
WILDLIFE

of East Africa | A PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE



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Front cover: (top) Reticulated Giraffe – Dave Richards; (bottom, left to right) Dark Blue Pansy – Dave Richards; Velvety-green Night Adder – Steve Spawls; Kedong Dracaena, Grey-headed Kingfisher, Mountain Gladiolus – Dave Richards; **Back cover:** (top to bottom) Grey Crowned Crane, Lion, Painted Lady – Dave Richards; Olive Sand Snake – Johan Marais; Flame Lily – Dave Richards
Page 1: Collared Sunbird – Dave Richards; **Page 3:** Zanzibar Red Colobus – Paolo Torchio; Woodland Kingfisher – Dave Richards
Galam White-lipped Frog – Alan Channing; Migratory Butterfly, Red-leaved Rock Fig, Desert Rose – Dave Richards

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INTRODUCTION



Lesser Flamingos on Lake Magadi, Kenya

East Africa – an area that comprises Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda – is one of the most wildlife-rich regions in Africa. This region is intersected by several major biomes, with the result that its vegetation is very diverse. It is bisected by two rift valleys, running north to south, which contain numerous lakes, both fresh water and soda. It also has a number of isolated mountains, each with their own varied habitats. These include the ice- and snow-covered Kilimanjaro (the highest mountain in Africa), montane forests, tropical rain forests, semi-desert, savanna, mangrove forests, and a palm-fringed coastline, with its many lagoons and estuaries. This diversity of vegetation and animal life makes this the premier wildlife viewing region in Africa.

The mountains in the west are home to the rare and endangered Mountain Gorilla, which occurs both in Rwanda and Uganda. Chimpanzees are also found in Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania. One of the world's largest migrations of mammals takes place between Tanzania and Kenya, with over one million Wildebeest, accompanied by approximately 200 000 Zebra and thousands of Gazelle, moving to better grazing areas.

The economic benefits that result from the conservation of the region's wildlife have now been realised, and wildlife tourism has become a major source of revenue and employment. There has been a huge upsurge of interest in Africa and its wildlife. Viewing wildlife in natural surroundings is a satisfying experience, and there is arguably no better way to relax from the stresses and strains of modern life. However, most visitors would benefit more if they had information on the wildlife they were watching.

The aim of this compact guidebook is to help visitors to the region's national parks, national reserves and other wildlife areas enjoy the wildlife even more. It does not claim to be a comprehensive field guide, but is an introduction to the more noticeable and interesting mammals, birds, reptiles, frogs, trees, flowers and insects (including butterflies) that can be seen on safari. Comprehensive guides are available for each group, with the exception, perhaps, of butterflies. Anyone who would like more detailed information should consult the list of recommended reading at the end of the book, or the list of references in the bibliography on [page 162](#).

This book illustrates and describes a carefully selected range of species, with notes on the

identification, habitat, status, size and, if applicable, the best locations in which to see them. Chapters are arranged in such a way that similar or related species are placed together for comparison, but this means that the sequence more typical of comprehensive reference books has not always been followed.

GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

The East African topography is a study of contrasts. Features range from snow-capped mountains and deserts, sandy coastlines and fresh-water lakes, to savanna grasslands, fertile agricultural plantations, extinct volcanoes and coral reefs.

The surface relief of East Africa is more varied than most other parts of the continent.

Areas below 500 m are confined to the coast and parts of interior eastern Tanzania, eastern Kenya and the Lake Turkana area in northern Kenya. Most of the remaining region is plateau country (between 500 and 1 500 m), with highland areas in northern Rwanda, southwestern Uganda, western Kenya and central Kenya, and much of interior Tanzania.

The region is bisected by two rift valleys. In the west is the Central African Rift Valley, which runs from the Sudan in the north down to Malawi in the south, and roughly forms the political borders of the DRC with Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. This valley contains a number of fresh-water lakes which all vary in altitude above sea level, from Lake Albert (612 m), Lake Edward and Lake George (both 913 m), to Lake Kivu (1 460 m). Lake Tanganyika, the world's second-deepest lake, with a depth of 1 435 m, is also located in this Rift Valley, 773 m above sea level.

