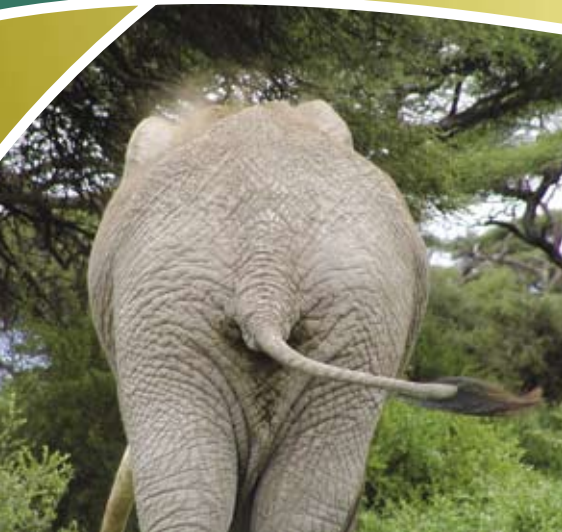


# Farside Africa

*Celebrating 10 Years*



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY FARSIDE AFRICA!

**I cannot believe that it is 10 years since I plunged feet first into the unpredictable world of African tourism!**

From the early days in the cupboard under my stair to our mews office in Edinburgh, it has been an adventurous and thoroughly enjoyable journey. Over the years we have built up a client base from all over the world, and keeping the company small has meant personal

and dedicated service to all of our clients. The proof that we've still got the special touch is that clients return year after year. Thank you for giving us the chance to help you explore Africa, and I hope there'll be more adventures together in the next 10 years.

## PASTURES NEW

After 5 years Calum has sadly left Farside Africa for pastures new in Kenya. He is getting married in February 2009 to Sophie Brown, who is a Kenyan, and they are now managing Elephant Pepper Camp in the Masai Mara. It is sad to see him go but we wish him all the best in his new life in Africa. If you would like to visit Calum we can arrange a safari including Elephant Pepper Camp.

To fill the gap left by Calum, my cousin Susannah McMicking has joined me at Farside Africa. She has worked in a school in Tanzania and more recently in lodges in Zambia. She has also travelled throughout Africa and has a great love for the continent and its wildlife. In the past few years she has been working in PR and Marketing so hopefully we should see more of Farside Africa in the travel press.

## TOP 5 SUNDOWNER SPOTS

One of the highlights of the day when on safari is the sundowner. Here are Farside Africa's top 5 places to enjoy Africa's famous sunsets with your favourite tippie:

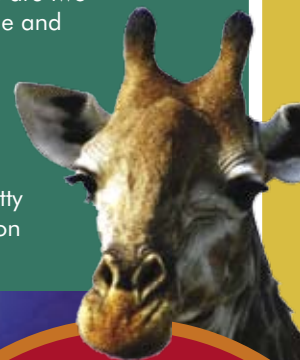
1. Mowani Mountain Lodge in Damaraland, Namibia
2. Sand Rivers Lodge in the Selous, Tanzania
3. Loango Lodge in Loango, Gabon
4. Campi ya Kanzi in Kenya
5. Shiwa Ng'andu, 'the Africa House', in Zambia

## TURF AND SURF IN TANZANIA

**In November, I travelled to Tanzania to view life above and below the water, and I enjoyed some of the best diving I have experienced in Africa.**

I spent the first few days of my trip in the Selous Game Reserve, a beautiful wilderness which forms part of the southern circuit of Tanzania. I must admit, it is one of my favourite reserves with its hills, woodlands, lakes and plains. I think it's so special because you are not stuck in a vehicle all day. You go on game drives, but the guides also take you out on the river and lakes and on fascinating game walks. You may not see huge amounts of game on these walks, but you learn about the trees and plants, the insects, birds and smaller animals, learning and experiencing nature as it should be. Yet around each bush you could come across lion, elephant or giraffe, so the suspense is always there.

