

Cartography

CALIFORNIA 21 DAYS

TANZANIA 15 DAYS

MILAN 3 DAYS



English/Italian

Your Travel Guide

Text by Paola Corini

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TANZANIA

Such a Sweet Story

The lines of Jared Gilman, aged twelve, in his first lead role as Sam in the fairytale film *Moonrise Kingdom* by Wes Anderson, went: "It's got action. It's got comedy. It's got drama. It's got romance. It really packs a punch!" Set on an island way off the New England coast in summer 1965, *Moonrise Kingdom* tells the story of two twelve year olds who fall in love, seal a secret pact and escape together into the wilderness. Sam abandons his scout camp, stealing tools and supplies, to meet up with Suzy, who runs away from home, taking her cat, her favourite books and a battery-operated record player.

Sam and Suzy spend several days exploring and camping in open spaces in the middle of nowhere, their aim to get to an isolated bay on the island, which the two christen "Moonrise Kingdom". There they set up their tents, dance on the beach in their underpants, and kiss. In the press conference, producer Jeremy Dawson would say that as a location Prudence Island was as spot-on as they could get: "Prudence really does look untouched".

Unexpectedly we found ourselves thinking that our trip to Tanzania was following in the footsteps of Sam and Suzy's lovers' escape into the wild, from a marvellously organized camp in the far north-east of the Serengeti National Park to the sandy beach of Mahale, our untouched island, our Moonrise Kingdom, at the other end of the country. In a long-distance journey, hopping from point to point by light aircraft, we experienced it all – just like the perfect film – action, comedy, drama and romance. Packing a real punch!

The Pilot

"My name is K.T. and I'm your pilot on this flight to Kogatende. The flight will take around

an hour and forty minutes and I can assure you that there'll be lots of bouncing around". With the kind arrogance and manner of a young man who's just got a first-class degree from the most expensive university in America, K.T. would guide us through a storm in the northernmost part of the Serengeti National Park, Tanzania, East Africa. "Most of us come from South Africa and we fall in love with this type of flight, so we stay on for a few years. A couple more for me and then that's it, I've got my own plans". After landing on the airstrip, we'd give K.T. a lift back to the camp where he spent the night. His next flight was the day after. "You can be my guest whenever you want, but now I'm the one needing a lift," he'd say to our guide. On the ground, he's the one who's pilot. It's ground that we cover in a four-wheel drive, on the edge of that patch called the Mara Triangle. Belonging to Kenya, it traces a border for humans and a wide open savannah for the wild animals. K.T. talks a lot, like a gushing Hollywood actor. He's full of quips, he's already got his stories of the wild, but they all take place in the skies. "That time we were going through a real storm. And I don't like turning round and seeing my passengers throwing up, girls scared to death, screaming, women crying. But that day it was raining cats and dogs." And those were his very words, cats and dogs.

"Then where are you going, guys? Mahale? I can't stand Mahale! We stop over in Tabora to fill up and then pick up more passengers in Katavi. It's four hours one way, so you see Mahale is the start of paradise for you, but for me it's eight hours of flying. I can't stand Mahale! Don't ask me to take you to Mahale!" His harmless tirade came at an unstoppable rate and we were already too grown up to not

