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ENRICHING LIFE'S JOURNEYS

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2025 | ISSUE 192

WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS
AFRICA'S LEADING
INFLIGHT MAGAZINE 2025

SAFARI SPECIAL ISSUE

How people are nurturing the wilderness experience



WOMEN AT THE WHEEL

MEET THE FEMALE
SAFARI GUIDES IN THE
DRIVING SEAT OF THE
MAASAI MARA

JANE GOODALL

THE LEGENDARY
CONSERVATIONIST WHO
HAS DEDICATED HER LIFE
TO AFRICA'S GREAT APES

PARK LIFE

FIVE OF THE FINEST
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Maasai Mara by
firelight. Image
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River Camp
(emboo.com)

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karibu

DEAR READER

Welcome aboard Kenya Airways, the Pride of Africa.
As you journey with us today, I'm pleased to share some
exciting developments shaping the future of our airline
and our region.

We're proud to be piloting the Integrated Sustainability
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and social impact is unwavering. Through the ISP, we're
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and performance monitoring into our daily operations –
strengthening our industry leadership and our planet's future.

We're also thrilled to announce a new partnership between
Kenya Airfreight Handling Limited (KAHL) and Lift Cargo Limited.
This alliance is set to transform how fresh produce moves from
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flowers and fruits.

And in the spirit of national pride, Kenya Airways is honoured to be the official
airline of the Kenya Simbas, our national men's 15s rugby team. As they prepare
for the Rugby World Cup qualifiers, we stand firmly behind them. Rugby's core
values – teamwork, resilience and passion – reflect our own as we continue to
uplift local talent on the global stage.

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excellence with every flight.

Allan

ALLAN KILAVUKA GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, KENYA AIRWAYS

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– Business Class, Africa's Leading Airline Brand and Africa's Leading
Inflight Magazine for *msafiri* at the 2025 World Travel Awards.



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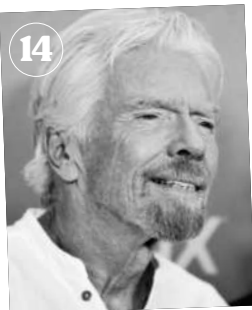
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LEAPS AND BOUNDS

Discover how sustainable
tourism is shaping the
Maasai Mara's destiny







KENYA'S WILDLIFE IN FOCUS

The Greatest Wildlife Photographer of the Year – Kenya is a reimagined national photography competition celebrating the country's rich biodiversity and supporting grassroots conservation. Originally focused on the Maasai Mara, it now welcomes submissions from across Kenya, spotlighting all parks, conservancies and wild spaces. Over the next few pages we showcase some of the shortlisted entries...

Fade to black

"Watching elephants parade across the dry lakebed is one of the iconic Amboseli images. This image was taken in January 2025, when the rain started to come in just as the sun was setting. The clouds obscured the sun so we didn't get the classic golden hour shot, but with the light shining through and illuminating the rain clouds we got something dramatic instead."

Alexander Wood @alexwood_1994
Elewana Tortilis Camp, Amboseli National Park



THE GREATEST | KENYA
WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER

Flamingos over Lake Magadi

"Flying over Lake Magadi, we spotted a flamboyance of flamingos. We searched for interesting soda formations where they were flying. I like this one best since it looks like the head of an animal."
Isabel Guerra | Lentorre Lodge, Shompole Conservancy



THE GREATEST | KENYA
WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER





Mama's hug

"Bright and early we found one of the Topi pride females with her two playful cubs and enjoyed some quality time to observe their joyful interactions."

Sibylle Brodmann
@soul_of_wildlife_
photography
Maasai Mara
National Reserve

Legacy

"We sat by the waterhole, watching this white rhino and her calf in a quiet moment together. The calf mirrored its mother's stance."

Ben Joel @benjoel.
photography
Lewa Conservancy



Backed by a network of Safari Partners and Conservation Partners, The Greatest Wildlife Photographer of the Year – Kenya is independently run and aims to unite photographers through storytelling and environmental impact. Each entry fee directly supports six leading conservation organisations, while monthly shortlists lead to a final selection of 100 images. The competition's winners have the chance to win up to US\$2,500 and a nine night safari for two. For more information, visit www.thegreatestwildlifephotographerkenya.com





CITY SAFARI

MONKEY BUSINESS

Baboons are the real bosses of Nairobi National Park, says Josaya Wasonga

This domestic tourist visited Nairobi National Park one sunny Friday this May and I didn't just see the same old animals. I witnessed something new: undocumented power plays. Which made me conclude that baboons should be higher up in the hierarchy structure. I couldn't have chosen a better day to visit this national gem. The park was bustling with eager school kids and unwary handbag-carrying teachers – the perfect recipe for baboon-orchestrated dramas.

RULES

The cardinal law in every game park is read and observe every rule. However, I couldn't wrap

A VISITOR'S PHONE FELL ONTO THE BANKS OF THE MOKOYET RIVER. IT WAS TAKEN BY BONZO, THE ALPHA MALE OLIVE BABOON, WHO IMMEDIATELY PROCEEDED TO TAKE SELFIES... EVEN STRIKING HUMAN-LIKE POSES!

my mind around this: "Warthogs and children have the right of way". This rule means that, in Nairobi National Park, children and warthogs belong to the same species, right?

I know who created this rule. A peeved Kenyan school teacher, that's who. Why, our teachers often made us feel like warthogs; berating us to stop having short memories like you-know-who!

Well, this one was crystal clear: "KEEP OUR PARKS PLASTIC FREE." Know whose picture accompanies the rule? A baboon's, sipping from a plastic cup. Talk about catching all the bad rep in the wild.

BONZO SEE, BONZO DO

After a long meandering game-fest through the Safari Walk, seeing different animals, I took a breather atop the platform overlooking Mokoyet River.

"Take care lest your phone slips and falls between the wooden cracks," a ranger warned me. "Several months ago, a visitor's phone fell onto the banks of Mokoyet River. It was taken by Bonzo, the alpha

male olive baboon, who immediately proceeded to take selfies... even striking human-like poses!"

"What?" I gasped. "What's one supposed to do in a situation like that?"

"Olive baboons are chill, as long as you don't agitate them. But always let rangers handle such situations."

I got the subtle warning: Bonzo is the numero uno OG (Olive Gangster) of Nairobi National Park.

BOSS MOVES

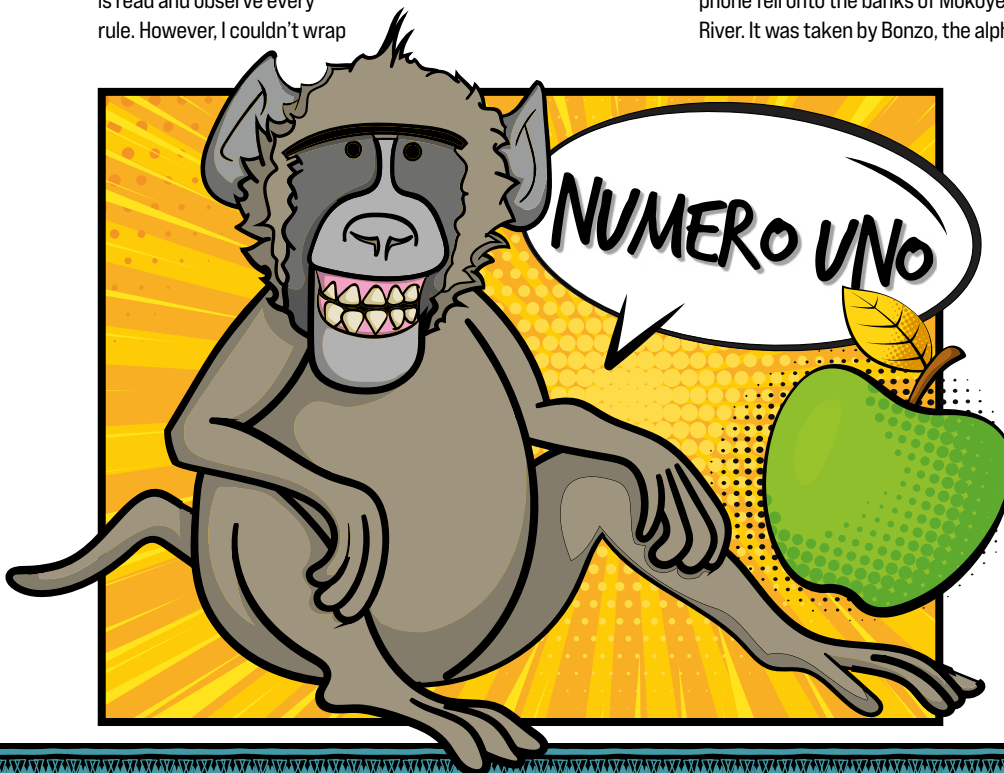
Minutes later, Bonzo showed us who's the boss. As we were snapping pics of a chilling cheetah, the OG pounced on a teacher's handbag, nonchalantly slung it over his shoulder, did parkour moves to a nearby roof, unzipped the bag and rifled through it. Bonzo is the only alpha male in Kenya who can flaunt a female's handbag in broad daylight, and not be excommunicated from the red pill cult!

"Don't pursue him, otherwise he will recede into unreachable areas of the forest," rangers advised the traumatised teacher.

Fortunately, rangers saved what would've been the teacher's longest day. But not before Bonzo fished out an apple from the handbag and hungrily snacked on it.

My Adrian Monk alter ego connected the dots. The cat was in cahoots with the OG. One accomplice distracted us with un-cheetah-like docility while another – the mob boss – went in for the prize. In the streets, this tag team con game is called, "mtupe nimsanye". Which means, "throw the sucker off guard while I rob them". Crime solved.

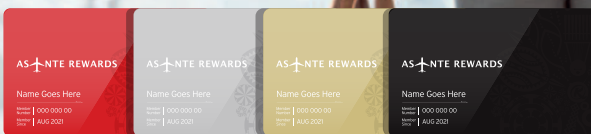
PSA. At Nairobi National Park, watch animals all you want. But? Watch out for baboons. And, while you're at it, keep your eyes peeled for Bonzo and his highly unlikely partner-in-crime.



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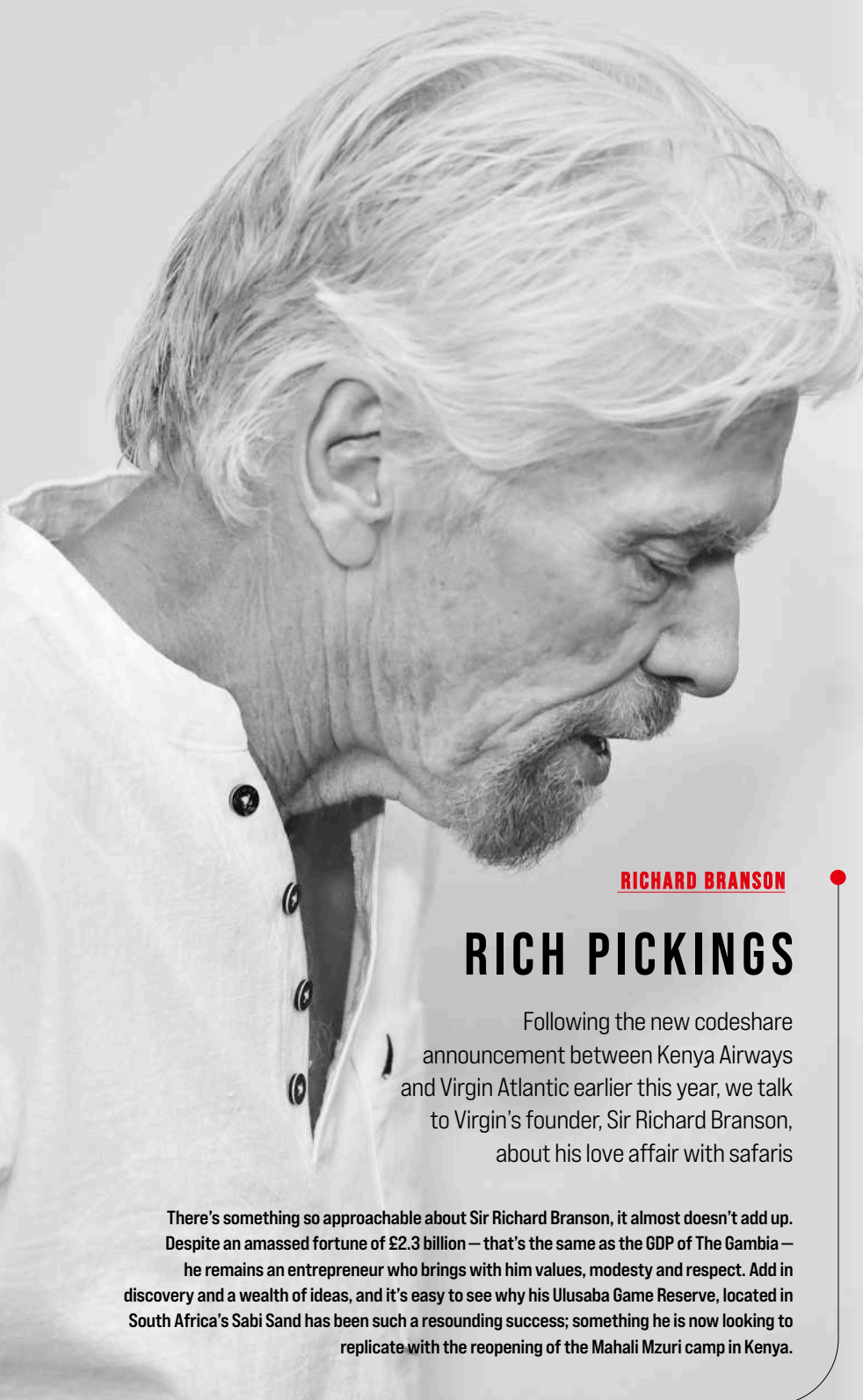
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RICHARD BRANSON

RICH PICKINGS

Following the new codeshare announcement between Kenya Airways and Virgin Atlantic earlier this year, we talk to Virgin's founder, Sir Richard Branson, about his love affair with safaris

There's something so approachable about Sir Richard Branson, it almost doesn't add up. Despite an amassed fortune of £2.3 billion — that's the same as the GDP of The Gambia — he remains an entrepreneur who brings with him values, modesty and respect. Add in discovery and a wealth of ideas, and it's easy to see why his Ulusaba Game Reserve, located in South Africa's Sabi Sand has been such a resounding success; something he is now looking to replicate with the reopening of the Mahali Mzuri camp in Kenya.

Q WHAT IS THE SECRET TO A GOOD SAFARI?

Attention to detail. It's really important in every aspect of our lives, and I've always lived by the detail... it's who I am! Yet to counter the great expanses with an appreciation for the minute ecosystems that exist there is fascinating. I've also really wanted to push that feeling of being out there, free of interruptions. Escapism is really important in our lives and that's what we offer — to explore expanses of endless space, but to also find it in ourselves.

Q WHAT WAS THE BUSINESS AIM BEHIND THE ULUSABA GAME RESERVE IN SOUTH AFRICA?

I am a big fan of business capitalising on opportunity, but of all my projects, I think this really was the one where I just wanted to give back. This isn't really about making money — it's a personal passion project. We do safari because we love nature and wildlife, not because we want to line our pockets. The methods and the processes are the same. Basically, in life, I get involved with things that interest me — it's as simple as that. It was music when I was younger, then I flew a lot so it became airlines, and so on. The fact this experience also taps into fresh air and health is wonderful, because health is everything in life, isn't it? As for what we have, it's a small but brilliant team of really committed people that you can work with on whatever the plan is — they're smart, they're versatile, they're incredibly knowledgeable.

Q WAS THE AFRICAN SAFARI ALWAYS IN YOUR BLOOD?

I was brought up in the countryside so being outdoors and close to nature was quite normal for me. And then the first time I came to Africa, in my early twenties, it all fell into place. I came out into the bush and it was an incredible sensory and emotional experience. Now as it was then, it's an untouched wilderness, and that's exciting in a world where so much has been discovered and uncovered — but we must protect it as much as we enjoy it. Over the past 20



years I have really seen attitudes change, so whether it's looking out for rhinos, elephants, tigers in India or even lemurs in Madagascar, we're trying to preserve everything we can. Personally, I knew I had to do something to counter all those aeroplanes in the sky, which is why I set up the Carbon War Room, to work with 21 industries in accelerating the adoption of business solutions that reduce carbon emissions."

Q WOULD YOU AGREE, TECHNOLOGY HAS BOTH REMOVED A CONNECTION TO THE NATURAL WORLD, AND GIVEN US ONE?

Yes, correct. I came from a different era – we didn't have a clue what was going on in a game reserve in Tanzania; I couldn't picture the Australian outback; and the Poles were just places crazy explorers ventured to. Unless you can touch it and feel it, you never really know how special the world is, but social media absolutely does make the unknown accessible to the public. From the African savannahs to the depths of the ocean, it's all now reachable.

Q AS A RESULT, WE ARE NOW IN AN ERA OF CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY THAT WE HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE...

Conservation isn't a new thing though – go back 50 years and the subject of elephant poaching was one of the big things. Then we had the whales, the rhinos, recycling trends, greenhouse gases, carbon emissions. The difference now is that social media offers us an incredible gift of being able to share, and this is a gamechanger – but it has to be embraced and used in the right way.

Q IT FEELS LIKE AFRICA IS AT SOMETHING OF AN ENTREPRENEURIAL TURNING POINT?

