

BENCH

AFRICA

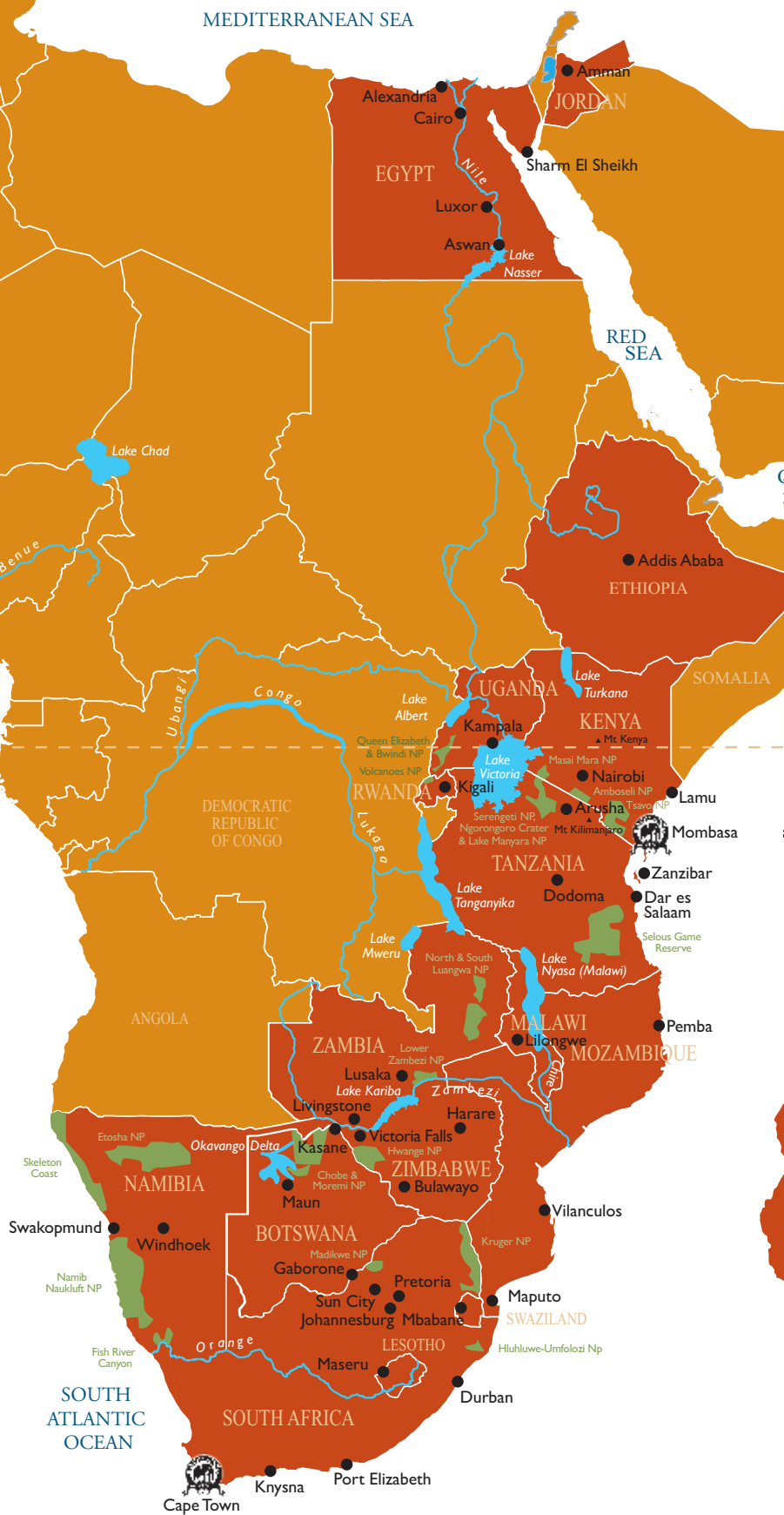
2018



ALBORAN SEA

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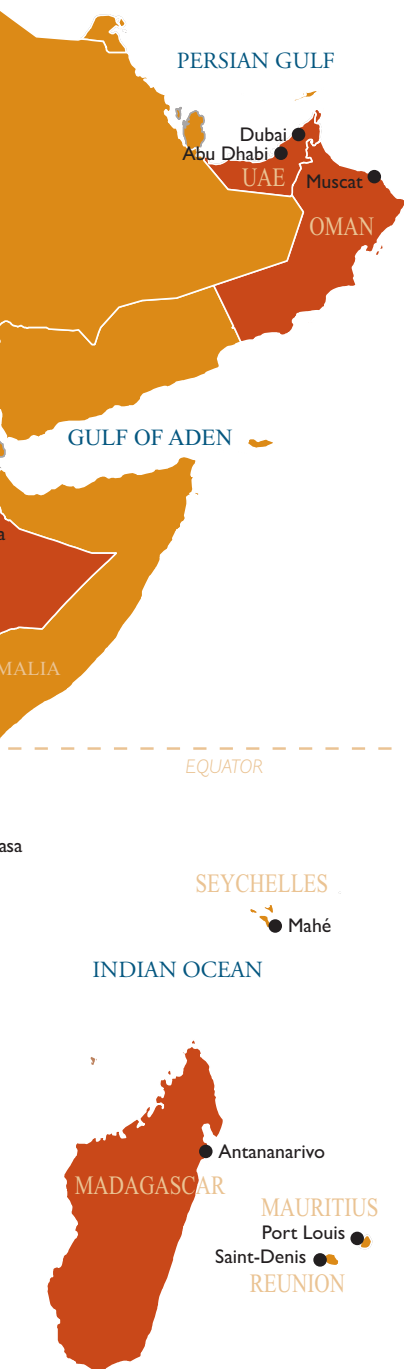


Front cover image:

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Bench Africa Offices



KARIBU

Welcome to our new 2018 Africa brochure, our 49th year of organising safaris for thousands of Australians to Africa.

We are committed to ensuring that our brochure offers the widest possible choice of safaris in many different countries in Africa. We have seen a large increase of Australians visiting Africa recently, so we have introduced a section at the beginning of the brochure with our best selling safaris – this should help those of you visiting Africa for the first time. This significant increase in travellers means you need to consider booking as early as possible to ensure you get exactly the safari you want. However, please remember that our specialty is tailor made safaris where we design an entirely personalised safari, just for you.

Our company motto is "excellence through experience" and we strive to achieve this in everything we do. Our consultants all travel to Africa every year to keep their immense knowledge fresh. Their passion is organising your holiday of a lifetime.

This year we have new small group tours in South Africa, Botswana and Namibia and have introduced a whole new country – Malawi.

I am very proud that Bench Africa was selected as a finalist in the Best Specialty Wholesaler category at the National Travel Industry Awards and I would like to thank everyone who voted for us.

Lastly, if you are interested in reading what our past customers have to say about their travel experiences with Bench Africa, then please visit the independent review website TrustPilot.

We look forward to seeing you in Africa.

Mike Kirkland
Chairman

WEATHER CHART

MONTH & AVG TEMP	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
