



LIST OF THE BEST BOTSWANA SAFARI TOURS

- All tried and tested and completely customisable to meet your travel wishes.
- Rules are NOT always meant to be broken, especially when you're in the natural wildlife territory and around some furious wild creatures.
- A giraffe's spots are much like human finger prints. **STORY ON PAGE 2**



Ranging from luxury Botswana safari tours to rugged adventures and multi-generational family vacations
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A GIRAFFE'S SPOTS ARE MUCH LIKE HUMAN FINGERPRINTS.



Giraffes possess several unique characteristics that have captivated scientists and wildlife enthusiasts alike. Their long necks, intricate spot patterns, and complex social behaviors are just a few aspects that contribute to their fascinating nature.

This collection of facts delves into the remarkable adaptations, behaviors, and challenges faced by these majestic animals, revealing the wonders of the giraffe's world.

As browsers, giraffes primarily feed on leaves from trees and shrubs, adapting their diet based on availability and nutritional needs.

No two individual giraffes have exactly the same pattern.

Both male and female giraffes have two distinct, hair-covered horns called ossicones. Male giraffes use their horns to sometimes fight with other males.

Giraffes only need 5 to 30 minutes of sleep in a 24-hour period! They often achieve that in quick naps that may last only a minute or two at a time.

HIPPOS EXHIBIT STRONG SOCIAL BONDS AND TYPICALLY LIVE IN GROUPS WITH ANYWHERE FROM 40 TO 200 HIPPOS,

These formidable creatures are considered the second largest land mammal, smaller only than elephants. The average male hippo can weigh around 3,200 kilograms, while females usually weigh 30% less. They're typically 3.5 metres long and 1.5 metres tall.

Hippos have bulky, barrel-shaped bodies, short and stout legs, large heads, and enormously powerful jaws. Their jaws can open to 180 degrees and bite down with three times the strength of a lion. They're armed with impressive, sharp teeth that can grow up to 50 centimetres long, used for eating and defence. The common

hippopotamus has four webbed toes adapted to support them on land and in water. On the other hand, pygmy hippos tend to have less webbing and slightly longer legs. A hippo's eyes and nostrils sit on top of its head, which helps it stay mostly submerged in water while breathing and keeping an eye on its surroundings. Although hippos can't breathe underwater, they can hold their breath for up to five minutes.

Hippos exhibit strong social bonds and typically live in groups with anywhere from 40 to 200 hippos, known as bloats, pods, or herds. They are territorial creatures and use their dung to mark

their territory. Male hippos have been known to flick their dung around to assert dominance. This dung is actually important to their aquatic ecosystems, as it transfers vital nutrients from the land to the water, allowing insects, plants, and other microorganisms to flourish.





TIPS ON HOW TO BOOK AN AFFORDABLE AFRICAN SAFARI

1. Stay Longer in One Place...
2. Choose the Right Destination...
3. Use a Local Safari Operator...
4. Consider a Self-Drive Holiday...
5. Compromise on Luxury...
6. Travel During Low/Green Season.



HOW TO PLAN AN AFFORDABLE *African Safari*



The best time to go on safari is between June and October, during the dry season. This is a cooler time of the year and you are more likely to see animals, who are searching for water sources. During these months, you can also catch the iconic Masai Mara migration.

