CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF INSPIRATIONAL JOURNEYS

Dear Travellers

Despite all the television documentaries, travel magazines and Instagram photos that inform and inspire us about Africa and its wildlife, there is nothing like a real life African safari. The smell of the bush, the sounds of the birds and animals, the thrilling encounter with your first lion or elephant, are experiences that have to be lived.

Escape hectic city life and the incessant entreaties from your mobile phone to the tranquility of the wilderness. Embark on new adventures a world away from your usual daily routine.

We have been tailor-making holidays to Africa for 35 years, and believe that the best way to experience a wildlife safari is on a journey that has been created just for you. A custom designed itinerary means you can depart on the dates that suit you, stay at the hotels, lodges and camps you choose, and include special activities that interest you.

We are experts in designing holidays for couples and small parties of friends, as well as families and intergenerational groups. Africa is a magical place to introduce young people to the wonders of nature and some camps are small enough to be occupied by a private group of just 6 people.

There is nowhere on earth like Africa, with its incredible wildlife and stunning landscapes. But the most common refrain we hear from our returning clients is how friendly and welcoming the people are.

So we hope to see you soon on safari,

Stephen and Sara Cameron - Founders

CONTACT US OR ASK YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

Call all our experienced consultants to discuss your travel plans, or contact your travel agent.

Call us now on (03) 9249 3777 or 1300 363 302 (interstate callers).
Fax: (03) 9696 4937
E-mail: info@awsnfs.com
Web: www.africanwildlifesafaris.com.au

Weather Chart

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Legend: ADD = Addis Ababa, NBO = Nairobi, ARK = Arusha, MUB = Lusaka, VFA = Victoria Falls, CAI = Cairo, TNR = Dar es Salam, MRU = Mauritius, RAK = Ras Al Khaimah, SEZ = Seychelles

Front Cover: @Singita
Let the sights and sounds of Africa come to you.
African Wildlife Safaris, wilderness your way.

Choosing the right safari takes expert planning and advice. African Wildlife Safaris are specialists in tailor-made safaris and with over 35 years’ experience behind us we believe we’re the best at what we do. Our advice is to choose the best areas and to stay longer in one place. Sadly some internet companies create tours so rushed you’ll need another holiday to recover from them! Cheaper lodges may often be in the wrong location, whilst well-located lodges close to migratory paths or perennial water may cost more but offer a much better gameviewing experience. Our philosophy has always been that tailor-made safaris are not only the best way to protect Africa’s precious wilderness, but that they are the best way to experience Africa. A personally designed itinerary can take into account your travel style, budget and special interests and make the most of your time. In Africa "to see more" means to move less. A longer stay in the major parks will be much more rewarding than moving every day or two. You will notice that the emphasis throughout the brochure is on staying extra nights. Relax, unwind, enjoy.
INDEPENDENT EXPERIENCES
FOR THE DISCERNING TRAVELLER

We believe that to fully experience a country, its wildlife, its culture and its natural beauty, you need to take your time and travel on your own terms. So rather than selecting a pre-packaged tour which may be rushed, inflexible and potentially full of incompatible personalities, we work with you to create a bespoke experience incorporating places you’d love to see, things you’re keen to do and accommodation that suits your style and budget.

We pride ourselves on our ability to tailor a truly unique journey that immerses you in some of the planet’s most spectacular places. Our philosophy is not just about putting together “a trip” – it’s about creating your ultimate travel experience. Expect expert guides, small groups, personalised itineraries and all the security that booking with a reputable, accredited travel company entails.

OUR BROCHURE
Our brochure is designed to be a starting point from which we can begin building your perfect journey. It features a selection of suggested itineraries and a wide range of carefully chosen accommodations. We can customise, combine, extend and upgrade to suit your budget and travel style – use our expertise to build your unique collection of lifelong memories.

BEFORE YOU BOOK
The information contained in this brochure was correct at the time of publication. Since then, however, changes beyond our control could have occurred. Please refer to our Booking Conditions on page 155, in particular with respect to prices, itineraries, travel duration, standard of services, airfares and airline schedules. Before you book please check with us to ascertain if there are any alterations to the journey(s) you have selected.