EAST AFRICA												
KENYA (Nairobi)	14 - 25	14 - 26	15 - 26	16 - 24	15 - 23	13 - 22	12 - 21	12 - 22	12 - 24	14 - 25	15 - 23	15 - 23
TANZANIA (North)	10 - 28	10 - 28	11 - 27	13 - 25	11 - 22	8 - 21	9 - 20	8 - 22	8 - 24	10 - 26	10 - 27	10 - 27
RWANDA (Kigali)	18 - 23	18 - 23	18 - 23	18 - 22	18 - 23	18 - 23	18 - 24	19 - 25	18 - 25	18 - 23	18 - 22	18 - 23
UGANDA (Kampala)	9 - 24	11 - 24	11 - 23	11 - 23	11 - 23	9 - 23	8 - 23	9 - 23	11 - 23	10 - 24	11 - 23	10 - 23
ETHIOPIA (Addis Ababa)	15 - 24	16 - 24	17 - 25	17 - 25	18 - 25	17 - 23	16 - 21	16 - 21	16 - 22	15 - 23	14 - 23	14 - 23
SOUTHERN AFRICA												
SOUTH AFRICA (Cape Town)	17 - 25	17 - 25	15 - 24	13 - 22	11 - 19	8 - 17	8 - 16	8 - 17	10 - 18	12 - 20	14 - 22	16 - 23
SOUTH AFRICA (Kruger)	18 - 28	18 - 28	17 - 27	14 - 26	9 - 25	6 - 23	6 - 23	8 - 24	11 - 26	14 - 26	16 - 27	17 - 28
ZIMBABWE & ZAMBIA	18 - 29	18 - 29	17 - 29	15 - 30	10 - 27	7 - 25	7 - 25	10 - 27	15 - 32	19 - 34	19 - 32	18 - 30
MALAWI (Lilongwe)	17 - 26	17 - 26	17 - 26	16 - 26	13 - 26	10 - 25	7 - 23	6 - 25	7 - 27	11 - 30	14 - 30	16 - 27
BOTSWANA (Maun)	18 - 32	18 - 31	17 - 31	14 - 30	9 - 27	5 - 25	5 - 25	8 - 28	12 - 32	17 - 35	18 - 34	18 - 33
NAMIBIA (Windhoek)	20 - 28	18 - 27	17 - 26	15 - 25	11 - 22	8 - 20	7 - 20	10 - 22	15 - 26	17 - 27	20 - 29	21 - 30
MADAGASCAR	16 - 25	16 - 26	16 - 25	15 - 24	12 - 22	10 - 21	10 - 20	10 - 20	11 - 22	12 - 25	15 - 26	16 - 25
N. AFRICA & ARABIA												
MOROCCO (Marrakech)	4 - 18	6 - 19	9 - 22	11 - 23	14 - 27	17 - 31	19 - 36	20 - 36	17 - 32	14 - 27	9 - 22	6 - 19
EGYPT (Cairo)	8 - 19	9 - 21	11 - 24	14 - 28	17 - 33	20 - 35	21 - 36	22 - 35	20 - 32	18 - 29	14 - 24	10 - 20
JORDAN (Amman)	5 - 15	5 - 15	6 - 16	9 - 21	12 - 22	15 - 30	18 - 30	18 - 30	15 - 19	13 - 25	9 - 19	4 - 13
OMAN (Muscat)	16 - 23	16 - 23	21 - 29	25 - 35	27 - 36	29 - 37	31 - 38	27 - 33	26 - 33	25 - 35	20 - 30	18 - 27
UAE	12 - 24	14 - 25	17 - 29	20 - 33	23 - 28	25 - 40	24 - 40	29 - 42	26 - 40	22 - 36	18 - 31	15 - 26

