

KILIMANJARO

& Migration Safaris



AfricaStay
Best value Holidays

The Migration starts leaving Kenya's Masai Mara in November ...

NOVEMBER

Migration starts south in anticipation of the new seasons rains about to start.

DECEMBER

It moves quickly south down the Loliondo boundary. The rains have started and fresh grass covers the Serengeti plains.

JANUARY

Settles in the short grass lands on the southern plains. Game moves into the Ngorongoro Crater. Zebra are foaling.

FEBRUARY

Over 2 million wildebeest, zebra, gazelles, eland and predators are in the Serengeti plains. Wildebeest are dropping foals.

MARCH

The heavy rains are approaching and the short grass plains are starting to take strain.

APRIL

Starts moving slowly through woodlands towards the western corridor as heavy rains set in. Wild flowers come out in full bloom.

MAY

Follows the Mbalageti river towards the Grumeti Controlled Area where the long grass plains and woodlands provide food.

JUNE

Rains are ending and dry season approaching as the migration crosses the Grumeti River - crocodiles enjoy their annual feast.

JULY

Moves north east through the Grumeti towards Ikorongo Controlled Area. Some animals move towards the Lobo area.

AUGUST

Concentrated in the Ikorongo area crossing the Mara to the sweet grasses of the Masai Mara.

SEPTEMBER

The migration moves into Kenya's Masai Mara in search of water and fresh grazing.

OCTOBER

The Serengeti is near the end of the dry season, water is available in the Masai Mara.

Introducing AfricaStay

AfricaStay is a highly experienced, specialist wholesale tour operator offering a selection of quality destinations throughout Africa and neighbouring countries. We aim to ensure that our client's expectations are exceeded in all aspects of their travel experience. All our destinations and accommodation establishments have been selected by personally visiting and researching each supplier's products. We make sure that we offer our clients value and quality for their hard earned money!

Our team of travel professionals is more like a family than a business unit and we strive to be professional, friendly, reliable and helpful in everything we do while having fun doing it. All our employees are made to feel at home and we all share in each others good fortunes. We have developed a great reputation and excellent relationships within the travel industry and are recognised as one of the leading wholesale tour operators in the South African market. We are one of the largest suppliers to South Africa's top retail travel agencies, including consortiums and independent travel brands. AfricaStay is ASATA accredited so you can rest assured, you are in good hands!

We will do everything we can to make sure you enjoy your safari and climb and look forward to your valued feedback from your dream adventure. Who knows, you might be inspired to return to see these wildlife phenomena, climb the highest mountain in Africa or even try visiting one of our other exciting destinations such as the Seychelles, Victoria Falls, Mauritius, Egypt, Zanzibar, Reunion, Mozambique and Tanzania. Talk to your local travel agent, we have great deals in store for you!

The Parks

Serengeti National Park

You might have heard the name, or watched a documentary on National Geographic, but to journey through it, is an experience of a lifetime. The park name is derived from a Masai word meaning “endless plains” and it accommodates the largest concentration of wildlife in the world. Approximately 1,500,000 wildebeest and 250,000 zebra migrate annually in a circular pattern between the Serengeti National Park’s Western Corridor and Kenya’s Masai Mara Game Reserve. The migration of these animals is a continuous affair with stopover points along the way. These migratory trends are dependent on the rains.

Ngorongoro Conservation Area

Regarded as the 8th wonder of the world, named as a World Heritage Site in 1978 and an international Biosphere Reserve in 1981, this is one of the most diverse and fascinating areas of Tanzania. Formed some 2.5 million years ago from a volcanic mountain sinking due to inactivity, it was initially thought to be higher than Tanzania’s famous Kilimanjaro. The crater houses 30,000 animals and a large variety of birds, which rarely move from the area due to the availability of water through wet and dry seasons. The endangered Black Rhino can be found scattered throughout the base of the crater. This is one of the few places where the “big five” can be found in a small area. The main water source for the animals in the crater is Lake Makat, surrounded by thousands of lesser flamingos.

Lake Manyara National Park

Situated on the base of the escarpment of the Great Rift Valley, it derives its name from the Maasai word “manyara” which is a plant known to us as Euphorbia tiraculli. Like most Rift Valley lakes, the water is alkaline and attracts vast flocks of flamingos. There are numerous water birds in the area, including pelicans that waddle around next to short grasses on the shore of the lake. The park is a bird lover’s haven and Manyara is also known for its tree-climbing lions. On the southern side of the park are the hot springs of Maji Moto.