It continues to grow both in terms of business and leisure, and we see this through our routes. South Africa is becoming a real hub for international businesses in telecoms, banking and pharmaceuticals, as well as in more traditional oil, gas and minerals projects, then you've got Kenya, Nigeria, Egypt and others. These are such exciting times for the continent."

Kenya Airways and Virgin Atlantic, both members of the SkyTeam Airline Alliance, have unveiled a strategic codeshare partnership. Virgin Atlantic will place its code on Kenya Airways' London flights, providing passengers with seamless access to Kenya Airways' extensive network of destinations in Africa and beyond. Concurrently, Kenya Airways will place its code on Virgin Atlantic flights to idyllic Caribbean destinations such as the Bahamas, Barbados and Grenada, opening exciting travel opportunities for customers of both airlines.

KENYA'S SAFARI SPAS

BUSH BLISS

From open-air massages to detox rituals inspired by indigenous healing practices, Kenyan safari lodges offer world-class spa and wellness experiences in a sustainable setting

ELEWANA LOISABA
TENTED CAMP LAIKIPIA

Perched on the escarpment of Kenya's Loisaba Conservancy, where elephants roam below and stars shimmer above, lies a spa experience unlike any other. At Elewana Loisaba Tented Camp, wellness is a journey of restoration rooted in the wild and inspired by tradition. The Loisaba Spa treatments draw from Africa's ancient healing rituals. Every element, from oils to ceremonies, is designed to reconnect body, mind and spirit to the rhythms of the land.



The Samburu Celebration Journey is a 90-minute signature treatment inspired by the cultural heritage of the Samburu people. It begins with a cleansing foot ritual using salt crystals and native plant extracts to clear away negative energy. A body polish follows, made with coffee, cinnamon and Tanga-Orange blend, infused with indigenous



Tulia Spa at the
Sarova Mara Game
Camp, Maasai Mara



oils to invigorate and purify the skin. Guests are then enveloped in a relaxing massage using a bespoke Samburu Body Butter, blending African shea, coconut and spices. The experience culminates in a traditional Rain Calling Ceremony that honours Samburu customs where rain is a blessing, representing new beginnings and prosperity. As a final gesture, guests are invited to choose a piece of handcrafted Samburu beadwork to take with them – a lasting talisman of their connection to the land. Additionally, the menu includes aromatherapy massages, deep tissue treatments, and cherished African Handprint and Footprint Rituals, all performed in the bush spa or in the privacy of your own tent.





TULIA SPA AT THE SAROVA MARA GAME CAMP MAASAI MARA

Tucked beneath a canopy of trees, the tranquil walkway to Tulia Spa is paved and bordered by rustic guardrails, guiding guests through birdsong and filtered sunlight towards the vast savannah; it's an invitation to unwind.

Beyond their menu of classic therapies – deep tissue, hot stone and aromatherapy – Tulia Spa offers a curated selection of signature treatments. Head Therapist Risper Achieng describes their signature treatment – the Tulia Signature Bamboo Massage – as a deeply relaxing ritual using bamboo sticks to deliver firm, rhythmic strokes, finishing off with a hot compress to melt away tension and soothe the mind.



Equally popular is the Eternal Youth Anti-Ageing Facial – a blend of milk, honey, yoghurt and finely crushed eggshells designed to exfoliate, tighten and smoothen skin. It's a holistic nod to timeless beauty using age-old remedies.



TAWI LODGE AMBOSELI

Located on a private 3,000-acre conservancy adjacent to Amboseli National Park, this boutique lodge offers stunning views of majestic Mount Kilimanjaro. It features a unique open bush spa. Imagine a sanctuary without walls, where boundaries between indulgence and the wild dissolve into a quiet breeze. This bush spa honours both body and earth – set entirely

in the open overlooking a waterhole where wildlife roams freely. As expert hands ease away your tension, nature offers its own symphony – rustling grass, distant animal calls and the soothing splash at the water's edge as elephants quench their thirst. This is not just a spa. This is soul-deep serenity, where wellness unfolds in rhythm with the wild.

Eco-conscious luxury

What sets these safari escapes apart is the seamless way wellness and conservation are interwoven into the guest experience. Sustainability is not an afterthought but a philosophy that has seen Elewana Loisaba Tented Camp awarded a Gold Eco-rating Certification and The Sarova Mara Game Camp a Silver Eco-rating Certification. This recognition reflects outstanding achievements in responsible resource use, environmental stewardship and meaningful investment in local communities, safeguarding Kenya's ecological heritage.

SAFARI CHEFS

WILD DINING IN THE MAASAI MARA

In days gone by, bush dining was more about survival than luxury. For example, when former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and retired US President Theodore Roosevelt visited Kenya for hunting expeditions in the early 20th century, all they needed was a simple campfire and basic provisions. Today, dining in the Maasai Mara has evolved. Fresh, locally sourced ingredients are fused with global culinary techniques, and some of the industry's best chefs are leading this transformation. We profile four chefs redefining bush kitchens in the Mara, championing sustainability with eco-friendly cooking methods that reduce waste and promote recycling.

UTTAM DAS

JW MARRIOTT MAASAI MARA

Chef Uttam Das, Executive Chef at JW Marriott Maasai Mara, is a culinary innovator with over 18 years of experience in some of the world's most iconic kitchens. His journey spans India, the Maldives and Kenya, working with luxury brands including The Leela Kempinski, InterContinental Hotels Group, Park Hyatt, Taj Hotels and Marriott International. His philosophy? "Every dish is a masterpiece, a perfect blend of creativity, seasonality and sustainability." As kitchen leader, Chef Uttam is committed to nurturing talent and inspiring creativity in his team. His passion for excellence continues to shape memorable dining experiences that celebrate both flavour and artistry.



JACKSON MUTUKU

ANDBEYOND BATELEUR CAMP

Sous Chef and father of three, Jackson has been at Bateleur Camp since 2015, following a posting in eastern Kenya. His day begins at 6am, preparing breakfast with his team before moving on to lunch service. Like many chefs in the Mara, he sources vegetables and most herbs from a local organic garden. "These are organically grown to keep the local environment intact," he says.

Jackson emphasises the value of knowing each guest's preferences. "We have a mix of guests from different parts of the world whose tastes are influenced by many factors, including religion. They should all feel at home here."



Pan-seared Norwegian salmon

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SAFARI CAMPS



WORDS: PETER MUIRURI



FIONA KOSKE SAROVA MARA GAME CAMP

Fiona thrives on crafting garden salads, and with a two-acre organic garden at her disposal in the heart of the Mara, she's perfectly placed to do so. As lodge chef at Sarova Mara Game Camp, she leads a kitchen team of 35 across two kitchens – Olchani and Isokon. Her day starts at 7am, overseeing breakfast prep and organising meals for early morning game drives.

"I like the adrenaline rush," she says.

"You have different palates to prepare for. It's a journey of exploration." A food production graduate from Utalii College in Kenya, Fiona went to Australia in 1997 for an advanced diploma in hotel management. She worked there for seven years before returning to Kenya in 2005, where she ran a 19-room family-owned guest house in Kericho for 14 years before moving to the Mara.

Fiona's favourite dish: Organic garden salad with mustard leaves, rucola, carrot and cucumber twirls, parsley, basil, coriander and a dressing of onion, mustard and honey.



Organic garden salad

BENSON OLE SOIT SARUNI EAGLE VIEW

Benson, from Olesere village in the Maasai Mara, started as a watchman at the safari camp 16 years ago. Two years in, he swapped sentry duties for the kitchen – a bold, unconventional move that paid off. Today, Benson is one of the Mara's top chefs, known for dishes that are "a harmonious blend of tradition and innovation." He trained

at the prestigious Kupperlain Restaurant in Zurich, Switzerland, learning the intricacies of Michelin-starred cuisine. In 2018, he authored the first edition of his cookbook, EAT THIS!, using proceeds to empower young Maasai chefs.



Vegetable frittata



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THROUGH THE LENS

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LARQ PUREVIS 2

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BRAKE HORSE POWER:
COMBINED 326 HP AND
465 LB-FT OF TORQUE

FULL-TIME
FOUR-WHEEL
DRIVE



ELECTRIC GAME DRIVES

GAME CHANGER

Thanks to solar-powered safari vehicles, a new era of eco-conscious exploration is here, says Paul Udoto

Kenya continues to adopt renewable energy and conservation, blending tradition with innovation to protect its breathtaking wilderness. In the heart of the Maasai Mara, where lions roar and elephants tread softly, a quiet revolution is unfolding. Emboo River Camp, a pioneer in sustainable tourism, has introduced solar-powered electric safari vehicles, offering a game-changing way to experience wildlife – without the rumble of engines or the scent of diesel. These silent vehicles glide through the savannah, allowing guests to witness animals in their most natural state – undisturbed and unhurried. By merging solar technology with luxury eco-lodging, Emboo River Camp proves that sustainability and sophistication can go hand in hand. We spoke with camp co-founder Valery Joanne Super...



Q WHAT INSPIRED EMBOO RIVER CAMP TO INTRODUCE SOLAR-POWERED ELECTRIC SAFARI VEHICLES?

It all started with a simple question: How can we offer incredible safari experiences while protecting the land and wildlife that make them possible? Traditional safari vehicles, though iconic, come with noise

and emissions that disrupt nature. Converting these iconic cars to solar power was our way of ensuring that future generations can enjoy the Mara just as we do today – pristine and full of life.

Q HOW DO THESE VEHICLES ENHANCE THE GUEST EXPERIENCE COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL GAME DRIVES?

Imagine sitting just metres away from a leopard and being one with nature! The silence is magical – you hear the crunch of grass under a giraffe's feet, the distant call of a fish eagle, even the breathing of a

resting lion. You can even smell the blood in the air after a fresh kill has happened in the bushes just around the riverbend. Animals don't see these vehicles as a threat, so they carry on naturally. It's a deeper, more intimate connection with the wild that awakens all your senses.

Q WHAT HAPPENS IF IT'S CLOUDY – DO THE VEHICLES STILL RUN?

That is a fair question! Fortunately, Kenya is blessed with abundant sunshine, but even on cloudy days, our high-capacity batteries store

Above left:
Emboo River Camps co-founder, Valery Joanne Super

Above and right:
Electric vehicles – loved by guides and wildlife

Below:
Charging ahead – electric is the future





enough power for full-day game drives and to run our camp 24/7. We've designed the system to be reliable in all conditions – come rain or shine.

Q HAVE YOU NOTICED ANY CHANGES IN ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR SINCE SWITCHING TO SILENT VEHICLES?

Absolutely! Wildlife is far more relaxed. Lions do not look up when being disturbed from a nap, elephants don't flare their ears in alarm, and shy species like cheetahs linger longer. Even birds, which are usually the first to flee from engine noise, now perch curiously nearby. It's like we've been granted a backstage pass to nature's theatre.

Q HOW DO THE LOCAL GUIDES FEEL ABOUT DRIVING THESE FUTURISTIC VEHICLES?

Everyone is intrigued when seeing the electric Land Rovers and Land

Cruisers. No engine roar? No gears? And everyone loves it! The rides are smoother and more powerful, there's no exhaust smell, and they've noticed how much closer they can get to wildlife. Some even joke that the animals prefer these silent rides!

Q BEYOND THE VEHICLES, WHAT OTHER SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES IS YOUR CAMP PROUD OF?

Sustainability is in our DNA. We recycle 100% of our water, grow organic vegetables in our vertical farm-to-fork garden, empower young women and men in all roles within the Emboo team and much more. Our camp is entirely solar-powered, and we even convert organic waste into biogas for cooking. Every detail is designed to give back to the environment.

Q WHAT'S THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN MAINTAINING

SOLAR-POWERED SAFARI VEHICLES IN THE BUSH?

Just like with any safari vehicles – diesel or solar – we love exploring rough terrain so do regular maintenance on suspension and the usual mechanical touch-ups! Beyond that, it's a breeze. There's no engine to work on, and maintenance time and costs have gone down significantly.

Q COULD THIS MODEL WORK IN OTHER PARKS ACROSS AFRICA?

Without a doubt! Over the years, many lodges and conservancies have reached out to learn from us. The technology is scalable and cost effective, and once others become keen to implement it, silent safaris could become the norm. Imagine a future where in every park the only roar you hear is that of a lion – just like the Kenyan Government announced at COP26.

This year's **Rhino Charge** in Baringo County – a grueling off-road event aimed at raising funds for conservation – welcomed its first-ever electric vehicle entrant that's a custom-built four-wheel drive. The EV Explorers team showcased the capabilities of electric mobility in challenging terrains, signaling a significant step towards sustainable transportation in Kenya. "This is not just about winning, it is about proving that low-emission alternatives have a place even in the harshest conditions," team leader Richard Kiplagat said.

“Imagine sitting just metres away from a leopard and being one with nature! The silence is magical – you hear the crunch of grass under a giraffe's feet, the distant call of a fish eagle, even the breathing of a resting lion”





NOTES TO MY FUTURE BETTER SELF

3 THINGS ABOUT BUSH WISDOM I WISH I KNEW EARLIER

Nature is packed with life lessons, from survival skills to teamwork

I recently went on an early morning game drive in Nairobi National Park. It is the only national park within a capital city, making it easily accessible for a safari experience, allowing visitors to appreciate the diverse wildlife and beautiful landscape. As I feasted on the breathtaking ecosystem, listening to the melodious songs by the birds and watching lions on the hunt in the beautiful savannah grasslands, I realised that. Here, I share a few learnings I carried home from bush wisdom.

01 SOMETIMES, YOU ARE EITHER THE PREDATOR OR THE PREY

You have probably heard the saying: 'Every morning in Africa, a gazelle wakes up, it knows it must outrun the fastest lion or it will be killed. Every morning in Africa, a lion wakes up. It knows it must run faster than the slowest gazelle, or it will starve. It doesn't matter whether you are the lion or a gazelle; when the sun comes up, you'd better be running'.

In the animal kingdom, you are either predator or prey. On human streets, in situations of hierarchy or competition, the struggle for dominance and relevance is real! Be it in the boardroom or marketplace, some situations dictate that you overthrow or be overthrown. Put your best foot forward, or be consumed!

02 SHINE IN YOUR ELEMENT

The giraffe does not stoop down to be the same height as its counterparts in order to fit in. On the contrary, it uses its height advantage to access vegetation that is high up and inaccessible to other animals. The giraffe knows it cannot outrun the cheetah. It also knows that it can spot it from afar and avoid its path.

Sometimes we waste too much time and energy comparing ourselves to others, thinking they are better than us because they are richer, taller, more charming, brighter, or more connected. So much so that we forget to think about our own abilities, unique traits and advantages. When is the last time you did a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis of yourself? Tap into your strengths. Work on weaknesses by upskilling and continuous learning. Take advantage of your opportunities (they do not always hang around waiting for you to act) and tactically avoid your threats. Your greatest strength and advantage lie deep within you. You do not need to imitate any other human being to reach or even surpass your potential.

MSASI HAOGPI MIIBA [SWAHILI PROVERB]
A HUNTER IS NOT AFRAID OF THORNS



03 IGNORANCE IS NOT BLISS!

In the wild, ignorance is not bliss; it equates to death! The gazelle that ignores the rustle of the grass as the leopard stalks may well find itself on the big cat's menu. Survival is dependent on animals' inherent ability to understand and adapt to their environment. They are always on high alert, well aware that their unpredictable, hungry, unforgiving predators roam around, waiting for a split second of their weakness to pounce. No

wonder wild animals have higher baseline cortisol levels compared to humans and their domestic counterparts! That we humans are having it easier stressor-wise doesn't mean that we should let our guard down. Always be aware of your surroundings. Understand the tricks of your competitors and enemies; anyone or anything that is a potential danger to you or your sanity, be it at work, home or play. What are your sights, sounds and sixth sense signaling? Ignore life's important cues at your own peril.

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better." ALBERT EINSTEIN



COULD YOU BE A GUIDE?

KNOW YOUR WILDLIFE?

Test your general wildlife knowledge with these questions from guide-training company EcoTraining.

You'll find the answers below

Q1: Which bird is frequently seen perching on the backs of buffalo, rhino or impala, eating ticks and other small insects embedded in their hides?

1. Lilac-breasted roller
2. Opecker
3. Malachite kingfisher
4. Buffalo weaver

Q2: What is the maximum width to which a hippopotamus can stretch its jaws?

1. 150 degrees
2. 100 degrees
3. 85 degrees
4. 40 degrees

Question 12



Question 7

Q3: Elephants are the largest land animals and are incredibly intelligent. Which of these traits do humans and elephants share?

1. Mourning their dead
2. Long-term memory
3. Forming deep familial bonds
4. All of the above

Q4: What animal is the hippopotamus most closely related to?

1. Warthog
2. Rhinoceros
3. Whale
4. Elephant

Q5: Which animal avoids consuming the leaves or seeds of the acacia tree?

1. Zebra
2. Giraffe
3. Elephant
4. Vulture

Q6: What kind of animal has thick skin and is immune to venom, and can even consume the deadly black mamba snake, as well as bee larvae?

1. Jackal
2. Honey badger
3. Meerkat
4. Bat-eared fox

Q7: What is the weight of an ostrich egg?

1. 6lbs / 2.7kg
2. 3lbs / 1.4kg
3. 2lbs / 1kg
4. 1lb / 0.5kg



Question 8

Q8: What is the top speed of a cheetah?

1. 74 km/h
2. 86 km/h
3. 102km/h
4. 120 km/h

Q9: What is the colour of a giraffe's tongue?

1. Grey
2. Pink
3. Blue

Q10: Which animals form the so-called 'Big Five'?

