

FODOR'S COMPLETE AFRICAN SAFARI, 2nd EDITION: AVOID THE CROWDS, INTERACT WITH LOCALS, ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

Get Away from the Crowds

We can't whisk you away from all civilization and people, but we know that if you choose any of the following camps and lodges you'll be assured of privacy and exclusivity.

- **Duba Plains, Botswana.** Based deep in the Okavango Delta, this tiny camp on an isolated island has superb game-viewing. Only two 4x4 open game vehicles operate in the whole reserve so you're assured of exclusivity.
- **Jack's Camp, Botswana.** If you're bold spirited, reasonably fit, and enjoy a rugged pioneer experience, then Jack's is for you. Try quad-biking, sleeping out under the stars, or walking with the bushmen.
- **Loliondo Mobile Camp, Tanzania.** Get away from the big lodges and busy safari routes and put yourself in the expert hands of your guide, cooks, waiters, and camp attendants, and experience a true old-style private safari.
- **Mnemba Island, Tanzania.** For the ultimate beach escape where time stands still, where sand, sea, and horizon melt into each other, this exclusive lodge with only 20 guests is hard to beat.
- **Sand Rivers Selous, Tanzania.** Above a wide bend of the Rufiji River—hundreds of miles away from touristy Africa—this lodge is just about as isolated and exclusive as you can get.
- **Sarara Tented Camp, Kenya.** At this small remote tented camp below the Mathews Mountains in the 75,000 acre Namun-yuk Wildlife Conservation Trust, the only strangers in the night you'll see are the wildlife residents.
- **!Xaus Lodge, South Africa.** Located in one of South Africa's most remote parks, !Xaus (pronounced Kaus) provides great hospitality, game drives, desert walks, and introductions to the local bushmen.

Interact with the Locals

Of course you want to see lots of game, but may want to meet the local people, too. Although many of the cultural and village visits are not entirely authentic given the need for tourist dollars, we've tried to find you the genuine article. Go with an open mind, a nonjudgmental approach, and a friendly smile.

- **Deception Valley Lodge, Botswana.** At Central Kalahari's only lodge you'll meet the desert-dwelling Nuru people, who built it entirely by hand. Expect pure magic during a three-hour walk with the bushmen themselves.
- **Il'Ngwesi Lodge, Kenya.** Learn about hunting, gathering honey, animal trapping with indigenous poisons, and fashioning beadwork at the nearby Masai village.
- **Kichwa Tembo Tented Safari Camp, Kenya.** A visit to a nearby Masai village is a must at this sought-after camp. The tribe's young men will explain their culture in English learned at the local school.
- **Lake Manyara Serena Lodge, Tanzania.** Take a guided walk to Mto wa Mbu, a small town that's home to more than 100 different tribes. Here you'll visit homes, a school, a church, the market, and a banana-leaf bar.
- **Oi Seki Mara Camp, Kenya.** At this eco-friendly camp you'll visit authentic, non-touristy Masai villages, where you might be lucky enough to witness a genuine betrothal

or post-initiation ceremony.

- **Serra Cafema, Namibia.** Only the nomadic Himba people share this awesome remote area, and a visit to a local village will be a life-changing experience.

Bring the Kids

More and more families want their kids to share in their safari experience, and more lodges are catering to kids with programs designed especially for them. Always find out in advance which camps welcome kids, as many still don't allow kids under 12. Remember: good behavior is essential. You don't want to spoil someone's safari of a lifetime.

- **Berg-en-Dal, Kruger Park, South Africa.** Kids can explore in safety at this attractive, fenced camp, which has a great pool and curio shop. Get them to walk around the camp's perimeter and spot game.
- **Kwando, Botswana.** Kids learn to track, make plaster casts of spoor, spot game, cook over the boma fire, tell stories, catch and release butterflies, make bush jewelry, and learn about ecology.
- **Ngorongoro Serena Lodge, Tanzania.** Apart from game drives, there are picnic lunches, balloon trips, and guided walks to the crater's rim or along the nature trail around the lodge.
- **Okaukuejo Camp, Etosha, Namibia.** The 24-hour floodlighted water hole—regarded as one of the finest in Africa—will keep kids entranced for hours. They can sit, stand, or run (quietly) around.
- **Pafuri Camp, South Africa.** This lovely camp in Kruger's far north has a superb children's program and special family accommodations that give everybody privacy. Kids will love Crooks Corner, where baddies on the run used to hide.
- **Voi Wildlife Lodge, Kenya.** This is a popular family destination (kids under 2 stay free, 2–12 at half price), so don't expect peace and tranquility. There's a kids' play area, pool, DVDs, and wildlife games.