

## SAFARI REPORT-Tanzania and Gorillas by Garth Irvine, Calgary Zoo Keeper/ NETT Tour Leader This was a spectacular trip to East Africa!



I was beyond delighted when our first close up elephant encounter happened in the tiny Lake Manyara National Park. We had just come down a small hill and a cow/calf herd

of elephants were slowly moving towards us from about 15 meters. We just sat and waited, watching for signs of displeasure at our close proximity. There were no signs of concern. Ever so slowly the whole herd split and moved around our Land Rover on both sides. The excitement level was as high as an elephant's eye as these pachyderms moved within inches of our vehicles! My greatest worry at this point should have been for the low oxygen levels in my safari companions as most of them were holding their breath, but I too was lost in the moment. As the herd moved away our breathing returned to normal and we were able to get photos from yet another angle—the ever elusive elephant butt shot. Not many animals can eat up as much film as an elephant—especially close up.

Truly the Ngorongoro crater is thee Disneyland for naturalists and nature lovers. I never dreamed we could see so much in one day. Hundreds of hoof stock including; wildebeest, zebra, cape buffalo and more. I experienced a real feeling of accomplishment when our guides found us two black rhino! The highlight of the day however was arriving at a recent lion kill. At this point mostly it was a seething, rolling pile of scavengers. We could see dozens of hyena, several vulture and a few jackals. All of a sudden a large male lion came charging from quite a distance to reclaim his kill. Scavengers scattered in all directions. The lion stood over the kill for a moment. Then off to his right he saw a male mating with the female he had been guarding for the past few days. Instantly abandoning the kill again he charged the offending male and a loud, dusty spectacular fight ensued. I don't think any blood was shed and later in the day we saw this male with his female again—but at this moment we just weren't sure where her alliances laid. It just doesn't get any better than this!

I have always had something of a fascination with zebras. They are even more beautiful in large groups. We were lucky enough to see how the bold pattern works to blur the individual to a predator. Fairly early in the day we parked beside a watering hole as a herd of elephants and zebra came to drink. The matriarch of the herd of elephants tasted the water and then took the group elsewhere. The long line of zebra—probably more than 300, stretching about a kilometer, took turns drinking. Something was making them nervous. About 20 animals would enter the water to their knees and nervously begin to drink. All the while their ears were straight up and eyes wide with fear. They would



just drink for a few seconds and all would race out of the pond. About half of these animals would return and some parched ones would join them. I think they all made about three



attempts before they had quenched their thirst. As we left this incredible sight we found a pride of lions resting in the shade of some shrubs not far from the edge of the pond. It felt good to be certain that it was not us making the zebra nervous.

I don't know how many times we were parked watching some incredible wildlife event and something else was going on behind us. About midday we found a cheetah resting in the shade of a tree. After awhile we realized that a herd of elephant and a herd of zebra were approaching us from behind. To our left very quietly a lioness was half-heartedly stalking some reedbuck. Where to look? Where to look? We were spinning trying to take it all in. Suddenly the cheetah got up and crossed the road to where the lioness was stalking the reedbuck. Our cheetah appeared oblivious to the presence of the lion. The cheetah looked like she was playing as she chased the reedbuck away. Instantly the lion chased after the cheetah. Very quickly the cheetah put great distance between her and the lioness. It was very exciting for all of us to see these two predators interact & many of us got photos of both in the same frame. All the while elephants & zebra were approaching from behind.

In my other life I work with captive gorillas. I have always dreamed of seeing gorillas in the wild. We are among a handful of people alive who have sat with a group of wild mountain gorillas. The Bwindi Impenetrable Forest is called that with good reason -it was work to get to where the gorillas live. The forest was so thick we could only see a few meters ahead when all of a sudden we could hear the sound of breaking branches and then we could smell gorilla! Gorillas have a very distinct odor and I knew we were very close. At first we caught the odd glimpse here and there and as time went on, it was apparent that this troop of 18 was all around us. We saw the silverback and an adult female laying down watching without any concern. We were slightly more interesting than the ants in the leaf litter in front of them! Just a few feet away an upside down juvenile played with a branch and appeared to be posing for our cameras. We could hear the sound of leaves and branches



being shoveled into mouths and the gentle rumblings of the content giant apes. All too soon our hour was up but it made it so much easier to leave knowing we would be visiting another group tomorrow. East Africa is a dream come true for this nature lover.

