

The Spirit Of Everyday Eastern Africa

Photo Exhibition By
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September 2005, Hjertnes Kulturhus, Sandefjord, Norway

Introduction

Eastern Africa is mostly known for its game parks, abundant wildlife and natural beauty. In fact, there is much more to be seen – try to visit a village which your guidebook does not mention or take a trip to a place not included on the list of your tour operator. Then let the spirit of Eastern Africa speak to you... In the following couple of lines, you can learn more about places covered by this exhibition.

Suguta Valley, Lake Logipi&Turkana Tribe

Suguta valley is reckoned to be one of the hottest places on earth. Temperatures rise to extreme highs of well above 50 degrees centigrade during noon. In spite of the rough conditions, this part of Kenya is inhabited by *Turkana* and *Samburu* nomadic people. Cattle is the only source of livelihood and armed raids are everyday reality. No wonder most of the men are armed with AK-47 (Kalashnikov assault rifle) to protect their herds from unwelcomed visitors. While rifle is typical for man, women are decorated with beautiful beads. They believe every colour has a special meaning – blue is colour of sky and represents fertility, red is colour of blood and protects one from spirits of death ones, black is colour of shadow and is usually worn by youngsters to protect them from sickness.

In the middle of Suguta valley lies the pearl of the desert – *Lake Logipi*. It is one of few alkaline lakes of Kenya and provides seasonal home to thousands of *Lesser Flamingos*. Locals also believe that it provides healing powers to their camels and we met several caravans heading down to the lake on our trek.

Usambara Mountains

The Usambara Mountains are situated in the northeastern part of Tanzania between Mount Kilimanjaro and the Indian Ocean. The mountains rise up steeply from the surrounding plains and can only be entered via a few roads. Usambaras were fortunately not discovered by mass tourism yet. They are inhabited by a less known *Shambaa tribe*. While visiting them, one finds there a relaxed atmosphere, cool temperatures, no electricity and no hot water unless its boiled on fire.

In some villages we were the first *muzungu* (meaning white person in Swahili language) they saw and especially kids got during the very first minutes panicked. As we learned later on, this was because their parents told them, that if they did not behave, white man would come, put them into a box and take them away. But it took just a couple of minutes before kids were back with a big smile on their face and sometimes they even walked us singing to the end of the village, where the path through beautiful hills continued.

Ngorongoro Crater and Tarangire NP

Well known places, included on most itineraries of safari tours. We've spent one day in Tarangire NP where we were lucky to see cheetahs as well as wonderful nature and another day in fantastic Ngorongoro crater. Ngorongoro is 20km wide crater, the world's largest unbroken volcanic caldera and what is even more interesting, you can see there most of wildlife species found in East Africa. Ngorongoro provides enough perfect conditions for animals whole year round and therefore the animals do not migrate as it is common in other parks.

Zanzibar Island

I was expecting crowds of tourists when coming to the "Spicy Island" but I got fairly surprised. *Northern Zanzibar* was especially colourful with its *catamarans* and beautiful beaches. Most of the people in this part of the island live still from fishing – boat is their most valuable asset. For longer distances, they still use the traditional arab sailing vessel called *Dhow*, with its characteristic lateen sail. Up to the 1960s, dhows made commercial journeys between the Persian Gulf and East Africa using only sails as a means of propulsion. The freight was mostly dates and fish to East Africa and mangrove timber to the lands in the Persian Gulf. They sailed south with the monsoon in winter or early spring and back again to Arabia in late spring or early summer.



