Table of Contents

[1. Victoria Falls, Zambia 2](#_Toc386360461)

[2. Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania 3](#_Toc386360462)

[3. Sahara Desert, North Africa 4](#_Toc386360463)

[4. Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania 5](#_Toc386360464)

[6. Fish River Canyon, Namibia 6](#_Toc386360465)

[7. Three Rondavels, South Africa 6](#_Toc386360466)

[8. Zanzibar, Tanzania 7](#_Toc386360467)

[9. Sossusvlei, Namibia 8](#_Toc386360468)

[10. Serengeti National Park, Tanzania 8](#_Toc386360469)

[Table of Figures/Illustration Index 9](#_Toc386360470)

1. Victoria Falls, Zambia

The Victoria Falls are situated on the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe, and originate from the Zambezi River. Perhaps the most famous waterfalls in existence, they feature the world’s largest continuous sheet of falling water and were declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1989. The Falls are sometimes referred to by their name, ‘Mosi-oa-Tunya’, which means 'The Smoke that Thunders'.

Summary of Facts

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| Country | Zambia/Zimbabwe |
| Coordinates | 17.9233S, 25.856E |
| Height | 108 m |
| Watercourse | Zambezi River |
| UNESCO World Heritage Site | 1989 |

Until about 10 years ago Zimbabwe was the most popular country to visit the Victoria Falls. There are lots of luxury hotels and the infrastructure is good. You can walk to the falls from town along well marked paths and the view is certainly the best from this side because you can stand opposite the falls and see them head on.

Visiting the falls in Zambia has some advantages:

* You can see the falls from above as well as below.
* The tickets to enter the park are cheaper.
* Accommodation in the town of Livingstone is also traditionally less expensive.
* Livingstone is an interesting place.
* It used to be the capital of Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) and its streets are still lined with Victorian-era colonial buildings.
* The surrounding forested areas are more pristine.

At certain times of the year, you can even swim in a natural pool right before the edge of the upper falls.

It is recommended visiting from both sides, there is a border post you can cross quite easily and day passes are given out so you don't need to get a visa in advance. But as with all border formalities, check in advance since rules can change from day to day. The border is open from 8am to 6pm every day. If you are at the falls during the dry season (September to December) you must go to the Zimbabwean side to see the Falls properly, since the Zambian side can be totally dried up.

2. [Mount Kilimanjaro](http://www.beautifulworld.com/africa/tanzania/mount-kilimanjaro), Tanzania



Figure 1 : Mount Kilimanjaro

* **Origins of the name Kilimanjaro**
* **Climbing history**
* **Trekking Precautions**

Mount Kilimanjaro is a large, dormant volcano situated near the Kenyan border in Northern Tanzania, within the Kilimanjaro National Park. Both the largest free-standing mountain in the world and the highest mountain in Africa, Mount Kilimanjaro is especially unique in that its snow-capped peak imposes itself in the midst of the flat, extensive plains of the Tanzanian Savannah. Kilimanjaro has three volcanic cones: Kibo, Mawenzi and Shira. The area’s rich biodiversity paired with Mount Kilimanjaro's impressive physical features make it well deserving of its designation as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

**Origins of the name Kilimanjaro**

The origin of the name "Kilimanjaro" is not precisely known, but a number of theories exist. European explorers had adopted the name by 1860 and reported that "Kilimanjaro" was the mountain's Kiswahili name. Swahilis along the coast called the mountain "Kilimanjaro"."Kilimanjaro" meant either "mountain of greatness" or "mountain of caravans".

**Climbing history**

In 1861, the German officer Baron Carl Claus von der Decken and the young British geologist Richard Thornton (1838–1863) made a first attempt to climb Kibo, but "got no farther than 8,200 feet" (2,500 meters). In 1862, Von der Decken tried a second time together with Otto Kersten. They reached a height of 14,000 feet (4,280 meters).

In 1887, during his first attempt to climb Kilimanjaro, the German geology professor Hans Meyer reached the base of Kibo, but was forced to turn back, not having the necessary equipment to handle the deep snow and ice on Kibo. The following year, Meyer planned another attempt with cartographer Oscar Baumann, but the mission was aborted due to consequences of the Abushiri Revolt. Meyer and Baumann were captured and held hostage, and only escaped after a ten thousand rupees ransom had been paid.