KEY

Great time to travel Good time to travel Can get very hot or wet

IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE:

Prices are correct at the date of publication 14 August 2017 and are subject to change in accordance with our clause on page 115 "Special Note Regarding Prices". Please read the terms and conditions carefully, and check with your travel agent or ourselves when booking for the current price of any tours in this brochure.

www.benchafrika.com.au

EXPLORE AFRICA WITH BENCH AFRICA

Here at Bench Africa in conjunction with our parent company Southern Cross Safaris in Kenya and our office in Cape Town, South Africa, we can plan and facilitate your very own safari experience. Southern Cross Safaris in Kenya is one of the oldest owner-managed safari tour operators in East Africa, a company dedicated to providing the utmost quality of service and client care second to none. Providing stylish and memorable safaris since 1969 to literally thousands of clients, our reputation and philosophy is 'excellence through experience'.

ON LOCATION

With offices in Cape Town and Mombasa, we have experienced eyes and ears on the ground. This means that all of our Africa holiday packages and tailored itineraries are well researched. It also means that we can guide and help you arrange the perfect trip and guarantee you will glide effortlessly through both the booking and safari experiences.

THE BENCH TEAM

Due to the endless amount of information that is available to travellers today, Africa can seem like a daunting destination when trying to piece together your safari. The Bench team have all either travelled extensively throughout Africa or have lived there and can share this knowledge with you. We use this personal experience in the planning and discussions of tailored itineraries to suit all individuals or groups, from honeymooners to multi-generational families and friends, special interests and adventure seekers, and select the perfect mix to maximise your enjoyment on safari and realise your 'once in a lifetime' dream to travel to Africa.

CHOOSING YOUR SAFARI

The type of safari experience you choose is a very personal decision. Considerations include the standard of accommodation, the style of travel, and the wildlife you hope to see. Kenya and Tanzania are great for viewing the 'Big Five' (lion, leopard, rhino, elephant, buffalo) as well as the annual wildebeest migration, whilst Uganda or Rwanda is the ideal place to trek endangered mountain gorillas. South Africa is perfect for combining a safari with luxurious accommodation and fine dining, Namibia for its incredible scenery, and Botswana for exploring the many waterways of the Okavango Delta. Finally, visiting the majestic Victoria Falls on the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe offers the perfect end to any visit to Africa. Our dedicated team of Africa experts will help you choose your dream safari.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON A SAFARI?

No two safaris will ever be the same. Typically, you will begin rising at dawn and after a refreshing coffee, you will depart on your morning game drive (early in the morning is when the animals are at their most active). Return to your property for a revitalising breakfast and then take the opportunity to relax and enjoy the facilities. Following lunch you will enjoy an afternoon game drive returning back to your property after sunset for a scrumptious dinner and a good night's sleep.

PEACE OF MIND

Bench Africa is a member of CATO (Council of Australian Tour Operators #TO1008) and is an approved licensed Australian wholesaler with AFTA (Australian Federation of Travel Agents) and ATAS Accredited (#A10677). Furthermore, when travelling with Bench you can have complete peace of mind knowing there is a 24-hour emergency phone with one of our experts on hand.



