Go2Africa Shares 10 Unique Places You Wouldn't Expect To See In Africa

Images

Cape Town, South Africa (November 9, 2021) Go2Africa puts a spotlight on the unique places in Africa that blend cultural elements and diverse landscapes that feel like other continents. Exploring these unexpected destinations with Go2Africa allows you to dive deeper into the places that make Africa so special. A team of top safari specialists will help you plan your Africa experience with confidence and 24/7 on safari support.

1. Stone Town – Zanzibar
Best Time to Visit: June to October

Architecturally striking with a unique mix of Arab, Persian, Indian and European elements and multiple spice markets contribute to the other-worldly feel.

Stone Town, a Unesco World Heritage Site, at the heart of Zanzibar City is a tangle of winding alleyways that have remained true to character since the 19th century. No visit to Zanzibar would be complete without a visit to explore these narrow cobblestone streets, infused with Arab style and a Swahili atmosphere.

It is the maritime gateway to East Africa and activities include traditional dhow sailing, swimming with dolphins, snorkeling & diving, the Forodhani Gardens night market and Beit el-Ajaib (House of Wonders), a former sultan's palace. The birthplace of Freddie Mercury, travelers will find a museum honoring the late Queen musician.

Go2Africa shares top suggestions on why to go to Zanzibar.

2. Damaraland – Namibia
Best time to visit: May to September

The dramatic desert feel and moon-like landscapes of exceptional natural beauty have you feeling a world away from Africa;s predominantly lush and green landscapes.

The mountainous region of Damaraland in Northern Namibia is home to an assortment of desert-adapted wildlife such as elephants, rhino, zebra, and lions, which have evolved to survive in this near-barren terrain. Offering some of Africa's most spell-binding landscapes, the region has long been at the forefront of environmental conservation in Namibia.

The picturesque Brandberg, Namibia's highest mountain, is home to thousands of ancient rock paintings and is known as the greatest outdoor art gallery in the world. The rocky outcrops of Twyfelfontein feature exceptional Bushmen engravings, which are considered to be some of the best-preserved etchings on the continent. Another highlight is the Petrified Forest, which dates back millions of years, and offers a haunting landscape of gigantic, fossilised trees. Passionate local guides will introduce this remarkable region to you on day and night game drives, nature walks, game tracking expeditions and stargazing evenings.

Go2Africa shares the top Damaraland tours and safaris for 2022.

3. Tsingy de Bemaraha - Madagascar
Best Time to Visit: April to November

This forest of limestone needles is just one extraordinary landscape Madagascar offers. Known as the 'Galapagos of the Indian Ocean' about 80 to 90 percent of the fauna and flora here is found nowhere else on earth, living in distinctly different landscapes to the 'plains of Africa'.

Madagascar is a study in contrasts. It's the fourth largest island in the world but is little known, even among seasoned travellers. Fewer than 30 000 people visit annually, most of whom are not tourists but relatives returning to see their families. This gives Madagascar a timeless quality, and makes it fascinating to adventurers who enjoy exploring off the beaten track.

Madagascar will appeal to those who've been to Africa before and are now looking for new places to explore away from the crowds. It is one of only a handful of official World Biodiversity Hotspots with an enviable list of wildlife wonders for safari goers such as hundred species of lemur, six species of baobab, and plenty of national parks and protected areas.

Go2Africa shares tips for visiting Madagascar.

4. Lake Malawi - Malawi
Best Time to Visit: May to October

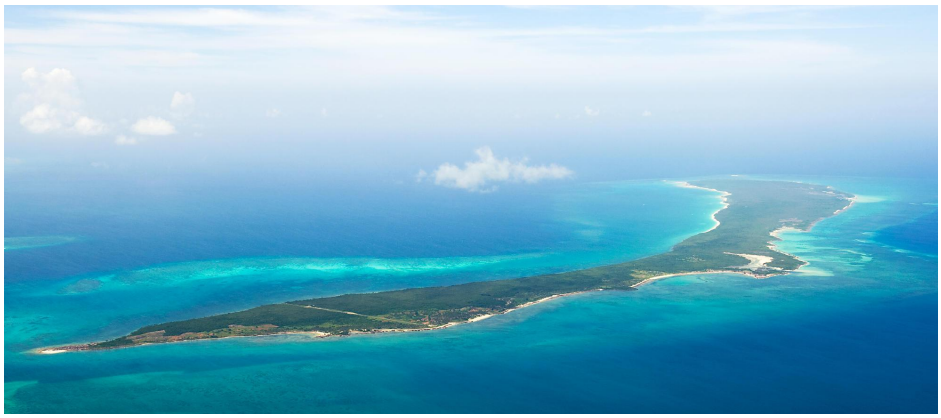
Feels like a beach and island paradise, far from the quintessential safari experience.

Sitting in the sunshine on a palm-fringed, sandy beach with sapphire water stretching as far as the eye can see, you might be forgiven for thinking you're on an oceanic tropical island rather than on the shores of Lake Malawi, hundreds of kilometres from the coast. With the largest number of fish species of any lake in the world the snorkelling is fantastic, and it's a top destination for freshwater scuba diving too.

The flat lake surface is also perfect for leisurely kayaking and fair-weather sailing. Back on dry land there are plenty of opportunities to go bird watching, add on a local big game safari in nearby Liwonde National Park, or just to immerse yourself in the local beach culture - noted for being about as laid-back as it gets.