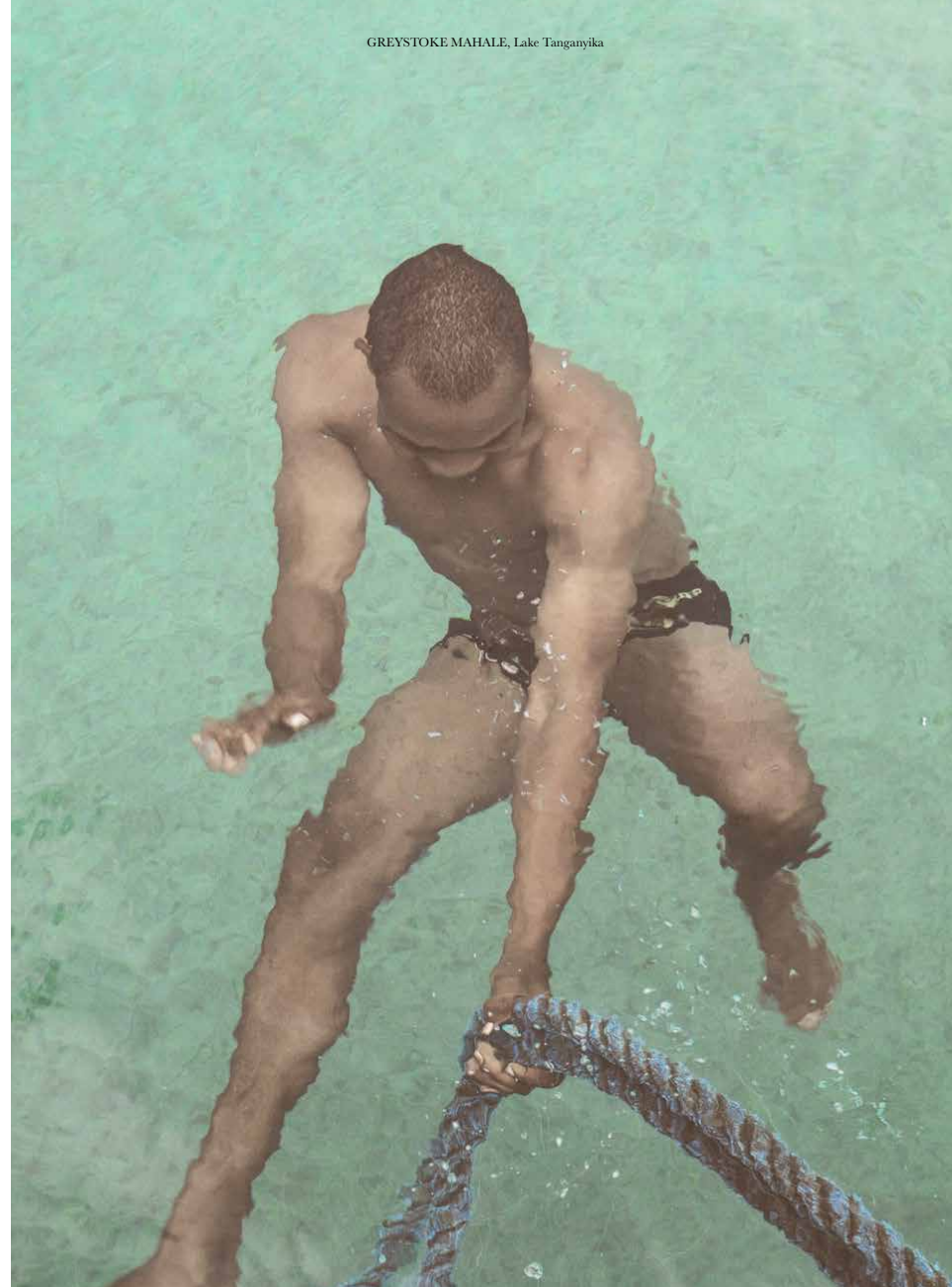
just smile at his outburst. After all, just two weeks later, that same young pilot would take us home, loading us onto his twelve-seater aircraft from Mahale to Kilimanjaro, with a fixed smile, the usual welcome brief and no hint of being fed up after that day-long flight. "My name's K.T. and I'll be your pilot on this direct flight to Kilimanjaro".

Those flights would become just another way of getting from one place to another, with people getting on and off at different stops every time. Curious to know where the other passengers are headed if they're not going to the same camp as you. The first friendships were formed there, on the seats of those little Cessna 208B Grand Caravans, like at those narrow school desks, sharing intimacy and adrenaline with a person who apparently has nothing in common with you except having to go in the same direction.

"The air is scented with jasmine, the forest rich, the water of the lake gin-clear and lightly chilled. And if I dare to put an imprint on this paradise I had better get it right." Roland Purcell, Scottish adventurer and auctioneer, discovered Mahale in the 1980s during a long journey through East Africa. A year after that perfect day in June 1988, Zoe joined him and took that same decision. Over time, together they built the extraordinary life of a family deliberately shipwrecked on Kangwena Beach, and Greystoke Mahale, a camp like something out of a fantasy story.

And so Greystoke became our El Dorado, until we arrived there one day in November, in the "short rains" season that makes the forest even richer.

"My name's Thomas and I'll be your pilot on this direct flight to Mahale. We're going right





to the opposite side of Tanzania. We'll refuel in Tabora, pick up some passengers in Katavi, then fly over the Mahale mountains. It'll be a steep and fast descent, so take little sips of water and swallow often because your ears will go mental and it's not the pleasantest of things."

Christmas

A safari in Africa, whether it was our first or our umpteenth, had the power to immediately tune us into another lifestyle. Night fell on the camp as if someone had flicked a switch. We discovered a different side to ourselves, capable of new challenges. The latecomers were top of the class, always ready, perfectly equipped for the morning game drive, even before dawn. With daily prize of hot chocolate and shortbread served right at the entrance to the tent, we'd hurry to collect it without stopping to put on shoes or glasses, like in the 25 December morning dash to find what gifts Father Christmas has brought. The Internet addicts left their telephones in their tents, after all they weren't any use to them. Everyone forgot what day of the week it was, we simply regulated ourselves by the sun, with the alternating light and dark. The safari rituals took us adults back in time, as if we were living in an exotic school camp inhabited by small groups of budding explorers, dominated by a spontaneous spirit of brotherhood, sharing and adventure. We became wiser, more intuitive, more curious, in a word, better. "He's such a naughty boy!" And they shook their heads with all the love felt for a naughty son, a boy who's growing up. Christmas was born on Christmas Day and now he was twenty. If you met him with the girls he would look around to check that there weren't any other males who'd put him in his place, and at that point the show would begin. He wasn't dangerous, he was just a teenager who wanted to show off. Christmas was the mascot of Mahale, perhaps because of his name which tugged at the heart strings, perhaps because whenever you met him there was always action on the cards, but with a finale that'd already been written. At a certain point, he'd thump his fists on the ground, shout out in alarm, throw around the odd branch that had stupidly ended up in his way. He'd give one of our companions, the weakest one, a friendly slap, and he'd go off in search of some energy fruit, his favourite forest snack. Word of Christmas had reached every corner

Tanzania, because there was always a guide, a manager or a guest who had spent time in Mahale and missed Greystoke and Christmas the bully. Christmas was given the front page in the family album of Greystoke Mahale.