The Masai Mara National Reserve

You haven’t visited Kenya until you’ve been to the Mara, especially during the wildebeest migration. It’s all about the game in this 320 sq km undulating landscape of open grassland dotted with flat topped acacia trees. You’ll see elephant, lion, buffalo, hyena, jackal, giraffe, zebra, gazelle, topi, kongoni, eland and ostrich without much effort. The Mara in Kenya is an extension of the Serengeti in Tanzania and it’s between these countries that the annual spectacle of the migration is witnessed. The grass that springs up after the rains in the Mara attracts well over a million wildebeest from the dryer plains of the Serengeti. The most dramatic scenes take place as the wildebeest cross the swollen Mara River, where crocodiles lie hungrily in wait each year. Catching the migration means visiting the Mara between July and October, and especially during August or September.



TANZANIA MIGRATION SAFARI

Migration

DAY 1

Kilimanjaro International Airport – Snow Crest Hotel

Distance: 55 km / Drive time: 1 hour

On arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport, you will be met and assisted by your driver guide who will transfer you to your hotel in the town of Arusha. The town is situated on the foot of the 10th highest mountain in Africa, Mount Meru.

DAY 2

Arusha - Lake Manyara National Park

Distance: 130 km / Drive time: 2½ hours

After breakfast, at 09h00 you will depart on your drive to Lake Manyara, where you will stop at the hotel for lunch before you set off on an afternoon game drive at 14h00 in the park that is known for its tree climbing lions, the Lake Manyara National Park. After the game drive you will return to your lodge for an evening at leisure and dinner.

DAY 3

Lake Manyara - Serengeti National Park

Distance: 205 km / Drive time: 4 hours

After breakfast, at 09h00 depart for cultural village walk in Mto wa Mbu. Then at 10h00 proceed to Ngorongoro Wildlife Lodge arrive at 11h30 for a hot lunch and enjoy (weather permitting) a fantastic view of the Ngorongoro Crater. At 12h30 depart to the Serengeti National Park for an on route game drive. Late afternoon, you will arrive at the lodge in the Seronera area situated in the centre of the Serengeti National Park for evening at leisure and dinner.

DAY 4 & 5

Serengeti National Park

After breakfast, depart for a morning game drive in the Serengeti National Park, returning to the lodge for hot lunch. Take an afternoon game drive and return to the lodge to enjoy an evening at leisure and a hot dinner.

DAY 6

Serengeti National Park - Ngorongoro

Distance: 145 km / Drive time: 3 hours

After breakfast, depart for a morning game drive in Serengeti National Park, at 11h30 arrives at your Serengeti lodge for lunch. After lunch depart on a scenic drive to Ngorongoro via Olduvai Gorge. After the drive arrive at the lodge situated on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater for an evening at leisure and dinner.

DAY 7

Ngorongoro Crater Tour – Arusha

Distance: 190 km / Drive time: 3 hours

After breakfast, depart early for the Ngorongoro crater tour, At lunchtime ascend and drive back to the Ngorongoro lodge for hot lunch, followed by a drive back to Arusha.

DAY 8

Arusha – Kilimanjaro International Airport

Distance: 55 km / Drive time: 1 hour

After breakfast you will be transferred to Kilimanjaro International Airport for your flight home.



KILIMANJARO

While many operators sell the climbing experience,
you'll find our Kilimanjaro quite different.



Many of our staff members have climbed this giant themselves and we have a 100% success rate to date. This enables us to give our clients first-hand, accurate information about which route to take, what to pack, how to prepare and what to expect. We even have a 95% success rate for our 2010 Kilimanjaro climbing clients, and feel proud to have played a role in their adventures.

As the largest supplier of tourism to Tanzania we have a unique and strong relationship with our operators, suppliers and ground handlers. We believe that a successful climb has a great deal to do with the support team that accompanies climbers up the mountain, and as a result we only utilise candidates of the highest standard.

Our teams of guides and porters have all successfully climbed and summated Kilimanjaro at least 15 times before we've even considered employing them. All of them have subsequently undergone a strenuous training programme and have been certified by the Tanzania National Parks.

