

# Farside Africa

Celebrating 10 Years



## HOME NEWS & EVENTS

**Art in the City:** Farside Africa and Edinburgh artist, Caroline Fulton, will be hosting an art exhibition, Visions of Africa, at the Dundas Street Gallery, 6a Dundas St, Edinburgh on **20th, 21st and 22nd April 2009**. As well as being able to enjoy Caroline's art, it will give you the opportunity to have a glass of wine and a chat with us about Africa. Do come and see us. The gallery will be open from 10am-8pm, and Vicky and Susannah will be there from 6-8pm each evening. For more details see [www.farsideafrica.com/news](http://www.farsideafrica.com/news)

**African Gourmet Dinner:** Join us this Autumn for an exquisite taste of Southern Africa at Ardeonaig, a fabulous hotel on Loch Tay run by the award-winning South African chef, Pete Gottgens. This informal evening with Farside African will include a gourmet six-course dinner produced by Pete and his team, accompanied by a selection of South African Wines from his extraordinary cellar. **For up-to-date details, please see [www.farsideafrica.com/news](http://www.farsideafrica.com/news).** Tickets are strictly limited, so please contact us as soon as possible if you are interested in attending (0131 315 2464; [susannah@farsideafrica.com](mailto:susannah@farsideafrica.com)).

**Win a luxury safari for the price of a £2.50 raffle ticket:** We have donated a luxury 14-day Kenya safari as a raffle prize on the new fundraising website [www.rogavi.com](http://www.rogavi.com) to raise money for Save The Rhino. The money will support SRI's valuable conservation work in Africa, including black rhino in Kenya and the desert rhino in Namibia. If you fancy a safari for the price of a raffle ticket, log on to [www.rogavi.com](http://www.rogavi.com) and buy your tickets! We are in the travel section. If you want to raise money for your own favourite charity, Rogavi is a simple and exciting new way to do it. You just put a raffle prize on the Rogavi website, which is then sent out in a newsletter to thousands of subscribers who can buy raffle tickets, and the money raised goes to your chosen charity.

Whatever is happening in the rest of the world, one thing that never changes is the peace and the beauty of the African bush, and we hope that as many of you as possible will be able to enjoy it this year and escape the madness of the western world. There are a number of enticing special offers, making it an excellent year to travel to Africa, and the £ is maintaining its strength against the South African rand, making South Africa and Namibia as affordable as ever.



## MIGRATION MATTERS-TANZANIA UPDATE

**Susannah was in Tanzania in early December, enjoying some fabulous game viewing at a quiet time of year.**

The last time I was in Tanzania, I was 18 years old armed with a rucksack and an inflatable globe, apparently the essential piece of kit for my sojourn teaching in the Pare Mountains near Moshi. This time I was here on a slightly different mission, but the friendliness and humour of the people, and the magic of the wide open spaces and colourful markets wow-ed me all over again.

The Migration was just moving into the south of the Serengeti, and wildebeest and zebra dotted the plains as far as the eye could see. The sheer numbers are astounding, but it also means that the predators are around enjoying the new arrivals and we saw some really exciting chases. It was bliss to be back under the enormous starry African skies, and sitting in peace around the camp fire, it was easy to forget the doom and gloom the British press were casting about the economy back at home. My trip also took me to Tarangire, a beautiful and often overlooked area, but during the high season a lovely alternative to the busy Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti. There are some really special camps here, including Oliver's Camp which honours the safaris of old.

As well as the ever-charming Gibb's Farm - a colourful oasis between Lake Manyara and Ngorongoro Crater, where you awake to a startling cacophony of birdsong and eat wonderful home grown produce - one lodge that made a particular impression was the Ngorongoro Forest Lodge. This new addition to the circuit is completely Tanzanian-owned and run, and combines the feel of a coffee plantation lodge with that of a tented hilltop retreat, and it has great food. I also spent a few days in the Selous, which is as wild and beautiful as ever and I loved being able to swap the vehicle for walks and boat trips down the river. I stayed at Impala and its sister camp, Lake Manze, which is a simpler bush camp and has a lovely Czech-Italian couple managing it. The night I stayed, there was an opera singer-in-training in camp, who filled the bush with spine-tingling arias - a truly magical and surreal moment, hilariously broken by the Maasai imitating from edge of the camp with their own song.