Mahale Mountains

I took this little matt plastic-coated book just about everywhere with me. Its title was: *There's nowhere in the world like Mahale*. I'd just entered my banda – number three out of seven, counting from the end of the beach towards the main camp marquee – after abandoning my walking boots and socks outside the wooden platform and rinsing my feet, yellow with sand, in an oval chiselled silver basin filled with clear water. I was now walking in my majestic dhow driftwood hut, with sloping straw roof and bamboo canes. The leaflet was set out neatly on the desk, next to the heavy padlock of the baboon-proof wooden chest safe, the matchbox, the tropical insect repellent and the guestbook. The plastic cover meant it hadn't curled up owing to the humidity of the rainforest, while in just a few days the pages of my paperback bought just before my departure would acquire that yellow hue and thickness typical of shabby classics that no one in the family dared to throw out. As soon as I had a few minutes to laze around, I opened it and slowly started reading it from scratch again. The information was precise, accurate, exact. I was learning it by heart, like notions from the best school encyclopaedia. The Mahale Mountains National Park is situated in the far west of Tanzania, on the shores of Lake Tanganyika. It's named after the mountain chain that crosses through it and is one of the most remote places on the planet, where you can still observe chimpanzees in their natural habitat and spend time with a small group of sixty-four individuals known as "M Group" who are used to the presence of humans. No roads go through the 1,613 square kilometres of the Mahale Mountains, only paths and forest trails, hewn out by the rangers with their machetes, numbered with letters of the alphabet, used not just by the park guides but by the animals too. The only practical way to reach Greystoke Mahale is by water and this adds to the sense of total distance from the world as we know it. Here's where the numbers started: heights, distances, the proportions of the mountains, of the peaks and of that magnetic lake, all confirming just how extraordinary the place

was that would become ours for four days and nights. I knew the facts of that place by heart and I could recite them like the most magical Christmastide poem and repeat them as many times as was needed to build an exact idea of Mahale in my listener's mind. But actually being there was another story.

In Mahale you immediately learnt a new way of going on safari in Tanzania. The park is one of the very few in Africa that can only be reached and visited on foot. So, take a classic African safari and get rid of all the marvellous old open-top four-wheel drives with your great guide at the wheel, the binoculars, all the predators and the adrenaline of the bush, the endless horizons, the dawn rises. Take off the sturdy walking boots too and look down at your bare feet, at your long breakfast table at eight o'clock in the morning, the hot pan-cakes, the red watermelon, the boiling hot coffee, the book of primates, native fish and birds, the calm green lake. No Internet connection, inbox stuck at the moment you landed at the Mahale airstrip, there's no signal in any corner of Kangwena Beach or the forest around it.

At some point during breakfast the group of rangers will arrive, with filled water bottles and folded green ponchos, and you'll have a few minutes to slip on your boots and listen to their instructions and the new way to get to the chimpanzees, a way that almost always starts out on the water. You'll sail northwards over the lake and almost always disembark at the Japanese research centre where Kyoto University has been studying the behaviour of these individuals on site and christening the new arrivals since the 1960s. Then you'll plunge into the forest single file, at times there'll be a gentle uphill slope, at times a climb, a plain, until you hear the alarm calls. You'll be asked to wear your surgeon's mask and your breath will seem warmer and rhythmic. The other half of the day you'll be in the boat for your amateur fishing lesson or diving offshore into transparent waters where no crocodiles or hippos swim. "Would you like to fish or swim first?" they'll ask you and you'll quickly all come to an agreement. A cheerful democracy reigned at Greystoke, all down to that powerful, amazing hour granted to us humans with them, the chimpanzees, as well as everything either side: the private holiday in a wild Garden of Eden that feels like a small island. Out of this world, without a shadow of a doubt.



Text by Michio Nakamura

Photographs by Luca De Santis

MEET THE CHIMPANZEES

The Wild Mahale Mountains

Chimpanzee research at Mahale was started in 1965. The one who started the research there was Toshisada Nishida.

He was, at the time, just a graduate student studying at Kyoto University, Japan. Since then, the research project has been continued seamlessly by many researchers for more than 50 years.

It is not so common that a research project on a single mammalian species is continued at one place that long. From early on, the Japanese researchers had proposed to make Mahale as a protected area.

