

Dear friends of the world trip by bicycle,

we have been traveling in Africa for six weeks now and this month has been one of the most diverse on our journey: We crossed the equator, got to know Rwanda and Tanzania after Uganda, ate a lot of new things (for example grasshoppers, aahhhh!!) and above all met totally interesting people and listened to their exciting stories.



## 1) Expats in Africa

We just happened to meet **Amber** from the Netherlands. She is studying communication sciences and is doing an internship semester with the organizers of the Masaka Marathon. A totally committed girl who, besides her job, explores other people's dreams and later writes a book with the title "Dreamcatcher" about it. By the way, she interviewed us for her book, which was definitely very interesting. Or did you ever formulate your life's dreams already?

Another interesting Dutchman was **Pim**, whom we met on a camping site. His job as a nurse didn't fulfill him, he quit his job and started his own business, with [motorbike safaris in Uganda](#). Cool guy!



We met **Mio** through Warmshowers. She comes from Tokyo, her husband opened a steel shop in Kigali and she opened a Japanese restaurant. She offers her restaurant garden free of charge to bicycle travelers for camping - because she used to travel the world by bicycle herself.

We also know Simon from WS, a Belgian cyclist, who offered us to spend some nights in the guest room of his place. He also lives in Kigali and will soon be organizing the first bikepacking race in Rwanda. He did some races himself as well, and recently finished one over 1000km in only 47 hours. Unbelievable!

Through other cyclists we got in contact with **Anna** from Stockholm, who is currently writing a book about the economic situation in Africa. She has lived in South Africa for the last few years, but as she is currently interviewing local entrepreneurs for her book, she now lives in different places, always for a few weeks, mostly in AirBnB accommodations. In Mwanza she rented a pretty little house, into which she invited us for two days.



We got the contact of **Steve**, an Englishman/Canadian, through friends from Münster. At the age of 80 he emigrated to Tanzania, where he now has a wife as well as adopted children and an incredible number of interesting stories to tell. The former professor of philosophy is now 88 years old and is still a totally bright mind from whom

you can learn a lot. For his children we have organized a travel talk in the living room, as we usually do in the schools.

## 2) World travel post!



The first African postcards have arrived at their recipients. If you want to support us and also want to receive postcards from all over the world - [here](#) you will find more info. By the way: The next cards will probably come from Zanzibar.

Why Zanzibar? Because Manu's parents dare to visit us on the African continent during Easter. And we are very much looking forward to that!

## 3) We are making the world more colorful!

Our crayon action is still going on: In our saddlebags we always carry a stock of pens with us and get them out when suitable situations arise. As with these kids who were just picked up by their big brother from school. When we gave them new pens while cycling next to them, they were totally surprised at first, but of course they were very happy. If you'd like to contribute to more colors in the world, [here](#) you go!



## 4) What happened during the last month?

From **Masaka** we cycled to **Mburu National Park**, our first national park in Africa. Shocked by the entrance fees we decided to camp at the edge of the park where we met Pim. The next morning the sun rose and we successfully went "zebra hunting": On the right you can see the result of our photo trap!



Since cycling in Uganda was very exhausting due to the many people and the "muzungu" shouts on the streets, we urgently needed some rest. And thus we drove 230km by bus from **Mbarara** across the border to Rwanda. After a short border control (with fever measurement and taking of all fingerprints!) we had lost 60\$ for visa fees but gained one visited country. And you can't imagine how pleasant it was to watch everything from the tinted bus windows and not be recognized as a white person. As stupid as it sounds, but being white is really exhausting here.



In **Kigali**, the capital of Rwanda, Simon and his housemates spontaneously persuaded us to join the **Nyungwe Marathon** in the southwest of the country. But don't worry, we didn't run the whole marathon - only 10km. A rainforest run without time measurement and awards, but with heavily armed soldiers and a barbecue directly at the finish with typical Rwandan potato and goat skewers. You will probably find more about this in the next "Zwischenzeit", the club magazine of "Laufsportfreunde Münster".

And apropos magazine. Magda is now an official guest author for "Alles Münster". Her new (German) article can be read [here](#).

The **Genocide Memorial** is a "must see" in Kigali. The museum explains (almost too) vividly what exactly happened during the genocide in Rwanda 25 years ago. It was very touching and answered many questions that we couldn't or didn't want to ask the locals before.



Cycling in Rwanda is exhausting. The country calls itself **country of a thousand hills**. But we copied one thing from the many Rwandan cyclists in order to save some energy every once in a while - truck surfing. And before you worry: Yes, we still got all fingers :)!

From **Katuna/Gatuna** at the Rwandan-Tanzanian border it took us ten days by bicycle to Mwanza. And Tanzania pleased us from the beginning very much: The country is much less densely populated than Uganda and Rwanda, the people are rather Muslim and similar to Omani people very helpful, polite and friendly. We are rarely followed by "muzungu" shouts, there is few traffic and thus cycling is finally a joy again.



Via a notice board in Mwanza we met Tim, David and Ronja from Würzburg, and discovered some places in the city together. Later Magda joined them on a trip to the **Serengeti** for two days and also the Swedish girl Anna came along - to a classic safari.



Yesterday we actually went to the **Kirumba Stadium** and watched a football match, Alliance Mwanza against Yanga Daressalam. It was the semifinals of the Tanzania FA Cup. A very exciting 1:1, which Yanga won with penalty shots at the end.



Here in **Mwanza** we want to take the train to **Dar es Salaam** tonight. This train runs three times a week. For today we were able to buy our tickets yesterday (...it only took four tentatives, haha!) and according to plan we should arrive in Dar after "only" 39 hours. We are already a bit

excited and will tell you in the next newsletter how well everything worked... Keep your fingers crossed that we can take the bikes with us on the train... haha!

### 5) The Friday clips!

So far it works very well with the timing and especially the accessibility of Wifi hotspots and during the last weeks we have uploaded a short film on Patreon every Friday, in which we report about special experiences, places or fruits. The clips are public, which means you don't have to be a patron to watch them. So check out the [Patreon page](#) from time to time. It's worth it!

So, that's it for March - we are looking forward to an exciting journey with the train and to the visit from home. And we would like to thank everyone who is supporting our trip. You are amazing!

Greetings from Magda and Manu!

PS: We almost forgot. We were on TV! In the "WDR Lokalzeit", you can watch the show [here](#), if you haven't seen it yet.



