

Faces of Africa

by Herman Jakubowski

Introduction:

My wife Gail and I have been fortunate to visit various countries on the African continent and have always been moved and impressed with the diversity of wildlife and landscape. In 2004 we traveled to South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe where we focused on the wildlife. In 2016 we visited the countries of Kenya, Tanzania and the island of Zanzibar and this time we were able to meet and interact with people who we found were friendly, colorful and always smiling. This experience added to our appreciation of these countries as we felt welcomed like long lost friends. In 2018 we traveled to Morocco in northern Africa and again the history, sites and of course the people moved us in so many ways.

During our trip to Tanzania we had the opportunity to meet people of the Hadzabe tribe which consists of only about 1,200 members who are still semi-nomadic-hunter-gatherers. The men hunt using bows and arrows and the women forage for things like tubers. We found a small group at the entrance to a cave and they welcomed us at once. They even offered me a taste of the meat from a Dik-dik they were roasting on an open fire. Interacting with the Hadzabe was one of the most moving experiences we have ever had.

Another tribe we visited in Tanzania was the Datoga who are considered one of the oldest in the country having migrated from the Western Ethiopia highlands about 1,500 AD. The Datoga are known for their blacksmithing skills and supply arrowheads to the Hadzabe tribe. They live in huts consisting of mud/dung applied to sticks.

On the island of Zanzibar we met a mix of people and cultures resulting from its key role in trade including that of slaves in East Africa. Here you can see the blending of the diverse cultures over hundreds of years.

We visited the Maasai in Kenya and these we found to be the most colorfully dressed with elaborate headdresses and jewelry. The men and women are very tall and love to dance and interact with us. We were invited into their homes made of mud/dung applied to sticks.

When we visited Morocco we were impressed with the history and culture which has evolved over thousands of years. What we found especially interesting was how the lives of the people are interwoven with their history. Their dress and customs fit into the narrow byways of the Medina or Souk. When you enter you are transported into another time and place. The people we met were interesting and kind.

We expect to go back to other parts of Africa to experience the unique cultures, history and of course the diversity of the people. We hope you enjoy looking at the faces of the people we had a chance to meet.

Herman Jakubowski

March 2021

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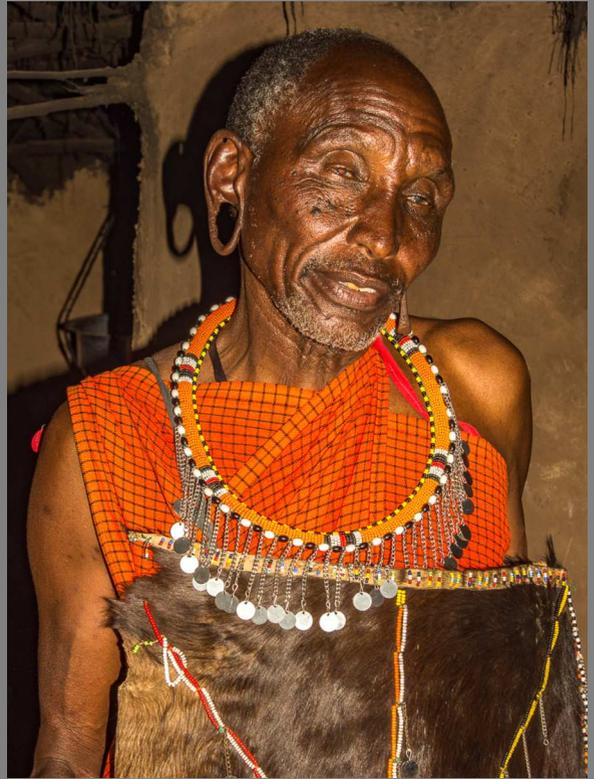
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Kenya

