

Dear friends of the world trip by bicycle,

we have been travelling in Africa for 75 days now and there are still new things to discover: We made a journey back in time. Magda created a lot of new videos in Dar es Salaam and we had Manu's parents over on Zanzibar for ten days – right in time for the anniversary of our trip.

1) Newsletter in German

If you want to work on your German or have friends from abroad who are interested in our trip, our newsletter PDF is also available in German on the homepage of our website. You can also send us an email, then we'll change your email address to the German newsletter.

2) What has happened in the last four weeks?

Travelling by train is something very special here in Tanzania. On a Sunday afternoon we reached the station of Mwanza with our bicycles two hours before

the scheduled departure of the train. We had bought two tickets for a sleeper compartment at the price of 30€. The more than 1.200 kilometers long train journey should last about two days.



In Tanzania there are actually only three bigger train routes. One from north to south, one from west to east and one from Dar es Salaam to Zambia. Our train line was opened in 1928 and it did not seem that much had changed in the train and on the rails since then. In our compartment there was a fan (which sometimes worked), a washbasin and one bed per person to sleep on. In the corridor there was a toilet with a small hole to the rails. The train ride was really special and bumpy. It took 47 hours on two square meters without electricity or air conditioning. You could look out of the window while being shaken at an average speed of 30 km/h. The landscapes, train stations and soccer games through which we drove were really exciting and mostly far away from all main roads. Everywhere where the train passed, people waved, ran behind the train and wanted to sell fruit, drinks and freshly baked things. Once in Dar es Salaam, Manu looked for our bikes in one of the cargo waggons at the end of the train and found them. Both bikes survived the ride well (with a few scratches though) - puhhh, lucky us!!!





In Dar es Salaam we had an appointment with a school which we found, as so often, via a Warmshowers host. The kids were really cool and interested in the trip, our magic trick worked and we had a good time.

Before Manu's parents flew in, we had a few days left. Manu wanted to play poker again for a long time already, and after his last visit to a casino in Georgia he was happy to find casinos again in the 5 million city of Dar es Salaam. It was sometimes more and sometimes less successful. But of course Manu as an experienced hobby poker player had a nice plus in the end and gained a lot of fun.

Magda enjoyed reading again and last month I think she read five thick books. When she wasn't holding a book in her hands, she sewed or cut creative videos and we both enjoyed the waiting time until the parents' arrival.

There are two different ferries to Zanzibar. Most people know the high speed catamaran for 35\$ or more per person, but there is also a normal ferry that takes four hours and only costs 18.000 Shilling in economy class (only for locals, 8\$) and 20\$ in VIP class (for foreigners).



On Zanzibar there was a real holiday feeling waiting for us. The locals are very relaxed here, according to their motto "Hakuna Matata" (= no problem) and greet you with a warm "Karibu" (= welcome). This is much more pleasant than the "Mzungu" (= white person), which was called after us the weeks before.

I picked up my parents by bus ("Dalladalla") from the airport. The timing was perfect and not even five minutes after I arrived they were already there. Back in the old town we crept past the airport taxis (10-25\$) and after 3 minutes reached the main road, from where the bus departed every few minutes for the equivalent of 10 cents per person to Stone Town. As you can see, also here in Zanzibar tourists are often charged very much money if they are not familiar with the prices...

We spent a few nice days in the old town and one afternoon got a boat (\$20 for all together) from the beach for a trip to Prison Island. Here there were up to 192 year old giant turtles to discover. And Magda was in her element: petting and feeding animals is always something special.



At the east coast of Zanzibar we spent a few days in Paje at a beach like from a postcard and visited the Jozani national park, where we could discover monkeys and wander through mangrove forests.



In the northeast of Zanzibar near the restaurant "The Rock" (find it on google!) we made another boat trip. This time to an island which Bill Gates owns and in front of which one can normally observe dolphins. Unfortunately we were unlucky and the dolphin family had disappeared shortly before our arrival. Nevertheless it was a really great excursion and we had negotiated a lower price before, if the dolphins would not show up. You see: We had some very relaxed days, which we spent with Manus parents, and that was perfect after the sometimes very nerve-racking bicycle days of the last weeks. Playing cards, splashing around in pools and eating in restaurants every day - being a "child" on holiday with your parents is always a bit like back in the early days: so wonderfully carefree and relaxing!



3) Colourful postcards from Africa

The last days on Zanzibar we spent designing and writing postcards. This time we had a lot of time for that, because we both got a cold (despite 30 degrees in the shade) and are still lying around in the accommodation where Manu's parents said goodbye. But of course there are much worse places to recover! ;)

Our tenth postcard is in any case as good as on the way. If you want to support our trip and would like postcards from Africa, you can register for our "meal against a postcard" campaign or order a postcard subscription the normal way on our website.

4) Even more color for kids

The first few hundred crayons are distributed and Mandala coloring books are brought to the children. We will get new supplies soon and want to thank our project supporters on Patreon very much :). You make the world a little bit more colorful here in Africa!



Then there is this idea with the footballs... Most of the kids who play football here do it with pressed plastic bags, which are wrapped with strings, everything of course selfmade and not really round. If you want to support these children, you can do it through us. For every twentieth Euro we get donated via our website with the keyword "football", we will distribute a nice ball on a selected football field. We don't know exactly what you think about this idea, but if more than 10 footballs come together, we will also create a nice video about it, so that you can see how happy the kids are about the footballs.

As soon as we're fit again, we'll be heading towards Zambia and Namibia and we're really looking forward to getting back on our bikes after the Easter break. When parents are visiting and inviting us "children" to everything this of course is wonderful. But as they say: "Life starts at the end of your comfort zone!" With this in mind, we are now back into adventure again and look forward to telling you about it soon!

Manu and Magda

PS: If you've been thinking about supporting us on Patreon, now would be the perfect moment. All patrons who join us in April will have the chance to win the package on the right. Find out more about Patreon and the April raffle on our website! So far there are 7 people in the lottery drum, so the chance of winning is quite good ;). And in any case: we would be very happy about your support!