Most of our "inside" information stems from the fact that one of our directors used to live near the base of Kilimanjaro and has first-hand knowledge of the language, people, customs, and culture of the area.

The quality of service you can expect to receive from African Encounters is much more personal and focussed than that of our competitors.

We offer the Marangu, Machame, Lemosho, Umbwe, Rongai and Shira routes. The itineraries that follow give you a taste of what you'll experience.

MARANGU ROUTE

Known as the 'Coca Cola' Route, Marangu is the easiest, cheapest and most popular route to the summit. Although there is a high amount of hiker traffic, it's a fun and comfortable route. All accommodation is in huts, sleeping in bunk beds and mineral water, soft drinks, chocolates and beers are sold at all camps. Your equipment and supplies are carried by porters and a cook prepares meals. All you will need to carry in a daypack are items like drinking water, a lunch pack and additional clothing.

DAY 1 Johannesburg - Kilimanjaro

Fly to Kilimanjaro International Airport, where you'll be met by our representative and transferred to your hotel in Moshi.

DAY 2 Marangu Gate - Mandara Hut

Altitude: 1970-2710m / About 5 hours hiking / Distance: 12km

Transfer from Moshi to Marangu Gate, sign the register at the Park office and make final preparations for the climb. You'll take a ridge trail through the cultivation zone, and see how local farmers manage and produce goods on the side of the mountain, before entering the rain forest. This is possibly the most beautiful part of the climb. After lunch and a rest, carry on to Mandara Hut. A group of wooden A-framed huts situated in a forest clearing, sleep 6-8 hikers each. All huts are equipped with solar generated lighting. Spring water is piped into the camp and there are flush toilets.

DAY 3 Mandara Hut - Horombo Hut

Altitude: 2710-3725m / About 6 hours hiking / Distance: 15-16km

Continue through a short stretch of forest, and around the base of the Maundi Crater, entering the moorland zone. Take a short detour up to the rim of the Maundi Crater - you'll see the impressive Kibo Crater, and on a clear day the glaciers of Kibo. Some of Kilimanjaro's most spectacular and strange plants are found in the moorland - giant lobelia and groundsel grow to heights of 3-5 metres! Arrive at Horombo Hut in the afternoon. Temperatures during the night will be around freezing point.

DAY 4 Horombo Hut - Zebra Hut - Mawenzi Hut

Altitude: 3725m / 4 hours hiking / Distance: 6-8km

Today is acclimatisation day based at Horombo, with a hike past Zebra Rocks to Mawenzi Hut. Both ascending and descending hikers meet at Horombo with all the guides, porters and cooks, so this camp is normally full and buzzing with activity and excitement.

DAY 5 Horombo Hut - Kibo Hut

Altitude: 3725-4710m / 6 hours hiking / Distance: 15-16km

The climb gets a little more difficult as oxygen begins to thin out. Ascend into the Alpine desert, taking one of two trails to the "Saddle", between the peaks of Mawenzi and Kibo. The lower route is easier and takes you past the last watering point. You'll reach Kibo Hut after lunch and the afternoon is spent preparing equipment for the final ascent tonight. Kibo comfortably sleeps 60 hikers in bunk beds, with toilet facilities behind the hut. You'll be in bed by 19h00 with a wake up call in only 4.5 hours time.

DAY 6 Kibo Hut - Uhuru Peak - Horombo Hut

Altitude: 4700-5895-3720m / 14 hours hiking / Distance: 27km

Rise at around 23h30 and head up a rocky path towards the Hans Meyer Cave at 5150 metres. Take a short rest before continuing the ascent up to Gillman's Point at 5680 metres. You are likely to walk through snow for the next 2 hours, before reaching the summit of Uhuru Peak at 5895 metres. Take a little time to enjoy the fact you have conquered Kilimanjaro and then start heading down! It's 6 hours of hiking to Horombo Hut, where you will spend the night and enjoy your last dinner on the mountain.

DAY 7 Horombo Hut - Marangu Gate

Altitude: 3720-1980m / 6 hours hiking / Distance: 27km

Descend past Mandara Hut, down to the Marangu Gate. Sign your name in the register and receive an official summit certificate. If you reached Gillman's Point you'll receive a green certificate, and if you made it to Uhuru Peak you'll receive a gold certificate. Transfer back to your hotel in Moshi by road.