Travel to Lake Malawi with Go2Africa.

5. Quirimbas Archipelago – Mozambique
Best time to visit: May - September



This idyllic beach and ocean destination feels like a tropical escape. Barefoot luxury, white sand, azure waters are standard in this part of the world.

Home to soft sand, sunny skies, pristine reefs and mouth-watering seafood, the Quirimbas Archipelago makes for an unforgettable island escape. Scattered off the far coast of northern Mozambique, these private islands are easily accessed by light aircraft or helicopter flights - and are fast becoming a popular choice for a beach and safari vacation, combined with the world-renowned big game reserves in East and Southern Africa.

The extensive Quirimbas Archipelago consists of 27 offshore islands strung along the coast parallel to Pemba. Ibo Island is the best known of the islands, with opulent architecture and fascinating history, while other private islands have just a single luxury lodge sitting right at the water's edge.

Go2Africa shares tips on how to visit Mozambique's Quirimbas Archipelago.

6. Franschhoek, Cape Winelands - South Africa
Best Time to Visit: November to April

The Cape Winelands in general, Stellenbosch, Franschhoek & Paarl, all feel like wine country, far removed from Africa's city life and small bustling towns. These areas provide a glimpse into a rich heritage and focus on art and culture. 'Franschhoek' means 'French Corner' and subtle aspects of France permeate the village.

Lying in the Franschhoek Valley and surrounded by craggy snow capped mountains in the midyear winter, this quaint town's roots date back to the 1680s. Since the French Huguenots settled here in 1688, it has been a center of wine and agricultural production, the fertile valley soil and unique terroir making for some classic vintages.

Since the 1980's, Franschhoek has been building an undeniable reputation as the culinary capital of South Africa. Franschhoek is now most famous for its excellent restaurants and wine estates, which run the gamut from traditional to contemporary. Golfers will want to stop at the Ernie Els estate, which has some of the best views in the valley.

Plan your trip to Franschhhoek with Go2Africa.

7. Boulders Beach, Cape Town - South Africa
Best Time to Visit: February to May

White sands, azure waters, and close up experiences with unique wildlife, all within 20 minutes of central Cape Town.

Just around the corner from Simon's Town lies Boulders Beach, a sheltered cove of soft white sand, massive granite boulders and water that's a little warmer than the icy temperatures of Cape Town's Atlantic Ocean beaches. Boulders Beach is a series of protected, idyllic coves along the False Bay coastline where swimming and African penguin viewing goes hand in hand.

Enjoy Boulders Beach as part of a Cape Town tour with Go2Africa.

8. Sao Tome and Principe
Best Time to Visit: October to March

Escape to The Galapagos of Africa, an unexplored area for the adventurous type with a Portuguese influence.

As the second smallest economy in Africa, São Tomé and Príncipe covers two islands and several mostly uninhabited islets in the Gulf of Guinea. It is a true escape from the modern world. This is a perfect destination for eco-tourists looking to explore 'Lost Worlds' with fantastic beaches, jungle exploration, snorkeling, fishing and bird watching. Here you will find a laid-back natural rhythm of life and a palpable Portuguese influence.

Read more about São Tomé and Príncipe, a brand new destination promoted by Go2Africa.

9. Fish River Canyon – Namibia
Best Time to Visit: May to October

The epic terrain has a distinctly American Southwest feel.

The Fish River Canyon in Southern Namibia is the second largest canyon worldwide after the Grand Canyon in the USA. The Canyon forms part of the state-run Ais-Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park. The Fish River Canyon hiking trail is one of the more popular hiking trails in Southern Africa. The immense scale and rugged terrain has drawn many visitors from all over the world.

Discover Fish River Canyon with Go2Africa's 'Best of Namibia' tour.

10. Mount Kilimanjaro - Tanzania
Best Times to Visit: Jan to March & June to October

Snow-capped mountain peaks are suitable only for experienced hikers as high level of fitness are needed for climbing Africa's highest peak.

Kilimanjaro is not only the highest mountain in Africa but it's also the largest free-standing mountain in the world - rising nearly six vertical kilometres from the surrounding plains - making a Mount Kilimanjaro trek is a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Plan your trip to Mount Kilimanjaro with Go2Africa

For any new bookings until March 31, 2022 affected by COVID-related restrictions and complications, Go2Africa commits to no cancellation fees, trip deferment with no penalties and 100% travel credit if cancelled 65 days before your travel date.

About Go2Africa
Go2Africa is a multi-award-winning tour operator based out of Cape Town that curates exceptional, personalized African vacations, specializing in safaris, plus wineland and gastronomy experiences, city escapes, beach, diving, and golf tours across the continent. Since 1998, the team has been committed to building first-hand knowledge of every destination, lodge and activity they recommend from their 3000+ partners. Working across 15 countries in Africa and the Indian Ocean Islands, 100% of their revenues stay in Africa, supporting local communities and conservation projects, making a difference long after their clients return home. With an entire team of African born and raised specialists, including seven named as Conde Nast Traveler's Top Travel Specialists in 2021, travelers are in expert hands. From spotting the Big 5 to following the Wildebeest Migration, trekking into the rainforests to

encounter endangered mountain gorillas, enjoying world-class scuba diving and whale watching or simply enjoying sundowner drinks on an endless savannah, Go2Africa can help create the perfect experience to immerse oneself in the magic of Africa - one of life's most incredible experiences.

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