In the east is the better-known East African Rift Valley or The Great Rift Valley, which runs from the Red Sea across Ethiopia, through Kenya and Tanzania. This also has a chain of lakes, some of which are alkaline, and again all at varying altitudes. In northern Kenya is Lake Turkana (375 m), and to the south, Lake Baringo (972 m), Lake Nakuru (1 753 m), Lake Naivasha (1 890 m) and Lake Magadi (579 m). Across the border in Tanzania are Lake Natron (610 m), Lake Manyara (960 m) and Lake Eyasi (1 030 m). A feature of these eastern Rift Valley lakes is that none have outlets, or at least no obvious ones.



African Elephants in Amboseli National Park, Kenya

Almost in the middle of East Africa is the world's second-largest fresh-water lake, Lake Victoria (at an altitude of 1 133 m), which covers 69 000 km² and fills up a shallow depression between the two Rift Valleys. At its deepest it is only 84 m. To the east of Lake Victoria are the famous Serengeti plains, which are dotted with ancient koppies. Surprisingly, East Africa has mountains with permanent ice: in Tanzania, the well-known Kilimanjaro (5 895 m high) in Kenya, Mount Kenya (5 199 m) and

straddling the Uganda/DRC border, the Rwenzori Mountains (5 119 m). Other high mountains include Meru (4 565 m) in Tanzania, Elgon (4 321 m), which straddles the Uganda/Kenya border and Muhabura (4 192 m), the highest of the Virungas, which straddles the Uganda/Rwanda border.

Apart from the north and east, most parts of East Africa receive between 60 and 150 cm of rainfall per annum. The seasons vary across the region and from year to year. In the north rain mostly falls between March and November. The long rains fall between March and May in much of Kenya and southern Uganda, and the short rains in October and November. Most of the rain in southern and western Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi falls between October and May. There are many local variations, depending on the altitude and proximity to the coast or Lake Victoria.

IDENTIFYING AND WATCHING WILDLIFE

Although the region's fast-rising human population means that wildlife is increasingly being confined to protected areas, it is perhaps surprising that it is still possible to see wildlife almost anywhere in East Africa. In city parks and gardens, monkeys, Tree Hyrax and Greater Galagos can still be seen. Nairobi is unique in being the only city in the world with a national park within its city limits.

East Africa is blessed with abundant wildlife areas: with over 100 national parks, national reserves and other wildlife areas, it can quite rightly be called the home of the safari. In fact, the word 'safari' is a Kiswahili word for 'a journey'.

Over the past few years safaris have evolved. These days, the tourist is not confined to a vehicle for wildlife viewing; many wildlife areas now offer walks with armed guides, horse-riding safaris, camel safaris, bird walks and visits to cultural villages and schools. Another recent development is the creation of regional airlines, with more and more tourists flying to their safari destination. For instance, Air Kenya now has three flights each day to the Masai Mara and at times makes use of 40 seat aircraft. While flying to a destination is far quicker than driving, which leaves more time to view the wildlife, in the process tourists miss out on seeing and experiencing much of the country they are visiting. So, a flight from Nairobi to the Masai Mara takes only 40 to 45 minutes, compared with a drive of five to six hours, but on the drive the visitor crosses the Great Rift Valley, with its spectacular scenery and glimpses of wildlife, and has the opportunity to see the Maasai people, their cattle and villages. Apart from a modern road, little has changed in this area for hundreds of years.

On arrival by air, you will be met by a safari guide, who will brief you on the area and its wildlife. Most, if not all, safari guides will have wildlife guidebooks on mammals and birds (sometimes even on trees and wildflowers) in their safari vehicle. It is recommended that visitors have their own pair of binoculars. Even though much of the wildlife can be seen up close, there are sometimes interesting things to see that are further off; it is frustrating having to wait to borrow binoculars.