**Join Garth as he returns to Tanzania and Uganda in September for another great safari!  
See back page for details!**

(photographs/video images by Garth Irvine)

## SIMPLY SAFARI !!

A new store at the Trading Post Mall  
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### **\*\*KUDU'S (to be confused with KUDO'S)\*\***

*To Garth Irvine* for our Safari Report on page 1!

*To Fern, Fred & Dorothy* for the clothing donation to the girl's school - will be delivered in May!

*To All You Photo Purchasers!* Many thanks for your support of Petersen Photography

*To The Calgary Zoo* for putting on the Cheetah Conservation Lecture – a huge success!

*To Francine, Laurie and Shirley* for labeling, stuffing and sending again and again and yet again & again!

*How lucky I am to know you . . .*

**NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW**

### **Wildlife Videography Course**

**By Carol Petersen**

**Calgary Zoo - March 27**

**Call (403) 232-9300 to register!**

Contact Us . . . .

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## 2003 ART SHOWS!

**Come and visit Simply Safari to  
see the latest photographs or**

**Circle Craft - Vancouver**

**Nov. 7-11, 2003**

**Art Market - Calgary**

**Nov. 20-23, 2003**

**One of a Kind Show - Toronto**

**Nov. 27-Dec. 7, 2003**

**Hope to see you there!**

## NEW RELEASES!



Two  
Beauties

Color  
Image



Wild Dog 1

B/W Image



Cheetah CU

Color Image



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### POLAR BEAR REPORT NOV2002 By Carol Petersen

Take 2 Aussies (most of which we only saw there eyes due to hats and scarves), 6 Calgarians who laughed a lot, 2 Torontonians with swacks of camera gear and one



really rugged guy from Churchill – mix with some cool weather, some really great accommodation, a few bears and arctic fox and you have a magical combination of fun on the Tundra! Mother Nature did

her job in cooling things off early this year – actually, right on time but earlier than in the past 10 years! Our bear sightings

were scarce – we worked very hard for them! Peering across the tundra with binos – scouring the horizon! Fresh tracks – lets follow them! And we did! We went everywhere! And classic to this northern town, our best viewings were the ones at the Churchill dump where, much to our chagrin, the bears congregated and checked out what was available for their next meal.



Only a few were left behind as most of the bears had already gone north on the frozen Hudson Bay to hunt for seals (which every good bear SHOULD have been doing). We were also treated to lots of Arctic Fox – prancing and playing all night by the



Tundra Lodge, Arctic Hare – keeping an eye out for the foxes, Red Fox in pursuit of a hare – something even our guide hadn't seen and tons of ptarmigan. Our accommodation was fabulous, our guide magnificent (oh how he would hate that description) and the team of polar bear lovers – outstanding. A visit to the research centre and a bit of dog sledding added to the highlights as well! I have been so lucky with my sightings no matter where I go – this trip was a wake up call that we are all need to be respectful of Mother Nature and thank our lucky stars when we come across even one of the marvels she has created!

Ok – the lasting image – one BIG male bear coming across the white tundra – nose to the air –



black eyes sharp – silently walks within feet of our vehicle. As in Garth's group on the front page – there was a major lack of breathing, including me!

**Wow!**

**Join Carol when she returns to see the bears in October 2003. See back page!**



Photographs by Carol Petersen

### NEW PARTNERSHIP TOURS!

Nature Encounters Tours & Travel has teamed up with a number of travel agencies across Canada to give you new and exciting destinations in Africa! We will be providing all the ground operations for their tours including our very own NETT Tour leaders. Packages include air, accommodation & gratuities. See the back page for more details!

### SPLENDID SOUTH AFRICA!

Join NETT on a tour to South Africa – enjoy the Mother City, Cape Town – steeped in history and culture; spend time on the coast whale watching or lazing on the beach; admire the beauty of the wine lands and Garden Route or wildlife watch in one of many first class game parks! We have recently returned from doing all of the above and have some exciting tours to share with you – see the back page for our **Partnership Tours!**

### WELCOME NEW TOUR LEADERS MONA KEITH AND ROSE FODOR

Zookeeper and Naturalist, **Mona Keith's** lifelong interest in the animals of our world make her a great new addition to our team. She has a BSc in Zoology and started her career as a Field Biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Federation working on the endangered Vancouver Island Marmot Project and the effects of logging on the forest birds of Vancouver Island. Mona's role as a Zookeeper includes the education of people about the animals under her care. She has given numerous talks to school groups, special behind-the-scene tours, and many T.V, radio and newspaper interviews. Mona is an avid birdwatcher keeping lists of sightings in North/South America, Australia, New Zealand, and Africa. She loves to share her passion for our avian friends and her enthusiasm is sure to rub off. As an experienced trip leader, Mona will provide valuable knowledge and enjoyment to your safari!

