

Journey through Africa: PETER BEARD

Taschen publishes the scrapbooks of photographer, diarist and writer Peter Beard.

Peter Beard didn't have a bad start in life. His great-grandfather founded the Great Northern Railroad Company, and his grandfather was a millionaire tobacco magnate who also happened to invent the tuxedo. He was primarily known for his illustrious address book – thick with the decadence of New York in the 70s, as a photographer he befriended and collaborated with the likes of Andy Warhol, Terry Southern, Jacqueline Onassis, Francis Bacon and Truman Capote, with whom he toured with the Rolling Stones to document their *Exile On Main Street* tour. But away from New York, Beard became fascinated with Africa and its wildlife after meeting Karen Blixen (author of *Out of Africa*) in Nairobi. He eventually settled there himself and these mammoth, scrapbook-like illustrated and handwritten diaries with enormous fold-out pages and collages beautifully reproduced by Taschen, document both sides of his life. Only problem is, you'd have to be as rich as the Beard family to get your hands on one. The book clocks in at £1,350, but they do throw in a wooden stand to display it on. HANNAH LACK