DAY 8 Kilimanjaro-Johannesburg

After breakfast, you'll be transferred back to Kilimanjaro International Airport to catch your flight back to Johannesburg.

MACHAME ROUTE

Machame

Also referred to as the 'Whiskey' Route, Machame attracts around 25% of the total climbers on the mountain. We feel that this is the most varied and scenic route up Kilimanjaro. Accommodation is in tents - this is more than compensated for by the incredible sights you will be treated to. From late afternoon sunsets at Shira, to the misty heights of Kibo at the great Barranco Wall. The walks are longer and steeper and physically more challenging than the Marangu route, so you need to be fit.

DAY 1 Johannesburg - Kilimanjaro

Fly to Kilimanjaro International Airport, where you'll be met by our representative and transferred to your hotel in Moshi.

DAY 2 Machame Gate - Machame Camp

Altitude: 1500-3100m / 7-8 hours hiking / Distance: 16-19km

Transfer to Machame Village where your supplies and equipment are prepared by your guide, porters and cook. It will likely be wet and muddy so you will take an hour long walk of nearly 3km from the village to Machame Gate (you'll be driven if the road is dry enough). After registering at the gate office begin your climb by entering the rain forest. You can expect a wet and soggy hike until you hit the halfway point to Machame Camp and stop for lunch. When you arrive at Machame in the afternoon your porters will already have started preparing for your arrival, tents will be pitched and water on the boil. You can expect temperatures to drop to freezing point at this campsite.

DAY 3 Machame-Shira

Altitude: 2980-3850m / 6 hours hiking / Distance: 9-10km

After an early start, climb an hour or so before leaving the forest glades. The gradient eases off a bit as you hike through moorlands for 2 hours. After a quick lunch continue your ascent up a rocky ridge leading onto the Shira plateau. On a clear day you'll see the Western Breach with its awesome glaciers in the east. A short hike will bring you to the Shira campsite.



DAY 4 Shira Hut - Lava Tower - Barranco Camp

Altitude: 3850-4600-3950m / 7 hours hiking / Distance: 14-15km

Turn east towards Kibo and hike for about 5 hours through the semi desert and fairly rocky conditions surrounding Lava Tower. Lunch before ascending towards Lava Tower at 4600 metres. Descend then by approximately 650 metres to the Barranco Camp and make the most of excellent vantage points along the way, overlooking the Western Breach and Breach Wall. The camp is located in a valley just below the Breach and the rather impressive looking Great Barranco Wall. Enjoy the magnificent sunset while you wait for your cook to finish preparing a well deserved dinner and the porters get your tents ready for a night of rest in sub zero temperatures.

OPTIONAL EXTRA: Extra acclimatisation day

We highly recommend this as it improves your chances of success by 75%, day 5 can be spent acclimatising. You'll walk from Barranco to Karanga Camp - around 4 hours through 7km of Alpine Desert. Your guide will assess your strength and stamina for the summit ahead. This also assists in determining the pace you should summit at and when to wake and begin hiking. You will spend the night at altitude, at around 4200 metres above sea level, but you will only ascend by 360 metres during the day, giving you sufficient time to acclimatise.

DAY 5 Barranco Camp - Barafu Hut

Altitude: 3950-4560m / 7 hours hiking / Distance: 13km

Leave Barranco and make your way up the Great Barranco Wall. Then descend through the Karanga Valley over intervening ridges and valleys, to the junction that connects with the Mweka route. Fill up with water in the Karanga Valley as there will be no water at Barafu Camp where you will be spending part of the night. Mweka is the preferred route down from the summit, so make a mental note to remember it. From this junction it will take you almost another hour to reach Barafu Hut. At an altitude of 4560 metres, your tents are pitched on a narrow, stony, and dangerous ridge and are exposed to all the elements - you can bank on gale force winds and a freezing night out here. At camp, your guide will advise you to familiarise yourself with your surroundings before dark, as you will be leaving at midnight to make the final ascent to the summit. You will also spend time preparing your equipment for your summit attempt. You'll be in bed by 19h00 with a wake up call in only 4.5 hours time.