1. Cheetah, giraffe, lion, gemsbok, elephant
2. Hippo, lion, Cape buffalo, elephant, rhinoceros
3. Cape buffalo, lion, leopard, elephant, rhinoceros
4. Elephant, lion, leopard, gorilla, rhinoceros

Q11: Which animal prefers to spend most of its time alone rather than in a group?

1. Tsessebe
2. Rock hyrax

3. Leopard
4. Giraffe

Q12: What is the approximate number of muscles in an elephant's trunk?

1. 40,000
2. 20,000
3. 7,000
4. 1,000

Q13: Which of these primates is NOT native to Africa?

1. Yellow baboon
2. De Brazza's monkey
3. Mandrill
4. Golden tamarin



Question 4

See **EcoTraining's** portfolio of online and physical courses at ecotraining.co.za

THE ANSWERS: How did you get on?

1 (2) Opecker, 2 (1) 150 degrees, 3 (4) All of the above, 4 (3) Whale, 5 (4) Vulture, 6 (2) Honey badger, 7 (2) 3lbs / 1.4kg, 8 (4) 120 km/h, 9 (3) Blue, 10 (3) Cape buffalo, lion, leopard, elephant, rhinoceros, 11 (3) Leopard, 12 (1) 40,000, 13 (4) Golden tamarin



Elevating aviation through FINANCE

NCBA'S ROLE IN ACCELERATING ECONOMIC GROWTH

The aviation industry is a critical engine of economic development, connecting markets, facilitating trade and creating employment. According to the African Development Bank aviation contributes more than US\$55bn to the continent's gross domestic product and supports over 6.2 million jobs. More importantly, it serves as a lever for achieving intra-African trade, regional integration and the aspirations outlined in Agenda 2063.

In Kenya alone, aviation supports over 500,000 direct and indirect jobs and contributes 3.1% of GDP. Yet, despite its promise, Africa's aviation potential remains largely untapped. Challenges such as insufficient investment in ground infrastructure, limited connectivity and ageing equipment persist.

Ground handling operations, which form the foundation of aircraft safety and turnaround efficiency, are particularly capital intensive. These operations require investments in fleet upgrades, training, digitisation and the adoption of green technology. It is evident that for the industry to reach its full potential it requires a robust financial infrastructure, one that is innovative, resilient and adaptable to the dynamic demands of global aviation.

Kenya Airways, a leading carrier in Africa that boasts of over 5 million passengers annually, has consistently demonstrated a progressive vision in



Above, L to R: Tirus Mwithiga, group director, NCBA; Teresiah Mbaika, principal secretary, State Department for Aviation and Aerospace Development; Allan Kilavuka, group MD & CEO, Kenya Airways; Nick Careen – SVP, Operations, Safety & Security, IATA; Joseph Dadacha, senior assistant director, Kenya Wildlife Service, during the IATA Gala Dinner event.

aviation and logistics. Its decade-long partnership with NCBA is founded on a mutual conviction that the industry plays a vital role in promoting regional growth and enhancing global connections. At NCBA, our commitment to this sector is intentional because we believe aviation can affect inclusive growth, especially when public and private sectors collaborate.

We at NCBA acknowledge our role not only as financiers but also as strategic enablers. Our industry-focused solutions include asset financing for electric ground support vehicles, working capital to enhance operational liquidity, project finance for airport expansions, and ESG-linked funding to support climate-smart aviation.

Recognising that we provide

comprehensive, 360-degree support, we are committed to driving meaningful conversations and fostering innovation. Whether it is participating in aviation task forces or bringing together diverse industry players through forums, we work hand in hand with regulators, tech partners and service providers to develop practical solutions that keep aviation projects across Africa financially strong and sustainable.

This year's IATA Ground Handling Conference (IGHC) theme, 'Elevate', coincides with our vision to uplift industries through more innovative financial solutions. From our perspective as a financial institution, aviation is not just an industry, but a catalyst for economic growth. That is why we are dedicated to helping them modernise their operations, build their financial strength and grow their impact for the future.

At the 37th IGHG held in Nairobi, a first occurrence in Africa, NCBA partnered to support the networking dinner event, which celebrated culture and environmental stewardship. This milestone elevates Kenya's position as a strategic aviation hub, while also providing a platform to showcase the power of collaboration in driving economic growth.



NCBA is the fourth-largest bank in Kenya by assets and provides comprehensive corporate banking coverage to the aviation sector and to the leading airlines in the region, including the Kenya Airways Group.



BY **TIRUS MWITHIGA** GROUP DIRECTOR CORPORATE BANKING & INVESTMENT ADVISORY, NCBA.

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LET'S CONNECT



PLAIN SPEAKING

How sustainable tourism is shaping the Maasai Mara's destiny



WORDS: **PETER MUIRURI**

Custodians of the Mara

The Maasai people are believed to have migrated south from near Lake Turkana as early as the 15th century to settle in the Maasai Mara region

JOHN WARBURTON-LEE/
AWL IMAGES

The Maasai Mara, or 'spotted land', is a land of superlatives – it's arguably one of the most recognisable animal reserves in the world. Few places on earth evoke the thrill of adventure and closeness to nature quite like this tourism gem tucked into the southwestern corner of Kenya.

That first glimpse of its vast, golden plains is enough to leave a traveller spellbound. As local and international tourists disembark from bush flights and hop onto their waiting safari vehicles, Africa's raw landscapes quickly become a reality. It is not long before they meet the stars of this untamed theatre.

Lions roar at close range, their explosive hunts a magnet for global filmmakers. The skies echo with the melodic calls of birds, while countless hooves leave trails of dust in their wake during the annual wildebeest migration. Every moment feels like a scene from a captivating nature documentary, except here, the action plays out in real time.

But the Mara is more than simply its wildlife. The local Maasai community, whose legendary customs and hospitality make them one of the world's most well-recognised people, call the Mara home. For generations, the lives of these pastoralists have been deeply woven into the fabric of the Mara.

Their crimson shukas ripple in the wind as they herd cattle, sharing tales of tradition and survival with visitors over campfires under starlit skies. In a world where authentic cultural experiences are increasingly rare, the Mara offers both drama and depth.

ADDRESSING THREATS TO CONSERVATION

For centuries, the Maasai have roamed the communally owned plains with their cattle, practising nomadic grazing that allowed the land time to recover. Wild herbivores followed their lead, while predators kept populations in balance. This natural harmony between people and

animals preserved the Mara's wild heart.

But the Mara now faces a critical juncture. As modern life takes root, land privatisation and fragmentation threaten both the Maasai way of life and broader conservation efforts. Fences are replacing open rangeland. Trees are felled to make way for settlements. Rivers run dry in places where they once teemed with life.

Authorities cite fencing, deforestation, dwindling water sources, charcoal burning, human-wildlife conflict, unsustainable grazing and climate change as threats that could undo decades of environmental progress.

"We have no choice but to maintain the ecological integrity of the Mara," says Samuel Leposo, Chief Tourism Officer at Narok County. "If the ecosystem collapses, there will be fewer animals and a poorer visitor experience."

In 2023, in response to mounting pressures, Narok County launched the Greater Maasai Mara Ecosystem Management Plan 2023–2032. This blueprint aims to harmonise sustainable management across the 1,500-square-kilometre national reserve, its 15 neighbouring conservancies and surrounding lands. The goal: to preserve ecological balance while improving community livelihoods.

The plan acknowledges a vital truth: a healthy ecosystem underpins not just wildlife tourism, but also the socio-economic fabric of the communities that depend on the land.

The Maasai Mara was gazetted as a national reserve in 1948 to conserve wildlife, generate tourism revenue and support the Maasai's traditional lifestyle, which remains compatible with conservation. The management plan recognises that the Maasai's land use has helped preserve the area's remarkable biodiversity, and insists that benefits from the land be channelled back to them.

"The community around the Mara is the custodian of the ecosystem. When people take ownership of this plan, it reduces human-wildlife conflict, attracts more tourists and creates economic opportunities," adds Leposo. ➔

Right:
A Maasai warrior standing on one leg is an iconic sight, but rather than a sign of strength or endurance, it is simply an effective means of resting during long periods of tending cattle

CHEKDO /
SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

"We must shift from minimising impact to improving nature and community welfare. This is only possible when the local people are part of the solution – and when conservation becomes their best financial option."

DR MOHANJEET BRAR | GAMEWATCHERS SAFARIS AND PORINI CAMPS







Beyond governance, Kenya is also strengthening wildlife laws. These include better enforcement and provisions to compensate locals for livestock lost or property damaged by wild animals. Tourism stakeholders say such measures are vital to

reduce tension and reposition wildlife as an economic ally, not a threat.

“Conservation of the Maasai Mara must benefit the local people – it’s very simple and straightforward,” says Jackson Looseyia, a renowned tour guide who featured in the BBC’s *Big Cat Live*. “If locals don’t gain from tourism, then the Mara might as well become farmland. We must use our resources sustainably. The population is rising, but the land isn’t.”

THE SUSTAINABLE CONSERVANCY MODEL

In the past 20 years, over 10,000 landowners have grouped together to create wildlife conservancies – an innovative model that balances ecology and economics. These conservancies now span more than 300,000 acres, providing refuge to wildlife while at the same time inviting eco-investors to build lodges run by young Maasai men and women. The result is a win-win model that enables both preservation and prosperity.

Dr Mohanjeet Brar, Managing Director of Gamewatchers Safaris and Porini Camps, which runs eco-lodges in the Ol Kinyei, Olare Motorogi and Ripoi conservancies, explains how each tourist’s stay contributes directly to conservation.

“Every tourist bed supports 350 acres of biodiversity,” he says. “Guest fees pay for land management, rangers to protect wildlife and local support during human-wildlife conflicts. We also partner with organisations like the Mara Predator Project and Wildlife Habitat Trust.”

Brar adds, “Our model, co-created with local communities, caps tourism to one guest per 350 acres. That’s just one vehicle per 1,400 acres – minimising ecological pressure while offering a high-quality visitor experience.” ➔



Top:
Jackson Looseyia is one of the Maasai Mara’s leading guides

Right:
Samuel Leposo, Chief Tourism Officer, Narok County

IMAGEBROKER/AWL IMAGES





High jumpers: Maasai warriors jump as part of a traditional dance called *Adumu* – a display of strength and agility, demonstrating their fitness and ability to protect their community

IMAGEBROKER/AWL IMAGES

This is my Maasai Mara

Flying above the Maasai Mara, the view is simply awe-inspiring. The hum of Safarilink's Dash 8 aircraft sends a herd of zebra dashing below. From above, the winding Mara River and scattered acacia trees create a living masterpiece – a beauty not just seen but deeply felt.

Within minutes, Captain Winnie Wambui lands at Keekorok airstrip. "This is the sound of freedom," I think to myself. The freedom to roam across Africa's last truly wild frontier. Though I've been here before, each return feels like coming home. You never step on the same piece of earth twice.

The Mara is a many-sided jewel. Luxury lodges sit alongside rustic camps. Some come for the wildebeest migration; others for the birdsong. Still others seek the intimacy of a walking safari or the spiritual quiet of an unbroken horizon.

WALKING AMONG LIONS

Yes, walking among lions at the 35,000-acre Olare Motorogi Conservancy. Just the thought of a bush walk gave me chills. My first sight that morning: lion paw prints near a guest tent. Not the ideal start.

Yet, I walked. For an hour.

Out here, every living thing has its place – even a blade of grass sprouting from elephant dung. What's so special about a blade of grass?

"Without animals like elephants, our cows would suffer," my guide explained.

"This dung helps grow fresh grass. Imagine how many blades spring to life across the Mara each day?"

I'm reminded of the ancient rhythms at play – of nature's quiet contracts, written not in words, but in instinct and balance.

LOCAL CULTURE

"Can you jump? Have you tasted blood? Killed a lion?" Common questions abroad. People assume every Kenyan is Maasai. They might be right – cultural immersion is one of my Mara rituals.

No visit feels complete without

stepping into a Maasai homestead, the traditional manyatta built as they were generations ago. The elders welcome you with pride and precision, sharing their customs as effortlessly as breathing.

I can't jump as high as they do, but I've tried.

Through conversation and ritual, you realise this is not just heritage. It's a living, evolving culture that continues to coexist with elephants, cheetahs and tourists alike.

SUNDOWNERS AND SAFARI STILLNESS

Is any visit to the Maasai Mara complete without a sundowner? A cold drink in hand, bathed in the golden glow of sunset – this is my moment to connect with the land, reflect and embrace the Mara's unhurried rhythm.

You hear more. You feel more. Conversations turn softer. Even the breeze carries a sense of reverence.

It's more than a drink – it's a communion with the landscape.

...AND THE NIGHTS

Nights under canvas are something else. Lion roars, hyena cackles, hippo bellows – it's a sensory thrill, a reminder that the Mara doesn't sleep. Just beyond the tent is the wild, alive and pulsing.




In return, Gamewatchers pays landowners directly, having disbursed KSh200 million in land leases. Over 300 community members are employed across its camps and operations. For many young Maasai, the conservancies offer a rare chance to earn livelihoods without leaving home.

Now, the group is working on developing nature-based credits to boost income for landowners and strengthen biodiversity. Collaborations with EarthAcre and researchers from Harvard University aim to measure nature outcomes at scale and ensure transparency in biodiversity credit systems.

“Mara tourism must become regenerative – not just less harmful, but actively beneficial,” says Brar. “We must shift from minimising impact to improving nature and community welfare. This is only possible when the local people are part of the solution – and when conservation becomes their best financial option.”

As one of Earth’s most celebrated ecosystems, the future of the Maasai Mara hinges on sustainable tourism approaches that reduce harm, support livelihoods and protect vital migration corridors.

Eco-conscious travel, responsible land use and fair revenue-sharing offer the best path to ensure that the Mara thrives for generations. 

Above: African lion roaring at sunrise in the Maasai Mara
CLICKALPS/AWL IMAGES

Airline built on sustainability

As Safarilink’s Dash 8 aircraft begin their descent into Kenya’s protected areas, an onboard announcement reminds passengers to leave plastic bottles behind. “These are not allowed in conservation zones,” it declares.

Formed in 2004 by a team with deep roots in East African tourism, Safarilink has long championed sustainability. CEO Alex Avedi understands the stakes.

“Our business is built on sustainability,” he says from the company’s base at Wilson Airport. “If wildlife disappears, there’s no reason to fly to the Mara.”

For 20 years, the airline has aligned itself with conservation. Anti-poaching messages are displayed on aircraft, and staff regularly take part in tree planting

to increase Kenya’s forest cover.

“All our destinations must be sustainable. Our future depends on biodiversity,” says Avedi.

Safarilink also supports local education, flying in books and supplies for Maasai students, helping them pair traditional wisdom with modern learning. Once a year, the airline carries doctors and medical gear to Aitong, Mara North, for health camps.

“You can’t separate conservation from wellbeing,” Avedi explains. “If the community is unwell, they can’t care for nature.”

Looking ahead, Safarilink plans to invest in electric aircraft, cutting emissions and further lowering its environmental footprint. It’s a bold step in aligning luxury air travel with responsible tourism.

KQ AND SAFARILINK Our new codeshare with Safarilink Aviation adds nine national park destinations to KQ’s network. Kenya Airways’ customers can now book their international flights and domestic safari connections on a single ticket, creating a seamless and convenient travel experience. The national carrier will now connect with two daily flights to nine key airstrips in the Maasai Mara, Amboseli, Nanyuki and Samburu. The integration eliminates the need for separate bookings and offers a streamlined journey for tourists seeking wildlife encounters.

What can you do?

Safari tourism can be an incredible force for good, and yet we're all responsible for the footprint we leave behind. It is clear we all need to be aware how our choices and behaviour impact the places we visit. Consider the following when you're planning your next safari to the Mara:

1 The Maasai Mara is a spectacular year-round destination. What would you enjoy more: magical moments with wildlife away from 'peak season', or jostling for space with a herd of vehicles at a river crossing during the migration?

2 Are you happy to share? The number of vehicles out looking for wildlife at any given time could be dramatically reduced if everyone staying in a lodge stopped requesting a private vehicle.

3 Are you willing to wait in line at a sighting if it means putting less stress on the wildlife?

4 Never put pressure on your guide to break the rules. In fact, let them know that the size of their tip will have everything to do with their knowledge of, and respect for, the wildlife.

5 Consider staying for fewer nights in the Maasai Mara, and using any extra time to explore Kenya's other world-class national parks and reserves.

6 Plan your safari only through reputable, officially-registered operators with a strong commitment to sustainability. Ask your tour planner to confirm their ground handlers comply.

7 If you can afford it, consider staying in one of the 14 conservancies that lie adjacent to the Maasai Mara National Reserve.

8 If you are staying inside the reserve, spend more time closer to

your own camp rather than travelling bigger distances.

9 As the Maasai Mara National Reserve Management Plan asks: "If you see park rules being broken, please take a photograph of the incident, preferably with the vehicle's number plate) and send [with explanations] to marainfo@narok.go.ke and mara@maratriangle.org".

Gently does it: We can all do our bit to reduce environmental pressure on popular reserves like the Mara

COLLECTION IN THE WILD

A force for GOOD

Dr Jane Goodall's legacy, devotion and passion for knowledge originated in the dense riverine forests of Gombe National Park in Tanzania. Yet what she discovered about the primates who live there has led to a truly global mission – one that, even as a nonagenarian, continues to this day.

INTERVIEW: RICHARD ALDHOUS



IMAGE COURTESY OF: LBL





At 91, Dr Jane Goodall stands not only as one of the most recognisable faces in conservation, but as its conscience too – a tireless campaigner whose life's work has bridged science, activism and global education.