PRICING
All prices in this brochure are based on twin share accommodation for travel during the low season, and intended as a guide only. Please contact us for the best, most accurate and up-to-date pricing.

QUESTIONS TO ASK
A successful itinerary needs your involvement. The more we know about what you want from your holiday the easier it will be to choose suitable arrangements. Here are some of the key questions to consider:

• Do you have a preference for a particular country or game park?
• What time of year do you wish to travel?
• How much time do you have available?
• How many people are travelling (any children)?
• Do you have any particular interests?
  Eg: birdwatching, walking safaris, culture?
• Do you have an approximate budget?
• Are you planning to go on to Europe or return straight back to Australia?
• Do you prefer a particular style of tour?
  Eg: classic camping or a lodge tour?
• Would you consider paying more for a better located property or unique experience?
  Eg: a lodge in a prime gameviewing location or your own personal guide?

HOW TO BOOK YOUR TOUR
A Seamless Travel Experience

As a professional travel company with over 35 years’ experience, African Wildlife Safaris can offer you all the services you need to plan and organise your holiday. All of our trips are entirely tailor made to suit, and our experienced staff know exactly how to put together the perfect holiday customised to your budget, interests, and travel timeframe.

Information about places you would like to visit has never been more accessible. This can make it both easier, and more challenging when it comes to booking a holiday. We advise that you take the following steps to ensure your travel experience is seamless, without any inconvenient or unexpected surprises.

1. RESEARCH
Do you have a list of places you wish to go, and things you want to see? Read our brochure and website, then discuss your ideas with our experienced specialists as a starting point.

2. PLANNING YOUR TRIP
A successful itinerary needs your involvement. The more we know about what you want from your visit, the easier it will be to help you design your perfect holiday. Are there particular regions you want to visit? What time of the year do you wish to travel? Do you have an approximate budget or a preferred style of travel? Contact us to start planning today.

3. BOOK YOUR TRIP (EARLY)
Once you are happy with your itinerary, it is time to book. We cannot stress enough the need to book early. There is immense pressure on accommodation and tours in almost all the destinations we offer. To secure your first choice and to avoid disappointment, PLEASE BOOK EARLY.

4. SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES
When you return home, don’t forget to tell us about your experience. Our staff love hearing about their clients’ experiences, or seeing photos and videos. And don’t forget to share your memories with us on social media.
ACCOMMODATION

HOTELS
Accommodation outside game parks is in hotels. These vary from 3 to 5-star conveniently located city and airport hotels, to charming country manors on lush rural estates and unique boutique properties in superb natural or historic settings. Beach resorts are most commonly utilised in island or coastal destinations such as Mauritius, Zanzibar, Madagascar, Mozambique and the Seychelles.

LODGES
Safari lodges are traditionally built of local materials such as stone, wood and thatch, with standalone bungalows or elevated treehouses for guests. Most have a shared central dining, lounge and bar area often overlooking a busy waterhole, idyllic waterway or wildlife-rich plains, whilst many also have a swimming pool. Lodges vary from simple and rustic to extremely luxurious.

RAIL SAFARIS
In southern Africa, we offer some fabulous train journeys aboard the luxurious Rovos Rail and the very elegant Blue Train. For longer and more informal rail tours choose The Shongololo Express (operated by Rovos Rail). Rail travel is an alternative to flying and an unforgettable experience in its own right. Expect gourmet meals served in handsome dining cars and interesting off-train excursions.

CLASSIC/BUSH CAMPS
These semi-permanent camps offer a similar standard of accommodation to Permanent Tented Camps. They are usually re-built at the start of every dry season and their location may depend on seasonal game movements. Most have a central dining/lounge tent while guest tents have beds, furniture and ensuite bathroom with either western-style facilities or bucket shower and bush toilet.

PERMANENT TENTED CAMPS
Permanent Tented Camps have large guest tents with real beds, proper furniture and modern ensuite facilities. This means you can still hear the sounds of Africa around you, yet enjoy all the comforts of a room. Some are simple in decor yet comfortable whilst others are positively lavish. Price usually reflects proximity of a camp to the best game areas.

