



The idea was to experience rather than simply tick off destinations, to go beyond the familiar and really encounter foreign cultures, languages, and beliefs.



Namunyak Wildlife Conservancy and Mount Kenya National Park, on the way seeing all the wildlife they could imagine: elephants, giraffes, hippos, antelope, zebras, and wildebeests. The only real deadline was in late July, when they crossed into landlocked Uganda to stop for a month in the village of Bumwalukani. Here they had volunteered to teach math and IT, and were greeted emphatically by the children. It was hard to leave Uganda—literally. An exploded piston almost immediately meant another month in the country, out west in the isolated town of Fort Portal, with little to do but kill time with arts and crafts projects, scouting, and “amateur engineering.” There were more surprises in store: Archie B. had run out of time and had to return home. In order to first complete the planned journey, he had to hotfoot it 4,500 km (2,800 mi) in a week,

by ferry, followed by long days riding on highways across half the continent to Cape Town. So three became two. It was October now, and Archie L. and Chris took a short spell to tour the lakes and wilderness of tiny Rwanda and Burundi; from Kigali to Lake Kivu, through protected Nyungwe Forest National Park, alongside the world’s second largest freshwater lake, Tanganyika, down to Tanzania and over to Malawi—their last eastern stop before heading southwest through Zambia to the wild coastal Namibian desert. In tourist-heavy Malawi, in stark contrast to the remote and sparsely populated regions they’d traversed, they spent time hanging out on the shores of beautiful Lake Malawi with travelers from around the world. Always attracting the attention and friendliness of the local people, who were >



↖ Ngoma village, Ngoma, Rwanda.
 ↗ Racing homemade bikes, Ngoma, Rwanda.
 ↘ Chris exchanges a fist bump with a Ngoma local, Rwanda.
 → Africa’s smallest ferry, Malawi.