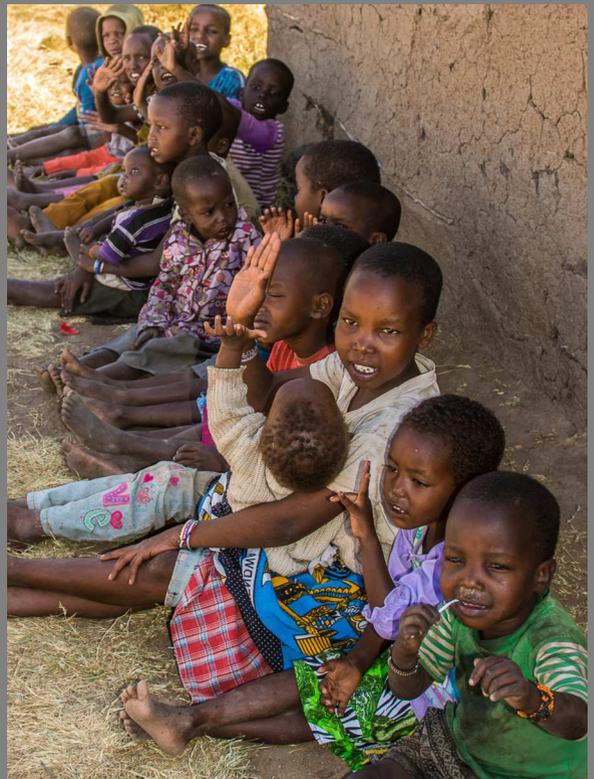




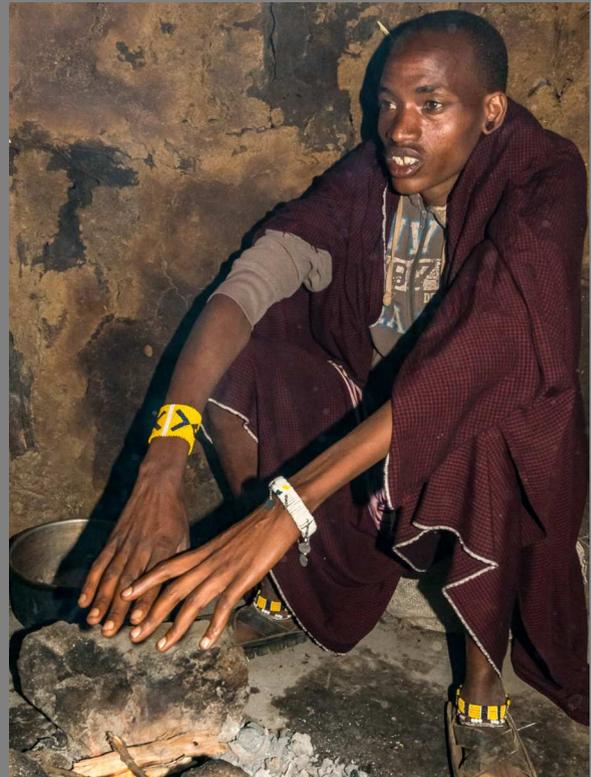








Tanzania



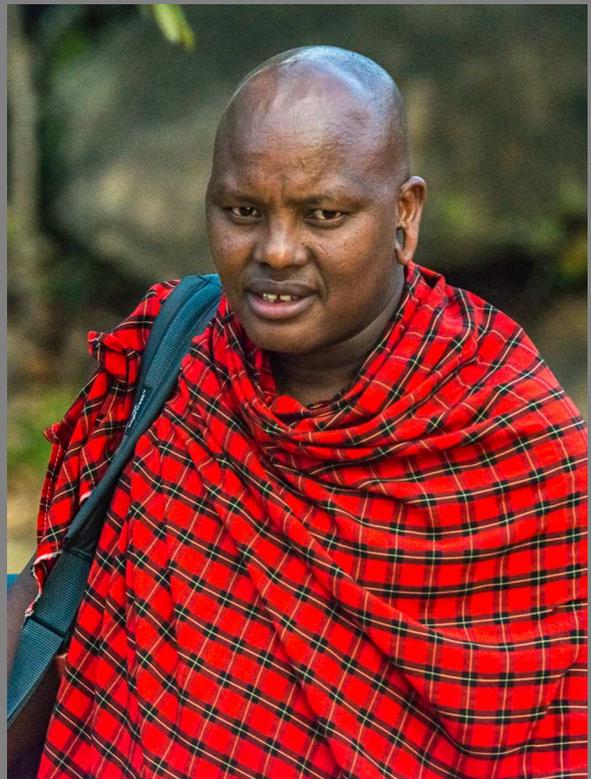
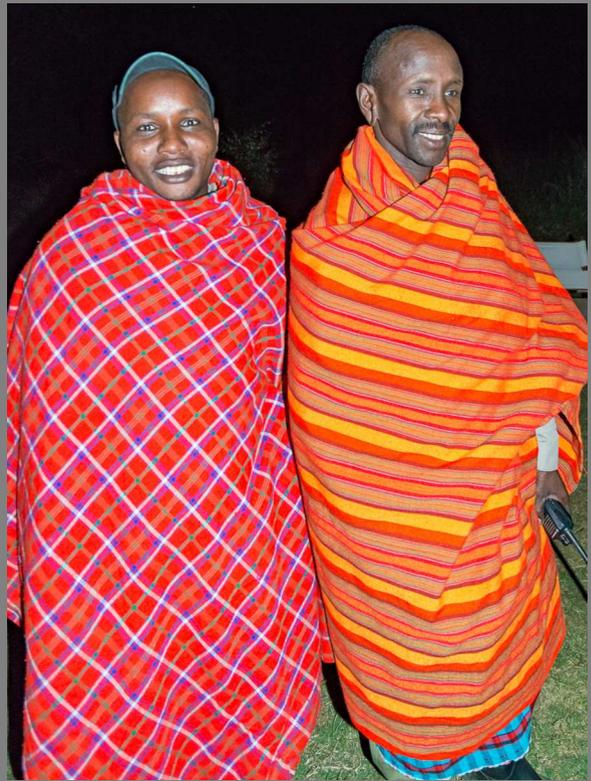