FULL SERVICE CAMPING
This is a fully catered, comfortable style of camping for small-group mobile safaris. Campsites are set up by the staff in advance of your arrival, and a camp chef prepares all meals. Tents are large, usually walk-in style, with camp beds and bedding provided. A hot water bush shower and toilet tent are set up at each campsite, sometimes one for each tent.
STYLE OF SAFARI

CLASSIC SAFARIS
The most traditional type of safari, Classic Safaris involve comfortable camps and lodges in prolific wildlife areas for an authentic wilderness experience. Our hand-picked properties are often located close to or within the most famous game parks and reserves in Africa, while our trusted operators offer plenty of exciting gameviewing activities such as 4WD game drives and nature walks led by knowledgeable guides.

LUXURY SAFARIS
There is often scant difference between the interior of a glamorous hotel room and a luxury safari tented suite. The latter however, occupies a pristine African location, likely within a private concession accessible only to camp guests so you have the wilderness almost entirely to yourself. To ensure exclusivity, our featured luxury lodges usually have no more than 10 tents in total.

FLY-IN SAFARIS
This is the best way to maximise your time exploring game parks, avoiding long drives over rough roads. Using light aircraft and/or scheduled domestic flights, we fly you into the lodges or camps of your choice, providing you with an unforgettable bird’s-eye view of the dramatic African landscape. At remote properties, game activities are conducted by resident guides, often with the assistance of local trackers.

MOBILE SAFARIS
Mobile safaris are undertaken with a driver/guide who accompanies you throughout the tour. While driving provides a close look at the African countryside and local villages, remember that roads can be rough and dusty. The vehicles we use are normally modified 4WDs, Land Cruisers or Land Rovers. In southern Africa these 4WDs are usually open, allowing you to get really close to wildlife!

CANOEING AND WALKING SAFARIS
These are the most exciting safaris of all, travelling on foot and/or in two-man canoes just like explorers of old, led by licensed (and in some instances, armed) professional guides. The amount of activity varies according to individual tours; however, all participants must possess a reasonable standard of fitness. Many lodges and camps offer short bush walks, whilst canoe safaris are conducted along the Upper and Lower Zambezi.

MOUNTAIN TREKS
Africa is home to some seriously impressive peaks, including Mount Kilimanjaro, Mount Kenya, Mount Meru and the Drakensberg Mountains. All our mountain trek itineraries involve walking (or scrambling!) at high altitude, with no technical skills required. Porters carry all food and necessary equipment, and treks are accompanied by an experienced guide. You will need to be fit and in good health to participate.

FAMILY SAFARIS
Plenty of our lodges and camps cater specially to families, with inter-connecting tents or exclusive-use bungalows. Many also offer engaging activities such as village visits and junior ranger programs. Private mobile camping is highly recommended for children (of any age) to experience the thrill of sleeping out in the African bush, while malaria-free reserves provide peace of mind for parents with young kids.

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS
With so many amazing sights and extravagant properties, Africa is an ideal destination to commemorate a milestone event. Many of our hotels and lodges can be booked in their entirety, with private small group tours arranged so friends and family are the only ones sharing a special occasion with you. We can also arrange ground activities and transfers so the entire celebration is stress-free.

GORILLAS AND PRIMATES
A mountain gorilla encounter is one of the most treasured wildlife experiences you can have. Just over 1,000 individuals remain in the wild; fortunately, there are a number of comfortable lodges in Central East Africa set up as bases for gorilla and/or chimpanzee trekking. The primate-rich mountains of Rwanda and Uganda combine perfectly with classic safaris in the game parks of Kenya and Tanzania.
Quality Time Together

In the last few years, we’ve seen the increasing popularity of travellers going abroad with friends, as well as intergenerational groups (grandparents, parents and kids) embarking on holidays with each other. With its incredible wildlife, iconic landscapes and colourful peoples, why not consider Africa for your next overseas trip, special occasion or milestone birthday? Read on for some really good reasons why you should.

TIP: Due to Africa’s popularity as a destination and the small size of our preferred lodges, we urge you to book early in order to avoid disappointment.