A malachite kingfisher



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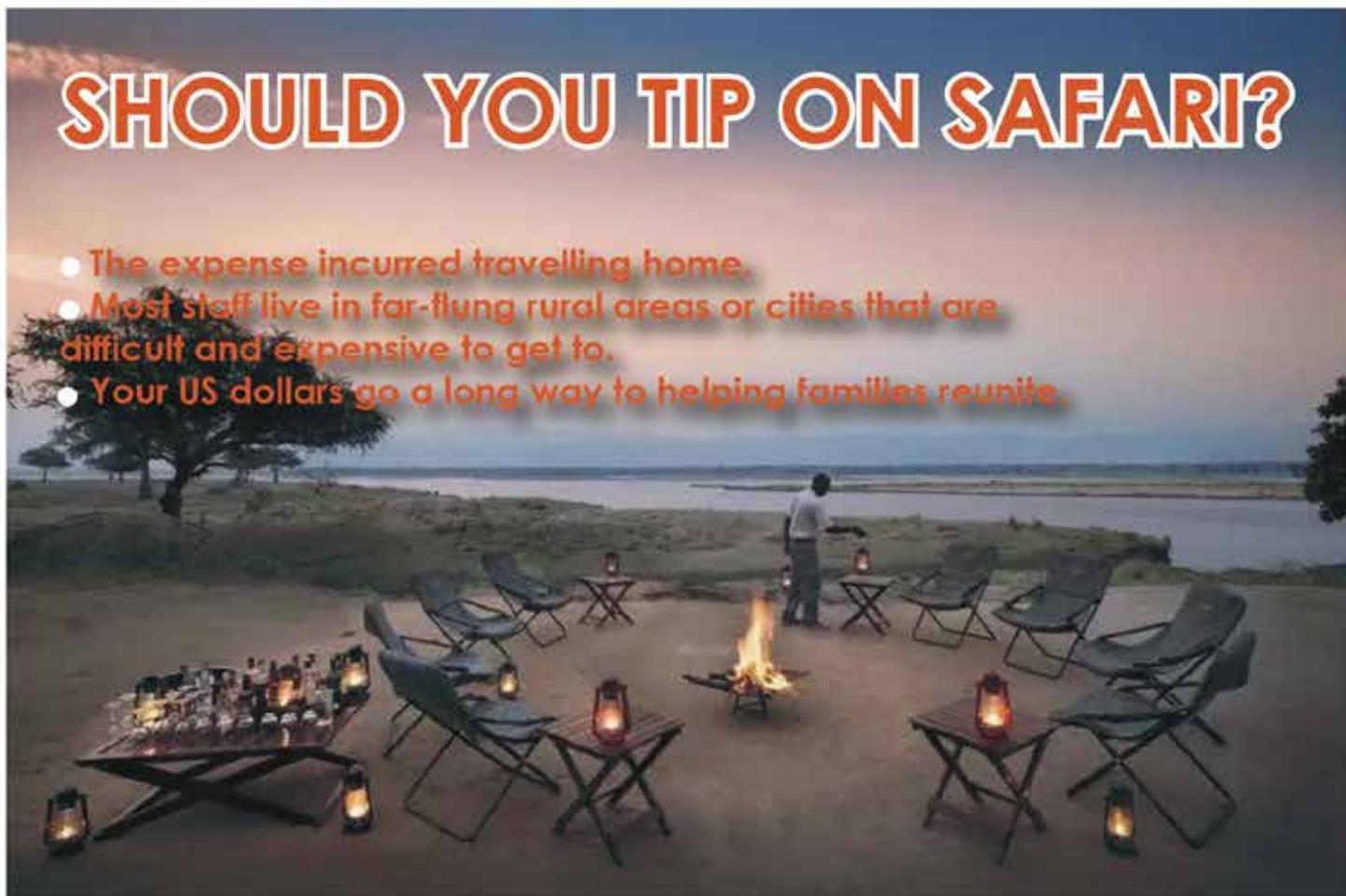
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SHOULD YOU TIP ON SAFARI?

- The expense incurred travelling home.
- Most staff live in far-flung rural areas or cities that are difficult and expensive to get to.
- Your US dollars go a long way to helping families reunite.



In Africa, it is customary – but not obligatory or mandatory – to give tips to service staff in gratitude and thanks for good service. Gratuities can be increased or decreased depending on the level of service you are given: a high tip for exceptional assistance or a low one for going-through-the-motions, just-doing-my-job mediocre service.

This is hard to answer as it's not a clear-cut issue for many travellers. To help answer the question of whether you should be tipping on safari, let's look at it from Guests' Perspective

Travellers from the US generally come from a culture where tipping is the norm and expected, while those from Europe or Australia generally don't, so are often unsure of how to tip on safari.

Some would simply like to do away with tipping on safari altogether and add the money onto the final bill for a trip. Although

this is a commendable idea, it's hard to put into practice because a safari has so many moving parts. Also, would brilliant staff at one lodge sacrifice a good tip for average staff at another?

