

NATURE NOTES

Your Up To Date Information From
Nature Encounters Tours & Travel,
Petersen Photography & Simply Safari
Issue # 10 Fall 2004

HOT OFF THE PRESS!!

NATURE ENCOUNTERS TOURS & TRAVEL 2005 DEPARTURES!

Group Departures . . .

Pricing includes international and domestic air (land only pricing available), luxury accommodation, most meals, tips/gratuities, donation to a wildlife conservation group you will be visiting, safari videotape with you in it!
Pricing is per person based on double occupancy.
If paying by credit card please add 4% to tour cost.

March 8 – 22, 2005 Zambia –The Emerald Season!

Led by Giraffe Zoo Keeper - Mona Keith \$6885CDN
See the beauty of this unspoiled country during the green season. Beautiful lodges/amazing wildlife and bonus . . . fully escorted by Zoo Keeper, Mona Keith!

May 20 - June 2, 2005 Kenya/Tanzania Getaway

Led by Photographer - Carol Petersen \$6995CDN
June 1–8 Mountain Gorilla Extension \$4395CDN
Our annual Serengeti migration tour with an extension to see the Mountain Gorillas! This is a very popular itinerary that fills very quickly! Don't delay booking!

July 29 - August 12 East Africa Family Safari!

Led by Zoo Keeper - Rose Fodor

Adults and Children 13+ \$7595CDN sharing
Children 12 and under \$5995CDN sharing with adult
The trip of a lifetime! Watch your children enjoy the wildlife and culture of Kenya & Tanzania! Enthusiastic Rose is a natural with kids and with the great wildebeest migration - you have a perfect combination!

August 3 – 18, 2005 The Best of Botswana

Led by Photographer – Carol Petersen \$13,895CDN
A very special departure for 10 guests! Visit the Kalahari Desert, Okavango Delta and everything in-between! Exclusive, luxurious lodges, gourmet food incredible wildlife & culture! **ONLY 2 SPACES LEFT!**

September 13 – 25, 2005 Kenya Migration Safari

Led by Gorilla Zoo Keeper - Garth Irvine \$6995CDN
Sept. 7 – 14 Mountain Gorilla Extension \$4395CDN
Witness one of the world's most exciting wildlife spectacles – the great migration! Beautiful accommodation, great food and more! Join Garth as he visits the endangered Mountain Gorillas.

September 13 – 25, 2005 The Magic of Zambia

Led by Photographer Carol Petersen \$8995CDN
Sept. 25–30 Mana Pools Canoe Trip Ext. \$3895CDN
Explore untouched Zambia by foot, vehicle and canoe. Amazing wildlife, great lodges and top it all off with one of the top 10 safaris – a canoe trip down the Zambezi River! This is Carol's 6th trip to Mana Pools and 23rd tour to Africa – come and get hooked too!

NOTHING LIKE BOOKING AHEAD!!

February 23 - Mar.5, 2006 The Magic of Galapagos
Led by Zoo Keeper – Mona Keith \$7695CDN

Amazon Rainforest Extension - \$1795CDN

An amazing boat! An amazing place! We are 1/2 full already so don't delay in booking your space. See the Amazon Rainforest as an extension.

Our Independent Itineraries

Would you like to go on safari but not fit into, or want to travel in a group? Check out our Independent Itineraries below and pick your time to travel!
Want something a bit more customized – drop us an email and we will design your dream safari! Pricing is land only per person based on double occupancy. Single supp. available!
If paying by credit card, please add 4% to tour cost.

The Best of Kenya 10 Nts/11 Days Land Only From \$3370CDN
Includes: Amboseli, Aberdares, Samburu, Lake Nakuru and Maasai Mara. Luxury Lodges

Kenya Fly In Safaris 2 – 6 Nts Land Only From \$940CDN
Includes: Amboseli, Maasai Mara and Samburu. Luxury Lodges

Northern Kenya Safari 4 Nts/5 Days Land Only From \$1395CDN
Includes: Aberdares, Mt. Kenya & Samburu. Luxury Lodges/Tented Camp

The Kenya Connoisseur's Safari 10 Nts/11 Days
Land Only From \$9795CDN Includes: Lewa Downs Conservancy, Maasai Mara and Tsavo. Luxurious Private Bush Homes/Lodges

Ngorongoro Crater & Lake Manyara 3 Nts/4 Dys Land Only From \$710CDN
Includes: Ngorongoro Crater and Lake Manyara. Luxury Lodges

Northern Circuit Safari 7 Nts/8 Days Land Only From \$2095CDN
Includes: Tarangire, Ngorongoro, Serengeti, Manyara. Luxury Lodges

The Serengeti Safari 5 Nights/6 Days Land Only From \$1355CDN
Includes: Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti, Lake Manyara. Luxury Lodges

The Best of Zambia 9 nts/10 days Land Only From \$5195CDN Includes: Victoria Falls, Lower Zambezi and South Luangwa. Luxury Lodges/Tented Camps

The Best of South Africa 7nights/8days Land Only From \$2395CDN
Includes: Kruger Park, The Garden Rte, Cape Town in hotels/rest camps.