THE LUXURY OF SPACE
There are many properties across Africa perfectly suited to small groups, such as exclusive-use lodges with multiple bedrooms and private swimming pools. If you enjoy the company of other guests, there are also a swathe of safari camps and lodges with generous communal spaces such as fire-lit “bomas” and comfortable lounge areas where you can socialise with your travelling companions or with newfound friends before retreating to the privacy of your own room or tented suite. It may also be possible to book a game drive vehicle for the sole use of your party (N.B. in some cases, a private vehicle is compulsory for families with younger children).

BINDING LIFELONG MEMORIES
Africa’s diversity means there are plenty of ways to experience its magic with the people closest to you - be they friends or family - far from the distractions of today’s hectic lifestyle. An African safari offers many opportunities to enjoy quality time together. From tracking game on foot in the wilds of Zambia to observing rare animal species, you’ll find a multitude of thrilling new experiences that will create bonds to last a lifetime. Sitting around the campfire (practically compulsory on safari) with friends or family often counts amongst visitors’ most cherished memories as it provides an evocative, unhurried setting for reflection on the journey’s events.
MONEY MATTERS
Often, trip planning is hindered by differing budgets and expectations. A major benefit of our preferred African safari lodges and camps is that most have tariffs inclusive of all meals, house beverages and selected scheduled activities, with the only out-of-pocket extras being staff gratuities and personal expenses. Our itineraries can also be conveniently tailored to include everything from flights, transfers and accommodation down to the services of a driver/guide for the duration of your travels so you know exactly what you’re getting for the price that you pay.

THE AWS DIFFERENCE
Our consultants are well-versed in designing flexible itineraries that take into account everybody’s preferences. We can design a core itinerary for your group, and also manage individual travel arrangements pre and post-departure. The best holidays are born out of careful planning; with our wealth of experience and expert knowledge of Africa, we can provide practical advice from what to expect down to exactly what time of year to visit. We even go as far as helping to schedule downtime during your safari – because even the best of friends and the happiest of families benefit from time spent apart!
OUR TEAM IN AUSTRALIA

Our team are all seasoned African travellers and have the knowledge and experience to help you choose the holiday which best suits your style and budget. Let them help you plan your safari and design an itinerary specially for you.

Stephen Cameron
Steve and his wife Sara are the founders of African Wildlife Safaris. Steve first visited Africa in 1962, leading overland expeditions to all corners of the continent. He visits Africa several times each year, keeping up-to-date with developments in tourism and researching new tours and lodges. The national park he loves most for its incredible overall gameviewing is the Serengeti in Tanzania, whilst his favourite safari is canoeing the Zambezi River through Mana Pools in Zimbabwe. Steve is also a keen cyclist and has undertaken cycling tours in South Africa, including the famous Cape Argus. Under our Natural Focus banner, Steve has led tours to India for tiger viewing, to Canada for spectacular bear watching, and has undertaken cycling tours in South Zimbabwe. Steve is also a keen cyclist and has undertaken cycling tours in South Africa, including the famous Cape Argus. Under our Natural Focus banner, Steve has led tours to India for tiger viewing, to Canada for spectacular bear watching, and has accompanied two groups to Antarctica and South America.

Sara Cameron
Sara grew up in Zambia and South Africa, returning to England when she was 21. She then travelled the length of Africa twice before emigrating to Australia with Steve and co-founding African Wildlife Safaris. Sara has visited eastern and southern Africa many times, and over the past few decades has enjoyed taking her two sons James and Jeremy back to the continent on numerous safaris. Highlights include treks to see the endangered mountain gorillas of Rwanda, canoeing the Zambezi, a camel trek in the arid Samburu, and visiting the magnificent historic sites of Egypt and Jordan. She and Steve recently returned to Kenya for a safari with friends; staying at Sasaab in Samburu, in the Chyulu Hills and a week in the Masai Mara.

