

# NATURE NOTES

Your Up To Date Information From  
Nature Encounters Tours & Travel,  
Petersen Photography & Simply Safari  
Issue # 12 Fall 2005

## NATURE ENCOUNTERS TOURS & TRAVEL 2006 DEPARTURES!

### Group Departures . . .

Pricing includes international and domestic air (land only pricing available), luxury accommodation, most meals, tips/gratuities and a donation to a wildlife conservation group you will be visiting, Pricing is per person based on double occupancy. If paying by credit card please contact us.

### 2006 GROUP DEPARTURES

**February 23 - Mar. 6 THE MAGIC OF GALAPAGOS**

**Led by Zoo Keeper – Mona Keith \$7745CDN**

**Amazon Rainforest Extension - \$1795CDN**

An amazing boat! An amazing place!

Amazon Rainforest Extension available.

**STILL ROOM FOR A FEW MORE – CALL NOW!**

**April 3 to 20 A FAMILY SAFARI!**

**Led by Carol Petersen and Zoo Keeper Rose Fodor**

Join your family on a 3-week safari in Kenya and Tanzania. Enjoy the amazing wildlife and culture of Kenya and Tanzania with the kids!

**SORRY –  
SOLD OUT!**

**May 12 to 16 THE GRIZZLY BEARS OF  
KHUTZYMATEEHN VALLEY, BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Led by Zoo Keeper - Garth Irvine \$TBA CDN**

An amazing opportunity to watch grizzly's from a safe yet close environment! Stay on a lovely boat and zodiac to areas where the grizzlies have come to eat the fresh spring grass! Enjoy one of the world's foremost "Grizzly Guides" and the deep bush of B.C.

**May 19 to June 1 A KENYA/TANZANIA GETAWAY**  
**Led by Carol Petersen \$7395CDN**

The beauty of Kenya and Tanzania wrapped into a tried and true itinerary. See the wildebeest and zebra migrating across the Serengeti AND enjoy 3 wonderful nights in a luxurious tented camp – you will be spoiled!

**SPACE IS LIMITED – CALL TODAY!**

**Aug. 28 – Sept. 11 THE MAGIC OF ZAMBIA**

**Led by Zookeeper Mona Keith \$9475CDN**

**Sept. 11-16 Mana Pools Extension \$4295CDN**

Join Mona on her return visit to Zambia! See the wildlife in Kafue National Park as well as South Luangwa and don't forget mighty Victoria Falls. The lodges and tented camps are amazing! Finish off with 5 nights in Mana Pools National Park canoeing & walking with Mona & Carol - a very special place!

**July/August TBA – EAST AFRICA FAMILY SAFARI**

**Led by Zoo Keeper Rose Fodor - \$TBA CDN**

Rose is returning to a wonderful land full of wildlife and great culture. Accommodation is first class! Take your family on the grip of a lifetime!

**Aug. 31-Sept. 16 THE DELTA, THE GRASSLANDS  
AND THE RIVER! 2 SPACES AVAILABLE!**

**Led by Carol Petersen \$14,750CDN**

Visit some of Carol's most very very favorite destinations. See the Okavango Delta with all the amazing bird life – next off to the grasslands of Botswana and carnivores galore.

After a visit to Victoria Falls embark on a 3-night canoe safari on the Zambezi River finishing off with 2 nights in one of the most incredible lodges in Africa! The ultimate safari!

**Sept 9-25 KENYA MIGRATION WITH TANZANIA**

**Led by Zookeeper Garth Irvine \$8595CDN**

**Sept 25 - Oct 1 Mountain Gorilla Ext. \$4395CDN**

See the amazing wildebeest migration – complete with river crossings – in the Maasai Mara! Lake Nakuru, Samburu, Ngorongoro Crater and Lake Manyara are special places you will visit too. Join Garth to see the Mountain Gorillas in Rwanda following the safari!

**WWW.NATUREENCOUNTERSTOURS.COM  
FOR THE LATEST UPDATES**

### 2005 SAFARI REPORTS!

**May – The Grizzly Bears of Khutzymateehn**  
**by Carol Petersen**



My friend Gail would NOT have liked this trip. She gets the heeby jeeby's when bears are in close proximity . . . we left her at home. I set out with 2 buds to check out this grass eating spectacle – and there they were – moms and cubs – large boars – tussling jr's – not all at the same time but what a sight. Once the snow melts in the

valley, the bears are looking to replenish their lost pounds and use this amazing pristine valley as home base. You will find them digging clams on the beach, chowing down on grass and just moseying along in good bear fashion. This area is so remote and unpopulated, they have little fear of man, which allowed us to sit ever so quietly in our zodiac and observe them quite closely. What a privilege! Garth will be leading a Grizz Safari in May – don't miss out on this one! Hey Gail come and see elephants with me but this one . . . think you should stay home . . .

