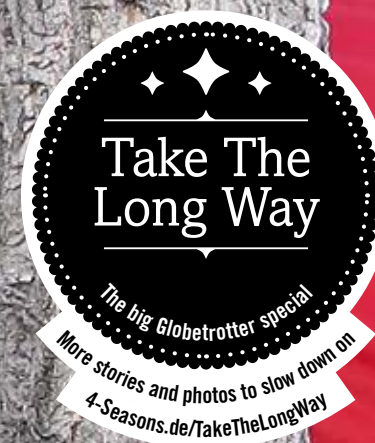


# Bon voyage, Thomas

After 35 years at Globetrotter, manager **Thomas Lipke** is leaving to live more dreams – especially by travelling and with photography. The fact that he is pretty good at both is evidenced by his favourite photos which 4-Seasons presents as a farewell. We wish Thomas – we're slightly jealous – bon voyage.

Photos: Thomas Lipke | Text: Stephan Glocker







Look into my eyes, darling! The journey from Hamburg to Marrakech only takes three hours on a plane, but the destination is a totally different cultural world.



"I help wherever I can. So dedicated environmentalists can look forward to a persevering photographer who will document their work visually."

Swallow takeaway on Bird Island. The island in the north of the Seychelles is a refuge for rare species like the white tern.



You will not take your best orca photos on a whale-watching tour but while fishing, says Lipke. Because where there is salmon, there is usually an orca nearby. And you have to be unflappable not to miss such moments.





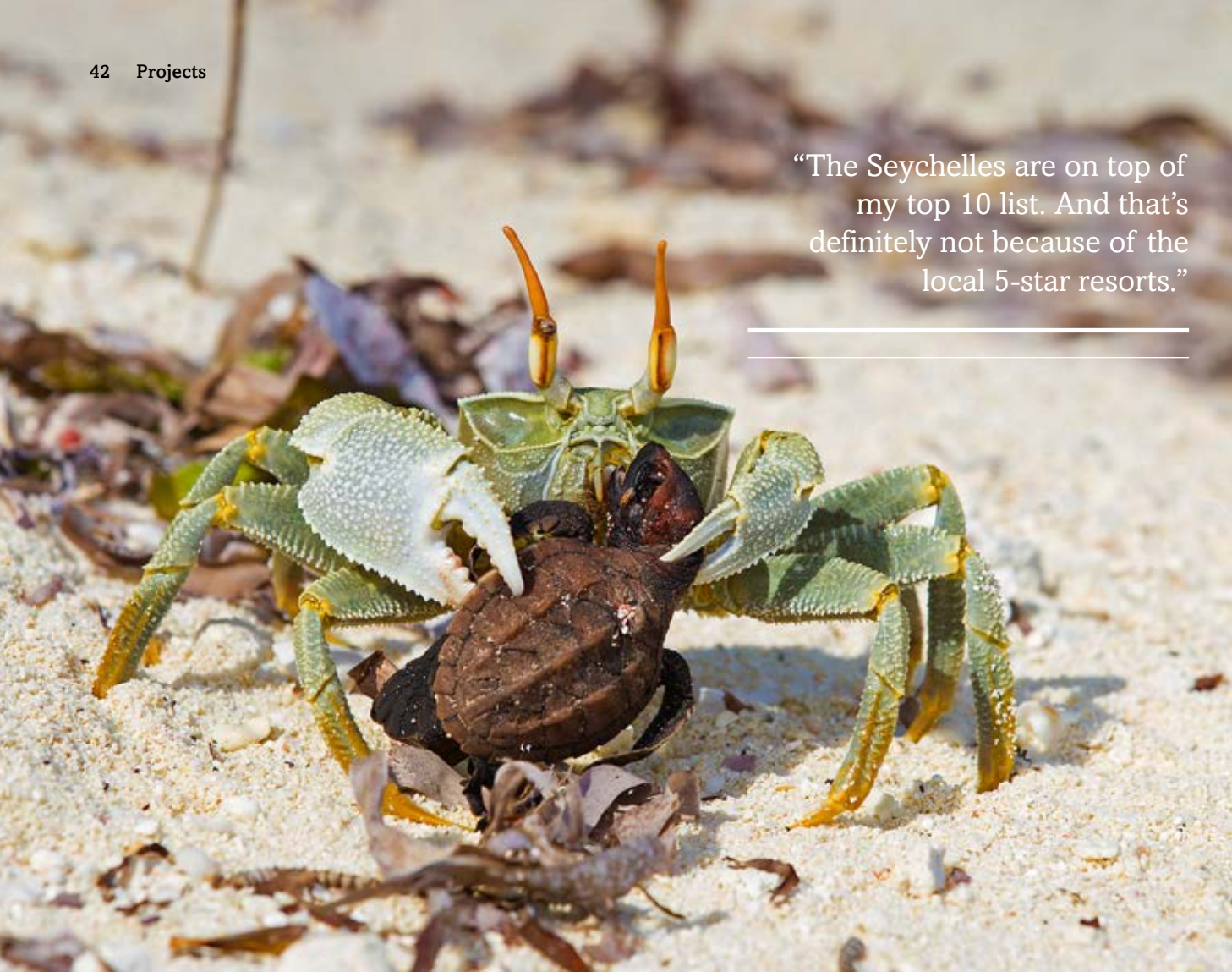
“Each journey has its own magic. Whether it is the long weekend in the Harz Mountains, the appointment in Sweden or crossing the Sareks in winter.”