Thus it eventually became a national park of Tanzania in 1985 with efforts by Japanese researchers. The financial support was given from the Japan International Cooperation Agency and it is a rare example that a national park was established through overseas aid by a Japanese governmental organization. The Mahale Mountains National Park is located on the eastern shore of the Lake

Tanganyika at the western side of Tanzania covering the area of about 1,600 square kilometers. The Mahale Mountains chain runs from north-west to south-east with the highest peak, Mt. Nkungwe, being 2,462 m above sea level. This mountain chain keeps the moist from the lake and in the wet season it rains heavily on the western side of the mountains. The mountains gather the rain water which flows down to the lake as many small streams. As such, a rich forest, called the Kasoje Forest, is developed between the lake and the Mahale Mountains. This forest is the home for the M group chimpanzees that is the subject of ongoing research and tourism at Mahale.

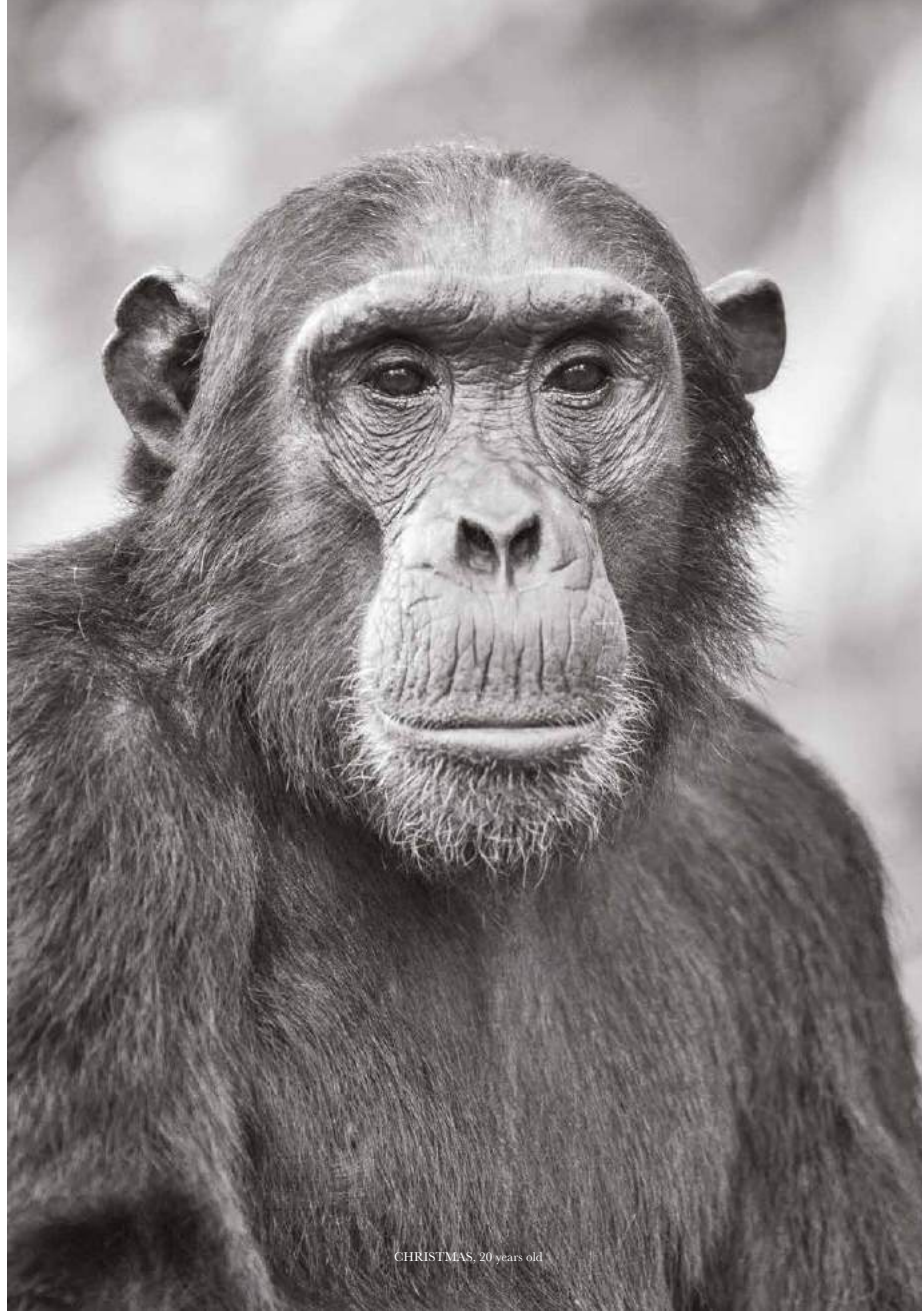
Mahale is also a home for various other animals. On trees of the Kasoje Forest, one would easily see small monkeys with clown-like gaily faces: the red-tailed monkeys. Red colobus monkeys, yellow baboons, several kinds of squirrels, warthogs, vervet mon-

keys, and the Nile monitor lizards can also be seen frequently near the research camp.

On the rather dim observation trails, one would often see a blue duiker, a small antelope that stands motionless fluttering only its small tail. At a certain distance, it suddenly skirls and runs into bush.