# MAKE TRACKS SAFARI REPORTS . . .

## A BUNCH!!

### MAY – KENYA/TANZANIA AND RWANDA BY CAROL PETERSEN

Ever herd (yea I know) the sound of 800,000 wildebeest mooring outside your window? This was one of those times. Our trip was nothing short of fabulous with the beautiful Kilimanjaro showing



herself to us with a ele's below – then Lake Manyara and the Ngorongoro Crater with wildlife galore but the most impressive was the great migration. As we

drove toward the Serengeti, the plains were scattered with Thompson's Gazelles (and even Tommy's chasing a Secretary Bird – way too funny), zebra and odds and sods – where were the wildebeest? The closer we got to the lodge – the more the ground was torn up – basically annihilated by thundering hooves. And there they were – tons of black spots in every direction – lines moving steadily across the grasslands heading north toward the Maasai Mara in search of food and water – spectacular! Another highlight had to be coming across a recent cheetah kill right beside the road. I was very proud of all the guides as they backed off and the hungry mom and 2 grown babes come in to chow down. I was also proud of our group – watching this natural cheetah behavior for well over an hour (on our way to lunch) and not having to "find a bush!" Frankly I think they were too pumped to even think otherwise – good work guys! Oh and yes – the gorillas were amazing once again – more breeding and oh so very close. We even saw the lovely little 3-month-old infant we watched being conceived last year – lucky us!

### AUGUST - AN EAST AFRICA FAMILY SAFARI BY ZOOKEEPER ROSE FODOR

"Here comes another train" someone noticed as we were heading back to the lodge for brunch. We had said that so many times that morning as we spent over four hours driving up and back the banks of the



Mara River waiting for enough wildebeest to congregate there in order to cross. The "train", our driver and guide, David was referring to, were the long lines of wildebeest and zebras that had been descending the hill on the far side, single-file towards the river. The Hockley family, the Lee family and myself had traveled to Kenya specifically to watch the "great migration" and despite our hunger, the continued waiting for a crossing and in my case, the desperate need for a bathroom, we decided to wait just a few more minutes to see if this might amount to something. Previously, there had only been wildebeest congregating on the far banks, bleating and honking in a half cow, half goose like sound; you could almost hear the arguments erupting from their conversations as they jostled and debated over where to cross. David went on to explain that there was always a much better chance of a crossing if there were zebras amongst the bunch as they seemed to be a bit more decisive and courageous when it came time to brave the croc infested river. This time, to our delight, there were zebras coming down in the "train" towards the river. As we found our vantage point and pulled up and stopped our vehicle, we heard a wildebeest cow bleating away on our side of the river and we could see some young calves on the far side - one of which probably belonged to that frantic, worried mum. After several descents on the rocky banks on the far side, one of

these desperate calves jumped or may have been pushed by one of his young cohorts, into the water and then it began! We sat in awe and astonishment as we watched tens after tens of gnus and zebras jump into the river, swim across and run up the bank just feet away from our steadily snapping shutters and absolute delight!

Kenya wildlife safari at it's best!

### AUGUST - THE BEST OF BOTSWANA BY CAROL PETERSEN

A keen and enthusiastic group experienced the vast diversity of Botswana in August. From the Kalahari Desert to the Okavango Delta – they saw it all! One of the highlights had to be an up close and personal visit with a group of meerkats. As the morning sun rose



casting it's golden hue – perfect for photography – we followed these amazing little creatures as they hunted for breakfast. Meerkats are members of the mongoose family and live on grubs, scorpions and such. Watching them dig their little hearts out was too much fun. One would always be on guard keeping a black little beady eye out for predators from above. We did not concern them – it seemed they were just as curious about us! That was a

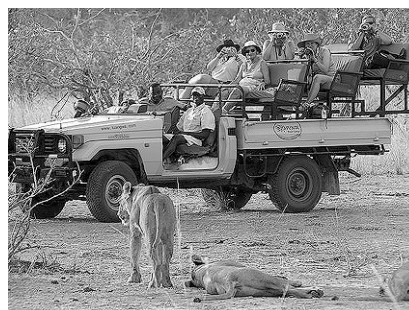
special moment – as was having eyeball-to-eyeball encounters with elephants and no less than 2000 Cape buffalo AND . . . coming across a cheetah mom and her fuzzy little cub – pretty amazing!