Watching wildlife requires patience: by all means tell your guide which animals you would most like to see but don't expect to see them immediately. Most visitors want to see Lions, particularly a male, but at certain times of the year, especially when the grass is long, even such large animals can be difficult to find. When on safari, it is essential to get up early as most animals, and particularly the cats, are best seen in the cooler hours of the day. Another good time is late afternoon and, in some private wildlife areas, night-viewing drives are possible.

Silence is considered good etiquette while watching wildlife. Of course, you can speak quietly to your guide to ask him questions, but consideration for the wildlife is critical and they should never be disturbed or threatened in any way. Although much of the wildlife is accustomed to tourists, it is disrespectful to shout at animals. Lions are often sleeping when spotted by tour groups: although we all want to photograph them while they are active, do not try to wake them. In most wildlife areas the wildlife has become almost immune to tourists and, as they have come to feel safe, their habits have changed. Cheetahs now often jump onto tourist vehicles and use them as lookout posts. Lions may ignore you entirely. Leopards can often be seen hunting during the day and elephants can be found lying on their sides sleeping, something almost unheard of just a few years ago. Of course, tourism also does have negative effects. A good example is that of Cheetahs: because they are so often followed closely by tourist vehicles, more of their hunts end in failure. Some Cheetahs now hunt during the hot midday hours, when the tourists are back at their lodge or camp enjoying their lunch. This is far from ideal for Cheetahs, as they can suffer severely from overheating when hunting at this time of the day.

One final word: do not be tempted to feed wildlife, particularly monkeys and mongooses, as the

can give a severe bite.

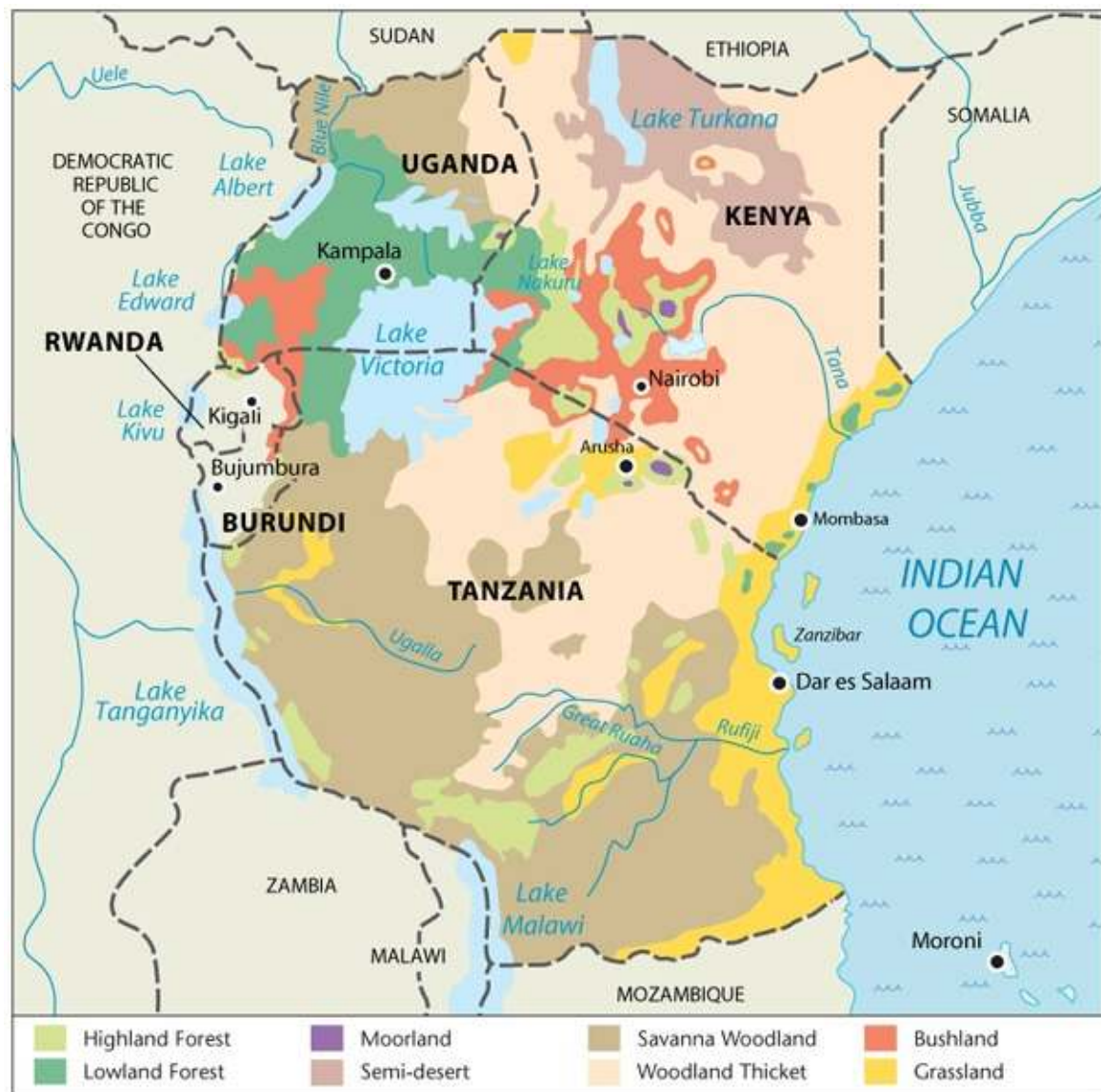
NATIONAL PARKS AND OTHER PROTECTED AREAS