Some guests object to tipping on the grounds that the workers' salaries should be enough to cover their living expenses and that lodge owners should pay more.

This, once again, is a commendable idea but your safari costs cover not only wages but also concession fees, fuel, insurance, security, maintenance, food, beverages, Wi-Fi, entertainment, maintenance – the list is endless! An increase in wages would cause an increase in costs to you as other costs – like conservation fees or pumping borehole water – are fixed. Many lodges are using solar power, starting their own kitchen gardens and so on, in order to cut costs where possible and pay workers as much as possible.

Safari staff are responsible for our safety, comfort, health and nutrition, often under difficult circumstances that we know nothing about. While we're enjoying drinks in the boma, kitchen staff may be fending off marauding vervet monkeys. While we're out on a blissful boat cruise, they may have to contend with pipes broken by elephants looking for water.

The behind-the-scenes dramas of a lodge are incredible, and a safari tip is often a welcome recognition of that extra work.

Some guests may feel that a 'safari is expensive enough' so tips are an unnecessary added expense. From a worker's perspective, who returns to a village with no running water or electricity, it may be puzzling to see visitors who have pricey cameras, binoculars, watches, and jewellery worth several years' salaries baulking at paying a relatively small amount in tips.



**LEAVE
THE CULT
JOIN THE
CLUB**

Virgin
active

Animals to see on a SAFARI

Animal Spot



African Elephant



Leopard



African Lion



Black Rhino



Cape Buffalo



Hippopotamus



Nile Crocodile



Secretary Bird



African Penguin



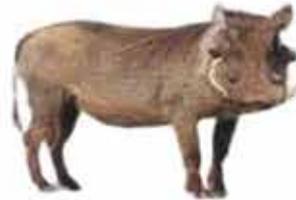
Ethiopian Wolf



Chimpanzee



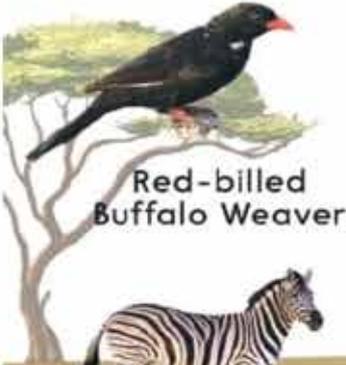
African Grey Hornbill



Common Warthog



Masai Ostrich



Red-billed Buffalo Weaver



Egyptian Vulture



Spotted Hyena



Marabou Stork



Mountain Gorilla



Plains Zebra



Northern Giraffe



Black Wildebeest



Thomson's Gazelle



Cheetah

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"STAFF'S PERSPECTIVES"

Of course, you say, staff will want tips.
Who wouldn't want 'free money' on top of their salaries?
Once again, it's not as simple as that.



The long periods that staff spend away from their children, families and friends. They are often on duty for weeks at a time because getting in and out of the bush is difficult. It's compensation for not being able to return to a spouse or child after a long day at work.

The bittersweet burden that almost every employed person in Africa carries is the expectation to support their extended family members who are unemployed or at school. This support network is vital in bringing up children and stopping unemployed people from turning to alcohol or crime. A good tip has wide-ranging and positive ramifications. The vast majority of workers do not fritter their money away on frivolous luxuries but pay for school fees, doctor's visits, groceries and so on. They may not have access to social security or medical aid like workers in the rest of the world.

The long hours that staff work. They're up way before hot tea or coffee gets delivered for your 5am wake-up call in the morning and go to bed way after your last nightcap to put out the camp

fire, patrol the perimeter, prep the game-drive vehicle, and countless other chores that go into running a slick operation in the middle of the wilderness.

The little extra lengths that staff go like remembering your name, mixing your favourite drink without being asked, finding the specific bird you've always wanted to see... Again, our clients consistently remark on how incredible the staff in Africa are because of all the little things that they do with friendliness and grace.

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The behind-the-scenes dramas of a lodge are incredible, and a safari tip is often a welcome recognition of that extra work.