### SEPTEMBER - THE MAGIC OF ZAMBIA AND MANA POOLS CANOE SAFARI BY ZOOKEEPER GARTH IRVINE

It was my second night in Mfuwe camp when I awoke in my cabin at 3:30. I could hear rustling sounds and thought something was sharing my accommodations. After listening for a few minutes I concluded that the sounds were actually coming from the other side of my window screen. I reached for my flashlight and peeked outside. Not five meters away a hippo was calmly grazing on the lodge lawn. I

watched for twenty minutes or so until he slipped further into the darkness and I returned to my slumber. Just two hours later a much larger raucous had me sitting upright instantly. Just twenty meters out the same window three elephants were dismembering and consuming a tree. What a wonderful way to lose sleep! Never have I stayed anywhere where there was so much wildlife to see just in the lodge. Easily from the pool deck we could see elephants, bushbuck, hippo, baboon, cape buffalo, zebra, mongoose, vervets and a host of birds. This very lodge was recently in National Geographic with stories of elephants entering their reception area. It actually happened while we were staying there! The elephants travel through Reception to check out the status of a wild mango tree. The matriarch knows its there and brings the herd to check for fruit periodically.

his camp like so many others does a great deal of work in the community. We visited one of the schools that the lodge is helping. Our group brought reams of school supplies which we were only too happy to unload to the very grateful headmaster. The school of over 500 students was receiving 4 teachers' salaries from the lodge. The lodge was also working on constructing two additional classrooms. It created huge throat lumps for the entire group meeting the children and having them sing for us. They, the group and the children, immensely enjoyed passing out stickers and pencils for everyone. The rest of the supplies were left to the discretion of the teachers. A really wonderful experience. So many people who travel on these



trips are so focused on the wildlife that they are really pleasantly surprised by the wonderful local people who sneak into their hearts and become one of their highlights of the trip to Africa.

# SIMPLY SAFARI - SIMPLY A SHOPPING ADVENTURE!

At Simply Safari, we have soooo many stories about groups and individuals that are supported by purchases made at our store. Every newsletter, we will bring you one of these stories. Past issues we featured Kazuri Beads of Kenya and Tribal Textiles of Zambia, this issue . .



## ZANDLA XPRESSIONS – SOUTH AFRICA “PROVIDING AID THROUGH FAIR TRADE”

Zandla Xpressions, launched in September 2000, offers marketing support to 60 small, medium and micro enterprises producing handcrafted products made at Project Gateway and in surrounding areas. Project Gateway, a church based, non-profit organization, is located in the old Pietermaritzburg prison, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. In recognition of the fact that the development of the small business sector is vital to the growth of the South African economy, and to the process of releasing South African people from dependency and the cycle of poverty, Project Gateway also assists in the start-up of small businesses through an Enterprise Development Programme. Local people who have previously earned little or no income are offered business skills training, practical job skills training, marketing support and mentorship. Many entrepreneurs start their business life operating from premises on the Project Gateway site, thus benefiting from supervision and advice on hand, as well as access to equipment and financial and administrative services. Our ultimate aim is to raise up well-equipped entrepreneurs running their own sustainable, profit making businesses.



Our products are made to the highest quality standards, whilst retaining the character of individually handcrafted items, proudly bearing the 'Proudly South African' emblem. We have been internationally recognized and are accredited by IFAT, The International Federation for Alternative Trade. Countries that we have exported to include the United Kingdom, Australia, the United States as well as Simply Safari in Canada. Our range includes a wide variety of ethnic and contemporary beaded jewellery, home décor products, ethnic wall hangings, fibre paper products, wire & metal craft, beaded tableware, soaps, scented candles and lots more. The Zandla Xpressions range is one way in which entrepreneurs can access markets and gain exposure for themselves and their products. We hope you enjoy the work of these South African artists!  
**SUBMITTED BY ZANDLA EXPRESSIONS – SOUTH AFRICA**

## BIG BIG BIG NEWS!!!

**SIMPLY SAFARI ANNOUNCES A BRAND NEW SECOND LOCATION IN WEST VANCOUVER, BC! (see below & back page)**

**DON'T WORRY- BRAGG CREEK WILL CONTINUE ON – BUSINESS AS USUAL! (only we'll have more cool stuff cuz we get to shop for TWO stores)**

### CONTACT US . . .

#### SIMPLY SAFARI

TRADING POST MALL, BRAGG CREEK, AB  
(403) 949-8401

SEPT TO MAY - WED TO SAT – 11-5  
SUNDAYS & HOLIDAY MONDAY'S 12-5

1550 MARINE DRIVE, WEST VANCOUVER BC  
(604) TBA

(CAN ALWAYS GET CAROL AT 866-949-3007)  
WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY 11-5

[WWW.SIMPLYSAFARISTORE.COM](http://WWW.SIMPLYSAFARISTORE.COM)

### Contact Us . . .

Petersen Photography Ltd. &

Nature Encounters Tours & Travel Ltd.