Leopards, porcupines, pangolins, aardvarks, bushpigs, and hyenas are also inhabitants of this forest and although you may not directly see them because of their nocturnal nature, you will find their feces on the observation trail. In the lake and river mouth, hippos, buffalos, and otters are also present.

When darkness covers the entire forest, you will hear the loud voices of greater galagos. You will also hear insects, frogs, nightjars, as well as the sounds of footsteps of nocturnal animals wandering about. Magnificent to hear may be the deep bass roar of the leopard known as "sawing sound." The night at Mahale is also a busy quarter for wildlife.



Introduction to the Chimpanzee

As it is well known, we humans belong to the order Primates (an order including lemurs, monkeys, and apes). Therefore, studying various species of primates is essential for understanding what we are and how we evolved. The chimpanzee is, among several hundreds of species of primates, the closest sister species to humans. Some scholars even argue that due to its genetic closeness to humans, the chimpanzee should be included in our own genus, *Homo*. Chimpanzee males in the wild weigh around 35 to 50 kg (some are over 60 kg in zoos) and females are about 10% smaller. If they stand bipedal, they are as high as 130 cm, much smaller than an average human female. This is because they have much shorter hind legs than we do, but instead they have longer hands. Chimpanzees are much stouter-built than we are. Especially, chimpanzee males are muscular and much stronger than human males. They especially look large when they erect their body hair. This piloerection may have the same mechanism as our gooseflesh when we get excited or feel tense. The difference is that we have very poor body hairs so that only pores of skin are visible as gooseflesh when we erect our hair.

Foods

Important foods for chimpanzees are ripe wild fruits. However, they also eat other parts of plants such as leaves, piths, flowers, or resins. Mahale chimpanzees are known to utilize more than 400 items from more than 200 species of plants. This number is still increasing as research goes on.

Fruits usually have their seasons. That means chimpanzees' important food habitat changes depending on seasons. What they eat are mostly "edible" also to humans. Some fruits are good tasted and even sought for by local people. Some are too sour or too rough for humans but are sweet at the same time.

Mahale chimpanzees also eat some agricultural species such as lemons, guavas, and mangoes that are once cultivated by the local people but abandoned after Mahale became a national park and now have gone wild. However, strangely, chimpanzees in Mahale never utilize oil palm fruits that are high in calorie and eaten quite frequently by chimpanzees in

Gombe which is also in Tanzania. This difference is not due to availability because we often see fruiting oil palms in the Kasoje Forest. When chimpanzees find ripe fruits in the forest, they may emit a grunting vocalization. The local assistants call this vocalization "a voice of delight." Once an alpha male, Fanana, tended to emit this sound often while climbing a fruiting tree and his grunting sometimes even became a cry.

Chimpanzees' lips stretch very well and they often put many fruits in between teeth and lips and compress the mass of fruits to squeeze juice. After squeezing, they spit out the leftover fiber ball, called a "wadje." Many wild fruits are tightly adhered to their seeds and cannot easily be removed. In such a case, chimpanzees swallow the whole fruits together with the seeds. You will often see many seeds are included intact in their feces. Such seeds are known to germinate better than seeds naturally fallen on the ground because the surface of seeds are moderately softened while going through the gut of a chimpanzee. The seeds in the feces are also an important source to know the foods of chimpanzees in a particular season.

Plants are their main foods but chimpanzees are not vegetarians. They also eat social insects such as ants and they love mammal meat very much. Chimpanzees at Mahale use tool to "fish" for arboreal *Camponotus* ants. The major mammalian prey is the red colobus monkey. When they hunt colobus monkeys, they get very excited, and when succeeded, noisy uproar of "carnival" continues sometimes for hours.

Social Unit and Fission-Fusion

Many primate species such as most monkey species form a stable group, often called a "troop." A troop is usually a compact group and you may visually confirm its members as they often are in close vicinity. On the other hand, in a chimpanzee social group, its members are not always physically together. It may depend on the season, but usually an observer will see only a few to a dozen of chimpanzees moving together at a time. Such small temporal group is called a "party" (or "subgroup") whose size and composition are not constant and always subject to change. For example, a chimpanzee A may be observed walking alone, or together with B, C, and D, but later

on, he may be observed with B and E, and so on. A chimpanzee will meet and part with any chimpanzees in a group.

With such a fluid characteristics, western researchers first thought that chimpanzees did not have a stable social group except for enduring mother and offspring pairs. They thought that chimpanzees had a loose "community" in which any chimpanzees might meet and part without any boundary.

However, from the early days, Japanese researchers thought that the chimpanzee has a distinctive social group with distinct boundary and stable membership. Nishida recorded the membership and composition of parties for months and found out that there was an upper limit for the membership. Thus, chimpanzees are not moving within borderless community but actually they do so within a social group that is distinctive from another group. Thus Nishida called this a "unit-group" of chimpanzees. A few years later, researchers at Mahale found out that neighboring unit-groups are usually hostile with each other but females transfer between these unit-groups upon reaching sexual maturity.