- 1 Tsavo
- 2 Shimba Hills
- 3 Amboseli
- 4 Masai Mara
- 5 Nairobi
- 6 Hell's Gate
- 7 Aberdares
- 8 Mt Kenya
- 9 Meru
- 10 Mt Elgon
- 11 Saiwa Swamp
- 12 Samburu
- 13 Marsabit
- 14 Lake Bogoria

- 15 Sibiloi (Lake Turkana)
- 16 Akagera
- 17 Virunga (+ Mgahinga)
- 18 Selous
- 19 Mikumi
- 20 Ruaha
- 21 Katavi
- 22 Mahale Mountains
- 23 Gombe Stream
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- 31 Queen Elizabeth
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- 33 Kibale Forest
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- 35 Rwenzori Mountains
- 36 Budongo Forest

VEGETATION ZONES IN EAST AFRICA



Vegetation zones are areas that have distinct types of plants, soil and weather patterns. The types of plant species that grow in a region are influenced by the climate, soil, rainfall and the ability of the soil to hold water.



HIGHLAND FOREST resembles lowland forest, although different tree species are involved and it does not grow as tall and dense. It is mostly broad-leaved, but *Juniperus* and *Podocarpus* are dominant in many drier types. Bamboo grows in patches or belts up to 15 m high, typically at high

altitudes than forest, but also as low as 1 600 m. Unforested areas, both above and below the timber line, are usually dominated by bushy growth, with ericaceous shrubs and giant lobelias and senecios at high altitudes.



LOWLAND FOREST is typically confined to areas with at least 150 cm of rain evenly distributed throughout the year. In its primary condition, this forest is richer in biomass and plant species than any other vegetation type in Africa. It forms a dense stand of trees of one or more storeys, with an interlaced upper canopy, often between 20 and 30 m above ground. Taller trees emerge from the canopy but rarely exceed 60 m in height. The ground cover of this and other forest types is dominated by herbs and shrubs. In East Africa, lowland forest is mainly fragmented, having been greatly modified by human activities.



MOORLAND occurs above the timber-line. The ground is often boggy, with tussock grasses, rushes and spectacular giant rosette plants (*Lobelia* and *Senecio* species).



SEMI-DESERT has some of the characteristics of a desert but receives more annual rain, varying from 0–200 mm. The mean monthly temperatures range from 27–33°C, although 50°C was recorded at Lake Turkana. These areas have shallow, stony soils that support sparse annual grassland, dry stunted thorny shrubs and acacia thickets along dry river courses.



