



Moose on the Loose

World traveler...

Student of life...

Moose Extraordinaire...

By Monty Moose



*In...Tanzania,
AFRICA!*

~a marvelous "Part 2" to my 2010 holiday~

~with special thanks to Auntie Mayling and Uncle John of Belcarra ~

Close your eyes and just let your imagination go...

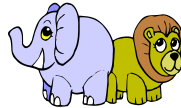
You feel a slight dampness from the night evaporating into a thirsty heat. Before your eyelids even detect the first rays of light, your mind assimilates the growing sounds of foreign birds, animals, and buzzing insects. Your antlers start to tingle with...

...Oops! I'm guessing that you don't have antlers! So let me just start with saying that all of my "Moose Senses" were on high alert when we first stepped into the Safari Van in Mara, Kenya. The anticipation was HUGE, after visiting Nairobi.

Kenyan Elephant Orphanage had been SO fun! Those dear little orphaned baby elephants are kept there until they are old enough to survive in the wild... but I did wonder... where 'in the wild' will they find someone to referee those soccer games? Too bad Auntie Mayling didn't let me GET DOWN AND GET DIRTY in those enticing elephant mud baths! Did you know that the African elephant is the largest land animal, and at 3000 to 4000 kg, is about the size of four cars? They live in herds up to 24 animals and can be as much as 60 years old... hmmm... I'm only 15 years old!

You can't BEGIN to imagine (well...

unless you check it out on the internet!) all the fabulous animals I saw on the plains of the **Serengeti**: REAL lions, REAL zebras, hyenas, rhinos, giraffes, hippos, and many species of birds! In the Maasai language, Serengeti means "extended place" and this park is almost 13,000 square kilometers with many habitats. There is a lush season after the rains, which 'encourages animals to migrate and "follow" the shrinking lakes. Thank goodness we were in the safety of a vehicle... the lions actually liked posing for photos RIGHT BESIDE the vehicles! I could ALMOST say that the lions looked CUDDLY when they nuzzled each other! (We didn't even need telephoto lenses!)



I was lucky to meet some of the **Maasai people**, who are SO intriguing and friendly! I loved the bright, patterned colours of their clothing, although I'm not sure how comfortable those huge necklaces might be! School children visiting the African nature centers were simply going on a "local field trip"! I hope our "Pumpkin Patch" visitors get as excited about weird looking gourds, pumpkins, piggies, and turkeys! When I came home, I tried reading online about the Maasai traditions. It gave me many conflicting feelings... most of their traditions are tied into the necessities of their environment but others are disturbing. I was most touched by one website that cautions us to view our tourist photos with an eye to remembering that these are REAL people with ongoing real lives. *That makes even a **Stuffie** get to **thinking**!*

Moose Tracks on the Internet

You can see some photos of our trip on my website.

<http://www.teacherwebshelf.com/canozconnection/montymoos/gallery/10-tanzania>

Try to match 9 Serengeti sounds with the animals!

http://www.serengeti.org/main_game.html

The Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (note: some photos are quite sad)

<http://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/>

A good website about the Maasi people is surprising difficult to find. This one "seems" to value both tradition & modernization.

<http://www.maasai-association.org/welcome.html>