Nowadays, western researchers also admit that chimpanzees have a distinct social group (but they somehow continue to use the term "community" that sometimes brings some confusion). A chimpanzee unit-group has around 50 members on average, with the smallest around 10 to the largest over 150.

Sex

There is no specific breeding season or mating season in chimpanzees. Instead, a female has an estrous period and when she is in estrous, her rump is swelled large and pink. Sexual cycle is around 35 days within which the large sexual swelling continues for about 10 days and a female accepts males only during this swelling period. When she gives a birth, she will not show estrous swelling for 4 to 5 years while she is nursing the baby. Therefore, the number of sexually active females is not so many at one time. There are about 20 to 30 adult females in the Mahale M group but maybe only one to two, four or five at the most, females at a time show estrous and thus can accept males.

A male starts to mate with adult females when he is still an infant. When he is about to wean and his mother resumes estrous, he

may mate also with his mother. In the human sense, it may seem immoral to mate with one's own mother, but the mating actually does not seem "sexual" at all. It is rather a kind of mother-infant intercourse through physical touch. The mating by an infant male may be playful or may be a practice for sexual mating. The mother may present to her infant son to comfort him when he is in distress. When a male becomes old enough to be able to ejaculate, he usually do not mate with his mother or sister.

A typical mating between adults goes something as follows. A male may perform a courtship display to a female, and if she is willing, she will rush to the male and present her sexual swelling. But in some cases, a female performs a courtship display to a male or even presents him when he is not willing. There are various kinds of courtship displays that are known to differ between populations. When both participants are willing, male will mount the female, insert his penis and thrust several times. The intromission time is usually short. It is common that female emit a squeak voice and runs a few meters away from the male soon after copulation. The male may again approach the female and groom her for a while or otherwise they may part.

Development

Chimpanzees develop very slowly. In infancy (0 to 4 years old), the baby suckles the mother's milk and is usually carried by the mother either in the belly or on the back. When weaned, he/she enters juvenility (5 to 8 years old). Now the child can eat by his/her own and is no more carried by the mother, but still dependent on the mother in ranging. When a boy chimpanzee is playing with his friends, he may suddenly notice that his mother is not nearby. Then he will start to emit whimper call and desperately look for the mother. When he cannot find his mom, he may begin to scream.

By reaching sexual maturity, chimpanzees enter the adolescence (male: 9 to 15 years old; female: 9 to 12 years old). A male's testes begin to hang down and now he can ejaculate. But an adolescent male is still much smaller than adult males. Females begin to show small sexual swelling and begin to mate.

However, mating of adolescent females seldom results in pregnancy. Many females leave

their natal group in adolescence and enter different groups. Females become adult after 13 years old and males after 16 years old. A female has her first baby around this age and thus her behaviors change accordingly. Males become larger than adult females and receive greeting vocalizations (pant grunts) from them. He now outranks some older males around this age.

Old Age and Death

We still do not have a concrete idea how long a chimpanzee lives. We know that some of them at least live over 50 years. But 50 years of research is still not enough to draw firm conclusion on the longevity of chimpanzees. Whether or not some chimpanzees might live up to 60 or even longer, only the future research will tell. Several females give births even in their 40s. The oldest record of giving a birth at Mahale is at her 50s.

Accumulation of such information enabled a research group to conclude that chimpanzees do not have menopause. However, one female at Mahale, Calliope, ceased to give birth in her late 30s and continued to live more than 10 years without reproducing. Thus, although some females continue to give births until late years of their life, other females may experience menopause.

If we define 40 years as the old age for chimpanzees, there are relatively less old males compared to females. A male, Kalunde who lived up to 50s, looked really old in his last 10 years. His hairs became grey and sparse and he had many stains on his face. He obviously lost his physical strength and he was almost at the lowest-ranking among males. Still, he had a social influence on other younger and stronger males. He was frequently groomed by other males and was not punished even if he did not greet the higher-ranking males.

It is uncommon to see a chimpanzee's death directly. Usually, researchers notice a long absence and retrospectively assume the death of the lost chimpanzee.

Daily Life of Researchers

A Day in the Field

At the research camp, I usually wake up while it is still dark. Because Mahale is at the western part of the Tanzania's time zone, and also because there are mountains at the eastern

side, it is only around seven o'clock am when day breaks in our research camp. It is still chilly in the morning. So first thing I do is to have a cup of hot coffee.

After quickly finishing the coffee and the breakfast and preparing for the field work, we start to the forest with Tanzanian assistants. First thing we do is to find chimpanzees. But actually, because we had followed them until evening the day before, we can easily know the approximate locations of them. We wait for vocalizations for a while, and usually within 10 to 15 min, there come noisy calls of pant hoots.

As such, we start to observe chimpanzees and after that we basically follow them whole day in the forest. In my case, I usually stop observation between five o'clock and half past six pm. I finish my focal follow a bit earlier than chimpanzees make beds for sleeping because I need to look back to my field notes and re-check the data at camp, and because it is not so safe to walk in the forest after it becomes complete dark.