SAVANNA WOODLANDS are stands of trees (mainly deciduous) up to 18 m high, sometimes with shrubs interspersed, with an open or continuous but not thickly interlaced canopy, providing cover of more than 20 per cent. Grasses and herbs dominate the ground cover. This widespread, varied habitat needs more than 30 cm of rain per annum. Many of the trees have a thick corky bark, which protects them from fire in the severe dry season.



WOODLAND THICKET is where woody plants form a closed stand through which man or the larger ungulates can pass only with extreme difficulty. Trees of the genus *Isobertinia* predominate in higher-rainfall areas north of the equator (mainly Uganda), while *Brachystegia* and *Julbernardia* species are dominant in the vast tracts of miombo woodland characteristic of plateau country in much of southern and western Tanzania.



BUSHLAND, often forming thickets, consists of woody plants with a shrub canopy of less than 20 m in height, and a canopy cover of more than 20 per cent. Bushland (especially thicket) in areas formerly forested is often moist and evergreen. The extensive thicket area near Itigi in central Tanzania is unique in East Africa. In this type of deciduous thicket, shrubs grow to 5 m in height and are interlaced overhead to form a dense canopy that is sometimes pierced by trees between 8 and 11 m high. Areas of bushland and woodland are often intermixed, particularly in drier areas. *Acacia* and *Commiphora* species are dominant in these drier areas, mainly in the north and east, with numerous Baobabs (*Adansonia digitata*) at lower altitudes. Semi-arid conditions characterised by *Acacia* and *Commiphora* bushland and woodland extend to the Rukwa Valley and parts of eastern Mbeya in the southwest, virtually separating the miombo woodlands of southeastern and western Tanzania.



GRASSLANDS are areas dominated by grasses and occasionally other herbs, sometimes with widely scattered or grouped trees and shrubs, the canopy cover of which does not exceed two per cent. These often extensive areas are usually subject to periodic burning. Most large tracts of grassland in East Africa are on free-draining land and dominated by short perennial grasses, usually less than 50 cm high. Seasonally inundated areas on floodplains and poorly drained soils are included here. In some areas the trees and shrubs scattered over grasslands are of a dwarf type (shrubs are < 1 m and trees are

> 2 m in height). Dwarf-tree grasslands with *Acacia drepanolobium* are characteristic of the At Plains in central Kenya. In arid regions, with erratic rainfall of less than 30 cm per annum, bushed and wooded grasslands of dwarf types often predominate, though grass cover is sometimes of limited duration in these often barren or denuded areas.



WETLANDS, FRESH-WATER AND SODA LAKES are a feature of the two Rift Valleys, with Lake Victoria situated roughly between them. The Rift Valley lakes are varied: some fresh, some soda. Soda lakes are essentially alkaline because they have no outlets, and have been filled by drainage from lava rocks. Lakes Baringo and Naivasha are fresh, with no obvious outlets, although they must have subterranean outlets. Lake Tanganyika, at 1 400 m deep, is the deepest fresh-water lake in Africa. Soda lakes have varying alkalinity: for example, the three Momella lakes in Tanzania vary from fresh water to alkaline, and life in each is different. For example, Lesser Flamingos feeding on blue-green algae can be found on one lake, while Greater Flamingos, which feed on crustaceans, feed on a slightly fresher lake nearby.

PHOTOGRAPHING WILDLIFE

Nowadays almost all tourists or visitors carry digital cameras, ranging from small entry-level 'point-and-shoot' models to those with large lenses. One of the advantages of digital photography is that the camera uses a memory card and is therefore able to store hundreds of photographs (depending on the size of the card). Conveniently, memory cards are generally widely available at most camps and lodges.

When you're on safari, always have your camera ready, not shut up inside a bag. As dust is unavoidable on safari, always keep your camera covered. A good solution is to buy a kikoi (a colourful cotton wrap traditionally worn by men) and use this to cover your camera. When taking pictures, keep as steady as possible and don't be shy to ask fellow travellers to keep still in the vehicle. If you are using a large lens, rest your camera on the windowsill or roof of the vehicle. Shoot from as low as possible, which produces more dramatic photographs. If you have a camera with interchangeable lenses, be very careful when changing them. Always make sure your camera is switched off: a digital camera has a sensor that is electrically charged when the camera is on. Any dust on the camera body will be attracted to the sensor; it may be invisible to the eye but will show up on photographs as a dark mark or smudge. Even if your camera is switched off when you change a lens, it is still possible to get dust inside the camera body, which will eventually find its way onto the sensor. Some cameras have built-in sensor cleaners, but even so, large particles of dust can still adhere to the sensor.