More than six decades after her first breakthrough in Tanzania in 1960 – she had landed in Kenya three years previously as a twenty-something to work on the farm of a family friend – Goodall remains a force for nature, still urging the world to act; still believing we can change.

“Hope is not just wishful thinking,” begins the London-born zoologist. “It’s about action. If we all make ethical choices every day, those choices add up. And that’s what keeps me going.”

Still riding high from the impact made by her 2023 documentary *Reasons for Hope*, Goodall is not imparting knowledge as some sort of closing swansong – it’s a full-on rallying cry; an urgent message. “That message is we still have time to protect our planet, but only if we act now.”

That memo carries real weight from someone whose own story has helped redefine our understanding not just of the natural world, but humanity as well. Her work with wild chimpanzees in the forests of Gombe revolutionised primatology in the 1960s. Yet it was the warmth, empathy and clarity of her voice that made the world listen.

“I set out attempting to show people that science didn’t have to be cold or detached,” she says. “From the first minute I wanted to put emotion and compassion and intellect behind study and research, because before then it had all been quite formulaic and methodical.”

Goodall’s first step was to individually name, rather than number, the chimps she encountered – something that seems effortlessly obvious now, but was considered leftfield at the time.

“I wanted to find out about their habits and the way they lived their lives, sure; but I was as invested in their emotions, their personalities. I knew if we wanted to trigger in people many thousands of miles away a sense of care, compassion and a willingness to support these wonderful animals, we needed to show their individualism and their personalities.

“And none of that was a lie – it was all true. It just hadn’t been put across that way before.”

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Over time, Goodall’s work has expanded beyond research into a far wider and more abundant realm of advocacy. It is one grounded in conservation, education and ethical responsibility.

In 1977, she founded the Jane Goodall Institute, now active in dozens of countries, with her youth programme *Roots &*

Shoots having spread to more than 60 nations, and includes children, teenagers, university students and even prisoners.

“Children ask the best questions,” she smiles. “They see the world as it is. When you tell them they have power and that their voices matter, something remarkable happens.”

Goodall’s approach to conservation has always centred on connection. From understanding chimpanzee social hierarchies to lobbying world leaders, she argues that nothing exists in isolation. After all, conservation can be communicated across countries and continents, but it must involve local communities, sustainable development and respect for indigenous knowledge.

The challenges, however, are mounting. Illegal mining, deforestation, population pressures and climate change continue to threaten habitats. “There are companies doing the right thing,” she acknowledges. “Lab-grown diamonds, recycled metals – these things are proof that industry doesn’t have to be destructive. Yet on the ground, I’ve seen what happens when it goes unchecked. In parts of Brazil, rivers once full of life are now

poisoned with mercury. It’s devastating.”

Despite this, Goodall remains insistent that optimism is a survival tool. “When people feel helpless, they stop acting. And if we stop acting, it’s over. So I keep talking. I keep showing up.”

That belief in the power of change is rooted not just in ideology but in discovery. Recent studies have confirmed that wild chimpanzees, the very creatures she first observed over 60 years ago, are continuing to surprise us.

In Gabon, researchers have documented chimps self-medicating with plants, suggesting a sophisticated

understanding of herbal remedies. Goodall was recently quoted as saying the revelation presents little shock to her. “It confirms what I’ve always known – they’re intelligent, emotional beings with knowledge passed down through generations. If we destroy them, we’re not just losing animals – we’re losing culture, memory and wisdom.”

RESPONSIBLE ECOTOURISM

There is an understandable juxtaposition at play, when the decorated primatologist and anthropologist seeks to steer away from the idea of exposing these magnificent creatures to a bigger, wider audience on safari. “We want people to care, we want them to invest their time and support in preserving life systems and welfare, but we have to do it in a responsible way,” she says. “We know ecotourism is a major, beneficial thing for all areas of the world, but it must be managed, and this means sustainable, justifiable and ethical routes. It’s vital that safaris are community-led, conservation-based and low-impact, using accredited guides and lodges that give back to the ecosystem. ➡

“I don’t think about age. People say, ‘I hope you make it to 100,’ and I smile. What ultimately matters is that I do what I can, for as long as I can. After all, there’s still so much worth fighting for”

“And it sounds obvious, but avoiding any place that allows handling or baiting of animals is imperative. Avoid anything that promises close contact or hands-on experiences – ethical primate safaris keep a respectful distance. If it looks like entertainment, walk away.

“Plus the big one – does your presence help or harm? These are the questions we should all be asking. In many cases – and I want to say, ‘most cases’ – the answer will be positive.”

Goodall names Kibale National Park in Uganda, Nyungwe in Rwanda, and Tanzania’s Mahale Mountains among her top destinations for ethical primate tracking. The latter has formed a big part of her research base over the years, although perhaps the most important place for her is the Gombe Stream National Park, where from 1960 so much ground-breaking study was conducted.

“Gombe, of course, will always be special – it’s where it all began. But wind forward to the present day and Rwanda’s Volcanoes National Park is doing remarkable work with gorilla conservation, and Kibale National Park in Uganda is wonderful for chimpanzee tracking. Then, in Madagascar, Andasibe-Mantadia offers a chance to see the rare indri and other lemurs.

“Ultimately, it doesn’t matter where you are – as people we walk through their world, not the other way round. It’s humbling to be a part of it all; so we must ensure we stay humble at all times.”

FOREST FAMILY

Goodall’s own journey was started far from the equatorial forests of Africa. Born in 1934 in London, her curiosity about animals began early, encouraged as it was by her mother, Vanne, a poet and novelist who instilled in her a belief that women could do anything. At 23, she boarded a ship to Kenya and from there a vocation and a dedication was cultivated. And by 26, she had begun the chimpanzee study that would change the scientific world.

She worked initially under the mentorship of palaeoanthropologist Louis Leakey, who believed that understanding chimps could help explain early human evolution. With no

formal training, but endless patience and a natural rapport with animals, Goodall documented tool use, social bonds and emotional complexity.


“I wasn’t trying to cause controversy,” she says, “although the attitudes of the time were somewhat different to now and I was met with some suspicion. My approach was unusual and the traditional voices didn’t like that.

“Ultimately, I just wrote what I saw, and I saw a lot. I knew the primates were watching me as much as I watched them. That dynamic in itself was just unbelievable for me. I felt so privileged, and still do in every single interaction.”

Wind forward to 2025 and the activist still draws strength from the chimpanzees she knew, especially Flo, Fifi, Flint, and the rest of her extended forest family. “They taught me the meaning of resilience and joy,” she says quietly.

In her personal life, Goodall married Dutch filmmaker Hugo van Lawick in 1964 and had a son, Hugo Eric Louis. Later, she married British conservationist Derek Bryceson, who passed away in 1980. Yet her most enduring relationship remains with the wild, and the creatures who call it home.

As Dr Jane Goodall continues to travel, write, speak and inspire, she admits the schedule is punishing, yet she shrugs off questions about retirement.

“I don’t think about age. People say, ‘I hope you make it to 100,’ and I smile. What ultimately matters is that I do what I can, for as long as I can. After all, there’s still so much worth fighting for.” 

GRANGER



“When people feel helpless, they stop acting. And if we stop acting, it’s over. So I keep talking. I keep showing up”



UNITED ARCHIVES GMBH



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Right:

Born in 1934, Jane Goodall arrived in Kenya at the age of 23 to begin her ground-breaking studies on chimpanzee behaviour, social bonds and tool use

Looking for CHIMPS

The chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) occurs in 21 African countries over a range of 2.6 million sq km, with a population estimated at 160,000–300,000. Nonetheless, chimps are hard to see, inhabiting dense forest and avoiding people. Reliable viewing is confined to troops that have been habituated to humans through years of research and tourism.

Tracking habituated chimpanzees takes place on foot. You will travel in a small group of 6-10 with a guide and rangers, typically following radio directions from scouts in the forest. The hike may be brief or last hours, depending on the animals' whereabouts. A degree of fitness helps, as trails can be steep and/or muddy — the dry season generally offers optimum conditions. Once the chimps are located, you will spend an hour with them (though some places offer a longer 'habituation' experience), with your guide on hand to interpret. You must wear a mask to avoid passing on respiratory diseases and must approach no closer than 8m (though the chimps may come nearer).

Best places for a sighting

Chimpanzee trekking is most developed in Tanzania (Mahale Mountains, Gombe Stream and Rubondo Island), Uganda (Kibale NP, Kyambura Gorge and Toro-Semliki Wildlife Reserve) and Rwanda (Nyungwe NP). Chimps here belong to the eastern race (*Pan t. schweinfurthii*). Elsewhere, you can see western race chimps (*Pan t. verus*) in West Africa and central race chimps (*Pan t. troglodytes*) in central Africa, though there are few habituated troops and opportunities are limited.

TEXT BY MIKE UNWIN
PIC: MAHALE GREYSTOKE (NOMAD TANZANIA)

PARK

It's not easy picking a 'Big 5' when it comes to Africa's national parks and wildlife reserves. There are simply too many amazing places to choose from. But we've whittled them down to this iconic selection of five must-visit destinations for wildlife lovers



MAASAI MARA NATIONAL GAME RESERVE KENYA

Time your trip right and your arrival in the Maasai Mara will coincide with the Great Migration when legions of wildebeest and zebra arrive from the Serengeti in search of fresh pasture. Even without the migration, however, the Mara offers superb game viewing, excellent camps and a chance to learn about Maasai culture. Proud custodians of the Greater Mara area, which encompasses not only

the national reserve but a patchwork of neighbouring conservancies, the Maasai are your best guides to this beautiful, big-sky country of rolling savannah, woodland-fringed river courses and rocky escarpments. The

Maasai Mara is famous for its big cats – you would be unlucky not to see lion and cheetah. Leopard and spotted hyena are also common, while chance encounters with serval and

caracal are not unheard of. Out on the plains, topi stand sentinel on termite mounds, surrounded by mixed herds of Thomson's and Grant's gazelle, wildebeest, zebra, impala and eland. Warthog snuffle out roots and tubers; buffalo, elephant and giraffe browse patches of woodland, and troops of baboon fan out across the grassland, picking at morsels of food. The Mara has around 540 bird species, from plains-strutting ostrich and ground hornbill to cisticolas, francolins and larks.



2 SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK ZAMBIA

Ranking alongside Africa's great wildlife wonders, like the Serengeti, Okavango and Etosha, South Luangwa National Park covers 9,050 sq km of woodland, grassland and wetland, teeming with over 60 species of mammals and well over 500 species of birds. The endemic Thornicroft's giraffe (distinguished from the more widespread southern giraffe by its darker body patches) and Cookson's wildebeest are found here. South Luangwa also supports around 15,000 elephant and one of Africa's densest leopard populations. Lion and hyena are also abundant, while antelopes (14 species in total) range from bushbuck and

waterbuck to sable and roan. Pods of hippo clog lagoons and river channels, particularly during the hot, dry season in September and October when enormous flocks of red-billed quelea stream across the valley, gathering to drink around dwindling pools. Carmine bee-eaters arrive to nest around this time – technicoloured heralds of the imminent rains when many camps and lodges are forced to close. A few remain open, however, making the most of the verdant 'green season' to operate boat trips or even microlight safaris. It's the walking safari, though, that has become synonymous with South Luangwa National Park. Pioneered by Norman Carr, who worked with

local chiefs in the mid-1900s to extend reserve boundaries and ensure that nearby villagers received income from South Luangwa's first camps and lodges, walking safaris are now available at several locations. Some lodges offer morning or afternoon strolls, while others operate multi-day trails, linking bush camps. Accompanied by a guide and armed scout, these footloose forays into the bush fine-tune your senses to every crackle of leaf, whiff of dung or slightest movement. There is no better way to wise up on bushlore or learn about traditional plant uses.

Bottom:
Wildebeest graze the grasslands of Kenya's Maasai Mara

Left:
Lilac-breasted rollers can be seen in national parks throughout sub-Saharan Africa

Below:
Several sub-species of giraffe are found in Africa, from the desert-adapted Angolan giraffe to the endemic Thornicroft's giraffe of Zambia's South Luangwa National Park



Etosha National Park NAMIBIA

Namibia's flagship reserve protects a vast saltpan fringed by scrubby plains. Wildlife watching here is fabulous. Simply park your car next to a waterhole (most people drive themselves around the park), sit quietly and you'll observe a procession of animals arriving to drink. Etosha has large numbers of wildebeest, zebra, springbok and gemsbok, along with elephant, giraffe, black and white rhino, lion and cheetah. There are four inexpensive rest camps in the park with good facilities.

Highlights of ZIMBABWE

Hwange National Park covers over 14,600 sq km of wooded savannah and teak forest. A stronghold for African wild dog, the park also has thriving populations of elephant, brown hyena, sable antelope and gemsbok. Gonarezhou National Park forms part of the 100,000 sq km Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park with Mozambique's Limpopo National Park and South Africa's Kruger National Park. Zimbabwe's Mana Pools National Park lies along the south bank of the Zambezi and is a wildlife-rich area for canoeing and walking safaris. On the south shore of Lake Kariba, Matusadona National Park has good numbers of black rhino and lion.

Africa in miniature UGANDA

Uganda packs the best of the continent into a small and easily accessible destination. The forested Ssesse Islands of Lake Victoria in Uganda's south are the haunt of black-and-white colobus monkeys and a wide range of birds. The Victoria Nile snakes northwest from the lake, erupting in a plume of white water at Murchison Falls National Park where boat trips sidle up to large numbers of hippo and crocodile, and perhaps an elusive shoebill standing motionless in the papyrus beds. You may also see elephant, buffalo, Rothschild's giraffe, Uganda kob, defassa waterbuck and lion. Queen Elizabeth National Park provides another opportunity for game-viewing afloat. Drifting slowly along Kazinga Channel, you can also spot some of the park's 612 species of birds – an impressive tally that reflects the area's rich mixture of swamp, savannah and rainforest. To the north, Kibale Forest National Park protects a swathe of rainforest that's home to 13 primate species, including a large population of chimpanzees. Guided chimp-tracking tours are available here, as well as in the nearby Semliki Forest. Most primate-watching trips in Uganda, however, focus on the mountain gorillas of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park where you can hike trails through dense rainforest for an unforgettable encounter with the great apes.

Spotlight on RWANDA

Most visitors to Rwanda have primates in their sights. Volcanoes National Park is the place to go for mountain gorilla tracking, while Nyungwe National Park is a veritable primate paradise with everything from chimpanzees and Angolan colobus to blue monkey, grey-cheeked mangabey, l'Hoest's monkey and greater galago. Exploring forest trails, you may also glimpse giant forest hog, various squirrels and some of the park's 275 bird species, such as the African crowned eagle, black-and-white-casqued hornbill and Rwenzori turaco. Rwanda also gets a slice of the more classic East African safari experience in its Akagera National Park, a mosaic of grassland, swamps and lakes along the Tanzanian border. Wetland-loving antelope such as waterbuck, reedbuck and sitatunga are found here, along with buffalo, topi, zebra and lion.

Mountain gorilla country:
Volcanoes National
Park, Rwanda



3 NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA TANZANIA

A spectacular natural arena for one of Africa's greatest concentrations of wildlife, Ngorongoro Crater is a vast caldera, up to 19km wide and surrounded by 600m-high walls. In addition to large herds of zebra, buffalo and antelope, the crater has around 30 black rhino and a thriving population of elephant – including some impressive tuskers. At least 400 hyena prowl the crater's grasslands, competing with the 60-odd lion for the position of top hunter.

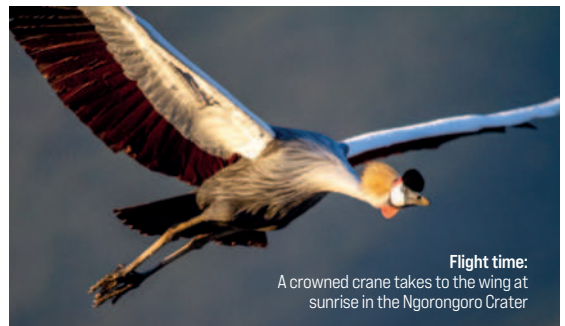
A few cheetah manage to hold out amongst these bolder predators, while leopard are sometimes seen in the forest of yellow-bark fever trees. Bat-eared fox and golden jackal are regularly spotted, while hippo are a regular feature of the swamp area. Flamingos and other waders can be found around Lake Magadi, but the plains are also teeming with birds, including kori bustard and crowned crane and rosy-throated longclaw. ➔



Plains stalker:
The kori bustard is
the world's heaviest
flying bird



In plain sight:
A herd of eland grazing the
grasslands of the Ngorongoro Crater



Flight time:
A crowned crane takes to the wing at
sunrise in the Ngorongoro Crater



Realm of the rhino:
The Ngorongoro Crater is one of the best places
in Africa for sightings of black rhino



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4 MOREMI GAME RESERVE BOTSWANA

Reaching like a green-fingered hand into the Kalahari, the Okavango is a water-wilderness of floodplains, reedbeds, papyrus swamps and wooded islands – a unique inland delta laced with a vein-like network of channels. Expanding and shrinking with the seasonal ebb and flow of floodwaters from Angola, the Okavango is one of Africa's most enigmatic wildlife destinations. From tiny frogs perched on reed stems to herds of lechwe splashing through the shallows, the delta supports a plethora of species.

You'll find abundant birdlife, the big five (rhino were reintroduced in 2001) and one of the continent's largest surviving populations of African wild dog. Moremi Game Reserve protects the core of the delta. A wonderfully diverse area, it has a little bit of everything that the delta can offer, from permanent lagoons to a dry peninsula covered in mopane trees. Over 400 species of birds have been recorded here, including the secretive Pel's fishing owl. Moremi is also excellent for sightings of wild dog, lion, elephant and buffalo. Two of the reserve's most rewarding areas are the floodplain of the Khwai River and the Xakanaxa Lagoon, where the dry Mopane Tongue meets a mosaic of pools and channels. The Okavango also has a patchwork of private reserves that promise just as good wildlife as Moremi, but with the added bonus of walking safaris and night drives.

