



# ANTHROPOGENY

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## 2024 Calendar

### ANTHROPO + GENY = HUMAN ORIGINS



**This calendar** presents a small sample of the myriad flora and fauna encountered during the 2023 Anthropogeny Field Course organized by the **Center for Academic Research and Training in Anthropogeny (CARTA)**.

**CARTA** is a transdisciplinary collaboration amongst faculty at UC San Diego and the Salk Institute for Biological Studies (La Jolla, CA), along with interested scientists at other major institutions. CARTA promotes human origins research drawing from the humanities and sciences, as well as supports an Anthropogeny Graduate Specialization unique to UC San Diego.

The Anthropogeny Field Course exposes Specialization students to the major approaches to studying the origins of our species: 1.) Archeological practice and fossil evidence; 2.) Comparative biology of living non-human primates; and 3.) Ethnography of modern foraging societies. Participants derive a better understanding and appreciation

for human origins by experiencing, firsthand, the ecology that shaped our evolution.

**You can get involved!** Charitable contributions from generous friends like **YOU** help sustain this unique field course and **CARTA's** other human origins-focused programs, including our free, public symposia (offered three times annually).

**To learn more**, visit [carta.anthropogeny.org](https://carta.anthropogeny.org) or scan the QR code below to see how **YOU can support CARTA**.



#### ABOUT THE PHOTOS

ABOVE: Chimpanzee hand, Mahale Mountain National Park (Tanzania). Photograph by Jesse Robie (CARTA).

MONTHS: All photographs and captions by Jesse Robie (CARTA).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: CARTA thanks Dorobo Safaris (Arusha, Tanzania) and our fantastic guide, Douglas Simbeye. Special gratitude to our Tanzanian hosts at the Greater Mahale Ecosystem Research and Conservation (GMERC) project.



The view is a profound shock to those unaccustomed to the night sky not occluded by artificial light pollution. At Yaeda Valley (Tanzania), the evening ocean above teems with effulgent stars swimming in the vibrant waves of the Milky Way. The astral scenery is also perfect for practicing light-painting the name of one's favorite human origins research organization.

# JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	Be sure to check <a href="https://carta.anthropogeny.org">carta.anthropogeny.org</a> for CARTA Symposium updates!	



The morning air, heavy with humidity and the musty odor of decay, filters through the jungle curtains of the Mahale Mountain National Park (Tanzania) as a juvenile and an adult chimpanzee embrace on the forest floor. In moments such as these, it is easy to see our shared ancestry with chimpanzees despite 6–9 million years of independent evolution.

# FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		30	31	1	2	3
Be sure to check <a href="http://carta.anthropogeny.org">carta.anthropogeny.org</a> for CARTA Symposium updates!						
4	5	6	7	8	<b>CARTA SYMPOSIUM 9</b> <i>Body Modification: Anatomy, Alteration, and Art in Anthropogeny</i>	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Washington's Birthday					
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9



Local markets are a highlight of visiting towns and villages away from the usual tourist destinations. One can wander the maze of narrow corridors, peer into small kiosks filled with an assortment of random goods, and discover, in a small way, what it means to be a part of that community. Of the many treasures to be found at the market in Kigoma (Tanzania) are the colorful, patterned fabrics called "kitembe." The tessellated and varicolored sheets of fabric are transformed into practical, stylish clothing and other useful items, including baby slings – perhaps one of humanity's first tools.

## MARCH 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Be sure to check <a href="http://carta.anthropogeny.org">carta.anthropogeny.org</a> for CARTA Symposium updates!		27	28	29	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6



The ascent of the Ngorongoro Crater (Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania) is steep and winding, made via a road carved into the precipice of the crater rim. Upon cresting the formidable slope, golden rays of late afternoon sun illuminate the grassy garden from which grazing elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) contemplate our trespass through its home range.

# APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1	2	3	4	5	<b>ASU-IHO &amp; CARTA 6 SYMPOSIUM</b> <i>The impact of "Lucy" on Human Origins Science</i>
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	Be sure to check <a href="http://carta.anthropogeny.org">carta.anthropogeny.org</a> for CARTA Symposium updates!	



The height of midday sun beats down on the parched, cracked bed of the receded Lake Eyasi at a site called Maji Moto (Swahili for *hot water*). Nearby, white and pink flowers sparsely decorate the skeletal tendrils of desert rose (*Adenium obesum*), providing the only splash of color in the otherwise sepia landscape. The pulp of the desert rose plant is processed by the Hadza hunter-gatherers to make a potent arrow poison (a cardiac glycoside) for which there is no known antidote.

# MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Be sure to check <a href="http://carta.anthropogeny.org">carta.anthropogeny.org</a> for CARTA Symposium updates!		30	1	2	3	4
5	8	7	8	9	10	11
12	15	14	15	16	17	18
19	22	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	Memorial Day 3	4	5	6	7	8



Safari trucks rumble along the arterial dirt roads of the Ngorongoro Crater (Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania), transporting passengers across the preserve in pursuit of the “big five.” Meanwhile, a serval cat (*Leptailurus serval*), a solitary (and normally nocturnal) hunter found across sub-sahara Africa, waits along side a road to pounce on mice flushed out by the commotion of the oncoming tires.

# JUNE 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Be sure to check <a href="http://carta.anthropogeny.org">carta.anthropogeny.org</a> for CARTA Symposium updates!		28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	Juneteenth National Independence Day 26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6



Following an hour of hiking in the morning darkness of Issa Valley (Tanzania), we arrive at the coordinates where the research team observed the troupe of Red-tailed monkeys (*Cercopithecus ascanius*) nesting last night. As daylight approaches, the silence of the miombo woodland is pierced by the sudden careening of the monkeys leaping from branch-to-branch and tree-to-tree in search of food and in play. Occasionally, they contain their frenetic energy long enough to capture their piercing eyes and inquisitive expressions. Red-tailed monkeys are one of over thirty species of cercopithecines found only in Africa.

# JULY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Independence Day	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	Be sure to check <a href="http://carta.anthropogeny.org">carta.anthropogeny.org</a> for CARTA Symposium updates!	





One of the many joys of the local Tanzanian markets are the stands of fresh produce. At the Kigoma market, a vibrant selection of fruits, vegetables, and other cooking necessities are on offer. Friendly haggling over price is expected, and if one seller doesn't have what you want, another will suddenly materialize with goods in hand. The sellers work together to secure business and settle their accounts after you've left.

# AUGUST 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Be sure to check <a href="http://carta.anthropogeny.org">carta.anthropogeny.org</a> for CARTA Symposium updates!		30	31	1	2	3
2	3	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7



Honey is an exceedingly important food source for the Hadza hunter-gatherers of Tanzania. The honey (*ba'alako* in Hadzane) produced by the African honey bee (*Apis mellifera adansonii* or *awawa* in Hadzane), is coveted but requires great skill and daring to secure. These bees typically make hives high in the hollow trunks and limbs of baobab trees (*Adansonia digitata*) and fiercely defend against intrusion. Without the ability to make fire (for smoke) and climbing pegs to reach the hives, raiding their caches would be a deadly proposition.

# SEPTEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	Labor Day	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	Be sure to check <a href="https://carta.anthropogeny.org">carta.anthropogeny.org</a> for CARTA Symposium updates!	



From its grassy perch, the chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) gazes toward the labyrinthine riparian forest below. A small group of humans struggle to navigate through the vines tangle that harass their legs with every step, while the steep slope quickly exhausts their stamina – a stark contrast to the chimpanzee’s seemingly effortless quadrupedal meander through the same terrain moments earlier. While bipedalism appears so uniquely unsuited to the landscape at Issa Valley (Tanzania), there is evidence to suggest that *Ardipithecus ramidus*, an early hominin, was bipedal in a similar habitat 4.4 million years ago.

# OCTOBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Be sure to check <a href="http://carta.anthropogeny.org">carta.anthropogeny.org</a> for CARTA Symposium updates!		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Columbus Day					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9



The intimate connection between the evolution of humanity and the ability to harness and control fire is much like the metaphorical dilemma of “the chicken or the egg.” Was our lineage already along the path toward the suite of features that now define us, with fire-making ability as a logical consequence, or did fire serve to spark radical augmentations of the body and brain? Today, it is impossible to imagine humans without the ability to control fire. For the Hadza hunter-gatherers of Tanzania, fire is an essential survival element and they are famous for lighting friction-fires in less than one minute.

# NOVEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Be sure to check <a href="http://carta.anthropogeny.org">carta.anthropogeny.org</a> for CARTA Symposium updates!		29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Veterans Day					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
				Thanksgiving Day		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7



The CB radio crackles with frantic Swahili, the intercom interlocutor exclaiming that a lion pride is near our position at Ndutu Lake (Tanzania). Our safari truck shudders back to life and off we dart through the marsh toward the hillock we are directed. Under the shade of an acacia tree we find lion cubs in repose, their soft, social, salubrious kitten cuddle but a small snippet of the large pride. In fact, a mere ten meters away, numerous adult lions engage in feast of giraffe – a reminder of the polarity of life and death on the savannah.

# DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Christmas Day	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
						Be sure to check <a href="https://carta.anthropogeny.org">carta.anthropogeny.org</a> for CARTA Symposium updates!