An ideal lens for safaris is a 100 to 300 or 400 mm lens. A smaller zoom lens, such as 28 to 85 mm, is useful for photographing people and scenery. If possible, have these lenses mounted on two separate camera bodies; if you don't have to change lenses, dust can't get into your camera. If you are keen on bird photography, a 500 or even a 600 mm lens is very useful. If you want to photograph local people, please ask their permission first. At most cultural villages the price of admission usually entitles you to take photographs.

CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE

'The survival of our wildlife is a matter of grave concern to all of us in Africa. These wild creatures amid wild places they inhabit are not only important as a source of wonder and inspiration but are an integral part of our national resources and our future livelihood and well-being.'

Julius Nyerere, Tanzania's first President

East African organisations for protection of wildlife:

- Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS): www.kws.org
- Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA): www.tanzaniaparks.com
- Uganda Wildlife Authority: www.ugandawildlife.org
- Rwanda Office of Tourism and National Parks (responsible for nature conservation and tourism): www.rwandatourism.com

ABBREVIATIONS

NP = National Park

NR = National Reserve

GR = Game Reserve

CA = Conservation Area

Arusha (Aru)

Chagga (Chag)

Kamba (Kam)

Kikuyu (Kik)

Kinyarwanda (Rwa)

Kiswahili (Swa)

Luganda (Lug)

Luo (Luo)

Maasai (Maa)

Samburu (Sam)

Teso (Teso)

Turkana (Turk)



MAMMALS

East Africa's plains are home to the last great herds of wildlife in Africa. There are almost 100 species of grazers, compared with Europe's 13 and North America's 11. These species, together with a large variety of predators and scavengers, make East Africa the last Eden. Overall, there are an impressive 116 species of mammal in the region. This book illustrates 116 of these species, most of which can be seen in the region's national parks, national reserves and other wildlife areas. Although it is rarely seen, the Naked Mole Rat, which lives underground, has been included in this book because its distinctive, volcano-shaped 'erupting' heaps are a feature of the countryside where it occurs.

With the huge rise in the human population, wildlife is increasingly being confined to protected areas, particularly the larger mammal species. Elephant numbers have grown so much in some areas that many are being translocated to protected areas that are not surrounded by large human populations. At the same time, in other areas more elephants are being killed than ever before for the ivory. Poaching is another threat – large numbers of mammals are snared for bush meat to feed the human populations near the protected areas. Wildlife is further threatened by the wide use of the cheap and easily available chemical Furadan to poison animals. In most cases local farmers use it to kill problem animals such as Leopard and Hyaena. These are not the only animals affected by this practice: other mammals and birds, such as vultures, die after feeding on poisoned carcasses. The serious knock-on effects of Furadan poisoning are illustrated by the following incident. A Hippopotamus in a national reserve died of Furadan poisoning. Its carcass was fed upon by several Lions, Hyaena and Jackal, which all died. Even more disturbing is that, because the presence of vultures often betrays the presence of poachers to rangers, there is evidence that poachers poisoned the animal with Furadan so that all the vultures in the area would die.

But there is hope. In northern Kenya the local people are slowly realising the value of the wildlife and the potential it offers for ecotourism on their land. The Northern Rangelands Trust has been set up and now employs over 1 500 people in conservation projects. This is a whole new economy that previously did not exist. Their biggest project at the moment is the re-establishment of the Black Rhino in northern Kenya. Since the Black Rhino population in protected areas is increasing at five per cent each year, new safe areas for Rhino are needed, and northern Kenya has the perfect habitat. This is a big challenge, given the high price of rhino horn.