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SIMPLY SAFARI - SIMPLY A SHOPPING ADVENTURE!



People love Simply Safari – why? Well, it is a “pretty” store – has great art and craft from Africa, pricing is very competitive – but most of all – because we believe in fair trade and support a number of African families who really need help. Here’s a great example. . .

KAZURI BEADS AND POTTERY NAIROBI KENYA



Kazuri, the Swahili word for ‘small and beautiful’, produces a wide range of hand-made and hand-painted ceramic jewelry and pottery, which are designed to reflect Kenyan art and culture as well as being designed to appeal to the worldwide fashion market. Kazuri’s beautifully finished products are made to an international standard and they continue to attract interests both inside and outside Kenya. These standards are maintained through the training of their workers in all aspects of production both in pottery and jewelry. Kazuri now has in place a highly trained and highly motivated management team and workforce. Kenyan, Lady Susan Wood in 1975 in her back garden, founded Kazuri. She started with two single women as assistants. Before long she discovered that there were many more women who were in need of jobs and so Kazuri Beads began its long and successful journey as a help center for needy women, especially single mothers who have no other source of income. In 1988 the small shed became a brand new factory. What started as a small enterprise has now expanded hugely and employs over 120 women and men. The factory is located on what used to be part of the Karen Blixen estate, of ‘Out of Africa’ fame, at the foot of the Ngon’g Hills, about 30 minutes from the bustling Nairobi city center. Here the women

apply their skills to produce the ceramic beads and jewelry. It is skilled and delicate work, but the women have proved to be well suited with their nimble fingers. The factory also acts as a social gathering and the hum of voices continues throughout the day. In 2001 Mark and Regina Newman bought the company and their goal is to further increase the size of the company, primarily by exploring and developing the companies export markets. The guiding philosophy remains, however - to provide employment opportunities for disadvantaged members of Kenyan society. Here are a few stories of some of the ladies that work at Kazuri.



Sabet Matendehero – was born in 1952. She is one of the longest serving employees of Kazuri. She started working in 1976 a single mother of three, and was one of the first three employees. A friend who was already working here introduced her to Kazuri. She had come to Nairobi to seek employment but was not getting anywhere. She joined Kazuri and has never looked back. She has managed to singly educate her six children and now even assists in the upbringing of some of her grand children. She says she is more fortunate than some of her peers especially the ones she left in her upcountry rural home as they lead harder lives with no hope for change. She has also benefited from the credit facilities provided and she says she sees Kazuri has been as a source of stability for many women.

Alice Wanjiku Gathogo – Was born in 1963 and is a single mother of three. Prior to her being employed in Kazuri she sold charcoal. The work was hard and the returns were minimal. Her father who sold vegetables to Lady Susan Wood introduced her to Kazuri. She joined Kazuri in 1982. She has managed to educate all her three children and they are all now in college. She says she is better of than most of her peers as the regular pay helps one organize oneself hence a lot can be done. She also benefits from the credit program recently introduced by the new management and says it goes a long way in achieving goals that would otherwise seem unattainable.

CONTACT US . . .

SIMPLY SAFARI

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4ϕ3) 949-84ϕ1

SEPTEMBER TO MAY HOURS

WED TO SAT - 11-5

SUNDAYS & HOLIDAY MONDAY'S 12-5

OPEN DEC. 26 TO DEC. 31 11-5

NEW WEBSITE COMING

JANUARY 2ϕϕ5

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Contact Us . . .

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MAKE TRACKS

May 2004
Safari Report

KENYA, TANZANIA & RWANDA

By Mona Keith, Zoo Keeper/Tour Leader

Two of the most spectacular animals to see in Africa are elephants, the largest, and giraffes, the tallest! We saw both up close and hadn't even yet recovered from jet lag! The Rothschild's giraffes at the Giraffe Center in Nairobi have been conditioned to be hand-fed. What an amazing experience to be so close to see and feel their long mobile tongues. Well adapted for stripping off the leaves from the thorny acacia branches, they are also purple to reflect the ultraviolet light to prevent sunburn! The next day we were treated to spending time at Daphne Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage where we watched young elephants as they drank their bottled milk offered by their keepers, rolled in the mud and rough-housed with each other. These little guys are all products of poaching – rescued from sad situations, hand raised and then oh so carefully returned to the wild under the care of elephant matriarch, Eleanor in Tsavo National Park in southern Kenya. One little guy took particular interest in a member of our group sitting in her wheelchair. As he charged, the quick reflexes of our leader Carol Petersen quickly pulled back the chair while the keeper hurriedly got control of his "little" charge. Sheila enjoyed every second, blissfully unconcerned of the power behind these tiny tanks!