Above: Red lechwe are adapted to life in the wetlands of the Okavango

Below: A bull elephant wades through the floodwaters of the Delta



5 KRUGER NATIONAL PARK SOUTH AFRICA

For the ultimate South African safari head east to Kruger National Park, a vast reserve stretching 350km along the border with Mozambique. How you visit depends largely on budget. There are several luxury, all-inclusive camps in game reserves along Kruger's western boundary, but for free-spirited travellers a cheaper option is to drive into the park, exploring its road circuits and staying at self-catering restcamps. Many, like Olifants, offer excellent



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facilities such as restaurant, swimming pool and guided game-viewing excursions. Work your way south through Kruger, ticking off some of its 147 mammal species (including the big five) and 500-plus varieties of birds, before continuing towards the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park. Kruger's private game reserves include Sabi Sabi, Londolozi, Singita and Ulusaba – names synonymous with exclusive accommodation and fine cuisine.

Plateau primates:
Gelada baboons are
found in the Simien
Mountains



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Spotlight on ETHIOPIA

With stomach-swooping escarpments, broad river valleys and mountain plateaux rising to over 4,000m, the Simien Mountains have some of Africa's most dramatic scenery. Allow anything from three to 10 days for a trek taking in Geech Abyss and 4,543m Ras Dashen, keeping an eye out for the area's indigenous wildlife. Large groups of 500 or more gelada baboon – formed by several harems joining together – graze grassy meadows, retreating at dusk to sheer cliff faces which offer better protection against predators.

Walia ibex also inhabit precipices and knife-edge ridges beyond the reach of the highly endangered, coyote-sized Ethiopian wolf. Among the 180 species of birds in the Simien Mountains, two of the most conspicuous are the lammergeier and thick-billed raven. Awash National Park has acacia-dotted grasslands inhabited by more typical East African plains species, while Lake Abiata – one of a string of Rift Valley lakes in Ethiopia – has shores thick with cormorants, flamingos, herons and storks.



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Wild goat:
Walia ibex are
adapted to life on
sheer rock faces

Best of the rest

Renowned for its birdwatching, Gambia's wildlife hotspots include the **Abuko Nature Reserve** (a pocket of riverine forest near the coast), the **Bao Bolon Wetland Reserve** (floodplains and mangroves) and the **River Gambia National Park** – dense riverside forest and islands colonised by chimpanzees released by the Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Project.

In Senegal, **Langue de Barbarie** promises excellent birding along the coast, while the World Heritage Site of **Niokolo-Koba National Park** protects gallery forest and savannah next to the River Gambia. Wildlife here includes chimpanzee, lion, leopard, eland, a large population of elephants and baboons and over 350 species of birds.

Ghana's flagship reserve, **Mole National Park** is a good spot for walking and canoeing safaris where

you will see abundant birdlife, a variety of antelope and perhaps buffalo and elephant.

Over 10% of Gabon was turned into national parks by the late President Bongo in 2002 – among them, the extraordinary **Loango National Park**. Surfing hippos, elephants strolling through the dunes, nesting sea turtles, humpback whales breaching offshore...

Loango has become famous for its beach life, but the heart and soul of this stunning reserve lies in its virgin jungle, savannahs and swamps. Home to thriving populations of western lowland gorilla, forest elephant, nearly 200 other mammal species and 600 varieties of birds, Loango was described by American biologist Michael Fay as 'Africa's last Eden'. **Lopé National Park**, meanwhile, is home to huge troops of mandrill, over a thousand strong. (M)



Big yawn:
A hippo shows
off its impressive
dentistry in Loango
National Park

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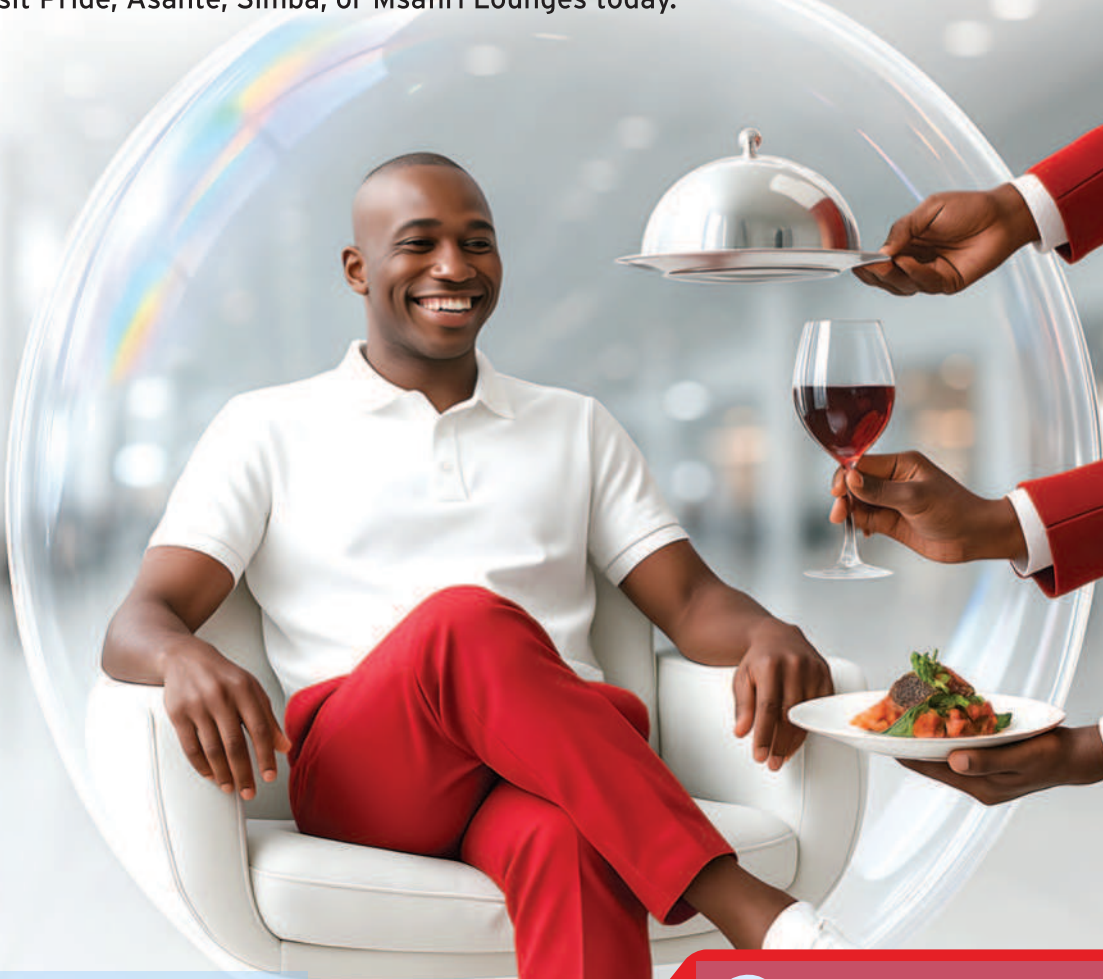
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Confessions of a

BIG cat LOVER

Golden moment:
A young male leopard walks
through grasses backlit by
the setting sun

WILL GRAY PHOTOGRAPHY

WILLIAM GRAY EXPLAINS WHY A SIGHTING
OF A LION, LEOPARD OR CHEETAH ADDS THE
PURRRFECT TOUCH TO ANY GAME DRIVE



I've seen lions sprawl across sun-warmed clearings, yawning wide as if bored by their own majesty. I've watched cheetahs lie low in the grass, eyes locked on passing prey, every muscle tensed. And I've searched for leopards the way gamblers watch the wheel – hopeful, half-convinced that this spin, this drive, might be the one.

There's an electricity to big cat sightings. Even when nothing happens, anything could happen. I remember once spending five or six hours watching a cheetah and her three nearly grown cubs in the southern Serengeti. She never launched into a chase or made a kill, but it didn't matter. Just being near them – seeing them twitch at every gazelle, share quiet licks and playful nips – was a privilege.

And then there are the quieter moments – the ones that sneak up on you. A lioness softly calling her cubs from the bushes, only to be answered by three bundles of golden fluff tumbling into the open. I've seen lions grooming each other with such tenderness, you forget they're built to bring down buffalo.

She never launched into a chase or made a kill, but it didn't matter. Just being near them – seeing them twitch at every gazelle, share quiet licks and playful nips – was a privilege

Lions are endlessly fascinating. Their social structure alone could fill a textbook – or at least several hours around the campfire. There are no dominant females; instead, lionesses raise cubs communally, forming crèches and nursing each other's young. Males form coalitions with their brothers, fighting for pride control. They're kings, yes, but rarely rule alone.

Leopards, though? They're ghosts. I've only seen them a handful of times in all my years – and each sighting felt like winning the lottery. On one trip to Tanzania, I searched for days. My guide read tracks, listened for impala alarm calls, and scanned every jackalberry tree for a flick of a tail. When we finally spotted a young female lounging just five metres from the track, I couldn't believe our luck. She stretched, groomed, blinked at a group of francolin... and ignored us completely. Regal, indifferent – and completely mesmerising.

Big cats draw us in with their power, their beauty, their mystery. But they also remind us that ➔

Where to find Africa's big cats

If you're dreaming of seeing big cats in the wild, some places offer better odds than others. Here's where to go for your best chances:

LIONS

Lions now occupy just 8% of their original range, but several strongholds remain: Tanzania leads the way with the largest lion population. The Serengeti is a top pick for regular sightings of large prides. Ruaha National Park and Nyerere National Park also deliver, while the Ngorongoro Crater boasts Africa's densest concentration of predators. In Kenya, head to the Maasai Mara, home to around 800 lions and some incredible predator action during the Great Migration. Elsewhere, Kruger National Park in South Africa, Etosha in Namibia, Hwange in Zimbabwe, and South Luangwa and Kafue in Zambia are also lion-rich.

LEOPARDS

Leopards are widespread but elusive and mainly active at night. For the best chance of spotting one, join a night

drive in South Luangwa or Lower Zambezi National Parks in Zambia. Explore Botswana's Kwai and Tuli reserves, or the private conservancies adjoining Kruger in South Africa, where leopards are often more habituated to vehicles.

CHEETAHS

These speed demons prefer open savannah where they can stretch their legs. Head to Tanzania's Serengeti or Ruaha, and Kenya's Maasai Mara for the classic cheetah-on-the-hunt experience. Zambia's Kafue National Park, particularly the Busanga Plains, and the Kalahari Transfrontier Park (spanning South Africa and Botswana) are also cheetah-friendly. For guaranteed sightings and a deeper understanding of cheetah conservation, visit Okonjima in Namibia, home of the AfriCat Foundation.

In plain view:
A female cheetah scans the grasslands of the southern Serengeti

WILLGRAYPHOTOGRAPHY



Lions are endlessly fascinating. Their social structure alone could fill a textbook – or at least several hours around the campfire. There are no dominant females; instead, lionesses raise cubs communally, forming crèches and nursing each other's young.

we are visitors here, not rulers. Out in the bush, when you're walking instead of driving, the thrill changes. You're no longer at the top of the food chain. And honestly? That vulnerability is part of the magic.

Of course, it's not just about personal joy. These animals face real, urgent threats. Lion numbers have plummeted

from 200,000 in the 1980s to just 25,000 today. Cheetahs may number fewer than 7,000. Leopards, though elusive and harder to count, are also in decline. Poaching, habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict – we know the threats. And yet, there's still hope. Reintroduction programs, like the return of lions to Malawi's Liwonde National Park, show us what's possible.

That's why I keep going back. Not just for the sightings, but to support the places that protect these species. And selfishly, to feel – even for a moment – that jolt of wonder when a leopard's tail disappears into the bush, or when a lion's roar rolls over the plains like distant thunder.

So, yes, I'm a big cat lover. Unashamedly. And I think the world needs more of us. Because as long as there are people who care, there's still a chance we can keep these animals wild, free, and exactly where they belong.

Left: Bored of the flies... a lioness yawns in Kenya's Maasai Mara

Below: Bengal tiger in Corbett National Park, India

WILLGRANTPHOTOGRAPHY

Where to see tigers in India

While spotting a tiger in the wild is never guaranteed, India's national parks offer thrilling chances to see these elusive big cats. **Bandhavgarh** (Madhya Pradesh) leads with one of the country's highest tiger densities. Steeped in history, it also hosts sloth bear, leopard, and dhole. **Kanha**, also in Madhya Pradesh, is known for vast sal forests and swamp deer, with tigers often spotted in grasslands. **Pench**, straddling Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, inspired Kipling's *Jungle Book*. Its teak forests and waterholes are excellent for tiger sightings, along with common sightings of gaur, wild boar, and langur. **Ranthambore** in Rajasthan offers good tiger chances amid forts and lakes, though increasing popularity makes it busy. You'll also find leopards, sloth bears, and vibrant birdlife. **Corbett** in Uttarakhand, India's oldest reserve, has elusive tigers hidden in dense forest, but rich rewards for patient watchers, including elephants and 620 bird species. In Assam, **Kaziranga** is famed more for rhinos than tigers, but big cats do lurk in its tall grasses. **Manas**, bordering Bhutan, is more remote and tougher for sightings, but offers golden langurs and exotic birds. **Sundarbans**, a mangrove maze shared with Bangladesh, houses the world's largest population of Bengal tigers, though swampy terrain and elusive cats make sightings rare – and some tigers are man-eaters. Boat safaris offer a unique experience. **Periyar** in Kerala's Western Ghats is rich in biodiversity, though tiger sightings are uncommon. Expect elephants, primates, and birdlife. Finally, **Tadoba-Andhari** in Maharashtra offers one of the best chances for tigers with fewer tourists. Jungle cats, hyenas, and leopards also roam this teak forest. (M)





Anatomy of a HUNTER



Lions may use their **claws** and **body weight** to grip and slow down a struggling animal, but they usually kill by strangulation, via a bite to the neck. The 10cm-long canines, applied with a bite force of nearly 50 bar, have enough crushing force to shut down the throat of the largest prey.



A **running lion** times its strides with its breathing, so that it inhales at the point where its extended forelegs allow maximum expansion of the very large lungs. Its ability to take in large volumes of air quickly means it can accelerate rapidly and outpace its prey in the first crucial moments of the chase.



This young lion shows the remnants of the **spotted pattern** it had as a cub. Both a cub's spots and an adult lion's uniform tawny coat provide camouflage: the former from potential predators as the cubs hide in shady cover; the latter from prey as the lion moves in the open.



When stalking prey a lion uses its **whiskers** to detect close objects, such as vegetation that could rustle if stepped on, allowing it to keep its gaze focused on its target at all times. This is especially important at night, when the fully expanded pupils make close focusing difficult.



The **dew claw**, analogous to our thumbnail, is clear of the ground as the lion walks. It gets very little wear and grows longer than the other claws. The lion uses it to hold down a carcass while tearing off mouthfuls of meat



The pale markings immediately below the **lion's eyes** improve visual acuity by reflecting extra light into the eyes. Further light-gathering power is provided by the tapetum lucidum, a reflective layer at the back of the eyeball which bounces light back, to give the retina a second chance to harness it.

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A photograph taken from the interior of a safari vehicle, looking out over a vast savanna landscape. The vehicle's roof and interior structure are visible in the foreground. The landscape is a mix of dry grass and shrubs under a bright, hazy sky. A dirt road is visible in the distance. The overall tone is warm and golden, suggesting late afternoon or early morning light.

SAFARI GUIDES

guiding

IF YOU'VE EVER BEEN ON A SAFARI, YOU WILL KNOW THAT A GREAT GUIDE

A person is seen from behind, driving a safari vehicle through a vast, dry savanna landscape. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow that fills the sky and the dry grass. The vehicle's interior, including the dashboard and steering wheel, is visible in the foreground. A side mirror on the right shows a reflection of the vehicle's side. The overall mood is peaceful and adventurous.

stars

CAN ELEVATE YOUR EXPERIENCE INTO SOMETHING TRULY REMARKABLE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SAFARI CAMPS, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

A good safari guide is more than simply a person showing tourists the majesty and the marvels of Africa's wild landscapes. They are a tacit link between ourselves and the animal world; they represent knowledge, experience and – in the sense of waiting out for hours hoping to catch a glimpse of a wildebeest, wild dog or waterbuck – they're rather good at filling time as well! We spoke to four guides whose love of wildlife is matched by the passion they have for bringing the wonder of safari to everyday people...

Paul Kirui

TWO-TIME ECO-WARRIOR GUIDE OF THE YEAR WINNER
CURRENTLY IN: **EAST MADAGASCAR**

MOST MEMORABLE ENCOUNTER

Witnessing lions battling in the camp where my guests and I stayed at Namiri in the Serengeti, Tanzania. Four large males had come into the area, aiming to overthrow the dominant males. The camp transformed into a battlefield throughout the night, with the sounds of roaring and growling, plus the thuds of their fights against the tents creating an alarming atmosphere that kept everyone wide awake the whole night. I told my clients to stay in their tents. It was scary but no harm done!

THE FUNNIEST THING I'VE EVER BEEN ASKED

When a client inquired whether we placed hay in the trees for the giraffes after they spotted weaver bird nests hanging from the branches!

