



ETHAN KINSEY

S A F A R I S

Greetings from Tanzania,

February 2014



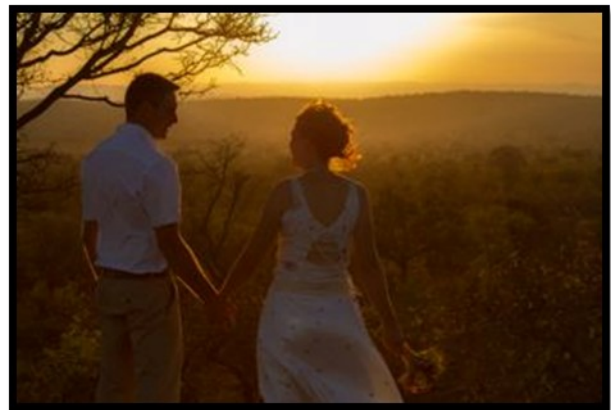
A curious cheetah investigates the car.

Happy New Year! 2014 has kicked in with some incredible wildlife sightings and fulfilling experiences. You will see some images in this newsletter and on my [blog](#) that speak for themselves and I'm not sure I can verbally describe the emotion that has accompanied them. With cheetahs staring at me through the windscreen and resting on the roof of the car, two sightings of normally elusive caracals, leopards, lions, elephants with beautiful ivory, and of course breathtaking landscapes.

As the dry season was coming to an end, Gina and I were married on an iconic rock out in the bush. With friends, family, the birds and trees as witness, my father led us through an informal ceremony. The sun set and we toasted to another dramatic sunset. With family from Canada visiting and a looming training program, we managed to sneak out of town for a weekend of birding and sitting in a hide overlooking a waterhole.

3 days later I flew to Ruaha National Park for six weeks. Ruaha is Tanzania's largest national park and offers some spectacular wildlife as well as remote wilderness. One of the ways that it generates income to support its conservation is through tourism and activities such as

walking safaris. With funding from the UNDP, I coordinated the second round of training for rangers specifically in conducting safe walks. Despite incredible heat and a few logistical challenges, the training was a success and one notable achievement was the qualification of the first female ranger by Interpretive Guides Society (IGS) standards.



Our wedding in Tarangire.



The outdoor classroom.



ETHAN KINSEY

S A F A R I S



Rubondo Island Camp

One of the beautiful places I was fortunate to take guests to these past few weeks is Rubondo Island. It is always exciting to visit new places and part of the lure in Rubondo is not only Nile Perch fishing, but also its biological diversity. In contrast to the grassed and wooded savannahs, Rubondo has real jungle. Asilia has built a beautiful camp in one of the bays that offers serene relaxation and a chance to vary safari activities that makes me excited to incorporate this into future itineraries. ([Rubondo article](#))

The success of the past safaris has been the ability to escape the more popular areas and travel “off-season” into peripheral areas or areas that are more popular at other times of year. It is extremely satisfying to do a game drive without seeing another vehicle allowing experiences with wildlife to unfold and an appreciation of the vast landscapes as well as deeper appreciation of less charismatic wildlife. Likewise the impact on the environment particularly stress on wildlife is reduced.

Right: It is becoming rare to see an elephant with big tusks like the female 2nd from right. A direct result of poaching, recent census results have shown an alarming decline in the population of elephants in the Ruaha and Selous ecosystems. Ruaha: 20,090 down 40% in 4yrs. Selous 13,080, down 66% in 4 yrs).



Our private camp in Serengeti

I head on the last safari of the season this week to some remote and special places including Rwanda, Mahale and Ruaha. I look forward to writing it up and hope that my newsletter continues to interest you. As always I appreciate this newsletter and my contacts being passed on to friends who may be considering safaris in East Africa.

Warm regards,

Ethan