Anne-Marie Zambelli
Anne-Marie (Annie), our General Manager, has clocked over 30 years’ experience in travel. She has worked as an African specialist in Australia and the UK and is passionate about Africa, having visited the continent countless times. For 2 years she worked as assistant manager of Mombo Camp in Botswana (p55). Annie returns regularly to visit safari camps and hotels and to negotiate with our safari operators. Annie’s recent travels include Kenya’s flamingo-covered Lake Bogoria and the wildlife-rich plains of the Masai Mara Game Reserve. In Tanzania she traversed the plains of the Serengeti National Park and visited her favourite park, Tarangire. Through our partner company Natural Focus she is an expert on India, has led bear tours in Canada, and voyaged to Antarctica and the Galapagos.

Dan Maher
Our Sales & Marketing Representative in Queensland, Dan has been in the travel industry for 30 years. He has been on safari all over Africa, driven South Africa’s Garden Route and travelled aboard both the Blue Train and Rovos Rail. With AWS’s sister company, Natural Focus (NF), Dan discovered Alaska’s famous Inside Passage and visited a tiny Eskimo village “North of the Circle”. He has also been to South America with NF and considers the Galapagos Islands and Napo National Park in the Amazon rainforest amongst his favourite destinations there.

Rolf Huber
Rolf is an Africa veteran, having worked at South African Airways for many years. During his employment with the airline, Rolf undertook numerous trips to South Africa and counts Cape Town amongst his favourite cities in the world. With AWS, Rolf explored the remote northern reaches of South Africa, where he saw rare wildflowers and encountered rescued meerkats. Other places on the African continent Rolf has also visited include Egypt, Morocco and the Ivory Coast. Rolf is our Marketing Manager.

Taleen Gaidzkar
With a deep passion for travel and great appetite for adventure, Taleen has been in the travel industry over 30 years. Her first taste of Africa was on an overland journey many years ago, exploring east Africa and Egypt. Since then she has returned to the continent countless times, visiting many of the great game parks of eastern and southern Africa, meeting Rwanda’s mountain gorillas (three times!), and canoeing the Zambezi River. She has even been to West Africa. Taleen is one of our most senior consultants and specialises in designing unique itineraries.

Kate Witton
Kate’s travels have taken her all over Africa: Egypt, Morocco and Ethiopia to the north, Kenya and Tanzania in the east, Zambia, Botswana and South Africa in the south, as well as Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. Kate counts walking with rhinos in Zambia, observing a leopard and her cub in Botswana and meeting the fascinating tribes of Ethiopia among the many highlights so far. Bucket list items ticked off in recent years include seeing the wildebeest migration in the Serengeti, relaxing on a beach in exotic Zanzibar and meeting the wildlife of Madagascar.

For all team profiles please visit www.africanwildlifesafaris.com.au

The inside pages of this brochure are printed on PEFC certified paper.
**CONSERVATION WE SUPPORT**

As a specialist tour company tailor-making journeys to Africa, Antarctica, the Arctic, Bhutan, Canada & Alaska, India and South America, African Wildlife Safaris and our sister company Natural Focus are committed to preserving the world’s wilderness areas. Over the years we have made significant contributions to conservation projects in the destinations we visit through our policy of giving clients the opportunity to contribute $10 (or more) per person, which we then match dollar for dollar. We don’t charge an administration fee, so 100% of contributions go to the nominated organisation. Featured here are some of the conservation projects we support. For more information please see www.africanwildlifesafaris.com.au/about-us/conservation/

**THE WESTGATE COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY**

Established to protect 40,000 hectares of Kenya’s rugged northern rangelands, this community-run conservancy works closely with Samburu pastoralists and local safari lodge operators (SaSaab p108) to maintain the balance between livestock ranching and conservation. Some of their many initiatives include water management, monitoring of endangered Grey’s zebra and implementation of more sustainable grazing programs. AWS supports the conservancy through sales of a photo book with stunning images of Samburu tribespeople by CEO and founder Stephen Cameron. The book retails for $100 (excludes postage) with $45 from every sale going to the community.

To find out more, go to www.westgateconservancy.org or contact us to purchase a photo book.