TOP TIP FOR BECOMING A SAFARI GUIDE

I think you need to possess a profound passion for wildlife and the environment, undergoing training in animal behaviour, ecology and survival techniques. Strong interpersonal skills are also essential in order to connect with clients and share insights about wildlife and nature.

FAVOURITE ANIMAL

The gorilla. I am always struck by their gentle nature and their remarkably human-like social behaviour. I've tracked gorillas on almost 400 occasions across Uganda's Bwindi Forest, Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda and Virunga National Park in the DRC, yet my fascination with them never wanes.



Secret to the best safari experience

IT'S SIMPLE: BE FULLY PRESENT AND OPEN TO THE MOMENT! SETTING ASIDE ANY EXPECTATIONS ALLOWS YOU TO GENUINELY APPRECIATE THE BEAUTY OF WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS, UNEXPECTED ENCOUNTERS AND THE SERENITY OF NATURE.



Joseph Mwangi

Joseph Mwangi

A LEADING GUIDE AT GOVERNORS CAMP IN KENYA
CURRENTLY IN: MAASAI MARA, KENYA

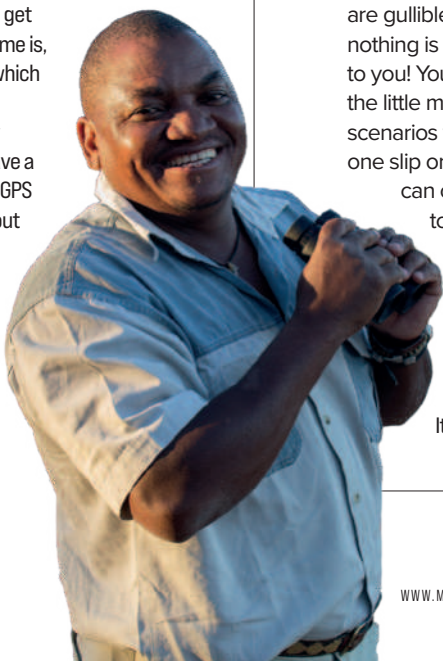
"I'm 36 years of age and although I have been working as a safari guide for many years, what I love about it is that it's impossible to get bored. Safari is like being in the world's biggest unwallled office!"

"I think the most common question I get asked by those on a safari for the first time is, 'Does this or that animal eat people?', which I always find really amusing.

"Of course, the safety aspect is very important, we know that. We need to have a deep knowledge of a place because the GPS won't always work, and we are literally out in the wild.

"I think sometimes people have watched a lot of National Geographic and really you cannot get a proper feel for what safari is until you are here and fully involved in everything that's going on; but that is the thrill, and that's why so many people come back year after year."

Below: What makes a safari? For Benson Siyawareva, it's the smiles on his clients' faces



Benson Siyawareva

ONE OF AFRICA'S TOP-RATED PROFESSIONAL SAFARI GUIDES
CURRENTLY IN: ZAMBIA, BUT HAS BEEN GUIDING ACROSS
THE WHOLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA SINCE 1988.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR SAFARI JOURNEY SO FAR

I was born in Zimbabwe where I did my training. From there I had some amazing years in Botswana. Safari grows on you – the more you do, the better it gets... it matures like wine!

WHAT ARE THE BEST PARTS OF A SAFARI FOR YOU?

It has to be about the guests. You may be having a good time yourself, but that has no meaning until your guests are. You see your trip through the eyes of your guests – through their smiles and through their happiness. It's about sharing an experience with others.

WHAT'S THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU PUT INTO A SAFARI EXPERIENCE?

Nature teaches you to behave; it makes you mature very quickly. When you're young as a safari guide you are gullible and believe nothing is going to happen to you! You learn through all the little mistakes and will get scenarios where you realise one slip or misjudgement can cause a threat to you and your guests' lives. This is all more than anything you can learn in class – it's the rule of the jungle. It teaches you the

fact you can never be fully prepared – deal with the problems and the different scenarios as they come.

MOST DANGEROUS ANIMAL YOU HAVE COME ACROSS?

As someone who has had a black mamba snake in my tent, I can tell you that one is pretty scary. I thought I was gone in that moment! Ultimately everything holds a different threat. Different guides have different animals they respect. Personally, for me, that would be the buffalo. I've heard experiences where people wander behind their tent two metres away in the bush, and they think they're safe. Most other animals will keep their distance, but the buffalo will go for you. They are unforgiving, especially the old grumpy males! They've got more problems than you, and they'll teach you a lesson or two!

DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE AFRICAN ANIMAL?

It's difficult to choose – a bit like with your kids... you love them all. My personal preference is for the animals that are endangered, like rhinos. I also love predators – wild dogs, cheetahs, leopards – these are gifts from nature. You don't get that every day and when you do you need to be grateful. ➔

John Lomelo

A MAN OF PATIENCE IN A WILD WORLD

CURRENTLY IN: MUGIE HOUSE CAMP

(LAIKIPIA AND GREAT RIFT VALLEY)

"Here, between Laikipia and the Great Rift Valley, we have the 'Mugie Five', which only exist on the northern side of the equator. These are the Beisa oryx, Lelwel hartebeest, striped hyena, Grevy's zebra and reticulated giraffe, and I guess these are the ones that people really travel here to see.

"For me, the best moments are early morning and late in the afternoon or evening, but we also conduct night drives (usually between 8-10pm), which offers a different atmosphere altogether and something that's not commonly done across Africa.

"Ultimately, it doesn't matter how prepared you are – game driving involves a degree of luck. You go out there looking for animals and sometimes they show up a lot, like elephants. Cats, meanwhile, are often very quiet in the middle of the day and can be difficult to track down – especially leopards.

"People appreciate what we have and if it's slow then that's the luck, and we lay on activities to fill the time and maximise the experience.

"Safari is like fishing – you never know what you're going to get!"



The art of safari

"ULTIMATELY, IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW PREPARED YOU ARE – GAME DRIVING INVOLVES A DEGREE OF LUCK. YOU GO OUT THERE LOOKING FOR ANIMALS AND SOMETIMES THEY SHOW UP A LOT, LIKE ELEPHANTS."

Above: John Lomelo keeps a respectful distance from a herd of elephants, always wary of any change in their behaviour
Below: Being a safari guide requires knowledge of the smaller, lesser-known animals, like this tortoise





Right: Veronicah Naeku scans the plains of the Maasai Mara from her vehicle during a game drive from Governors Camp

women of the wild

In the heart of the Maasai Mara, a quiet revolution is taking place as more Maasai women defy gender stereotypes to carve a niche for themselves in the local guiding world

WORDS: **PETER MUIRURI**

Veronicah Naeku

GOVERNORS CAMP

Veronicah follows an intensive route of study and work as she builds up her guiding qualifications in the Maasai Mara. "This isn't a job anyone can just take," she begins. "I did a year at college before starting with clients and knowledge of wildlife is something you can never complete.

"I wanted to become a guide because I grew up in an area where there were a lot of parks so my love of animals came from an early age."

A big appeal for Veronicah is that every day is different. "From breaking down the language barrier with clients, to the pressure of perhaps nature not showing us

everything on a certain day, to being chased by elephants... the challenges are multiple. Obviously, the end goal is to make all of our clients happy."

And Veronicah admits she shares in the rewards too. "My favourite animal is the leopard – one of the big five, but extremely elusive. We might only see one once a week. But when we do, it's always special." ➔



Charity Lemei

COTTAR'S SAFARIS

When Charity began her tour guiding and driving career, her family was shocked. "How could a woman drive a Toyota Landcruiser full of tourists?" she recalls their consternation. Charity comes from Narok South where people are large scale farmers. Was she expected to continue with that tradition? Perhaps.

Upon completing her secondary education, Charity enrolled at Koiyaki Guiding School, then located at Naboisho Conservancy, with a clear goal of working in the local tourism sector. "I wanted to break barriers between the two genders, where the boy child was more favoured than the girl," says the single mother of two. "It is not normal for a Maasai woman to



COTTAR'S SAFARIS

forgo marriage and head to the bush. But now the family appreciates my contribution."

Being a female driver and tour guide in Maasai Mara has its challenges. The job, she says, is very competitive with male drivers sometimes viewing them as threats due to their independent mindset. "The men think we cannot change a tyre following a puncture in the bush. I have been stuck enough times and got out of it," she says.

Everlyne Siololo

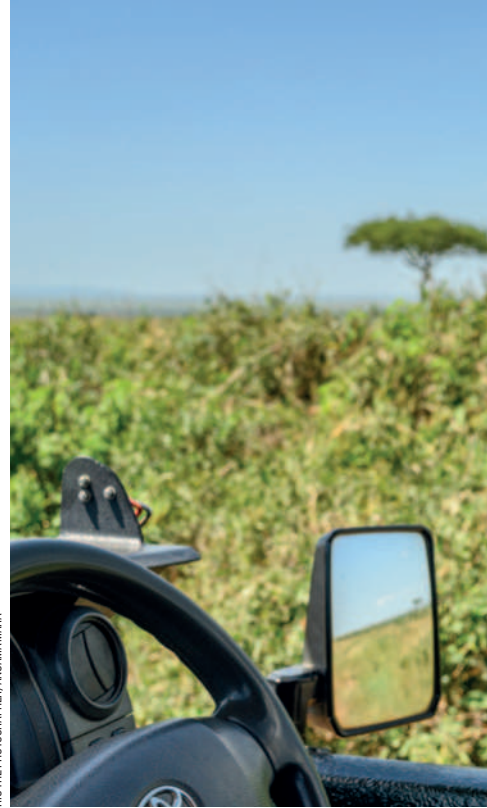
GAMEWATCHERS SAFARIS

Everlyne comes from a polygamous family of 16 boys and 12 girls. Educating such a large family was a challenge for her father. "A local chief urged my father to take me to school though most of my siblings were uneducated," she says. Everlyne wanted to become a chief and oversee the education of girls in her community. "Empowering a woman safeguards the whole community."

She never became a chief, but is now one of the top female guides in the greater Mara. As a mother, Everlyne must strike a balance between her work and domestic chores including milking cows and preparing her children for school.

"I must ensure the family is okay before I leave for work," she says, holding a milking jug in one hand and pulling the rope to reign in a 'belligerent' cow. "This one is tough and doesn't know how to cooperate. But it must be milked somehow."

Domestic chores done, Everlyne



RIO THE PHOTOGRAPHER, ANGAMA MARA

heads to Ol Kinyei Conservancy to prepare for the daily guiding duties. Depending on the workload, she either drives or serves as a guide in the company of another driver. "This is freedom when your family knows they can depend on you to help with upkeep. When we give local women such opportunities, we change Maasailand," she says.



Below: Being a safari guide demands a wide range of skills, from wildlife spotting and engaging with guests to vehicle maintenance and safety



Above: Sophie Sadera was once told that she should be getting a 'real job' when she set out to become a safari guide

Sophie Sadera

ANGAMA MARA

From a junior guide to deputy head guide at Angama Mara, Sophie has seen it all. Like other female guides in the Mara, Sophie was initially intimidated, had self-doubts and wondered if she would ever amount to much. A few had even written her off.

"There was this young man who told me, 'Sophie, you want to live in the bush like a man? I pray that you get a 'real job'. I doubt if you can do [guiding] for two years. But here I am, 10 years in Angama Mara doing what was impossible," Sophie says.

Another young man who had dismissed her driving and guiding skills came to the camp looking for a job as a tour guide, and to his shock, Sophie was among those on the interviewing panel. "I just played it cool with no emotions so as not to jeopardise his chances. Nobody should ever look down on women in this industry," says the mother of two.

Angama Mara is a luxurious camp in the Maasai Mara and Sophie has the privilege of hosting high-end clientele including top government officials from within and outside Kenya. "I had the privilege of hosting the son of a former US president. We treat all guests, regardless of their social status, with dignity and the same professional attitude," says Sophie as she cleans up after a bush breakfast in Maasai Mara.



Agnes Nashipae

SARUNI BASECAMP

Agnes Nashipae ticks off some last-minute checks on the open-sided Toyota Landcruiser, a workhorse of tour companies and game lodges in the Maasai Mara. "*Kila kitu iko sawa, twende* (everything is okay, let's go)," she says. Nash, as she is known to her colleagues, is among the steadily growing number of Maasai women no longer content in staying home and looking after the children.

Her choice of career almost caused a rift with her male siblings in a largely patriarchal society. "Nothing or nobody was going to stand in my way," she tells me as we set off for an early morning game drive in the 50,000-acre Naboisho Conservancy. Some zebras seem upset by the sound of the car engine and take off. Then the warthogs. And the impalas.

Nash grew up in Aitong, a settlement within

Lemek Conservancy north of the Mara. On her daily treks to school, she would meet up with tour vans with tourists craning their necks to take in the tranquil countryside air. All the drivers were men. "If men could drive these vehicles, why couldn't I?" she asked herself. "After all, there are women who drive to work."

Ten years ago, she enrolled at Koiyaki Guiding School. She was one of two girls in a class of 23 students. "But here I am, doing what I love. As you just witnessed, there is something new every day." She is referring to a pride of lions that rode on the back of a hippo in a futile attempt to bring the behemoth down.

Any challenges? "Same as men in the industry face. We know all about animal behaviour. In any case, were we not in the middle of a feud between lions and a hippo?" 🐾



PETER MAJULERI

MARINE BIG 5

The greatest shoal on Earth:

Every year, usually in late June and July, the Eastern Cape coast and KwaZulu-Natal south coast witnesses the migration of sardines, closely followed by predators, such as Cape gannets, fur seals, sharks and dolphins. It's one of the world's greatest wildlife spectacles.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AFRICAN WATERSPORTS

WET'N'WILD



YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD OF THE BIG 5 - LION, LEOPARD, BUFFALO, ELEPHANT AND RHINO - BUT SOUTH AFRICA ALSO BOASTS THE MARINE BIG 5. DIVE IN TO DISCOVER THE BEST PLACES TO SEE COMMON DOLPHIN, CAPE FUR SEAL, AFRICAN PENGUIN, GREAT WHITE SHARK AND SOUTHERN RIGHT WHALE, AS WELL AS AN ARRAY OF OTHER CHARISMATIC MARINE SPECIES

WORDS: FIONA MCINTOSH



Boasting a diverse range of sharks, whales, dolphins and birds, the spectacularly beautiful coastline of the Southern Cape, from the Cape Peninsula to Walker Bay, is the prime destination for viewing and learning about the **Marine Big 5**.

CAPE PENINSULA

There are viewing opportunities from land, by boat or kayak; snorkelling, scuba diving or cage diving, all within an hours' drive of Cape Town. Keep your eyes peeled for dolphins and whales as you drive or walk along the spectacular False Bay and Atlantic coastlines. You can stop at designated whale-watching viewpoints.

At Boulders Beach be sure to check out the endangered African penguins. As well as viewing them from a raised boardwalk at the beach, boat trips from Simonstown to Seal Island (home to a colony of 65,000 Cape fur seals and numerous seabirds), pass the penguin colony along the way.

Dolphins are regularly sighted, while southern right whales are found in these waters from August to November. Less frequent sightings include humpback whales, Bryde's whales, mako and blue sharks and the curious, disc-shaped sunfish. Up the adrenaline stakes by shark-cage diving with bronze whaler and seven-gill sharks, or go snorkelling in the Great African Seaforest where you can eyeball pyjama sharks, spotted-gully sharks and leopard catsharks.

WALKER BAY

From June to December, southern right whales congregate in Walker Bay, with the cliffs of De Kelders and Hermanus offering some of the best land-based whale watching in the world. The Marine Big 5 are all present along this pristine coastline. The seal colony at Geyser Rock attracts great white and bronze whaler sharks, southern right, Bryde's and humpback whales, three species

of dolphin, sunfish and a dizzying array of seabirds, particularly at Dyer Island. Whale-watching trips, shark-cage diving and scenic flights make for incredible wildlife viewing and there's an African penguin colony at nearby Stony Point.

GARDEN ROUTE

Picturesque Plettenberg Bay is a popular destination for watching marine mammals. You'll often see dolphins, whales, seals, sharks and seabirds, including the occasional penguin on boat trips to the Cape fur seal colony on the rugged Robberg Peninsula, which is also a stunning hiking spot.

Further east, Greater Addo has the distinction of being home to the terrestrial Big 5 (in Addo Elephant National Park) and, in Algoa Bay, the Marine Big 5. As a marine protected area, the bay supports dolphins, whales, seals and penguins. In addition to wildlife cruises there's shark-cage diving, snorkelling and scuba diving from Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth).

KWAZULU-NATAL

The KwaZulu-Natal coastline is another marine hotspot. You can snorkel and dive with ragged tooth, hammerhead, bull and black-tip reef sharks. Dolphins and turtles are regularly sighted on boat trips while humpback whales and whale sharks are seasonal visitors.

The Dolphin Coast, north of Durban, is, you guessed it, famous for its huge pods of dolphins but also for whale and whale shark sightings. A flip in a microlight gives you an outstanding view of the action.

Further north, iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a World Heritage Site, offers some of the best diving in the world with ragged tooth sharks, turtles and big rays regularly seen on both diving and snorkelling trips. During summer, whale sharks, humpback whales, dolphins, manta rays and turtles can be encountered on boat safaris, while turtle tours focus on introducing visitors to the loggerhead and leatherback turtles that lay their eggs on the beaches.