Every safari earns you a few days at the beach, and the white sands and balmy waters of Zanzibar's east coast are ideal for this. Even as a popular tourist mecca, Zanzibar still boasts some of the best island escapes, from the colourful Matemwe Bungalows to the new Mchanga Beach Lodge, where simple chill out is top of the agenda.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**A crocodile will grow between 2,000-3,000 teeth in its lifetime!**





## GET SNAPPY

It's hard not to take some good photos when you are on safari, but if you want to take home some really special, envy-inducing photographs from your holiday – as well as new skills – a number of lodges are now offering expert photographic tuition during your stay. At Sabi Sabi in South Africa, the award-winning wildlife photographers Chris van Rooyen and Albert Froneman are offering a hands-on introduction to photography. They accompany guests on their safari, showing them camera set-up, the principles of wildlife photography from a vehicle and step-by-step guidance at sightings. Back at the lodge, they will explain the computer processing of images, and give a critique of the day's work and ways to maximise the shots taken. In Kenya, Film Safaris is a specialist camp for keen photographers run by two natural history film producers, which has specially designed vehicles and game viewing dedicated to taking the perfect shot.

## CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE

Our new website is now live. Easier to navigate and packed with hundreds of colourful photographs, the new website also has a section devoted to inspiring you about where to go and what to do and country by country itinerary ideas. **Have a peek: [www.farsideafrica.com](http://www.farsideafrica.com)**

## TOP 5 MOST ROMANTIC ROOMS

**As Valentine's approaches, we give you our 5 Most Romantic Rooms:**

1. Ngorongoro Crater Lodge, Tanzania, for pure decadence
2. Shompole, Kenya, for a classy getaway
3. Kasbah du Taubkal, Morocco, for mountain views
4. Sindabezi, Zambia, for island romance
5. Cliff Lodge, South Africa, for whale watching from your bed

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

**Apart from going on more holidays, have you promised to get fitter/healthier/more adventurous in 2009?**

Why not try a week of wild fitness in Kenya or some relaxing yoga in Malawi? Or set yourself a challenge: it could be a mountain bike ride through northern Tanzania, a truly different way to view game and see local village life, or perhaps signing up for the Lewa Marathon in June. Safari holidays can be active too, whether it's a walking safari in Zambia or gorilla tracking in Uganda, which provide the perfect combination of holiday and gentle exercise. For further details see the Inspire Me page on our website or give us a call.



## BUSH MAIL

### First five-star lodge opens in Lesotho

Maliba Mountain, a luxury mountain retreat in the Tsehlanyane National Park, has just opened in Lesotho, and is the country's first five-star lodge. Situated in a pristine sub-alpine wilderness valley, deep in the heart of Lesotho's breathtaking mountains, it has just six chalets and will eventually boast the highest sub-alpine botanical garden in the world. Activities from the lodge include hiking, horse riding, swimming in natural springs, bird watching, rock-climbing and village and cultural tours. Snow activities can also be organised in winter months.



### This cloud has a silverback lining

A new luxury lodge has opened in Uganda on the southern side of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, which has greatly improved access to the gorillas on this side of the park. From Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge, you can track the Nkuringo group of gorillas from the lodge without long 4x4 journeys at the beginning or the end of the day. The lodge has panoramic views from its huge windows, and each of the eight stone cottages has its own sitting room with an open log fire. Tracking gorillas is one of the most exciting wildlife adventures and a captivating, humbling experience which we highly recommend.



### Nkwichi Lodge wins responsible tourism award

One of our favourite lodges, Nkwichi Lodge on the Mozambique side of Lake Malawi, won the Virgin Holidays Responsible Tourism Award 2008 for the Best Small Hotel Worldwide. Nkwichi is a leading example of a true eco-lodge, and also initiated the creation of the Umoji Association, an organisation which represents 20,000 local people through their chiefs and elected representatives. One of the first large community associations in Mozambique, it has enabled six communities to secure land rights certificates from the government, which demonstrates how far a \$5 levy on each bed night can go. Nkwichi has also just opened its new honeymoon suite, Nkwazi.



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