**SAVING AFRICA’S RHINOS WITH RHINOS WITHOUT BORDERS**

Africa’s most ambitious wildlife conservation project commenced in 2015 in response to the catastrophic number of rhinos being poached in South Africa, home to Africa’s largest remaining rhinoceros population. With each individual rhino costing USD $45,000 to save, two highly respected conservation and tourism operators, Great Plains Conservation and andBeyond (both featured in this brochure), have combined efforts to reach the financial target required to relocate up to 100 rhinos from South Africa. To contribute of for more information about this project, visit www.rhinoswithoutborders.com

**VICTORIA FALLS ANTI-POACHING UNIT**

VFAPU is committed to minimising the unsustainable practices of deforestation and poaching within the Victoria Falls and Zambezi National Parks. Their program acknowledges the considerable poverty of the region whilst targeting poaching through arrest. It also offers education and paid employment to former perpetrators. VFAPU is headed by Charles Brightman, a safari operator and conservationist who in 1999 started out with just 3 scouts. Today there are 17 scouts patrolling an area of 30 sq km 24/7. If you are visiting Victoria Fall you can learn more about their valuable work by joining their eye-opening Wildlife Conservation and Awareness Safari (see p84).

Please visit www.vfapu.com for more information.

**THE SHELDRICK WILDLIFE TRUST**

The Orphans’ Project adjacent to Nairobi National Park is renowned for its tireless efforts in rescuing and hand-rearing elephant and rhino orphans. Founded by the late Dr Dame Daphne Sheldrick DBE, the trust was named after her husband, founding warden of Kenya’s largest national park, Tsavo, and is now run by their daughter Angela. In addition to the Orphans’ Project the trust embraces all aspects of conservation from safeguarding the natural environment, to anti-poaching, aerial surveillance and community awareness.

Please visit www.sheildrickwildlifetrust.org for more information.

**DIAN FOSSEY GORILLA FUND INTERNATIONAL (DFGFI)**

Founded by the late Dr Dian Fossey in 1978, the DFGFI continues her legacy of saving Africa’s gorillas through research and monitoring, as well as by educating the human communities that share these giant apes’ habitats. Following great success in Rwanda, the DFGFI has expanded into the Democratic Republic of Congo, home of the endangered lowland gorilla.

Please visit www.gorillafund.org for more information.

**CARBON NEUTRAL CHARITABLE FUND**

This long established non profit organisation uses funds raised through donations and carbon offsets to plant native trees on degraded land in Australia. You can reduce your impact on the planet by offsetting your flights. The fund has planted over 5.4 million trees in 160 sites since 2001.

Please visit https://cnf.com.au for more information.

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**Georgia Cowling**

Georgia has explored the great game parks of Tanzania, scaled Mount Kilimanjaro and observed rare rhino in the Ngorongoro Crater. Other major highlights on past safaris include seeing first-hand the Serengeti’s unbelievable volume of wildlife, experiencing the roar of the majestic Victoria Falls and exploring Botswana’s Okavango Delta on a mobile safari with Letaka Safaris (p63) an experience she describes as “truly immersive!” Her most recent adventure saw her visit South Africa’s incredible MalaMala Game Reserve in search of leopard.

**Jess Hamilton**

Jess has explored some of Kenya’s best game reserves including the magnificent Masai Mara and semi-arid Samburu, whilst a personal highlight was visiting the elephant orphanage in Nairobi. She has also explored the United Arab Emirates and been dune bashing in the deserts of Abu Dhabi. With Natural Focus Jess has travelled to the idyllic Masai Mara and Samburu game reserves including South Africa’s Kruger National Park and Botswana’s magnificent Okavango Delta. Her most recent trip took her on a classic Tanzanian safari where she witnessed some amazing big cat sightings and enjoyed an unforgettable excursion in the Ngorongoro Crater. Molly has also explored some of Morocco’s ancient cities as well as the sun-soaked beaches of the Seychelles archipelago (p95).