1: Kayaking from Pelican Point in Walvis Bay, Namibia, offers a wonderful opportunity to see Cape fur seals 2: African penguins can be seen in colonies along the south west coast of Africa, including Boulders Beach, near Cape Town 3: Kayaking in False Bay 4: Humpback whale breaching off South Africa's Cape coast 5: Green turtles swimming in the waters of iSimangaliso World Heritage Site 6: Whale sharks are regular visitors to East African waters in Mozambique and Kenya



1

2

3

CAPE TOWN KAYAKING



ECO MARINE KAYAK TOURS, WALVIS BAY

4



SHAEN ADEY



LLOYD EDWARDS, RAGGY CHARTERS

5



FIONA MCINTOSH

6



WHERE ELSE IN AFRICA CAN I SEE MARINE MEGAFAUNA?

MOZAMBIQUE

Close to the South African border, southern Mozambique's Ponta do Ouro (Point of Gold) is a top spot to encounter iconic marine species. Whale sharks, dolphins, humpback whales and bull and reef sharks are regularly seen on ocean safaris and snorkelling trips, while southern right whales are occasional visitors. Nesting turtles are found on the beaches during the summer. Further north at Tofo Beach, whale sharks are found year round.

KENYA

Dolphins and turtles are regularly seen in Watamu and Malindi Marine Parks, while humpback whales frequent these waters in winter. Watamu offers outstanding snorkelling, diving and dolphin-watching tours – cruises in traditional dhows are a romantic way to explore the Indian Ocean coastline.

TANZANIA

Dolphins and other marine megafauna can be sighted off Zanzibar's coastline. Snorkelling off the pristine Mnemba Atoll, be sure to look out for turtles on a sea safari.

NAMIBIA

Sea kayaking tours at the Cape fur seal colony in Walvis Bay allow close encounters with these curious, playful creatures. Bottlenose dolphins and humpback whales are occasionally seen as well. Further south, at Lüderitz, there are trips to the resident African Penguin colony on Halifax Island. 






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Guess where...

At 198m long and 128m high, and comprising 1500 tons of steel, this bridge spans the divide between two towns – and two countries – on Kenya Airways' network. Completed in 1905, the single-span arch structure took 14 months to build. You can catch a steam train or walk across it, even jump off it attached to a bungee rope – and it affords spectacular views of a waterfall. But with which KQ destination does it share its name?

 TURN TO PAGE 80 FOR THE ANSWER

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The Great Migration

KQ TAKES OFF FOR LONDON GATWICK

KENYA AIRWAYS COMMENCES NEW THREE-TIMES-A-WEEK SERVICE TO THE UK



To book your flight, go to www.kenya-airways.com

Kenya Airways has marked a significant milestone in its expansion strategy with the official launch of direct flights from Nairobi to London's Gatwick Airport. The highly anticipated inaugural flight, KQ108, departed Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on 2 July at 23:45 EAT, signifying a new era of enhanced connectivity between Kenya and the UK.

The new service will operate three times a week, on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, with flights departing Nairobi at night. It

increases the airline's London frequency to 10 weekly flights, complementing the existing service to Heathrow Airport.

Speaking at the launch event, Allan Kilavuka, KQ's group MD and CEO, expressed his enthusiasm for the new route: "This inaugural flight to Gatwick is not just about adding a new destination, it's about opening more doors for trade, tourism, education and strengthening the vital



Above: Dignitaries cut the tape at the launch ceremony for KQ's new London Gatwick service

connections between Kenya and the UK."

Rebecca Miano, cabinet secretary for Tourism and Wildlife, noted the Gatwick service would enable Kenya to significantly grow visitor numbers. "These developments will deliver tangible benefits to our hoteliers, tour operators and

commended KQ for its contribution to Kenya's and Africa's prosperity. "According to a recent report by the International Air Transport Association, the aviation sector currently contributes Ksh425bn (US\$3.3bn) to our national GDP, representing 3.1% of our economy

Top to bottom: Leeds Castle in Kent, not far from Gatwick; Buckingham Palace; aerial view of Tower Bridge, which spans the River Thames in London



This inaugural flight to Gatwick is not just about adding a new destination, it's about opening more doors for trade.

entrepreneurs in the broader travel ecosystem across the country," she said. "The ripple effects will be felt in employment, income generation and in the continued diversification of our tourism economy."

Teresia Mbaika, permanent secretary for the Department of Aviation and Aerospace Development,

and supporting approximately 460,000 jobs both directly and indirectly," she said. "Through its operations, KQ facilitates the export of agricultural produce, enables international business linkages, attracts investment, and promotes tourism by offering seamless connections between Kenya and key global destinations."



KENYA AIRWAYS INKS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH QATAR AIRWAYS

Deal will see KQ launch service between Mombasa and Doha

Kenya Airways and **Qatar Airways (QR)** have signed a memorandum of understanding confirming their intention to enter a strategic partnership that will include a comprehensive codeshare agreement and increased flights between Kenya and Doha, the capital of Qatar.

The partnership will see QR introduce a third daily frequency between Nairobi and Doha, operating in codeshare with Kenya Airways, while KQ will launch a new service between Mombasa and Doha in the coming winter season. The two airlines will also extensively codeshare on both networks to offer seamless connections and greater choice for travellers.

Additionally, both carriers will look to develop collaboration in other parts of the business, including cargo, airport and ground services, loyalty programmes, procurement, and



maintenance, repair and overhaul.

Allan Kilavuka, KQ's Group MD and CEO, said: "This partnership perfectly aligns with our airline's robust turnaround strategy, which saw Kenya Airways' return to profit for the first time in more than a decade earlier this year. The collaboration will also help expedite KQ's efforts to boost tourism and air cargo activities."

Left:
KQ's Group MD & CEO Allan Kilavuka with QR's Group CEO Engr. Badr Mohammed Al-Meer
Above:
Embracing Qatari life in Doha.



ASANTE REWARDS

LOUNGE ACCESS AT JKIA

Did you know you can now use your Asante Rewards to access Kenya Airways' lounges at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA)? Whether you're looking to work, rest or unwind, simply redeem your points at the lounge entrance and enjoy premier amenities at any of KQ's four lounges. With 6000 points you can enjoy six hours of lounge access, unlimited food and drink, Wi-Fi-enabled quiet zones, showers and nap areas.



REDEMPTION PARTNERS

Don't forget that as an Asante Rewards member you can redeem your points with partner airlines Air France/KLM and Virgin Atlantic. Look out for more redemption partners coming soon.

LOYAL TIE-UP

KQ has partnered with Loyal, enabling Asante members to transfer points from the blockchain-based loyalty exchange to their Rewards account. The move aims to bridge the gap between travel and non-travel rewards programmes. Full details, which are yet to be finalised, will be shared in a future edition of *msafiri*.

To enrol and enjoy exclusive Asante Rewards member discounts, head to kenya-airways.com or scan the barcode (right).



SCAN TO ENROL



REAPING THE REWARDS

KQ BAGS FOUR TROPHIES AT 2025 WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS

Kenya Airways has solidified its position as a leader in African aviation, receiving four honours at the recent 2025 World Travel Awards (WTA) Africa & Indian Ocean Gala Ceremony, held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

KQ picked up trophies for Africa's Leading Airline, Africa's Leading Airline – Business Class and Africa's Leading Airline Brand, while *msafiri* scooped Africa's Leading Inflight Magazine award. This marks the fourth consecutive year WTA has recognised KQ in multiple categories.

Allan Kilavuka, KQ's group MD and CEO, said: "These awards are a reflection of the immense trust placed in us by our customers, and a testament to the hard work and dedication of over 4000 KQ employees. They reaffirm our commitment to offering reliable service, elevating our onboard experience and sustaining the legacy of being the Pride of Africa."

Kenya Airways continues to implement customer-focused enhancements across its operations. The airline is currently retrofitting its Boeing 787 cabins to offer



a more refined travel experience, while improving its on-time performance, now reaching 76%. Further, KQ is preparing to roll out a five-year fleet renewal plan, adding 30 new aircraft and introducing in-flight connectivity.

These improvements, coupled with the continued success of *msafiri*, highlight KQ's dedication to both service quality and authentic storytelling that shares Kenya's culture and creativity with the world.

The World Travel Awards celebrate excellence across the travel industry, recognising top-performing brands based on quality, innovation, service and impact.

Above: Representatives of Kenya Airways, including group MD and CEO Allan Kilavuka (centre) celebrate the airline's four-some success at the 2025 World Travel Awards

Silicon Savannah correction: In the article 'The Silicon Savannah' in issue 191 (June-July) we incorrectly titled Mr Sitoyo Lopokojit as the CEO of Safaricom. He is in fact CEO of M-PESA Africa, and Dr Peter Ndegwa is the Group CEO of Safaricom. We apologise to both parties for this error.



FLYING SUSTAINABLY

KQ unveils landmark – sustainability report

Have you ever wondered what it takes to fly sustainably?

Well, Kenya Airways' landmark 2024 Sustainability Report has pulled back the curtains on how it has embedded sustainability into the very heart of its being.

KQ's first-ever standalone sustainability report highlights its robust progress across environmental, social and economic pillars. To the carrier, sustainability isn't a separate department – it permeates every aspect of the business and governs how it treats its employees and customers, and how it flies.

This report is a testament to KQ's vision of becoming Africa's preferred and sustainable aviation group, driving innovation, fostering partnerships and reimagining African aviation through a sustainable lens.

The airline's record profit of Ksh5.4bn (US\$41.8m), after tax for the financial year ending 31 December 2024 demonstrates that sustainable business is indeed profitable. As Allan Kilavuka, group MD and CEO, emphasised: "Sustainability is the cornerstone of our operations."

At the core of this is KQ's people. Women comprise 44% of its workforce, while female representation in leadership is at 17%, with a target of 25%

Inset top: Allan Kilavuka, KQ's group MD and CEO, with the Sustainability team at the report's launch

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS



by 2030. KQ is not just broadening diversity by gender, it has also deepened its inclusion efforts through internship programmes for neurodivergent youth and increased hiring of persons with disabilities. It also boasts 8% female pilots compared to an industry average of 4-5%.

As Tom Shivo, chief people officer, pointed out, KQ's commitment to

achieving Net Zero by 2050. Already, 12% of ground service equipment is powered by renewables, an option that is 50% cleaner than fossil fuels. By 2030, the aim is to have converted 25% to electric.

The carrier is also pioneering Kenya's first sustainable aviation fuel

Kenya Airways is pioneering the country's first sustainable aviation fuel production plant and has pledged to plant 1.2 million trees annually

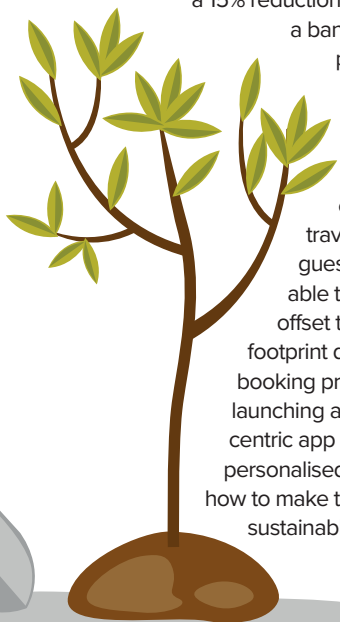
"inclusivity in the technical areas" is a strategy rooted in action. "We're not just talking about it; we're building facilities, setting up training schools and offering sponsorships and internships to nurture the next generation of pilots and engineers."

Environmentally, KQ is committed to

production plant and has pledged to plant 1.2 million trees annually. These initiatives are not only aligned with Kenya's national environmental goals but also contribute to a sustainable aviation ecosystem.

But sustainability isn't just about what we burn, it's also about what we leave behind. On this front, KQ has made substantial progress, including a 15% reduction in waste and

a ban on single-use plastics. Looking ahead, it is developing products to empower eco-conscious travellers. Soon, guests will be able to directly offset their carbon footprint during the booking process. It is also launching a customer-centric app that will offer personalised ideas on how to make travel more sustainable.



KQ joins with IATA to pilot integrated sustainability programme

Alongside serving as the host airline for the 37th IATA Ground Handling Conference (IGHC) in Nairobi, Kenya Airways has worked to enhance its commitment to sustainability by actively contributing to the development and testing of an integrated sustainability programme. [ISP].

Over the course of the pilot, KQ worked closely with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to provide critical insights, operational context and feedback to help ensure the ISP is practical, impactful and tailored to the real-world challenges and opportunities facing airlines today.

As a result, Kenya Airways has embedded programme standards into its operational practices and is now progressing toward full ISP certification.

The project has introduced three new programmes to address the most pressing aviation sustainability priorities:

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT: supporting responsible sourcing strategies that

consider environmental and social impacts across the supply chain.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: enhancing human rights, labour conditions, community engagement and talent development practices.

SUSTAINABILITY PERFORMANCE MONITORING: empowering organisations to measure, track and improve sustainability performance through data-driven approaches.

Allan Kilavuka, KQ's group MD and CEO, said: "We are optimistic that this [collaboration] will pave the way for scalable, real-world solutions that support our social, environmental and economic goals."

Marie Owens Thomsen IATA's SVP, Sustainability, added: "KQ has [set] a shining example for the aviation industry in Africa. Their dedication to integrating robust sustainability practices, encompassing both environmental and social responsibilities... paves the way for a more sustainable future for African aviation."

KQ LINKS UP WITH VISA

Partnership will introduce co-branded credit and debit cards, offering exclusive benefits and incentives

Kenya Airways and Visa have announced a strategic co-brand agreement aimed at enhancing the travel experience for customers and promoting the adoption of digital payments in the aviation industry.

Under the agreement, KQ and Visa will provide a variety of exclusive benefits and incentives to travellers, including the launch of co-branded credit and debit cards. These cards will offer customers benefits such as:

ENHANCED REWARDS PROGRAMME: cardholders will earn points for every purchase made with the co-branded cards,

which can be redeemed for flights, upgrades and other travel-related services.

TRAVEL BENEFITS: exclusive access to airport lounges, priority boarding and additional baggage allowances.

DIGITAL PAYMENT SOLUTIONS: secure and convenient payment options for booking flights, in-flight purchases and more.

PROMOTIONAL OFFERS: special discounts and promotions on Kenya Airways flights and services for Visa cardholders.

Julius Thairu, KQ's chief commercial and customer officer, said: "This partnership reflects our shared goal of transforming travel with technology and we look forward to providing great value to our customers worldwide."

The co-branded cards will be available later this year.

Above: KQ's chief commercial and customer officer Julius Thairu (left) confirms the partnership with Visa



Kenya Airways teams up with Simbas

KQ partners with Kenya Rugby Union as official airline for Rugby World Cup campaign

Kenya Airways has entered into a new partnership with the Kenya Rugby Union (KRU), as the official airline partner of the men's 15s national team, the Simbas, for its Rugby World Cup (RWC) campaign.






This partnership aims to support the ongoing growth of Kenyan rugby through a Ksh15m (US\$116,000) in-kind sponsorship set to run over the next 12 months.

The signing ceremony took place at the RFUEA grounds on Ngong Road, Nairobi, ahead of the Simbas' recent friendly against the UAE. The match saw the Kenyans romp to a 54-24 win.

During the ceremony, Julius Thairu, chief customer



VALERIU LUTINA / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

PLANE SIGHT		No. OF PLANES	SEATS	SEAT PITCH	CRUISING SPEED	RANGE	MAX. TAKE-OFF WEIGHT
	Boeing 787 Dreamliner	9	Premier: 30 Economy: 204	Premier: 75" Economy: 32"	Mach 0.85 (1050kmh)	14,500km	227,930kg
	Boeing 737-800	9	Premier: 16 Economy: 129	Premier: 47" Economy: 32"	Mach 0.78 (963kmh)	5665km	79,015kg
	Embraer 190	13	Premier: 12 Economy: 84	Premier: 38" Economy: 31"	Mach 0.82 (1013kmh)	2935km	51,800kg
	Boeing 737-300F	2	N/A	N/A	Mach 0.745 (920kmh)	2200km	62,822kg
	Boeing 737-800F	2	N/A	N/A	Mach 0.789 (974kmh)	3695km	79,000



and commercial officer at KQ, said: "This collaboration is rooted in shared values of teamwork, tenacity and transformation – the spirit that defines rugby and our journey as the Pride of Africa. This demonstrates our dedication to uplifting local talent and empowering African champions to rise."

KRU chair Sasha Mutai added that KQ's "support will not only go a long way in helping make the Kenya Simbas a rugby power globally, but also contribute to our shared mission of raising the Kenya flag high."

This partnership is pivotal as the Simbas prepare for their 2027 World Cup qualifiers later this year. Kenyan rugby has thrived over the years, firmly establishing Kenya's position in the top tier of the Sevens World Series in Africa and positioning the airline as a legacy sponsor.

Above: Action from the Simbas' recent victory over the United Arab Emirates

FUEL CAPACITY (LITRES)	THRUST PER ENGINE	WING SPAN	LENGTH	HEIGHT
126,903	69,800lb	60.1m	56.7m	16.9m
26,020	26,300lb	34.3m	39.5m	12.5m
16,153	18,820lb	28.72m	36.24m	10.57m
20,124	22,000lb	28.9m	32.2m	11.1m
26,025	24,000-27,000lb	35.8m	38m	12.54m

FLIGHT NEWS



KQ now operates an additional flight on the **Freetown-Accra-Nairobi** route, taking the frequency to 5x weekly. The airline has also added an extra flight on its **Monrovia-Accra-Nairobi** route, with the service now operating four times per week.



ZEDJASOFF / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Above: The popular Makola Market in Accra, Ghana

DID YOU KNOW?

WHY DO PLANES HAVE ROUND WINDOWS?

Early aircraft had square windows, but engineers discovered a critical flaw: the sharp corners couldn't withstand the immense pressure differences at high altitudes, leading to structural fatigue and, in some cases, failure. Round windows distribute stress more evenly and help ensure a smoother, safer flight.