The names used here largely follow *The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals* by Jonathan Kingdon (Academic Press, 1997). Where relevant, the Kiswahili (Swa), Maasai (Maa), Samburu (Sam) or Kinyarwanda (Rwa) names are also included.

The measurements given are height (foot to shoulder) and length (nose to tip of the tail). In some cases, the length of the tail or horns or the wingspan is included. The weight of the mammal, its habitat, its status and the best place to see it are also given. Most of the photographs are of adult males, but the text describes the females if they differ.



COMMON CHIMPANZEE

Pan troglodytes

Sokwe mtu (Swa)

Habitat: forests and savanna woodland **Standing height:** 100–170 cm **Weight:** 40–55 kg (♂); 30 kg (♀) **Status:** endangered

Tailless ape with long, black hair and large, protruding ears. Lives in large social groups, 15–120 strong, within territories that are defended by both sexes but usually by males. Active mostly early morning and evening; each evening, adults build a nest to sleep in. Feeds on fruit, leaves, bark, birds' eggs and nestlings; adult males also hunt monkeys. Uses tools, such as grass stems to extract termites from their nests, and stones to break nuts.

BEST VIEWING: **Tanzania:** Gombe Stream, Mahale Mountains NPs; **Uganda:** Budongo Forest, Bwindi Impenetrable, Queen Elizabeth, Murchison Falls, Semuliki, Kibale Forest NPs; **Rwanda:** Nyungwe NP



MOUNTAIN GORILLA

Gorilla gorilla beringei

Makaku (Swa)

Habitat: mountain forests **Standing height:** 140–185 cm (♂); 140–150 cm (♀) **Weight:** 160–210 kg (♂); 68–114 kg (♀) **Status:** endangered

A large, tailless ape, covered with dense black hair. Older male has a prominent, high crown, a heavy

brow ridge and a grey-white mantle. Lives in small family groups, with one dominant male. Female gives birth, on average, once every four years and gives the young continuous care. Feeds on a variety of plants, wild celery, bamboo, thistles and even stinging nettles. Builds nest on the ground or low in trees to sleep in at night. Lives 50–60 years.

BEST VIEWING: **Uganda:** Bwindi Impenetrable, Mgahinga Gorilla NPs; **Rwanda:** Volcanoes NP



ZANZIBAR RED COLOBUS

Piliocolobus kirkii

Kima punju (Swa)

Habitat: relict forest patches and scrub forest growing on waterless coral rag **Length:** 45–70 cm (♂), 45–62 cm (♀) **Tail:** 42–80 cm **Weight:** 9–13 kg (♂); 7–9 kg (♀) **Status:** endangered due to habitat destruction

Large, pot-bellied monkey with a long tail and arched back. Distinctive, red, black and white coloration. Nose and lips pink, contrasting with black face. Tufts of long hair on the crown and cheek characteristic. A specialised leaf-eater with a four-chambered stomach to break down cellulose; observed eating charcoal, which is thought to aid digestion of toxin-containing leaves. One of Africa's rarest and most endangered primates.

BEST VIEWING: **Tanzania:** Jozani Forest, Zanzibar



ANGOLAN BLACK AND WHITE COLOBUS

Colobus angolensis

Mbega, Kuluzu (Swa)

Habitat: coastal forests, lowland forests **Length:** 50–67 cm (♂); 50–61 cm (♀) **Tail:** 63–90 cm

Weight: 9–20 kg **Status:** vulnerable as they occur in isolated populations

A distinctive, mainly black monkey with long white epaulettes and whiskers contrasting with its black face. The long tail is black, turning white towards the tip. Young are completely white for their first month, slowly darkening as they mature. Occurs in family groups. Feeds mostly on leaves, but also on seeds and fruit.