**Molly Haddon-Bolger**

Molly has visited Victoria Falls as well as many of Africa’s prime wildlife areas, including South Africa’s Kruger National Park and Botswana’s magnificent Okavango Delta. Her most recent trip took her on a classic Tanzanian safari where she witnessed some amazing big cat sightings and enjoyed an unforgettable excursion in the Ngorongoro Crater. Molly has also explored some of Morocco’s ancient cities as well as the sun-soaked beaches of the Seychelles archipelago (p95).
Go On Safari
Africa Needs Your Support

Africa has undergone colossal change since the heyday of glamorous colonial safaris. Even as long lens cameras replace hunting rifles, the continent’s iconic wildlife and magnificent wilderness areas remain under serious threat. Africa has the world’s highest rate of population growth with the population projected to double by 2050 (United Nations, Population Division). This has put enormous strain on the biomass required to feed, house and create infrastructure for these additional human beings, increased human-animal conflict and degraded once-pristine natural environments.

Most people are already aware that poaching remains a serious issue, with big game species such as elephant, rhino and lion populations decimated to satiate overseas demand for ivory, horn and skins. The plight of many antelope, primate and smaller game species is far less publicised; yet alarming numbers are being slaughtered daily for bush meat to supplement the diets of local communities, who look at forests and reserves as merely another source of food.

Many “buffer” areas separating urban settlements from national parks are also rapidly being cultivated by farmers and grazed by commercial livestock, destroying vital wildlife habitat and encroaching upon ancient animal routes. On World Wildlife Day 2018 the Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) cautioned that human activity had resulted in a dramatic decline in the world’s populations of big cats. ‘The lion population has nearly halved in the last two decades; cheetahs have gone extinct in 29 countries. We are facing the very real possibility of seeing these titans of nature go extinct in the wild in our lifetime, on our watch.’

Elephant numbers have also collapsed from 3-5 million in the early 20th century to around 470,000 for many of the same reasons, according to the World Wildlife Fund. Even the famous wildebeest of East Africa have not been spared; white-bearded wildebeest numbers are well down across Kenya and Tanzania due to human developments such as roads and fences impeding certain migratory corridors.

Water is scarcer than ever, as deforestation, drought and desertification tighten their grip. Climate change has only compounded these issues.

When you visit Africa, your travel dollars stretch far and wide. Not only do most African lodges and safari operators have ongoing conservation and community grassroot projects that your stay helps to fund, they employ and train local staff who in turn are able to support their families. Importantly such businesses perpetuate this worthwhile message: that Africa’s wildlife is most valuable to the community alive.

It’s hard to imagine a world without lions or elephants but many conservationists believe the current state of play means many species may disappear from the wild in the next few decades. Travelling to Africa is your endorsement of the local tourism industry and its wildlife, reinforcing that both are as vital to the continent as agriculture and other industries. You may choose to book your safari with one of our competitors rather than African Wildlife Safaris, but what matters most is that you go to Africa so that your visit helps to ensure Africa’s wildlife is not lost forever.

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1 Save the Rhino.
2 August 31, 2016 - Paul G. Allen’s Vulcan Inc. results of the Great Elephant Census (GEC)
5 “Scaling Up Pangolin Conservation”: IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group, 2014
6 African Wildlife Foundation
7 World Wildlife Fund
8 "Urbanization in Africa", African Development Bank (AfDB), 2012. “The expansion of cities is generally at the expense of destruction of forests and other natural environmental or ecosystems.” according to AfDB.
10 Pew Research Centre based on analysis of data from United Nations, Department of economic and Social Affairs, Population Division 2019

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Africa’s Wildlife Under Threat

60,000 km²

60,000km² of East African forests lost between 2000 and 2012. The WWF projection is that the region will lose 120,000km² between 2010 and 2030 if current trends continue.

75,000 km/yr

The amount by which Africa’s road network has grown each year for the past decade.

60%

Percentage of Africans living in cities by 2060 compared to 36% in 2010.

Top 3

Potential threats to Africa’s World Heritage Sites

Mining & Quarrying
Oil & Gas Extraction
Dams & Water Management

1.3 billion

Africa’s current population.

4.3 billion

Africa’s projected population by 2100.

As people and wildlife live in closer proximity, human-wildlife conflict has become a growing concern. Wildlife such as elephants and lions may raid crops or kill livestock. They are then killed in retaliation.