In the camp, a household assistant is preparing for hot water in buckets for bathing. After taking a sweat, I look back at my field notes and prepare for dinner. The assistant cooks the rice but we usually cook some side dishes in turn. Creating the variation of menu from the limited foodstuff is a good practice at the field.

After dinner I would have a bit of local liquor and talk with colleagues about the incidents that occurred today (of course about chimpanzees). Even though we have a long research history, there always happens something interesting. The talk is more of a gossip about chimps rather than academic talk about them.

Observing their Daily Life

Though the observation method is different depending on researchers and their research topics, at Mahale many researchers employ the focal observation method. It is a common observation method in the behavioral study of animals in that a researcher follows a particular chimpanzee for certain amount of time and record what happened to him/her during the follow. It is like stalking if we do this to a human but, fortunately, habituated chimpanzees do not seem to care if a human observer follows him/her even for an entire

day (but it does not mean they do not care about humans at all). They do not, of course, wait for human observers thus can easily go into the dense bush or climb steep slope. We crawl in the bush or pant for breath to catch up with them. It is not uncommon that we completely lost the target.

Focal follow is usually recommended because the method makes it possible to objectively record all the behaviors in question. For example, if one wants to know how many hours a chimpanzee spends for grooming, this method is useful. While such objectivity is a reason for employing the focal observation method, I do this rather to "participate" in the society of chimpanzees. It is actually not possible to participate in everything they do, because we have different bodies with chimpanzees. We cannot easily climb trees to eat fruits nor can we participate in their grooming or in their fight. Thus, I participate in such activities through the eyes of my focal target by moving as same as possible as my target does and meeting other chimpanzees as she does.

Individual Identification

Another important method for observing animals is individual identification. In the early days of primatology, it was common for Japanese primatologists to identify monkeys only by their natural appearances, but was not always so for Western researchers. Now it is widely accepted method worldwide to identify primates just by their appearances and to name each individual.

I may not need to explain the merit of individual identification. It is better to look at a society with each individual identified rather than looking at a society with anonymous individuals. We casually do individual identification with each other in our daily life, and it is not possible to understand a drama occurring in the social world without knowing who is who.

Nevertheless, it may seem difficult for lay people to identify chimpanzees' faces. But it is not a special ability to identify individual primates. At first, it is through some obvious characteristics such as a cut in an ear, scars in the face, lack of a finger, etc. Not all the individuals have such injuries so we also record subtler traits such as stains, wrinkles in the face, shape of bold area in the head, color of hair, shape of sexual skin, etc. After a while, we no more need to rely on such traits. With much subtler traits (thus it is often difficult to describe in language), we now identify an individual. Some individual may be identified even by their rumps or parts of limbs. Now it may be more proper to say that we "know" the individual rather than we

"identify" the individual. When we become to "know" the individual, we do not need any identification marks such as scars. But we just can tell who is who. A known chimpanzee's face is just her face. Nothing like other chimpanzees' face.

Each chimpanzee has marked individuality. Actually any creature may have. Probably it may be a matter of observers who can understand its individuality or not and it may be easier for us to detect chimpanzees individualities than other species. While one is not capable of individual identification, individuality does not emerge. When one is ready to know the individual, already-existed individuality will appear to the eyes of the observer. I often see that a tourist takes a lot of photographs with seemingly a very expensive camera and huge lens which look more like a bazooka, but only minority of tourists see the chimpanzees' faces through binoculars. In my experience, watching a face well through binoculars is the best way to see their individuality. Why don't you bring a pair of binoculars to the forest instead of a "bazooka"?

Future

Endangered Chimpanzees

The research on chimpanzees is ongoing and should be continued for another half a century or more. But situations are not so optimistic. The chimpanzee in any region of their habitat is listed as "endangered" in the red list of IUCN. There have been several threats to the wild chimpanzees. First one is the destruction of their habitat. The second is the poaching on them for bush meat. The third is the capture of infants for pet trade. The fourth is the demands for medical experiments. And the last one is transmission of disease through frequent contact with humans such as by research and tourism.

The first one is the most serious. Tropical forests in Africa that are the main home for the chimpanzees are decreasing with a considerable rate because of human economic activities, such as construction of roads for better access and transportation, needs of timber, cutting down trees for cultivation and firewood. The global warming may also influence the maintenance of tropical forests.

The fifth one is highly related to Mahale where the area is protected thus there are not so immediate threats on the forest destruction or poaching. Tourism that targeted chimpanzee viewing at Mahale was introduced in late 1980s and became more commercialized in 2000s, thus more and more people are coming to Mahale to see chimpanzees. It is often not emphasized to tourists that they can

be the source of serious diseases to the wild chimpanzees. Because tourists come from all over the world, they may be infected with pathogens. If one has immunity from a disease, he may not show any symptoms, thus he may not be aware that he has a virus. Such a virus may be infectious to chimpanzees as we share common diseases, and may be fatal to them because they do not have immunity to such a virus from abroad. A tourist may not give up going to see chimpanzees if he is just slightly coughing, because he is there to see the chimpanzees by paying a lot of money. He will want to go as close to chimpanzees as possible just to have nice photos for uploading to his Social Networking Service. One should bear in mind that such slight egoism of each who sees chimpanzees will have a disastrous outcome for the wild chimpanzee population. Actually in 2006, there happened an outbreak of respiratory disease in the Mahale M group and up to twelve chimpanzees died of the disease. Although it is often difficult to prove the source of the disease, from the observed pattern of spread of the infection, it seems the pathogen was brought from outside.