Amboseli National Park never disappoints. Its large elephant population is a memorable way to start a safari. With the snow-capped peak of Mount Kilimanjaro visible as the background to the world's largest land animal, the photographers were in their element. From the big to the small, the nature walk, complete with naturalist and Maasai warrior, was highlighted with a dung beetle rolling its precious ball of elephant dung into which it will lay its eggs. We were in luck and reception was good at the Amboseli Lodge. The



Calgary Flames fans in our group were delighted to be able to watch one of the playoff games. The Flames

won this game and the group celebrated with some of the local Maasai warriors in their own red apparel. Hard to say who was jumping the highest!

Lake Manyara welcomed us with its sea of pink flamingos. The morning was spent watching 85 hippos lazing about in and out of a shallow pool. This water source also attracted large groups of over 10 different bird species including, Yellow-billed storks, White-faced Whistling ducks, Pied avocets and Black-winged stilts.... a birding paradise! One of our group spotted an African civet, a small cat like creature part of the mongoose family, hiding amongst the rocks of a small stream while the rest of us were trying to ID the swallows darting above. This unusual daytime sighting created quite a stir with our driver/guides!

As we descended into the Ngorongoro Crater we dipped under the hanging cloud cover. The area was filled with the activity of the numerous zebra and wildebeest as well as their predators. The lions and hyenas were clearly visible this day. We watched as an irate wildebeest turn the tables and put the run on a hyena that got too close! The sun soon burned off the clouds and we came across a pool of hippos trying to keep their massive bulks cool. The water was not deep enough to cover them fully. A few of them had discovered the benefits of rolling completely over coating themselves with the muddy water. Quite the sight to see a 2000 kg animal roll right over with its short thick legs sticking up in the air! Hippo Feet!

As we entered the "endless plains" of the Serengeti we were privy to some "intimate" time with the King & Queen of the Beasts! The mating ritual of lions involves, soliciting, biting, growling and LOTS of repetition. This pair was going for the record, copulating every 6 minutes. Another interesting lion sighting included two lionesses resting high in the branches of a tree, trying to escape the heat and throngs of wildebeest. Our group had the great treat of watching 3 cheetah brothers slowly approach and drink from a small pool of water. They were ever vigilant; looking over their shoulders every few minutes and we knew why. . . very close by, we had been watching two male lions resting in the tall grass. These handsome boys were not fully mature with only a hint of the magnificent manes they will sport when adults. The annual migration was in full force with wildebeest and zebra thick in numbers.

Several of our group took advantage of the spectacular view of the Serengeti from the vantage of the sky in a hot-air balloon.



Driving before dawn to the launch site brought silhouettes of hippos out grazing, the reflective eyes of hyenas as they skulked off the road, the tail end of an African Wild Cat as it darted into the tall grass. Once air-born the expanse of the great Serengeti unfolded below us. Looking down on hippos in the river, a giraffe walking gracefully over the plain, peering into vulture's nests perched high on top of the acacia trees & the masses of wildebeest was a sight to experience!

While some carried on to Zanzibar or to the roof of Africa – Mt. Kilimanjaro, some of us were treated to a visit with the endangered Mountain Gorilla. Crouching quietly and gazing upon a troop of 14 Mountain Gorillas in the Volcanoes National Park, in Rwanda, was simply an incredible experience! After plodding for 1.5 hours uphill through the thick undergrowth we crested onto a small grassy ridge where the Amahoro troop were enjoying their morning rest. Our small group of 8 and two guides watched as a female, complete with her 1 month old infant clinging under her, gnawed away at an old tree trunk seeking out grub. A curious 3 month old approached us several times, causing us to shuffle awkwardly back to keep the minimum 7 metre distance required. Each time he approached his older brother would wrestle with him pulling him back toward the main troop. The silverback of the troop was on the slope below us detectable only by the loud crunching of the thick vegetation that made up his breakfast. As we were silently watching the rest of the troop he suddenly appeared behind us. We all pressed together careful not to look directly into his eyes or move suddenly. He moved past us through the bush to join his family. While we enjoyed this close up experience, the other group was treated to yet more procreation with a male/female team increasing the Mountain Gorilla population – a rare sighting! One word describes it all - WOW! Africa holds many wonders for us all to respect and enjoy – join us for your trip of a lifetime!



