

African Safari



Last year when my year group were looking up their university courses I was looking for an adventure, to expect the unexpected and a challenge. I decided to take a 'gap' year to have a break from education and to put myself in a context far from what I was used to. I decided to go on an 'Absolute Africa Safari' on a journey of a lifetime to experience Africa's incomparable

wildlife, landscapes and cultures. I went through ten countries in this short space of time: Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, ranging from volcanic jungles, savannah plains, white beaches, lakes, rivers, deltas, oceans, high dunes and deserts. My group was made up of 26 Australians, New Zealanders and 2 British with an age range from 18 to 38. I was asked to summarise my trip for the yearbook and it's just impossible to put everything I saw and learned into a few words. Every country in Africa is completely different yet they are all so surprising and what struck me the most is how beautiful the people and cultures are and how content they are with so little. Africa is definitely an awe inspiring continent and what I have learned has been invaluable and the memories and stories will stay with me forever.

Here is a list of the highlights from each country I visited, but I feel the photos tell a better story.

RWANDA: Gorilla trekking, genocide museum, Kigali
UGANDA: Help out in local school, hairy lemon island,

Jinja, Kampala, Queen Elizabeth National Park and game cruise.

KENYA: Great rift valley, Lake Baringo, Nakuru National Park- sanctuary for black and white rhino and flamingo, Sheldricks Elephant sanctuary, Giraffe Park, Pokot tribe, Lake Navashia for afternoon tea in Elasmere (home of Joy Adamson), Hell's gate National Park, Nairobi.

TANZANIA: Serengeti National park and Ngorongoro crater to spot "the big five" – Lion, Leopard, Rhino, Elephant, Buffalo also cheetah, hyena, wilderbeast and hippo.. Marangu- base camp of Kilimanjaro, Snake Park, Maasai village, Dar El Salaam, Indian Ocean, Zanzibar island-white beaches of Unguja and winding valleys of Stone Town.

MALAWI: Wood carving markets, Horse riding in Lake Malawi and around local villages, Chitimba and Kande Beach clear warm water and white beaches, Lilongwe
ZAMBIA: South Luangwa National Park, Christmas on Houseboats in Lake Kariba, flight of the falls in micro light.

ZIMBABWE: Antelope park- walk with lions, ride on African elephant. Harare, Bulawayo, Hwange National Park –day and night game drive staying in raised huts overlooking lit up water hole, New Year at Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

BOTSWANA: Chobe National Park game cruise – elephant and hippo, bushman walk, Okavango Delta Mokoro safari, Ghanzi.

NAMIBIA: Windhoek, floodlit water holes of Etosha National Park, Swakomond –dorm rooms!, sandboarding, quadbiking. Sossusvlei sand dunes, Cheetah sanctuary, Cape cross Seal Colony, Twyfelfontein rock engravings, bush camps.

SOUTH AFRICA: Stellenbosch student town and wine tour, Cape Town.

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