Flamingo

Lake Magadi, Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania

Exhibited size 30x40cm

Exposure 1/800s at f/4.5, polarizing filter



Catamaran

Northern Zanzibar, Tanzania

Exhibited size 30x40cm

Exposure 1/50s at f/16, polarizing filter



Lake Logipi

Suguta Valley, Northern Kenya

Exhibited size 30x40cm

Exposure 1/25s at f/22, polarizing filter



Forgotten Paradise

Tarangire NP, Tanzania

Exhibited size 50x70cm

Exposure 1/80s at f/13, polarizing filter



Dhow And Sunset

Zanzibar, Tanzania

Exhibited size 50x70cm

Exposure 1/100s at f/11



Colours Of Zanzibar

Northern Zanzibar, Tanzania

Exhibited size 50x70cm

Exposure 1/60s at f/16, polarizing filter



Exotic Sunflower

Central Zanzibar, Tanzania

Exhibited size 30x40cm

Exposure 1/320s at f/4, polarizing filter



Umbrella On A Beach

Northern Zanzibar, Tanzania

Exhibited size 50x70cm

Exposure 1/30s at f/16



Turkana Eldery Woman

Village north of Maralal, Northern Kenya

Exhibited size 30x40cm

Exposure 1/60s at f/4.5, polarizing filter



Young Spirit

Usambara Mountains, Tanzania

Exhibited size 50x50cm

Exposure 1/160s at f/6.3



Turkana Princess

Suguta Valley, Northern Kenya

Exhibited size 50x70cm

Exposure 1/80s at f/4.5



Shambaa Woman

Usambara Mountains, Tanzania

Exhibited size 50x50cm

Exposure 1/80s at f/11

Pricing

Photographs are available as custom-made professional photographic prints for your home, office and such decoration even though the main purpose of the exhibition is to share the great experience of being in Eastern Africa, not to sell prints. If you decide to buy one after all, you will help to make exhibitions like this possible.

Photos are available in this sizes & prices:

Size (cm)	Price Framed	Price Matted
30x40	890,-	690,-
50x50	1590,-	1390,-
50x70	1990,-	1790,-

Price of the whole collection in exhibited sizes&framed: 13 900,- NOK.

Paper

Prints are made on Epson professional photo paper, which is one of the highest-quality fine-art photographic papers today. In connection with Epson UltraChrome Ink it exhibits superior sharpness and color, and is expected to last over 75 years on display before noticeable fading occurs.

Each image is released in a limited edition

A limited edition is a series of prints in which each print is numbered. Limited editions usually go from just a few prints up to several thousand prints. My limited editions consist of 150 prints maximum. All photos are released in limited editions and the low number of prints makes each print a collectible work of art. Each limited edition print is both hand-signed and handnumbered on the print. The numbering I use is 1/150, 2/150, 3/150,.. until I reach 150 prints. When the complete edition has been issued the original image is retired and will never again be reproduced as a photographic print for sale.

Information about the author

David Lacina – travel photographer and documentary journalist of indigenous cultures of the world. Born on 4th of September 1977 in Czech Republic, holds a master degree in Computer Science and Economics (Mendel University in Brno).

During past years, he's visited several exotic countries including Morocco, Malaysia and Langkawi Islands, Sumatra and Siberut Islands of Indonesia, Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya and Caribbean island Curaçao. Instead of visiting well-known places, David spends weeks off-the-beaten-track, living with local people far away from any civilization, learning about their culture and their preserved customs.

Several travel magazines published his articles — including **National Geographic** and Czech biggest newspapers iDNES.



Contact

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Technique

Equipment

Since the very beginning of my experimenting with photography I've been using to my full satisfaction Pentax cameras. For the trip to Eastern Africa I've been equipped with Pentax *istD digital camera, Pentax 16-45mm wide angle lens and Pentax 80-320mm tele lens. As a backup I've taken Pentax mz-5n body with me. The whole time Polarizing Filter was used heavily together with UV filters mounted on the optics serving as a protection for the lenses.

Digital darkroom

All photos were taken in RAW format, (Adobe RGB color space was used) and processed with a RAW converter into 16bit tiff files. Noise reduction, levels and/or curves were applied, saturation was increased/reduced a little bit sometimes. Before printing, the images were custom sharpened for Epson 2100 printer.

Sponsorship

There is always something that can be done in a better way, something that can be improved, but it costs more money. Unfortunately as anyone else, I've my budget I've to stick to so if there was someone interested in providing support, please contact me. In exchange I can place a banner on my site (over 9000 hits per day) or put a sponsor's logo on the front of this brochure but am opened for other suggestions as well.

Thanx

Special thanks goes to Carls Waineina from wanderingnomads.com who managed to take me to places "normal people" usually don't have access to & managed to keep us alive all the trip along. For sometimes we were not far away from a point where life becomes transfered to death. Thanks a lot Carls!