Mona is leading a trip to Zambia in March 2005 & Galapagos-February 2006.

Contact us for more details 866-949-3007 or www.natureencounterstours.com!

STUFF . . .

. . . FROM CAROL PETERSEN,
OWNER OF NETT, PP & SS

ART SHOWS COMING UP!

ART MARKET, BOOTH 117, CALGARY
NOV. 18 - 21, 2004
SPRUCE MEADOWS, AFRICA BOOTH CALGARY
NOV. 19 - 21, 2004
ONE OF A KIND SHOW, BOOTH B25, TORONTO
NOV. 25 - DEC. 5, 2004
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

SLIDE/VIDEO

PRESENTATIONS COMING UP!

FEBRUARY 9, 2005 - TRAVEL WITH US VIDEO NIGHT! FORT CALGARY, CALGARY AB

Travel With Nature Encounters Tours & Travel Tour Leaders as they take you to Africa, Galapagos & Churchill. 7:00 pm Admission \$3 which will be donated to Cheetah and Gorilla Conservation.

PLEASE RSVP YOUR ATTENDANCE AND PHONE NUMBER AT carol@natureencounterstours.com OR (403) 949-3007

MARCH 23 AND 24 - WINDOWS ON THE WORLD CALGARY ZOO 232-9300 Presenter - Carol Petersen

Carol speaks about not only the wonderful wildlife of Africa and the places you will find them, but some of the cultural aspects in regards to art and craft.

APRIL 18/ MAY 2 WILD FACES/WILD SPACES NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

CALGARY ZOO 232-9300 Presenter- Carol Petersen
Love to get outdoors and photograph nature? Carol helps you get those wonderful images! April 18 is lecture format and May 2 is an anonymous critique session for all to enjoy! You must have knowledge of how to use your camera equipment.

GREEN NEWS!!

Serena Lodges, our favorite lodges in East Africa has been awarded group certification for their global environment program. In order to achieve the Green Globe 21 certification, they demonstrated efficient conservation and management of energy, water resources, the ecosystem and social and cultural issues. In addition, management and planning of land use, protection of air quality and noise control, waste minimization and recycling and the responsible use and storage of hazardous substances must also be practiced in the areas in which the companies operate.

Congratulations Serena Lodges - we are happy to support your causes by staying with you when we visit!

**WATCH FOR OUR POLAR BEAR
SAFARI REPORT IN THE NEXT ISSUE.**

KUDU'S TO BE CONFUSED WITH KUDO'S

To Mona Keith for our Safari Report on Page 3!

To Karen Hall who donated a swack of crayons for the schools we visit in honor of her grandmother Lily Williamson & the Red Cross.

To the Alberta schools that send us lots of great stuff for the Africa schools - pens, pencils, paper, stickers, toothbrushes, socks etc.

To Jon who organized a ton of books we took to the Kadjiado Girls School in May. Thanks May Group too!

To those who choose to travel again and again with us - we appreciate your support - some 4 years in a row!!!

To the gang for labeling, stuffing and sending again and again and yet again & again!

How lucky I am to know you . . .

TRIBUTE TO THE DOMESTIC SIDE

AN UPDATE . . .



Life is good again! The sound "Sophie Sophie Sophie" was ringing all through Botswana in September 2003 as I prepared to pick up my "Baby Boston" upon my return. What a QT patooti (and still is).

We enjoy the comedic antics of this little girl who continues to make us laugh - she was such a welcome addition! Well . . . she didn't quite fill the giant hole left by our dear pals Endagh and Elizagh we lost in 2002. May 2004 - I just happened to be photographing an Irish Wolfhound Dog Show for my dear friend Emma (who has

upwards of 16 IW's) and lo and behold we met Conall. Actually we met Conall and Georgie and Purdy and Noah and Nicki - it was Sophie that chose Conall. Having two totally opposites continues to be a challenge. Soph with her

big as life personality, continues to dominate. Conall just wants to be a lap dog! He truly thinks he is an

athlete often getting high-centered on the couch while chasing his "sister". After lots of fun and games - we always settle with our best friend and yes . . . life is good again! If you're in the Simply Safari neighborhood on a weekday - stop by for a scratch behind the ear!



Conall 7 mo/107lbs
Sophie 16 mo/16lbs

Col

PROMISE . . . NEXT NEWSLETTER -
NO DOG IMAGES . . . JUST WILDLIFE IMAGES.
THANKS FOR LETTING ME INDULGE.