

sustenance near several small streams and swampy areas. The primary attraction of Amboseli is its proximity to 19,340-foot (6,447-meter) Mt. Kilimanjaro which lies just across the border in Tanzania. With luck, visitors are able to photograph game animals with the mountain as a backdrop.

Some of my friends recently took a safari in Tanzania. Why would anyone select Tanzania versus Kenya for a safari?

Since northern Tanzania boasts the same species as are found in Kenya's southern parks, Masai Mara and Amboseli, a decision as to whether to visit Tanzania versus Kenya should be based at least in part on the time of year of travel. The great migration across the Serengeti Plain is best viewed in Kenya's Masai Mara from July through September. Much game can be found in Tanzania's share of the Serengeti during the remainder of the year.

Another factor to consider is Tanzania's primary attraction, Ngorongoro Crater, which contains a captive wildlife population within its own ecosystem. As these animals never leave the crater, the seasonality of a visit to Ngorongoro is not critical. The typical safari circuit in northern Tanzania includes Lake Manyara and Serengeti Park in addition to Ngorongoro Crater.

A final factor is the significant trend toward mass safari tourism in Kenya. This means that, in general, safari camps in Kenya are larger. On the other hand, due to economies of scale, a safari in Kenya can also be less expensive than a similar safari in Tanzania.

To where should I fly for a safari in East Africa?

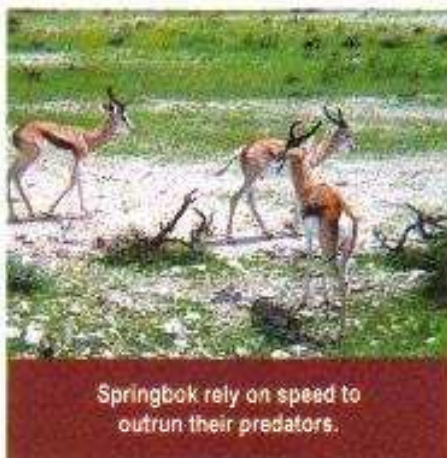
Nairobi is the international air gateway for those planning safaris in Kenya and in northern Tanzania. Light aircraft connect Nairobi with Arusha in northern Tanzania. However, an inexpensive daily shuttle bus ferries safari enthusiasts from Nairobi to Arusha in less than six hours. The

Due to the Weakness of the South African Rand, some good values can be had while shopping in Cape Town's recently redeveloped waterfront area



cheapest and most dependable means of transportation on this route, the shuttle bus eliminates the expense and uncertainty of international flights from Nairobi to Arusha and also of domestic flights in Tanzania between Dar Es Salaam and Arusha.

I am considering an African safari but am unsure whether to visit East Africa or southern Africa?



Springbok rely on speed to outrun their predators.

Since 1986 I have arranged African safaris for many hundreds of expatriate and Egyptian clients. In the past decade my clients have begun to wrestle with this question more and more. Until long-haul airfares from Cairo began to be reduced sharply from the mid-1990's onward, East Africa was by far the most popular African safari destination for travelers from Egypt. Today it is still cheaper to fly from Cairo to East Africa, of course; but airfares to

southern Africa are also now quite affordable.

One important difference exists between safari camps in Kenya versus most of those in southern Africa. Above I made a similar comparison between safari camps in Kenya and Tanzania. While exceptions do exist, there is a significant trend toward mass safari tourism in Kenya. This means that, in general, safari camps in Kenya are larger than those in southern Africa. On the other hand, due to economies of scale, camps in Kenya can also be less expensive than those in southern Africa.

Another obvious difference between a safari in East Africa and a safari in southern Africa is that game drives in East Africa are conducted in closed vehicles. These are usually vans specially equipped with pop-up roofs. Those taking a safari in southern Africa, on the other hand, normally ride in open vehicles on their game drives. Most 4-wheel drive vehicles in southern Africa have been fitted with graduated seating holding up to 7 passengers. While open vehicles allow for the easiest photography, they are also dustier.

I have heard of Kruger Park in South Africa. What other safari possibilities are available in southern Africa?

South Africa's Kruger Park, covering some 7,700 square miles (20,000 square km), is about the size of Wales. Although hosting about 5,000 visitors daily, Kruger remains a haven for more varieties of wildlife than any other African game sanctuary. These include 147 species of mammal, 510 bird species and 230 species of butterfly.

Camps in Botswana's Chobe Park and in Botswana's Okavango Delta region are smaller and less frequented than those at Kruger, and the game in Botswana is as good as or better than that found at Kruger. In addition, Africa's greatest waterfall, Victoria Falls, is situated in the far west of Zimbabwe, just across the border from Chobe Park. Visitors can fly

The Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa is only about 80 km (50 miles) south of Cape Town. The lighthouse and sheer cliffs at Cape Point provide an unforgettable viewpoint at the tip of Africa.