DAY 6 Stella Point - Uhuru Peak - Mweka Hut

Altitude: 4560-5895-3100m / 15-16 hours hiking / Distance: 30km

Rise around 23h30, and head towards Stella Point on the crater rim. The 6 hour hike to Stella Point is probably the most mentally and physically challenging part of the entire route. Departing from Stella Point, you will likely be walking through snow for the next 2 hours, when you will finally reach the summit of Uhuru Peak at 5895 metres. Take a little time to enjoy the fact you have conquered Kilimanjaro and then start heading down! The descent to Barafu will take almost 3 hours. You'll stop for a short rest before heading to Mweka Hut - an average of 5 hours to down the rock and scree path to the moorland and eventually back into the rain forest. As usual your tents, dinner, and washing water will be prepared.

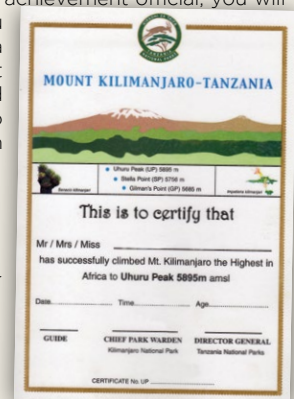
DAY 7 Mweka Camp - Mweka Gate

Altitude: 3100-1970m / 3 hours hiking / Distance: 15km

It's a short 3-hour scenic hike back to the Park gate, to sign your name in the register. To make your achievement official, you will receive a summit certificate. If you reached Stella Point you'll receive a green certificate, and if you made it to Uhuru Peak you'll receive a gold certificate. Then you still have to walk from the Mweka Gate down into the Mweka village, normally a muddy 3 km hike that will take an hour or so. Here you will be served a delicious hot lunch before returning to your hotel in Moshi.

DAY 8 Kilimanjaro - Johannesburg

After breakfast you'll be transferred to Kilimanjaro International Airport for the flight back to Johannesburg.



LEMOSHO ROUTE

Considered the most scenic route, Lemosho is one of our preferred routes, due to its ideal balance of low traffic, beautiful scenery and a high summit success rate. The route approaches Mount Kilimanjaro from the west, beginning with a long drive from Moshi to Londorossi Gate. Unlike the Machame route, which simply intersects the Shira Plateau, the Lemosho route crosses the entirety of the plain from west to east in a pleasant, relatively flat hike.

DAY 1 Johannesburg - Kilimanjaro

Fly to Kilimanjaro International Airport, where you'll be met by our representative and transferred to your hotel in Moshi.

DAY 2 Londorossi Gate - Mti Mkubwa Camp

Altitude: 2390-2890m / 3 hours hiking / Distance: 6km

Transfer from Moshi to Londorossi Park Gate. From here it's an 11k drive on a 4WD forest track to the Lemosho Glades. Hike for about three hours to your camp site at Mti Mkubwa Camp. A lunch packet will be provided at the gate. You'll sleep in tents and although there is no running water at the campsite, your guide and support team will provide you with boiled water.

DAY 3 Mti Mkubwa Camp - Shira Hut

Altitude: 2890-3850m / 8 hours hiking / Distance: 9km

The route gets gradually steeper today, enters a giant heather moorland zone and then crosses the Shira Ridge. You'll walk towards Kibo until you reach the Shira encampment. Amazing sunsets and moon risings can be filmed from the campsite.

DAY 4 Shira Hut - Lava Tower - Barranco Camp

Altitude: 3850-4600-3950m / 7 hours hiking / Distance: 14-15km

From Shira the route turns east towards Kibo and then southeast towards Lava Tower. Just below Lava Tower, lunch is served. At this point you will have the choice of either ascending higher to Lava Tower, or to take the lower road down to the Barranco encampment. From Shira to Lava Tower will take you approximately 4 hours and from Lava Tower to the Barranco Camp approximately 3 hours.

DAY 5 Barranco Camp - Barafu Camp

Altitude: 3950-4560m / 8 hours hiking / Distance: 11km

An early start to cross over the Great Barranco wall. The wall looks more difficult and intimidating than it is, but will still take you the best of 2 hours. From the top of the wall a couple of valleys need to be crossed before reaching the Karanga Valley. Here you will be served a big lunch before continuing onto the Mweka route.

The Karanga Valley runs a small river and this will be your last water point prior to your descending from the summit. We now continue on the Mweka route up towards the Barafu camp. It is our recommendation to add an extra day on the mountain to complete this day. You will then instead of hiking all the way to the Barafu camp, split the day in half to overnight at the Karanga valley encampment. Doing this, you will shorten the following day so that you can reach the Barafu camp earlier which will allow you much more time to rest prior to your summit attempt.