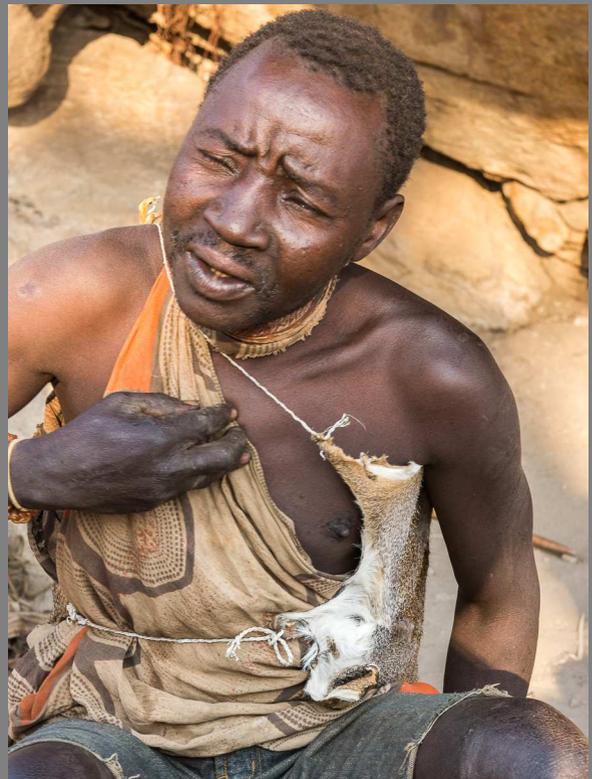








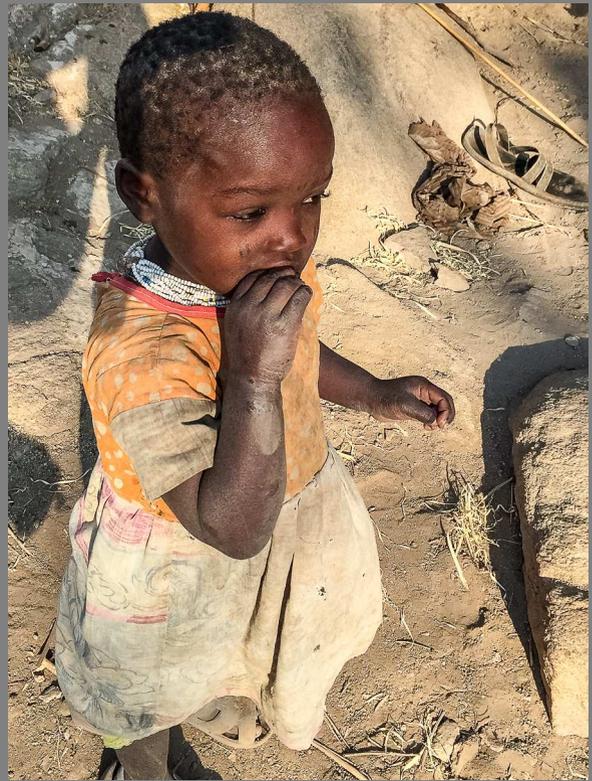




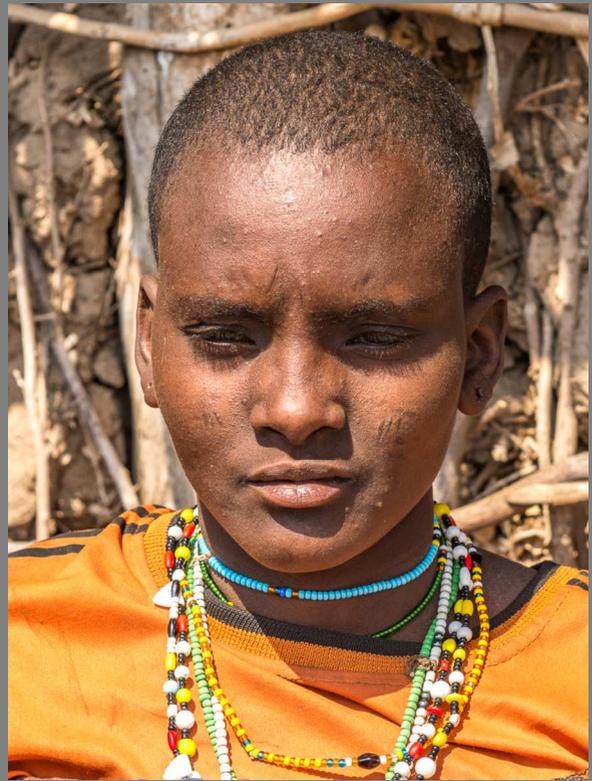
















Zanzibar









Morocco