TOP 10 DESTINATIONS FOR AFRICAN SAFARIS

- 1). **BOTSWANA.** People seem surprised when we tell them that Botswana is currently #1 on our African safari bucket list. Botswana has emerged in recent years as one of Africa's hottest ecotourism destinations. The vast elephant herds of Chobe National Park and canoe-based wildlife safaris in the Okavango Delta are among the nation's world-renowned tourist attractions. But there are also traditional Big 5 safaris at Moremi Nature Reserve (Botswana's first protected area) and uncrowded gems such as Makgadikgadi Pans National Park, Nxai Pan National Park, and the Central Kalahari Game Reserve.
- 2). **KENYA.** ...
- 3). **MALAWI.** ...
- 4). **NAMIBIA.** ...
- 5). **RWANDA.** ...
- 6). **SOUTH AFRICA.** ...
- 7). **TANZANIA.** ...
- 8). **UGANDA.** ...
- 9). **Zambia.** ...
- 10). **Zimbabwe.** ...

WILDEBEEST MIGRATION



The Great Wildebeest Migration is the largest single movement of wild animals in the world, deservedly listed as one of its eight Natural Wonders and an exceptional inspiration for a dream tour.

It is one of the greatest natural phenomena, the wildebeest migration where millions of wildebeests and zebra cross the crocodile-infested Mara River to Masai Mara and back to Serengeti, highlighting the struggle for survival against all odds.

Talk to us today to customize an authentic african safari experience for you, and to bring your african dream to life. The wildebeest migration is a yearly event where millions of wildebeest,

alongside zebras and gazelles, travel across the plains of East Africa, primarily in Tanzania's Serengeti National Park and Kenya's Maasai Mara, driven by the need for fresh grazing and water, following seasonal rains, creating a massive, circular movement that is considered the largest land mammal migration on Earth; this migration is notable for its calving season where a large number of calves are born at once, making them vulnerable to predators, and the dramatic river crossings where they face dangers like crocodiles; the migration also plays a critical ecological role by replenishing grasslands and sustaining predator populations.

Key points about the wildebeest migration:

Calving season:

The most dramatic part of the migration is the calving season, where most wildebeest give birth within a short period, usually occurring in the southern Serengeti between late January and mid-March.

River crossings:

A dangerous part of the migration is crossing rivers like the Mara River, where crocodiles often prey on the herds.

Predators:

While the wildebeest migrate, large numbers of predators like lions, hyenas, and leopards follow to hunt the vulnerable calves and weaker individuals.

Not just wildebeest:

Alongside the wildebeest, large herds of zebras and gazelles also participate in the migration.

