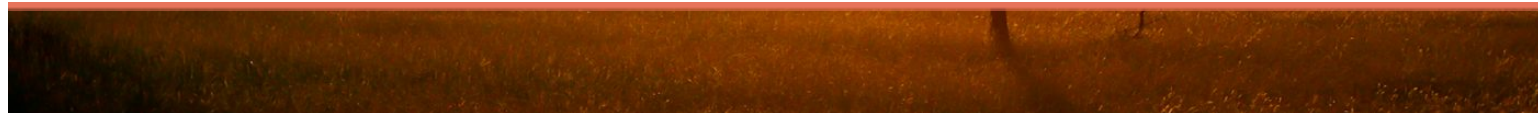




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ADVENTURE TRAVEL

10 Best Places to Go in Africa (and What to Do There)

JUDY KOUTSKY

People tend to think of Africa as a country, not a continent. But with 54 countries calling it home, Africa's topography, landscape, and activ

Where to Go in Africa

To make it easier for you to plan a trip, I've highlighted some of the most popular countries and best places to go in Africa, as well as what

Uganda

Why go: One of only three countries in the world where you can trek to see mountain gorillas in the wild (there are only 1,000 mountain g

[Mgahinga Gorilla National Park](#) in Uganda is home to the Nyakagezi gorilla family with its two silverbacks (adult males). It holds a certain

I was surprised to see how playful the juveniles are, not unlike my own little kids. One even came up and gave me a light fist bump to the l

For me, witnessing the adult silverback males in action was the most moving experience. Pounding their chests, making conversation with

When to go: Since it's a rain forest, there's a chance you'll get wet anytime, so there's no really bad time to go. Just be sure to pack approp

Check Prices for Fairway Hotel in Kampala, Uganda

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Kenya and Tanzania

Why go: Kenya and Tanzania are often combined into one trip. Many people consider these two countries among the best places to go in A

But even if you don't go during the migration, Kenya and Tanzania have some of the most extensive populations of wildlife in all of Africa;

And, of course, Tanzania is home to [Mount Kilimanjaro](#)—one of the great bucket-list hiking destinations in the entire world.

When to go: "Avoid the long-rains of April and May. If you're going to catch the migration, it's July through September," says Daniel Sapers

Check Prices for Mbalageti Safari Camp in Serengeti National Park

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Zambia and Zimbabwe

Why Go: Head to these two countries to see Victoria Falls, the largest waterfalls in the world. Plus, you can go white water rafting down the Zambezi River.

“Additionally, Zambia focuses on fantastic walking safaris in wonderful national parks like South Luangwa and the Lower Zambezi. In the latter, you can see the world’s largest herds of elephants and lions.

Combining these two countries gives you a look at Victoria Falls from both sides and you’ll see different game.

When to go: “Peak season will be their winter time, when it is dry and mild—anywhere from June through September is ideal,” says Saperstein.

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Namibia

Why go: In Namibia, you can climb some of the highest sand dunes in the world (or better yet, take a hot air balloon ride over them). The :

“However, don't go to Namibia expecting to see game. You may see some up north in Etosha, but it's more about the dynamic landscapes,

If you can afford the stopover, it's worth doing a [Living Desert Tour](#), a [Ghost Town tour](#), and an overflight of the Skeleton Coast.

Best time to go: Namibia is a year-round destination, but remember that since it's a desert environment, you can get a big shift any day o

Check Prices for Namib Naukluft Lodge in Sossusvlei

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Botswana

Why go: This country's focus is on high-end, low-impact tourism, so the properties are all very luxurious and the crowds you see in East Af

Plus, the landscape is simply stunning with the [Okavango Delta](#), so instead of traditional game drives by vehicle, you'll be able to go out ir

When to go: The game viewing gets progressively better in the winter, from June through September, after the Okavango Delta floodwater

Check Prices for Third Bridge Campsite in Moremi Game Reserve

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South Africa

Why go: From [shark cage diving](#) and [malaria-free safari zones](#) to experiencing the flavors of Durban, an enclave of Indian culture in Afr

Private game reserves abound in South Africa, which makes it easier to see the Big Five animals up close and in limited time than in other

When to go: Almost any time of the year is great for game viewing; but December through February sees the bulk of the rain and May thr

Check Prices for Thanda Safari Lodge in Hluhluwe

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Egypt

Why go: Visiting the pyramids and taking a cruise up (yes up) the Nile River is a bucket list adventure for good reason. “Egypt is the cradle of civilization.” Discover the Aswan islands by felucca (traditional sailboat) or privately tour the [Egyptian Museum of Antiquities](#), home to artifacts recorded in the Bible.

When to go: “Egypt is a year-round destination, but the most comfortable temperatures are between October and April,” notes Worth.

Check Prices for Marriott Mena House, Cairo in Giza

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Morocco

Why go: Visit the famous spice markets and entrench yourself in Arab culture. “With a history stretching back nearly 10,000 years, the country of Morocco offers so many different kinds of experiences—I did a [camel trek](#) in the Sahara Desert and slept under the stars, and had tea with my host. “A must is the [Djemaa el Fna](#), the largest market in Morocco and the biggest square in Africa,” says Worth. “Make sure to have a walk around the many souks adjacent to Djemaa el Fna, where you can buy everything from spices to teapots.

When to go: Morocco is a year-round destination and one of the best places to go in Africa. Marrakesh can be hot in the summer months,

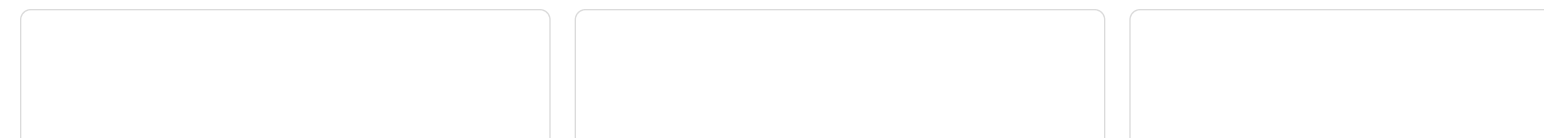
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Editor's Note: A previous version of this story incorrectly spelled the name of the city of Durban. It has been corrected.

Editor's note: This story was originally published in 2017. It has been updated to reflect the most current information.

Judy Koutsky writes often about luxury, adventure, spa, and family travel. Her work has appeared in more than 30 publications, including Travel +

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