DAY 6 Barafu Camp - Stella Point - Uhuru Peak - Mweka Camp

Altitude: 4560-5685-5895-3100m / 15-16hrs hiking / 30km

Around midnight you will have to start your final ascent to the summit. This part of the hike is done at night to be able to reach Stella Point around first light (+/- 7 hours from Barafu camp). This will be by far the most difficult part of your hike, as you will not only be hiking on a slope of loose gravel, but also be doing so at altitude. Another +/- 1 hour's hike and you will have reached Uhuru Peak - the highest point in Africa! After this amazing and emotional experience you will return to Barafu Camp via Stella Point. This will go a lot faster than when you summited and you should arrive back at Barafu camp before lunch time. Enjoy a light lunch and a short break before continuing down the Mweka route to Mweka Camp, where you spend your last night on the mountain.

DAY 7 Mweka Camp - Mweka Gate

Alt. 3100-1970m / 4 hrs hiking / 15km

Enjoy the scenery as you walk through the rain forest. Lunch will be served at the Mweka gate around 12h00. From the gate you will be collected and returned to your Moshi hotel for a celebration dinner. All successful mountaineers that have reached Uhuru Peak or Stella Point will be presented with a unique certificate to commemorate your achievement.

DAY 8 Kilimanjaro-Johannesburg

After breakfast you'll be transferred to Kilimanjaro International Airport for the flight back to Johannesburg.

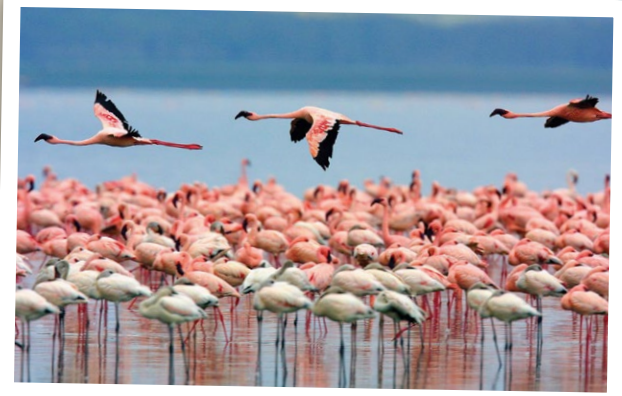
KILIMANJARO ROUTE MAP



We also offer these Kenya safaris ...

KENYA MIGRATION SAFARI

This 8-day safari takes you past the extinct volcano of Mt Longonot and Suswa and into the homelands of the Masai. The Masai Mara located on Kenya's southern border with Tanzania, constitutes the northern stretch of the Serengeti and has the richest concentration of animals in Kenya. You will stay in this area for the next four days to see the Big Five or catch a glimpse of the migration crossing the river. After the Masai Mara travel to Lake Naiasha where you will stay 2 nights and enjoy a boat trip on this beautiful lake. You will also visit the well-known Lake Nakuru National Park, described by famous ornithologist Roger Tory Pettersen as "the world's greatest birdlife spectacle". View flamingos, pelicans and myriads of other birds.



TSAVO NATIONAL PARK SAFARIS *Great add on to a Kenya Beach Holiday*



Tsavo East & West National Parks occupy 21,000 square kilometres and are Kenya's oldest and largest National Parks, covering approximately 40% of the total area of all Kenya's National Parks. Its beautiful landscape and proximity to the coast make it a popular safari destination. It is accredited as one of the world's leading biodiversity strongholds, with endless bushy grassland and open plains alternate with semi-arid acacia scrub and woodlands, the Galana river banks give rise to lush vegetation. There is a wide variety of animals to be seen in Tsavo East National Park: lion, leopard, cheetah, zebras, giraffes, serval cats, antelopes, kongoni, lesser kudu, Oryx, klipspringer, impala, striped hyena, gazelles, buffalos and elephants. Some 500 bird species have been recorded in the area, including

ostrich and some migratory kestrels, while buzzards stop at Tsavo-East during their long flight South. Famous and home to some of the largest herds of elephant in Kenya, the elephants glow red after dust baths, blowing the vivid red dust through their trunks over their bodies, large prides of lion are sighted regularly and another great sight is the spectacular herds of up to 1000 buffalo.

... and we can assist with tailor-made safaris to the lesser known parks!

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