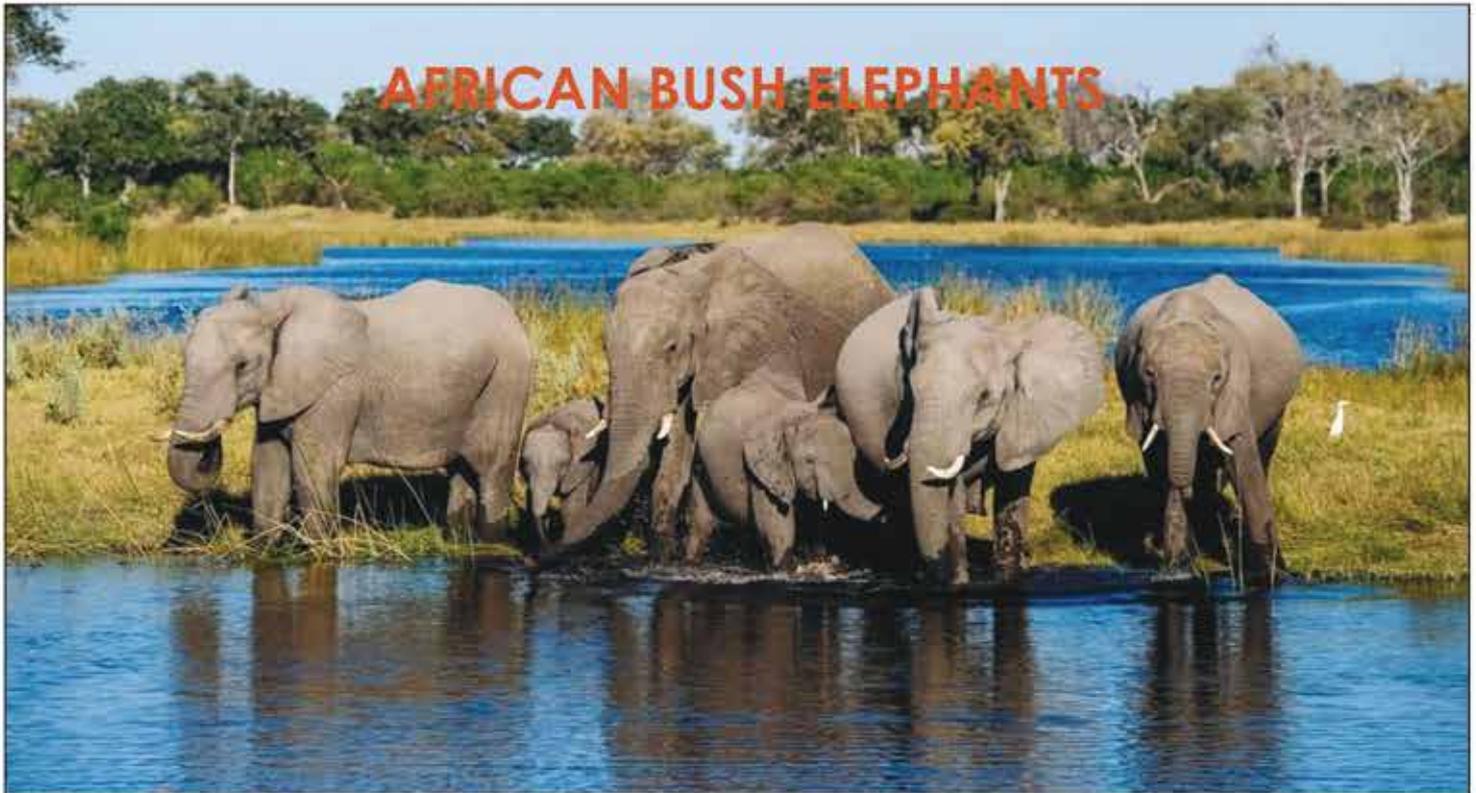
Circular movement:

The migration follows a circular route, moving north during the rainy season to access fresh grass and then returning south during the dry season.

Impact on the ecosystem:

The migration plays a vital role in the Serengeti ecosystem by fertilizing the soil through their droppings and encouraging new grass growth.





AFRICAN BUSH ELEPHANTS

They are the world's largest terrestrial mammal. There are two recognized subspecies of this iconic animal: bush (or savanna) and forest. African bush elephants are the larger of the two and their tusks curve out, while their forest-dwelling cousins are darker and have tusks that are straighter and that point downward.

Namibia has announced a cull of more than 700 wild animals, including 83 elephants and 30 hippos.

The Ministry of Environment says the meat from the wild animals will be distributed to people struggling to feed themselves because of the ongoing drought in Southern Africa.

Adam Cruise, a wildlife investigative journalist says, "Namibia has always been known to exploit its wildlife for human consumption, whether trophy hunting or trading live animals. But, this seems to have been ramped up."

According to the United Nations, nearly half of Namibia's population is expected to experience high levels of food insecurity in the coming months.

Cape buffalo are well-known for their formidable defense mechanisms. They are a very large and powerful bovine species that can weigh up to 2,200 pounds and stand up to 6 feet tall.



Their size and strength make them a formidable opponent against predators.