BEST VIEWING: **Kenya:** Diani Forest; **Tanzania:** Saadani, Serengeti NPs, Grumeti River;

Rwanda: Nyungwe NP



EASTERN BLACK AND WHITE COLOBUS

Colobus guereza

Mbega mweupe (Swa) Ol-koroi (Maa)

Habitat: highland forests **Length:** 54–75 cm (♂); 45–65 cm (♀) **Tail:** 65–90 cm **Weight:** 10–23 kg

Status: abundant in national parks and forest reserves, but declining elsewhere

A distinctive, black-and-white forest monkey with long, thick black fur, contrasting white cape and whiskers, and bushy white beard and tail. Newborns are completely white, slowly darkening until they resemble adults at around three months. Occurs in family groups high (35–40 m) in the treetops. Often seen making huge leaps from tree to tree; rarely descends to the ground.

BEST VIEWING: **Kenya:** Aberdare, Mount Kenya NPs; **Tanzania:** Arusha NP, Ngorongoro CA;

Uganda: Mgahinga Gorilla, Bwindi Impenetrable, Queen Elizabeth, Semuliki, Kibale, Murchison Falls NPs



OLIVE BABOON

Papio anubis

Nyani (Swa) Ol-otim (Maa)

Habitat: variety of habitats from open plains (with nearby trees or rocky outcrops) to savanna and woodland **Length:** 127–142 cm **Tail:** 45–68 cm **Weight:** 22–50 kg (♂); 11–30 kg (♀) **Status:** widespread and common

Male is heavy, thickset, olive-green, with a well-developed mane. Holds tail in an upright, curved position when walking. Female is smaller; carries newborn under the belly. Young are black when born. At about six weeks, they ride on their mother's back. Lives in large troops of 40–80, consisting of family groups of females, their young and a number of mature males. Feeds on grass, seeds, flowers, seedpods and roots. Males occasionally hunt and eat young gazelles.

BEST VIEWING: most wildlife areas in the region



YELLOW BABOON

Papio cynocephalus

Nyani (Swa)

Habitat: bush country, woodland and rocky outcrops **Length:** 116–137 cm **Tail:** 45–50 cm **Weight:** 22–30 kg (♂); 11–15 kg (♀) **Status:** common

Much lighter coloured than Olive Baboon. Smaller, slimmer build, with longer legs. Male lacks mane, female is smaller. Both sexes have white cheeks, contrasting with dark, bare skin on muzzle. Lives in

troops of 30–80 members, consisting of family groups of females, their young and a number of mature males. Like all baboons, has a varied diet, but prefers seeds and fruits of *Acacia*, *Albizia* and mopane trees. Males occasionally hunt and eat young gazelles.

BEST VIEWING: **Kenya:** Amboseli, Tsavo East, Tsavo West NPs; **Tanzania:** Ruaha, Tarangire NP
Selous GR



PATAS MONKEY

Cercopithecus patas (*Erythrocebus patas*)

Kima punju (Swa)

Habitat: open grassland, *Acacia* and dry woodland **Length:** 49–75 cm **Tail:** 50–74 cm **Weight:** 10–20 kg (♂); 7–14 kg (♀) **Status:** under threat where land cleared for farming, but adapting

Long-legged, bright ginger-red above with contrasting white belly. Young are straw-coloured. Mainly terrestrial, only using trees and termite mounds as lookouts. Lives in small troops, consisting of a male and up to 12 females, with their young. Feeds on grass, seeds, fruits, flowers and gum from trees.

BEST VIEWING: **Kenya:** Laikipia area; **Tanzania:** Serengeti NP; **Uganda:** Murchison Falls, Kidepo Valley NPs



VERVET MONKEY

Cercopithecus aethiops pygerythrus

Tumbili (Swa)

- [read Summer's Storm online](#)
- [read online The Women](#)
- [Excel Dashboards and Reports \(2nd Edition\) for free](#)
- [Girls to the Front: The True Story of the Riot Grrrl Revolution here](#)

- <http://www.1973vision.com/?library/A-Gun-for-Sale--Penguin-Classics-.pdf>
- <http://schroff.de/books/Biba-s-Northern-Italian-Cooking.pdf>
- <http://www.netc-bd.com/ebooks/Excel-Dashboards-and-Reports--2nd-Edition-.pdf>
- <http://bestarthritiscare.com/library/Girls-to-the-Front--The-True-Story-of-the-Riot-Grrrl-Revolution.pdf>