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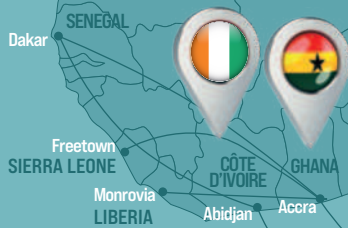
UK
London

Amsterdam
NETHERLANDS

Paris
FRANCE

USA
New York

Kenya Airways routes



JOURNEY TIME FROM NAIROBI TO:

Abidjan	5hrs 54min	Kilimanjaro	46min
Accra	5hrs 26min	Kinshasa	3hrs 20min
Addis Ababa	1hr 51min	Kisumu	49min
Amsterdam	8hrs 20min	Lagos	5hrs 0min
Antananarivo	3hrs 8min	Lilongwe	2hrs 10min
Bangui	3hrs 1min	Livingstone	3hrs 4min
Bangkok	8hrs 59min	London	8hrs 31min
Bujumbura	1hr 31min	Lubumbashi	2hrs 18min
Cape Town	5hrs 18min	Lusaka	2hrs 37min
Dakar	7hrs 47min	Maputo	3hrs 54min
Dar es Salaam	1hr 16min	Mauritius	4hrs 8min
Douala	4hrs 7min	Mombasa	59min
Dubai	4hrs 40min	Monrovia	6hrs 45min
Dzaoudzi	2hrs 20min	Moroni	2hrs 4min
Eldoret	48min	Mumbai	5hrs 49min
Entebbe	1hr 6min	Nampula	2hrs 19min
Freetown	7hrs 10min	Ndola	2hrs 21min
Guangzhou	10hrs 43min	New York	14hrs 26min
Harare	2hrs 47min	Paris	8hrs 7min
Johannesburg	3hrs 54min	Seychelles	2hrs 58min
Juba	1hr 33min	Victoria Falls	3hrs 6min
Kigali	1hr 23min	Zanzibar	1hr 12min

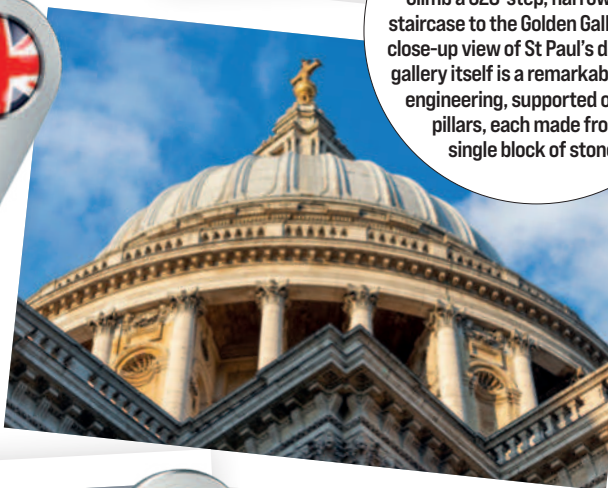
SOURCE: AIRMILES CALCULATOR.COM; DESTINATIONS AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

Three places to visit

Celebrating the destinations that Kenya Airways flies to...

LONDON, UK

A cathedral has stood on the site of St Paul's since 604AD, with the current iteration built between 1675 and 1710 after the Great Fire of London destroyed its predecessor. Designed by Sir Christopher Wren – whose tomb rests in the crypt, along with the likes of Admiral Lord Nelson and the Duke of Wellington – its iconic 111m-high dome actually comprises three domes.



ALEX YEUNG / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



HOW MANY?

Climb a 528-step, narrow, spiral staircase to the Golden Gallery, for a close-up view of St Paul's dome. The gallery itself is a remarkable feat of engineering, supported on eight pillars, each made from a single block of stone.



ABIDJAN, CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The Basilica of Our Lady of Peace in Yamoussoukro, 220km north of Abidjan, is the largest church in the world. Built in the late 1980s, its enormous dome dwarfs that of St Peter's in the Vatican City, Rome, on which its design is based, rising to a height of 149m. Inside, there is room for some 18,000 worshippers, while the esplanade outside can accommodate a further 300,000 people.

ACCRA, GHANA

Inspired by the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, Accra's National Mosque Complex features an astounding 50 domes, including one 36m-high grand dome. At the mosque's corners stand four 2.1m-wide minarets, which stretch 62m into the air. Spread across 42 acres, the site, inaugurated as recently as 2021, can house up to 15,000 worshippers.



SADE TASARIM / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

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Experience the allure of Venezia – a fragrance whispering tales of romance, mystery and timeless beauty.

FRAGRANCE NOTES:

Oriental – Floral

\$35



VERSACE EROS NAJIM

Eau de Parfum Vapo 100ml

Derived from the Arabic word for 'star', Eros Najim is a beautiful star. Warm, enveloping caramel tones, a seductive embrace full of strong, intense elements such as cardamom, oud wood, patchouli and vetiver, as well as incense, brightened by the light and vibrant energy of yellow Italian mandarin.

FRAGRANCE NOTES: Fruity – Spicy

\$125



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ARMANI EXCHANGE CHRONOGRAPH GOLD WATCH

Bold and contemporary, the Armani Exchange men's chronograph makes a powerful statement. Its sleek sunray black dial, framed by a striking gold-tone stainless steel case, exudes modern sophistication. A durable mineral crystal protects the sporty design, while precise chronograph functionality ensures you stay effortlessly on time. Two-year international warranty.

\$250



REFLEX ACTIVE RFID LEATHER WALLET

Reflex Active introduces the RFID leather wallet. Designed with a spacious interior, it stores 11 cards and provides RFID blocking to protect you against wireless theft. Its minimalistic look makes it the perfect wallet for everyday use. Made using genuine leather.



\$40



\$85

MESSY WEEKEND DEPP SUNGLASSES

The new Depp's lightweight, universally flattering fit never goes out of style. Crafted from high-quality acetate. A timeless design combines style and function effortlessly. Its handcrafted acetate frame with nickel-free hinges is easily adjustable, while its quality anti-scratch lenses provide 100% UVA/UVB protection.



TOMMY HILFIGER CASUAL LADIES' WATCH

Be bold, be on time. This sport lux watch features a multi-function movement with woven textured dial and screw details on the bezel. Versatile style on mesh bracelets with a fully crystal-set bezel. Watch case 40mm. Two-year international warranty.

\$170



KQ Cinema



Choose from a host of new on-board content — there are over 100 movies, 40 TV shows and 240 music tracks to enjoy

HOLLYWOOD NEW RELEASES



THUNDERBOLTS

They're not your typical heroes. When a covert mission calls for a team that plays by its own rules, the Thunderbolts step in. Made up of former foes and morally grey allies — including Yelena Belova, Bucky Barnes and Red Guardian — this unlikely crew is brought together for a job no one else can take on. Gritty, fast-paced and packed with attitude, *Thunderbolts* dives into the darker corners of the Marvel universe.



CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE NEW WORLD

A new era begins. Sam Wilson takes up the shield as the new Captain America in this high-stakes Marvel adventure. As global tensions rise and powerful enemies emerge, Sam must define what Captain America stands for in a changed world. With explosive action, political twist and the return of key characters — including Harrison Ford as President Thaddeus Ross — *Brave New World* sets the stage for a bold new chapter in the Marvel universe.



MOANA 2

Moana sets sail once more in this vibrant sequel to the beloved original. Called by her ancestors, she embarks on a daring new voyage across uncharted seas — reuniting with Maui and discovering new cultures, creatures, and challenges along the way. Filled with heart, humour and unforgettable music, *Moana 2* is a joyful celebration of courage, connection and adventure.

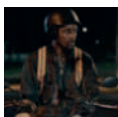


INTERNATIONAL MOVIES



12TH FAIL

In the face of relentless failure, a young man's determination to pass one of India's toughest civil service exams becomes a powerful story of resilience. *12th Fail* is a moving, real-life-inspired drama about grit, dreams and the strength to rise – again and again – against the odds.



BODA LOVE

Romance meets the rhythm of the city in this heartfelt African drama. When a humble boda boda rider crosses paths with a woman from a different world, sparks fly – along with challenges that test class, culture and connection. *Boda Love* is a charming ride through love, identity and the roads less travelled.



HONEY MONEY PHONY

Brace yourself for a riot of confusion and comedy in *Honey Money Phony*, where a suitcase of cash triggers chaos across the city. With mistaken identities and outrageous antics, this Chinese caper delivers a hilarious mix of satire, slapstick and social commentary.



G20

Viola Davis plays US President Danielle Sutton in this fast-paced thriller. When terrorists attack the G20 summit in South Africa, President Sutton is forced to fight for her life – and the lives of other world leaders. With the help of her Secret Service team, she must stop the villains, save hostages and protect her family. *G20* is full of action, twists and courage, showing a strong leader who won't back down even when the world is watching.



SUBURGATORY



City girl meets suburbia in this delightfully sharp comedy. When a single dad uproots his teen daughter from NYC to the cookie-cutter 'burbs, both are thrown into a world of designer lawns, overbearing moms and passive-aggressive perfection. *Suburgatory* is satire with a soft side.



MOM

This acclaimed sitcom follows Christy Plunkett (Anna Faris), a single mother striving to rebuild her life in Napa, California, after battling alcoholism and drug addiction. With the support of her mother, Bonnie (Allison Janney), also a recovering addict, Christy navigates the challenges of sobriety, motherhood and personal growth. *Mom* balances heartfelt drama with sharp humour.



EMPEROR OF OCEAN PARK

Based on Stephen L. Carter's novel, this mystery thriller centres on Talcott Garland, whose life is upended by the sudden death of his father, a prominent judge. As Talcott delves into the circumstances surrounding his father's demise, he uncovers a web of secrets and conspiracies that challenge his perceptions of family and justice.



TEEN TITANS GO!

Superheroes have never been this fun. Join Robin, Starfire, Cyborg, Raven and Beast Boy as they balance saving the world with epic pranks, dance-offs and snack breaks. *Teen Titans Go!* is a laugh-out-loud animated series bursting with pop culture jokes, absurd antics and enough energy to rival any villain's evil plan.

VANCOUVER LOUNGE GETS A FRESH LOOK

RELAX IN COMFORT AT SKYTEAM'S FIRST LOUNGE IN NORTH AMERICA

Next time you're flying through Vancouver International Airport (YVR), step into the newly transformed SkyTeam Lounge – now more stylish, comfortable and inviting than ever. Redesigned to elevate your airport experience, SkyTeam Elite Plus, First and Business Class passengers are in for a true upgrade.

WHAT'S NEW?

Fully refurbished, the 528 square-metre lounge now features a fresh, modern design that reflects SkyTeam's commitment to delivering an exceptional airport experience. With upgraded furniture and comfortable seating, it's easy to unwind before your flight. The redesigned layout includes dedicated spaces for both productivity and relaxation, whether you're travelling for business or leisure.

SAVOUR THE EXPERIENCE

As SkyTeam's first lounge in North America, the YVR Lounge invites guests to enjoy a blend of

local and international flavours. The dining area serves fresh, seasonal cuisine throughout the day, with offerings available for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Passengers can stop by the noodle station or choose from a hot-and-cold buffet featuring internationally inspired menus crafted with local ingredients. The self-service bar also highlights regional tastes, with wines sourced from Pacific Northwest vineyards and beers from some of Vancouver's top microbreweries.

AROUND-THE-CLOCK COMFORT

Open 24/7, the Vancouver Lounge spans two wings and

offers sweeping views of the runway and surrounding mountains through floor-to-ceiling windows. Refresh with a shower, catch up on work with complimentary Wi-Fi or simply recharge (yourself and your devices) in one of many cosy corners.

RELAX, WORLDWIDE

When travelling beyond Vancouver, SkyTeam also has you covered with lounges across the globe. You'll find other SkyTeam-branded lounges in Dubai, Santiago de Chile and Sydney, along with a co-branded location in São Paulo. And our network doesn't stop there – through our member airlines, travellers have access to more than 750 lounges worldwide.

So, whether you're relaxing, working or fuelling up before takeoff, the refreshed YVR Lounge and our other global lounges are here to make your journey smoother. We can't wait to welcome you soon.

SkyTeam is an 18-member airline alliance. Find out more about news, services and upcoming events on skyteam.com



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CHINA AIRLINES

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Guess where answer (from page 67): **Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe**

The iconic bridge effectively forms no-man's-land between Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe and Livingstone in Zambia, spanning the Batoka Gorge that divides the two countries. It looks down on the white waters of the Zambezi and across to the 1.7km-long lip over which the river plunges to create one of the world's most famous waterfalls. For more information about flights to Victoria Falls, go to www.kenya-airways.com

HOW KQ CARGO CONNECTS CONTINENTS

DANIEL SALATON, SENIOR MANAGER - EXPRESS CARGO & E-COMMERCE, KQ CARGO, EXPLAINS HOW THE AIRLINE IS POWERING AFRICA'S E-COMMERCE REVOLUTION

Africa's e-commerce sector is booming, fuelled by a tech-driven generation and unprecedented digital adoption. With more than 60% of the continent's population under 25, Gen Z is reshaping retail, embracing the convenience of online shopping. Mobile penetration is soaring, unlocking vast opportunities for digital commerce. Industry projections show Africa's e-commerce market is set to reach US\$75bn in a few years.

At Kenya Airways Cargo, we are not just witnessing this transformation –



Africa's e-commerce explosion is a game changer, and Kenya Airways Cargo is proud to be the backbone of this digital trade

we are driving it. Our mission is to “propel Africa's prosperity by connecting its people, cultures and markets,” and nowhere is this more evident than in our role as a key enabler of cross-border e-commerce logistics.

KQ Cargo ensures seamless movement of e-commerce goods into Africa. Our direct wide-body passenger flights from major global cities, combined with dedicated freighters operating from the UAE and India, create a robust

supply chain for leading online retailers such as Amazon.

Once shipments land in Nairobi, our strategically located hub takes over, leveraging our expansive passenger network and fleet of four dedicated freighters to distribute goods across the continent. This seamless de-feed system ensures that packages move swiftly from international origins to local doorsteps.

Africa's e-commerce explosion is a game changer, and KQ Cargo is proud to be the backbone of this digital trade. With our unmatched connectivity, and

our deep reach into Africa through passenger and freighter networks, we are empowering businesses and consumers alike. Our mission is clear – to fuel Africa's growth by ensuring speed, reliability and efficiency in cross-border logistics.

As Africa's digital economy expands, so does the demand for fast, dependable logistics solutions, and KQ continues to invest in cutting-edge cargo facilities, real-time tracking and strategic alliances to stay ahead.

COOL CHAIN MANAGEMENT DEAL

KAHL partners with Lift Cargo to improve distribution of perishable goods

Kenya Airfreight Handling Limited (KAHL), a subsidiary of Kenya Airways, has announced a partnership with Lift Cargo that aims to revolutionise the global distribution of perishable goods and ensure that fresh produce reaches consumers in optimal condition.

Peter Musola, acting general manager at KAHL, said: “The partnership will leverage KAHL's state-of-the-art cool chain facilities alongside Lift Cargo's extensive client base. Together, we will create a seamless cool chain that minimises spoilage, reduces waste and enhances the overall quality of perishable goods, elevating product freshness for our customers.”

The horticulture sector is one of the largest contributors to Kenya's economy, generating approximately Ksh157bn (US\$1.29bn) in annual export earnings, according to the Agriculture and Food Authority. Flowers alone account for more than 70% of these exports, with Europe serving as the primary market.

“Kenya's horticultural sector is one of the most vital components of our economy, and we are committed to supporting it through innovative logistics solutions,” added Musola.



Left: Peter Musola, acting general manager of KAHL, with Silas Kashindi, managing director Lift Cargo Ltd



full circle

The Great Migration is one of nature's most awe-inspiring spectacles, where millions of wildebeest, zebras and other herbivores journey through the plains of East Africa in a constant search for food and water. Here's your month-by-month guide on where to go to catch the action...

JANUARY –MARCH

THE CALVING SEASON

As the year begins, the wildebeest and zebra herds are concentrated in the southern Serengeti plains and the Ndutu region in Tanzania's Ngorongoro Conservation Area. This is when the herds give birth to thousands of calves, a time of intense activity and high predator action.

APRIL–MAY

THE WET SEASON

During the wet season, the herds begin to spread out across the Serengeti, looking for fresh grazing grounds. The migration enters the central and western regions of the Serengeti, where they encounter heavy rains and lush green grasslands.

This is a quieter time to visit, with fewer tourists, making it perfect for those seeking a more serene experience.

JUNE –JULY

THE JOURNEY NORTH BEGINS

By June, the herds are crossing into Kenya, moving from the Serengeti toward the Maasai Mara in search of fresh grazing. The migration is on the move, roaming through central Serengeti and heading north, crossing rivers as the herds make their way to the Mara.

AUGUST–OCTOBER

THE GREAT RIVER CROSSINGS

One of the highlights of the Great Migration is the dramatic river crossings,

where thousands of wildebeest and zebra must brave the treacherous waters of the Mara River, navigating giant Nile crocodiles and rapids. This is the most intense period of the migration, offering visitors a chance to witness one of nature's most thrilling spectacles. River crossing points, however, can become very busy with tourists, so try to avoid the crowds.

NOVEMBER–DECEMBER

THE RETURN TO SERENGETI AND CALVING SEASON AGAIN

As the year winds down, the migration begins its journey back to the southern Serengeti. The herds begin to congregate again in the southern plains, preparing for the calving season, completing the circle of their annual journey.

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DELTA

Garuda Indonesia

Kenya Airways

KLM

KOREAN AIR

MEA

SAS

Saudia

TAROM

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XIAMENAIR

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