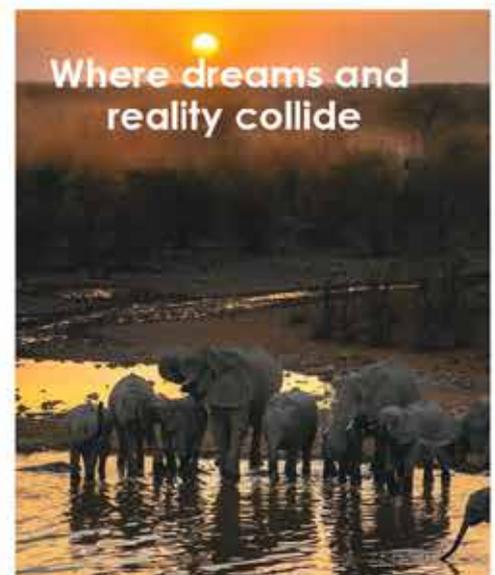
Cape buffalo employ several techniques to protect themselves from danger

They are very social animals and typically live in herds of up to hundreds of individuals. When danger is present, the herd will form a defensive circle with the calves in the center.

This gives the calves protection from predators while the adult buffalo faces outward to defend the herd.

The horns of the cape buffalo are also a powerful defense mechanism. When threatened, the buffalo will charge at the predator and use their horns to push or stab them. They are very powerful and can easily injure or even kill an attacking predator. In addition, the cape buffalo have strong legs and hooves,

which they use to kick and trample predators. If all else fails, the buffalo will run away from the predator as a last resort.



Where dreams and reality collide

DON'TS OF SAFARI



WHAT NOT TO DO ON SAFARI

Don't wear perfume on safari... Before leaving for your morning or afternoon drive, avoid using any strong deodorant or perfume. Strong and unusual smells are more likely to make the animals nervous, which reduces your chances of spotting them. In rare worst case scenarios, it can even make them more aggressive.

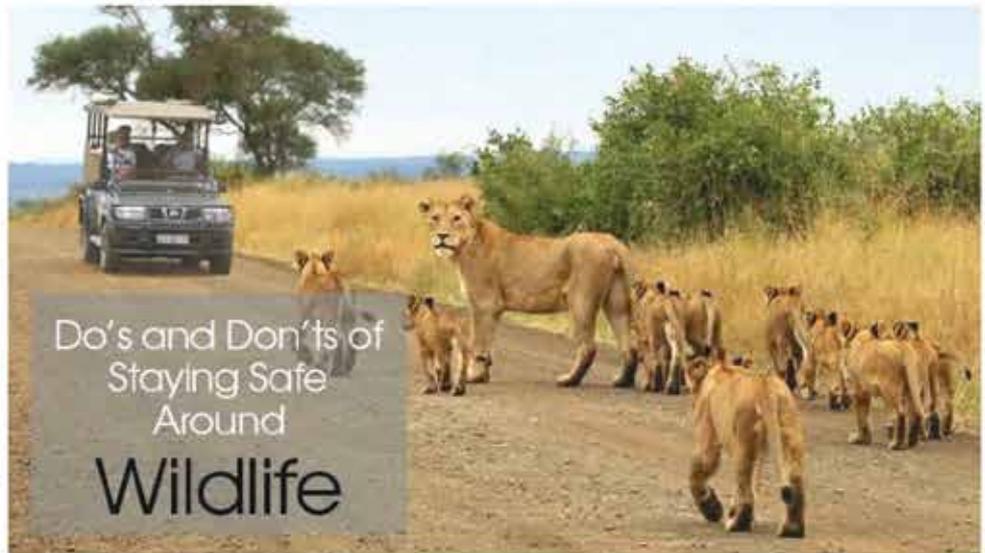
Africa is Paradise



Best colors to wear on an African safari?

What colors should you wear on safari Times recommend neutral safari clothing for your African travels. This includes shades of khaki, brown, beige/tan, and green. These colours blend in well with the bush and are best-suited to safari travel for a few important reasons.

DIY Safari Guide



Do's and Don'ts of Staying Safe Around Wildlife

Do not feed animals on safari... Sometimes out of excitement or by seeing the friendly behaviour of animals we try to feed them. This can turn out to be the biggest mistake that one can do on a wildlife tour. Also, never throw your remaining food in the park region. Due to this, animals become dependent on these edibles and over the time, they become a danger to the visitors when they are starving or wasn't to catch a prey.

Another reason states that feeding animals hamper their natural skills of hunting or finding the source of the food on their own. Sometimes, as a result of this, they also die because of starvation.

#WildlifeConservation
#NatureLovers
#AfricanSafari