – surrounded by the northern lights and bears, bears, bears! This adventure is designed for those into photography and those who are just keen lovers of nature.

April 16-27, 2003

**The Magic of Galapagos \$ 6995CDN
Rain Forest Extension (April 10-15) \$1875
Led by Carol Petersen**

Carol has perfected this itinerary to include time with the local folks enjoying the culture of Ecuador and time on a luxury boat exploring the Galapagos Islands! Visit the local markets, swim with the sea lions, hike in the mountains – all this and more! Extend your Ecuador visit with 3 nights at a beautiful lodge in the rain forest at the basin of the Amazon.

May 2003

**Kenya and Tanzania \$6785 CDN
Chimpanzee Extension \$3095 CDN Approx.
Led by Carol Petersen**

From Kilimanjaro to the Crater, a tried & true itinerary with lots of great wildlife, cultural experiences and the luxury you deserve. Extend your safari with a chimp visit to Jane Goodall's Gombe Stream – a very special safari!

September 16-30, 2003

**The Endangered Species Trail! \$10,750CDN
Led by Carol Petersen**

Canoe the Zambezi in Mana Pools N.P., feel the sunset at Lake Kariba, marvel at the birdlife, watch a pride of lions hunt for their dinner in Linyati. This is a luxurious safari for those wishing to partake in game activities that include walking, canoeing & game driving. Fly between remote lodges that maximize wildlife & cultural interactions. Want to be spoiled? Then this is your safari!

September 2003

**Tanzania The Migration \$7495 Approx
Mountain Gorilla Extension \$4025 Approx.
Led by Garth Irvine**

Join Garth for another wonderful experience in Tanzania. Visit Lake Manyara, the world famous Ngorongoro Crater and Oldupai Gorge, view the migration returning to the Serengeti as well. You will travel in Land Rovers and staying in luxury lodges and tented camps. Extend your safari with Garth to visit Mountain Gorillas, some beach time in Zanzibar or a "Kili" climb.

October 2003

**Guyana, the Amazon and Jaguars! \$TBA
Led by Garth Irvine**

An exciting new destination that Garth has spent time in, Guyana! Visit a Giant River Otter researcher, explore the Amazon by houseboat and be one of the first eco-tourists to "hunt" for the illusive jaguar on an exclusive safari in Argentina! We're still working on this itinerary – stay tuned!

NEW! 2003 NORTH AMERICAN TOURS!

Join professional photographer/tour leader **Peter Llewellyn** for a week photographing and observing the wildlife and landscapes in:

**January - Marvelous Mexico
March/April - Vancouver Island Migration
July - Summer in Churchill
October 2003 - The Birds of Texas**
Not a photographer – don't worry, you just have to be keen on nature!

**For the trip of a lifetime, contact
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