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ELEPHANT RATINGS EXPLAINED



Throughout the brochure we have given each tour or experience an Elephant Rating for you to use as a guideline. This rating system slightly differs from the international star rating system. After all, how can you compare a five star city hotel in Australia with a game lodge in the heart of the Masai Mara? In addition to the standard and service available at a property, our Elephant Rating also takes into account the mode of travel, the safari experience on offer, the exclusivity of the region or how much participation is involved.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

With a responsibility to ensure the future development in Africa and to make a difference on the ground, over the many years, Bench Africa has created a number of links with organisations devoted to the welfare of the African people, wildlife and environment.

Rhino Ark is a charitable trust founded in 1988 to support conservation in Kenya. Alongside the building of a game-proof fence encircling Mt Kenya, and creating jobs in local communities, Rhino Ark supports conservation education projects in local schools. www.rhinoark.org

New Hope Children's Home in Mombasa is home to abandoned or orphaned children aged between three and 16 years of age. Many of them are from homeless single parent families whilst other children's parents have died from HIV. www.newhopechildren.org



Satao Elerai Nursery School educates young Maasai children who would not otherwise have the chance to attend school. www.communityandwildlife.org

The East African Wildlife Society is the voice of conservation in East Africa. www.eawildlife.org

The Tsavo Trust is a non-profit organisation that assists the Kenya Wildlife Service in aerial and ground monitoring of the big tusked elephants in Tsavo where 80% of the world's big tuskers live. www.tsavotrust.org





TAILOR MADE SAFARIS



Why not consider your very own private safari? We have the flexibility to tailor a personalised trip to suit your needs, travelling when and where you wish and choosing from a range of small boutique camps and lodges off the beaten track. No matter where you go you will still find elegance, ambience and top quality service, ranging from luxury 'Out of Africa' styled tented safari camps to the larger game lodges and more moderately priced hotels.

SMALL GROUP TOURS



Bench Africa offers small locally escorted group tours in Africa, from weekly departures in East Africa, with a maximum of seven passengers, to those wanting to join a select group of only 12 guests in Southern Africa. Travelling with a dedicated professional, discover some of our favourite places and stay at exclusive properties in comfort and style. Rest assured you will be taken care of from the very moment you arrive until you depart with some truly memorable experiences.

FLYING SAFARIS



Travel to Africa on a journey that is as exceptional as the destination. In Kenya, experience a unique combination of adventure, relaxation, service and culinary delights amid the African wilderness, on safari in our luxury Cessna Caravan taking you to some of Kenya's best National Parks and Reserves. With air-conditioning, personal intercom system and qualified safari guide onboard, this offers something very different to any other air safari in Africa.

SELF-DRIVE



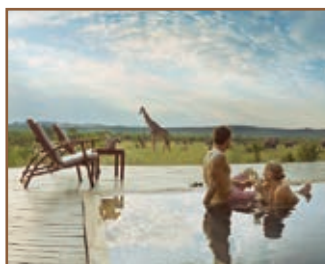
Hiring a car in either South Africa or Namibia is much easier than you would expect. With a range of vehicles available and the ease of driving on the left, self-driving between areas gives guests the flexibility to move at their ideal pace and stop for sightseeing detours whenever desired. Tailoring an itinerary, a self-drive journey will allow you to make the absolute most of your holiday at an affordable price.

RAIL JOURNEYS



Southern Africa is blessed by the legacy of comprehensive rail tracks left by former colonists, with a large network covering South Africa but also stretching into neighbouring countries and as far north as Tanzania in East Africa. Highlights include the Rovos Rail, referred to as 'The Most Luxurious Train in the World', and the South African travel icon, The Blue Train. With journeys from two to 15 days, why not consider incorporating a rail journey into your African experience.

HONEYMOONS



Africa is one of the most romantic continents in the world for honeymoons! Whether you want to find privacy in the African bush under mosquito nets, in a secluded tree top hideaway, be treated like royalty with private dinners on white sandy beaches lapping the Indian Ocean, or toast your life together with a glass of Champagne at the world renowned Victoria Falls, we can arrange it all, and leave you with memories never to be forgotten.

FAMILIES



The popularity of family safaris to Africa is booming with parents and grandparents wanting their families to experience a fun-filled holiday with the added educational aspect of the animals, bush environment and African culture. In South Africa there are several malaria-free areas that add to the attraction of taking young children on safari without worrying about certain medication. Many of the lodges and camps throughout East and Southern Africa now welcome and cater for families.

GROUPS



If you'd like to explore destinations with your family or a group of friends, Africa won't disappoint. There are a number of wonderful locations in Africa perfect for group travel. We specialise in arranging various types of packages for group travellers. We can craft a travel plan that's ideal for your 'herd'. You can choose from different types of travel itineraries, escorted or independent, photographic or special interest. We can also modify your package to cater to your specific needs.