In the observation regulation, one who feels ill must not visit chimpanzees, and there is a distance permitted for tourists because taking certain distance may reduce the risk of droplet infection. Still the disaster took place. No one had malicious intention, but everyone might have thought "I cough slightly. But I feel OK. Why not see chimps in this precious occasion?" or "Just one meter closer to have a better photo may not matter so much." But such small selfishness might have brought twelve chimpanzees to die.

After the outbreak, researchers, tour company managers, and national park administrative gathered together to talk about the matter. We all agreed to strictly observe the viewing rules, such as the number limit in a tourist group, number limit for the tourist groups per day, and distance limit.

The Mahale Wildlife Conservation Society also proposed an additional rule that everyone should wear face masks. It is ideal that people do not go close to chimpanzees but humans seem still selfish. If everyone wears mask, that will also reduce the risk of droplet infection. The Conservation Society provided masks and asked all tourist camps to make their guests wear them. Now the face mask rule seems to take root and some tourist camp provide masks by their own costs.

Of course, researchers are also not free of such rules. We now wear masks whole day when we are following chimpanzees in the bush. We strictly limit number of researchers to minimize the contacts to chimpan-



zees and we have also introduced one week quarantine before we start full observation of chimpanzees.

To the Future

In May 2014, a female called Puffy gave birth to a boy. She is a M group-born female. Although most natal females go out from the M group, Puffy somehow stayed and gave birth in her natal group.

I have been familiar with Puffy since she was born, because her mother was my focal target. Puffy lost her mother in 2006 disease outbreak but survived the loss.

Thus I was more than happy to see her become a mother.

We now know that some wild chimpanzees may live more than 50 years. And as the baby being a male, he will stay in the M group if he survives. It is possible that after 50 years

from now, the boy will still be alive as an elder. I will not see him that day, but will someone still continue to visit Mahale and to observe this young infant's future when the Mahale research reaches its 100th year? Well, yes.

I truly hope that young generations will join the long-term ape research and conservation, and more of the history of the society of this wonderful animal will be elucidated.

TANZANIA

Day by Day

① DAY 1-2 ARUSHA

Flight to JRO Kilimanjaro International Airport with KLM. Transfer by private vehicle to MACHWEO. Eat and sleep at Machweo (1 night).

② DAY 2-4 ARUSHA TO LAKE EYASI

Transfer by private vehicle and guide to Lake Eyasi (4 hours). Eat and sleep at KISIMANGEDA TENTED CAMP (2 nights). Activities: tribal visits to Hadzabe and Wadatoga, walk through nearby village and farms, swimming pool.

③ DAY 4-6 LAKE EYASI TO NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA

Day visit to Ngorongoro Crater by private vehicle and guide. Eat and sleep at GIBB'S FARM (2 nights). Activities: farm walks, bread making, coffee roasting, indigenous medicinal walk with Maasai, vegetable harvesting, massages, afternoon high tea.

④ DAY 6-8 NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA TO SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Depart with picnics from Gibb's Farm, transfer by private vehicle to Lake Manyara Airstrip (30 min). Flight to Kogatende Airstrip (2 hours) with Coastal Aviation. Transfer by Nomad Tanzania to SERENGETI SAFARI CAMP (Seasonal mobile camp). Eat and sleep at Serengeti Safari Camp (2 nights). Activities: 4x4 game drives.

⑤ DAY 8-10 THE NORTHERN SERENGETI

Transfer by Nomad Tanzania to LAMAI SERENGETI. Eat and sleep at Lamai Serengeti (2 nights). Activities: 4x4 game drives, short walks, swimming pool.

⑥ DAY 10-14 THE NORTHERN SERENGETI TO MAHALE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Transfer by Nomad Tanzania to Kogatende Airstrip. Flight to Mahale Airstrip (4 hours) with Coastal Aviation. Boat transfer by Nomad Tanzania to GREYSTOKE MAHALE. Eat and sleep at Greystoke Mahale Camp (4 nights). Activities: chimpanzee trekking, forest walks, boat trips, swimming, fishing, visit to Katumbi Primary School and village.

⑦ DAY 14-15 MAHALE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK TO ARUSHA

Boat transfer to Mahale Airstrip. Flight to Arusha (3 hours) with Coastal Aviation. Transfer by private vehicle to MACHWEO LODGE. Eat and sleep at Machweo (1 night). Activities: Spa, yoga, swimming pool, cultural walks.

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