In 2000, **Rose Fodor** spent four months caring for two chimpanzees in Kenya for wildlife photographer Karl Ammann. Living in Kenya gave her a first hand view of the seriousness of the bush meat trade that is threatening great apes and many other species, both in Africa and around the world. Rose feels her role as a zookeeper and tour leader can help raise awareness to conservation efforts around the globe. Her love of kids and seeing their enthusiasm for the natural world spur her on to instilling good stewardship of the planet.

# MAKE TRACKS

## 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!

**May 18-29, 2003 \$6,785**

**Kenya and Tanzania! 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.  
**Space is limited!**

**September 16-30, 2003 \$10,750**  
**The Endangered Species Trail!**

Ca  
luxuri  
activities that include walking, canoeing & game driving.

**Sorry – Sold Out!** s a game

**September 20 - October 3, 2003**  
**Tanzania Getaway! \$7,495**  
**Mountain Gorilla Extension \$4,025**  
**Led by Garth Irvine**

Join Garth for another wonderful experience in Tanzania. Visit Lake Manyara, the world famous Ngorongoro Crater and 5 full nights in the Serengeti. You will travel in Land Rovers and staying in luxury lodges & tented camps. Extend your safari with Garth to visit Mountain Gorillas, some beach time in Zanzibar or a "Kili" climb.

**October 11 – 25, 2003 \$5,250**

**The Wonders of Borneo! Led by Carol Patterson**  
Spend time in the rainforests of Borneo observing some of the most unique primate & bird species—Proboscis Monkeys, Orangutans—maybe even see wild elephants migrating under the boardwalk of your beautiful lodge. Carol has recently spent time in this special area & is excited to return!

**October 24-November 8, 2003 \$7,600**  
**Guyana and the Amazon! Led by Garth Irvine**  
Another new exciting destination! Garth has spent time in Guyana so come along and enjoy his knowledge! Visit a Giant River Otter researcher and explore the Amazon Rainforest. Two wonderful and exotic locations for eco-travel!

**October 14-16 2003 \$2,025 Land Only**  
**Aeroplan Points!**

**Polar Bears Abound Led by Carol Petersen**  
3 nights in Churchill and 2 full days in a buggy on the tundra with the bears, foxes & hares!

**Check out our Partnership Tours!**

All inclusive of air, accommodation, most meals, gratuities, conservation donation and led by a NETT destination specialist!

**All land provided by Nature Encounters T&T!**

**April 12-27, 2003 - Led by Garth Irvine**  
**The Best of South Africa—Cape Town to Kruger!**  
\$6,099CDN – Toronto/Ottawa  
\$6309CDN – Calgary/Edmonton/Vancouver

**May 2-19, 2003 – Led by Carol Petersen**  
**Cape Town and Tanzania !**  
\$8,279CDN – Toronto/Ottawa  
\$8,489CDN – Calgary/Edmonton/Vancouver

**May 24-June 9, 2003 – Led by Shirley Berry**  
**Namibia – Dunes to Desert!**  
\$7,755CDN – Toronto/Ottawa  
\$7,965CDN – Calgary/Edmonton/Vancouver

**June 12-24, 2003 – Led by Mona Keith**  
**The Private Game Reserves of South Africa**  
\$9,875CDN – Toronto/Ottawa  
\$10,085CDN – Calgary/Edmonton/Vancouver

**July 20-30, 2003 – Led by Rose Fodor**  
**A Tanzania Family Safari! Luxury Lodges & Land Rover's**  
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\$7,565CDN - Calgary/Edmonton/Vancouver  
Children 12-16  
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\$6,815CDN – Calgary/Edmonton/Vancouver  
Children under 12  
\$5,605CDN – Toronto/Ottawa  
\$5,695CDN – Calgary/Edmonton/Vancouver

\*\*\*\* **Coming Soon** \*\*\*\*

August 2003 - East Africa Photography Safari  
September 2003 - Tanzania Wildlife & Kili Climb  
October 2003 - A Golf Safari!



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