Our safari was followed by a few days on Zanzibar, which develops more and more each time I visit. There are some lovely relaxing beach lodges, which are mostly sympathetically built, but there's no doubt the beaches are filling up. A wonderful alternative is Pemba, which I visited for the first time. It is like Zanzibar was 15 years ago, but it is a much prettier and lush island with plenty of water, and there is a strong voodoo culture. There are two lodges there: Fundu Lagoon where the service is impeccable and the food delicious, and Manta Reef Lodge, which has a sensational setting but still needs a bit of refining. A huge amount of money has been invested in it this year, and if they get it right, it will be the place to go as the location is perfect. The diving from Pemba is fantastic. There are not many big fish but there is huge diversity and some very pretty coral gardens. Pemba is a beautiful island – head there soon before the big hotels move in.



**DID  
YOU KNOW?**

**A giraffe can  
clean its ears with  
its 50cm tongue**



## SAFETY FIRST ON KILI

Mount Kilimanjaro is known as a relatively easy high altitude peak to conquer, but any climb at this height with low temperatures can be dangerous. As climbers, we rely on the experience of our guides and porters who carry our bags and equipment, so it is essential that they are as well equipped – both physically and in terms of kit – as we are. Over the years, a number of porters have died on the mountain, either because they are not used to the high altitude or they don't have the essential warm gear and footwear. At Farside Africa, we only use reputable tour companies that ensure safe working conditions for the porters and guides, and give regular training, to ensure your safety as well as theirs. In the past, clients have said that our prices are higher than others but we feel that your safety and the comfort of knowing that you are in the best hands when taking on this challenge is worth the extra money.

## CONDÉ NAST JOURNEYS TO THE FAR SIDE

At the end of last year we arranged for Peter Browne, the associate editor of Condé Nast Traveller, to visit the up-and-coming Quirimbas Archipelago in northern Mozambique. His article appeared in the April issue of the magazine and will be on their website soon.

The Quirimbas Archipelago is the hot new destination with a number of luxury beach lodges opening on the islands as well as the mainland. With beautiful beaches, clear waters and pristine reefs, the diving and snorkelling is exceptional. Once an important stop-over on the trade routes between India and Europe, there is plenty of history combined with the luxury of the island resorts. The Quirimbas is still relatively untouched so I would visit it soon before the rest of the world descends.

## NET MOZAMBIQUE: HELP FIGHT MALARIA

Guludo Lodge in northern Mozambique has set up a fantastic project to help reduce the risk of malaria in the region, which Farside Africa is wholeheartedly supporting.

Every 30 seconds a child dies from malaria around the world and this can be reduced substantially with education and preventative measures such as sleeping under a mosquito net. For each person who visits the lodge Farside Africa will donate US\$6 per person per night which will buy one mosquito net and provide malaria training for women in the area around Guludo. We feel this is a really worthwhile project which will hopefully encourage the community to sleep under them rather than use them as fishing nets or wedding veils!



## BUSH MAIL

Sadly after 15 years Robyn and David Foot have lost the concession for their horse safaris on the Nyika plateau in Malawi. Where Malawi has lost out, however, Botswana has gained as the couple have now joined up with PJ and Barney Bestelink at Okavango Horse Safaris. This will be an interesting journey for the Foots and their horses from the 2200ft plateau to the watery lowlands of the Okavango Delta.



Travel Africa has launched a new biannual magazine dedicated to Namibia, Travel Namibia. The current issue came out in May and is packed with news and stories of this fascinating country's top destinations and introduces you to the lesser known regions. For subscriptions, contact the magazine through the website [www.travelnamibiomag.com](http://www.travelnamibiomag.com).



Robin Pope Safaris has expanded into Malawi with Palumani, a new luxury lodge which opened on 1st July 2008 on the shores of the magnificent Lake Malawi. With an incredible setting overlooking the lake and the same first class service as their Zambian lodges, it is a perfect relaxing end to a safari.

For an unusual beach destination well off the tourist trail, try Bom Bom luxury resort on the island of Principe in the Gulf of Guinea, West Africa. The lodge has recently been bought by the owners of Loango Lodge in Gabon, and with deep sea fishing, whale watching, snorkelling and scuba diving, as well as exotic flora and fauna and rain forests to explore, it offers an adventurous alternative to your average beach holiday.

*Farside Africa*