



Maasai Wanderings Ltd



DECEMBER 2009

Maasai Wanderings Ltd &
NASIKIA LUXURY CAMPS

Volume 1 Issue 4 2009

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THE GREAT WILDEBEEST MIGRATION

- ◆ **The Great Wildebeest Migration is currently in the central–southern areas of the Serengeti, near the Ngorongoro border. The herd is still split and spread out over massive areas**
- ◆ **'Nasikia' is set up in the Southern- Serengeti, near Naabi Hill/Ndutu, at Hugo Special Camp from 1st December to take full advantage of this astounding wildlife behaviour. We will move to the central areas of at the end of May. After bringing the tents down from end of March to mid-May.**
- ◆ There has been incredible sightings of predator activity, and Kassim recently saw eight leopards in a three day Serengeti stay...incredible!

Wilderness Calling ...

I'm honestly not sure how many of you actually received my last newsletter. It was finished by one minute and I disappeared for two weeks—more of that later.

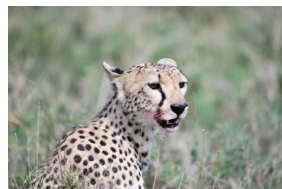
After a slower November and even into mid-December, we are now on full speed ahead again. Even Nas is out guiding and driving to keep up with the demand. He is openly thrilled about getting out into the bush more!

The Wildebeest Migration is an incredible spectacle right now in the southern Serengeti. The rains continue to fall (quite late short rainy season) and the grasses are thick and a luminous green. We are hoping for a bumper calving season in January-February.

The teams are coming back with incredible stories of sightings—eight leopards within three days

(including cubs right beside the cars), massive lions prides of up to 30 members and incredible birdlife life (resident and migratory).

Nas & I spent some time in Tarangire recently and it was so nice to actually see the Tarangire river running, and once again luminous green grass.



This really is the festive season for the wild life as well. The elephant herds in Tarangire seem to be growing in numbers with each visit, and it is currently not a rare sight to see leopard, lions and cheetahs there. This does not occur regularly during

the drier season.

Our teams on Kilimanjaro are working back to back through until the end of February, and are thrilled after six weeks off for the low season.

When there were some down time, Nas was able to get out and explore. He spent a couple of days following a mama cheetah with her cubs and watched them play, hunt, eat and snooze—the photos are incredible.

2010 is shaping up to be a bumper year—with increased bookings and by the look of the game viewing, the wildlife will be on their best and most natural behaviour!



Nasikia Luxury Camps



We have had to go ahead and expand our Nasikia Luxury Camp in the Serengeti. This meant a trip to Nairobi to pick up so many items that we cannot find here, and also working with a whole array of tradesmen again as we do more fit

outs.

Due to popular demand, we will now be having a Nasikia Luxury Camp in Tarangire (June–October) and then Manyara (November–March). This will open from June 2010.

Nasikia Luxury Camps (continued)



A balloon safari is a wonderful way to view the Serengeti—including a champagne breakfast when you land!

'All I wanted to do now was to get back to Africa. We had not left it, yet, but when I would wake in the night I would lie, listening, homesick for it already' - Ernest Hemingway (Green Hills of Africa, 72: 1935)

We have now employed even more staff out at the camp—from all over Tanzania. We even have a driver whose sole job is to keep driving back and forth with water supplies.

The is now located behind Naabi Hill with a breathtaking views across the southern plains. It is also in the middle of elephant paths and territories of a lion pride and a cranky male leopard—this makes for a thrilling symphony of calls all night long. Not actually in the



camp, but near enough to hear what is going on. We are really very lucky.

The location also allows us great access to the southern plains, Ndotu, Gol Mountains and not far from Nasera Rock (a great day of exploration).

We look forward to the new year as we continue to gather all the wares we need for the new camp—we are working on a new theme (the secret is not out yet) and no doubt there will more trips to Nairobi for supplies, maybe even further afield. The next challenge will be sourcing more gas freezers and solar lighting—but when Nas is on the job, he is always successful.

Come and join us at Nasikia—explore, experience, excite!

Staff Profile



Name: Hans Elibariki TEETE

DOB: 14th Feb 1980

Star Sign: Aquarius

Age: 29 years

Marital Status: Living with Partner, Aisha

Children: Saioa (2 yrs) & Pedro (7 mths)

Company Position: National Park Chef

Favourite Food: Chapati, Chips (anything with potato!) together with friend green bananas

Favourite Colour: Green

Hobbies: To try and teach

myself other languages and especially more English to study for the future

Why Maasai Wanderings: This company has helped me so much, even to build me a house and it also gives me a good life with my family. Just like the company is my father....

Future Plans: I would like to become a driver guide in the future

Projects—News & Updates

ILKURROT

Time to pick up the pace again at Ilkurot. We were lucky enough for several volunteers to pass through in the last three months—on an individual basis and also a football team from Scotland. The Bengal Lancers spent one day and night spending time with the villagers, playing football with the teachers and students. On top of that,

they raised incredible funds and I was able to purchase more than 200 more textbooks for Standard 4 & 5. The swelling numbers in these classes meant that our previous book fundraising was not enough....so a big thank you to the Bengal Lancers (and Frenkie/Hannah!)

The number of students that pass Standard 7 at Ilkurot

has been increasing every year. This year was no exception, with the most students eve passing the end of year government exams. We are now on the prowl for over 80 sponsors to work with some of these students and allow them to enter Secondary School education. Contact me directly if you are interested in helping out. The final costs are not



Nas's photography groups continue to be a success — he shares his special spots with them for unique views

Projects—News & Updates

Revealed until the beginning of January but it is expected to be similar to last year.