RR1 D74, Bowen Island, BC Canada T0N 1G0

Toll Free 866-949-3007

[www.petersenphotography.com](http://www.petersenphotography.com)

[www.natureencounterstours.com](http://www.natureencounterstours.com)

# STUFF . . .

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

**CHRISTMAS SHOWS COMING UP!**

**\*\*\*\*\*ART MARKET\*\*\*\*\***  
CALGARY CONVENTION CENTRE  
NOV. 17-20, 2006

**\*\*\*\*\*CHRISTMAS MARKET \*\*\*\*\***  
SPRUCE MEADOWS, CALGARY  
NOV. 18-20, 2006

**\*\*\*\*\*ONE OF A KIND SHOW\*\*\*\*\***  
TORONTO - NATIONAL TRADE CENTRE  
NOVEMBER 24 TO DEC. 4

## DID YOU KNOW . . .

- That the word "Chameleon" derives from the Greek for "Small Lion"
- That a group of Zebras is called a "Dazzle of Zebras"
- That a group of Crows is called a "Murder of Crows"
- That a group of Leopards is called a "Leap of Leopards"
- That Elephants feed for up to 16 hours a day and an adult bull can eat as much as 400kg (880lbs) of vegetation per day.
- That the Aardvark is often incorrectly called the anteater?? The name Aardvark comes from an Afrikaans word that means "earth-pig"

## KUDU'S TO BE CONFUSED WITH KUDO'S

*To Rose Fodor and Garth Irvine* for our Safari Report's on the Family adventure and Zambia!

*To our NETT groups this year that contributed to Lion and Gorilla Conservation, Brown Hyena Research in Botswana and a very special wildlife orphanage in Zimbabwe .*

*To you know who . . . for the Kadjiado School Donation!*

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

*To Randy* for putting up with the mess of paperwork among other things!

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

**SPECIAL THOUGHTS GO TO BARB K'S FAMILY -  
WE'LL MISS HER TOO. . .**

**NEXT ISSUE . . . WATCH FOR  
OUR GALAPAGOS AND AMAZON  
RAINFOREST REPORT!**

**ARE YOU RECEIVING OUR  
PHOTO/POSTCARDS?  
IF NOT - GIVE US A CALL -  
HOPE YOU LIKE THEM!**



**PERFECT FOR  
HOLIDAY  
GIVING**

**AFRICA  
UP  
CLOSE**

## 2006 CALENDAR!

**PHOTOGRAPHS BY CAROL PETERSEN**

**FULL COLOR - 13 MONTHS - \$20.00**

**CALL TO GET YOURS OR PICK ONE  
UP AT A SHOW!**

## THE LAST WORD . . . .

Well this has been a year of growth and change. 2004 was a barn-burner as far as tours go - jet lag was at a premium - oh well could think of worse things! Time for some personal change - I will be moving to Bowen Island, British Columbia in December. As mentioned earlier, Simply Safari II will be open mid November and that will be a great way to spread the word about Africa and help support the families that need much needed help! Thank you for all those that shop at Simply Safari - you support is amazing! So back to Bowen Island - Nature Encounters Tours & Travel and Petersen Photography are pretty mobile companies so of course, B.C. will be home base. I have had a few life changes so it seemed a good time to live the dream of being close to the ocean. The big lad (Irish Wolfhound) Conall will be thrilled to know he is closer to his canine family in Mission and Sophie the Boston Terrier - well she will just rule another province - what a girl! Other than a "move" glitch - nothing changes - email/websites and now those in Alberta will use our toll free line - 866-949-3007. I plan to be back to Simply Safari regularly as I will miss seeing my Calgary & Bragg Creek friends - the websites will have my schedule posted. Thank you to all of you for your patience - been a tough one but a new start. Would love to see you on the west coast if you're in the neighbourhood! A parting image of the kids with their best friend Buck - who's the boss?



*Have a Great Holiday Season!  
All the Best!*

*Carol*