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The world is colourful: Jugglers’ meeting point Djemnaa el Fna in Marrakech and Muizenberg Beach in South Africa.







“The Seychelles are on top of my top 10 list. And that’s definitely not because of the local 5-star resorts.”

On top of the list of endangered species: the hawksbill turtle. And that is not the fault of the ghost crab but of humans.



A back-up camera is a must. And it is not a bad idea to take along another filter for the first camera’s wide angle lens in case the Namibian yellow-beaked hornbill decides to start pecking.



The world is full of destinations. Best reachable from Spitsbergen are Tromsø or the North Pole.





Holiday on ice: Thomas in Spitsbergen with his friends Holger Motz, Andreas Bartmann, Kay Rittmeister and Björn Klauer (f.r.)

The most defining encounter with Thomas Lipke happened to the 4-Seasons' freshman editors Glocker and Neumann 15 years ago. The customer magazine had – on Thomas' initiative – just been created and for the column "My basement" a visit to the boss' home was scheduled.

The idea of the column was that Globetrotter employees would talk about their outdoor preferences and tours associated with the equipment they had. For Thomas Lipke, we almost had to change the name of the column into "The endless amount of equipment I have collected over the years and store scattered around in basement rooms (and garages)". Everywhere was full of backpacks, tents, stoves, folding boats, canoes and bicycles, amongst them treasures like a Koga Miyata Full Pro roadbike from the 70s. A gear freak, no doubt about it.

Thomas' second passion became clear upstairs. The speechless editors heard all there was to know about a central server for the house including network connections in every room. A beamer and cinema boxes in the living room? Sure. And Thomas, grinning cunningly, who constantly takes home new gadgets (some that are going to be a hit later, such as the mp3 player which was almost unknown at that time). A technology freak too, no doubt about it.

But we were really impressed by Mr Manager's third passion: travel. At that time, we were editors in chief of the magazines Outdoor and Kanu and so we did a lot of travelling too. But Thomas easily outclassed us in the popular game of "I've been there too": Yukon with a canoe, Seychelles with a kayak, Sarek in winter, Bowron

Lakes in the rain. All with a wink, and fuelled by contagious enthusiasm. Meanwhile, we also own cinema boxes and have been to the Seychelles.

Thomas' passions have defined Globetrotter too. He was the member of the management team responsible for technology and policy visions: the little outdoor shop in Hamburg would probably not have had the first website in the industry without Thomas (well, a scanned business card, but still!). Nor would it have grown from a digital pioneer to become the leading online shipper. Thomas Lipke has done many things right in his career. And even better, he has not let his career determine his life. Seven weeks travelling per year have been common. Either combined with a business appointment – going fly-fishing with Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard after the US fair, to Canada for a canoe trip with old mates, or to the Seychelles with family.

The tour under the most privation was probably that to Spitzbergen with the dog sled guru Björn Klauer. To ensure that the batteries of the digital cameras were even in a state to be charged by the solar panels at temperatures two-digits below freezing, they had to be "slept warm" and "warmed up" once in a while too.

Thomas Lipke finishes his career as managing director of Globetrotter at the end of the year but will continue to nurture his passions. Thomas, we express our gratitude, wish you happy and safe travels and bid you farewell with a quote you used to say to reliably soften us up... ehm, motivate us: Make the best of it!!

Stephan Glocker & Michael Neumann

Find more photos of Lipke's travels on [www.4-Seasons.de/takethelongway](http://www.4-Seasons.de/takethelongway)



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