ESILALEI

Fundi Moses is out at Esilalei as I type—and after two weeks is up to the eaves of a kitchen, store and teachers office. I have begged and borrowed as I know our dear friend Dada Mary has some funds on the way for this purpose, and also for Tumaini. We are really looking forward to starting the year off with our nursery school kids being able to enjoy porridge every day. This also allows 1-2 mamas from the village to gain an income. Not to mention the maize supply we also buy locally.

We are still pottering away with our savings for the first primary school classroom...

NIJRO

A great Christmas was had by all at Tumaini. Beatrice cooked up a storm for the Christmas feast that the children had ever scene. The preceding weeks, a wonderful woman named Gail (who

had also spent 5 weeks at Ilkurot), spent her time working little wonders around Tumaini. The love that Gail had for the children and Beatrice and her family will be remembered by everyone there.

Pat (the founder of Tumaini—Aussie Aid for Africa) will be here from February 2010—so we are looking forward to working with him to build a memorial garden from my brother (read more in Home & Family).

KARANI

I have to admit that I have not seen Karani is about two months—there are several excuses, but I hope to be able to drive out and pay him a visit in the new year. However, his hope never ebbs and I get weekly updates from him by way of a phonecall or message.

I'm still on a mission to get this man a leg—all I want for Christmas is a leg for Karani!

If anyone has any ideas, any funds or any thing at all that may help us get Karani back on his feet (foot!), please,

please let me know and we can work together on it.

It will make or break his life—and we want to get positive about it!

BILLABONG

Billabong (Australia) have done it again! With the persistence of Robyn Luke, we are in the processes of receiving 50 boxes of seconds/sample clothing from this caring company via the extra kindness of DHL. The cargo has arrived in Dar es Salaam, all taxes have been paid and I am now just pushing for it all to be brought to Arusha some time this week for me to begin the process of sorting. Christmas twice this year. Photos will follow because the look on the faces of those who receive some clothing is completely and utterly priceless!

So thank you to

B I L L A B O N G – www.billabong.com.au—a great Aussie company with a great Aussie heart! We were even proud to see a Billabong shop in Seattle on our recent travels!



SWAHILI

PROVERB

Japo kidogo

chatosha kwa

wapendanao

'A little is enough

for those in love'

Home & Family

I have to be honest and say that on a personal level, 2009 has been the worst of my life. And it seems the same for many around me.

On 21st September, my life and those of my family and friends, changed forever my one and only sibling, Darren, was tragically killed by a train in Germany while on a short holiday with his beautiful wife, Elizabeth. The

memories, the feelings and the pain is all still very fresh for us all—and I know my family and sister-in-law are still just reeling and questioning and wondering why our incredibly intelligent, caring, fun son/husband/brother and father was taken from us so soon—only 37 years old.

When I got the news, I knew I had to rush to my sister-in-

law's side and who would have thought that from Arusha, I could have been on a plane to Germany within 4 hours. Was it somebody looking over me already? I still reply many things in my mind—even our recent trip to see Darren & Buzz at their new home in Abu Dhabi, or how I found him to be in Munich on 22nd September. My world



Nas relaxes at Lake Masek (Ngorongoro conservation Area)!

'Tanzanian safari & trekking adventures'

Home in Arusha

has dimmed for now—but I do have a strong feeling that as time moves on, healing will begin.

My goal is to continue what commitments and work we have here, and make Darren proud (as he is an educator extraordinaire) that more children living in poverty gain their right to access education. I love you Daz, stay near me always—my guide.

After this experience, my parents, Nas, Rami and I had almost three weeks in USA and then onto Canada. It was a great trip, albeit with a tinge of tragic reality. It allowed Nas & Rami to pay their respects to my parents as they were not able to join

me to Australia to bury Darren.

Rami is some sort of medicine (or diversion) for my parents—and their only male child/grandchild now. And of course, Rami adores them and in incredibly intuitive for a three year old.

We traveled from San Diego to Los Angeles to Las Vegas, Denver/Boulder and Seattle before continuing to Canada. I'm not sure who was more excited about rolling in the snows of Colorado—Nas or Rami? It was simply stunning—a very early and freak snow fall which made our trip there very special.

We were able to visit Nas's



My big brother...in loving memory (pictured here with his beautiful daughter Isabella)

POST TENEBRUS LUX
"After darkness....light"
Anonymous .

brother Abdulli, his partner and daughter in Vancouver which was exciting. More time would have allowed us to explore more—but with a business, who can disappear for long?

Since we have been back in Arusha, it has been work, work, work with me in the office and Nas busy running around preparing cars & equipment for the season that is now upon us. Lucky Nas and I work in great combination. There are no celebrations planned for the new year—just waiting with hope for a fresh, new, peaceful and safe year in 2010. xx Donna xx

"Alhamdulillah" (Grateful to God)



Abdulli, Rami & Nas in Whistler, Canada)



Rami the Cheetah in Nairobi

Maasai Wanderings offers unique African wildlife safaris, mountaineering treks, cultural experiences, historical site visits and beach holiday escapes exclusively in Tanzania.

We are passionate about our wildlife, tribal cultures and all of the mystical treasures that Tanzania has to offer and this makes us proud to present it to you.

The combined experiences of the Maasai Wanderings team demonstrates a concise understanding of wildlife behaviours, practical local knowledge of culture and history and dedication to each individual adventure – all of which create a 'special' experience!

Look for us in the Lonely Planet Guide to Tanzania (May 2008).

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