In 1889 Meyer returned to Kilimanjaro with the celebrated Austrian mountaineer Ludwig Purtscheller for a third attempt. Their climbing team included two local headmen, nine porters, a cook, and a guide. The success of this attempt, which started on foot from Mombasa, was based on the establishment of many campsites with food supplies so that multiple attempts at the top could be made without having to descend too far. Meyer and Purtscheller pushed to near the crater rim on October 3, but turned around exhausted from hacking footsteps in the icy slope. Three days later they reached the highest summit on the southern rim of the crater on Purtscheller's 40th birthday, October 6, 1889. They were the first to confirm that Kibo has a crater, which was filled with ice at the time.

**Trekking Precautions**

People who wish to trek to the summit of Kilimanjaro are advised to do appropriate research and ensure that they are both properly equipped and physically capable. Though the climb is technically not as challenging as when climbing the high peaks of the Himalayas or Andes, the high elevation, low temperature, and occasional high winds make this a difficult and dangerous trek. Acclimatization is essential, and even the most experienced trekkers suffer some degree of altitude sickness. Kilimanjaro summit is well above the altitude at which high altitude pulmonary edema or high altitude cerebral edema can occur. All trekkers will suffer considerable discomfort, typically shortage of breath, hypothermia, and headaches.

3. Sahara Desert, North Africa

The Sahara is the largest hot desert in the world, spanning over 3.6 million square miles and running through several countries in Northern Africa including Egypt, Morocco, Niger, Chad, Mauritania, Western Sahara, Sudan, Mali, Algeria and Tunisia. Its name, ‘Sahara’, is derived from Arabic, and translated literally means ‘the greatest desert’. Whilst the vast majority of the Sahara comprises of large sand expanses, there are some mountain ranges and grasslands, sparse though they may be. Interestingly, the Sahara Desert is one of the hottest places on Earth and the hottest ever temperature recording was taken at the Sahara Desert - clocking in at an astonishing 58 degrees Celcius.

This huge and serene desert also offers some of the finest and popular tourist attractions and activities. Namely a visit to the Sahara Desert Oasis and Hot Springs will provide a unique unforgettable lifetime experience. The Sahara desert safari offers some very thrilling activity like the Sahara Desert Camping.

Being a harsh and hottest desert on planet Earth, the Sahara Plants and animal’s species have survived with notable adaptations. The Sahara desert sunset offers visitors some of the finest breathtaking views. The most popular Sahara Desert Mountains and the natives that reside around its vicinity are few of the best subjects to be explored during your visit in the Sahara.

4. Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania



Figure 2 : Ngorongora Crater

The Ngorongoro Crater is a huge volcanic caldera, covering 260 sq. km (100 sq. miles) in Northern Tanzania. Formed almost 3 million years ago when a giant volcano exploded and collapsed on itself, the Ngorongoro Crater is 610 m (2000 ft) deep. Endowed with an abundance of wildlife, the crater features almost every animal species present in East Africa. The crater floor is mostly open grassland with two small wooded areas.

The Munge Stream drains the Olmoti Crater to the north, and is the main water source draining into the seasonal salt lake in the center of the crater. This lake is Makat as the Maasai called it, meaning salt. The Lerai Stream drains the humid forests to the south of the Crater, and it feeds the Lerai Forest on the crater floor - when there is enough rain, the Lerai drains into Lake Magadi as well.

The other major water source in the crater is the Ngoitokitok Spring, near the eastern crater wall. There is a picnic site here open to tourists and a huge swamp fed by the spring, and the area is inhabited by hippopotamus, elephants, lions, and many others. Many other small springs can be found around the crater's floor, and these are important water supplies for the animals and local Masaai, especially during times of drought.

5. Mount Kenya, Kenya



Figure 3: Mount Kenya

At 17,057 ft (5199 m), Mount Kenya is the highest mountain in Kenya and the second highest in Africa. Created approximately 3 million years ago, Mount Kenya is an extinct volcano, often referred to as the 'Place of Light'. Situated in central Kenya, just north of the equator, the mountain lies within the Mount Kenya National Park, which was inscribed into the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1997. The Kikuyu people, who live on the southern and western sides of Mount Kenya, firmly believe that their God (Ngai) lived on the mountains peak when he came down from the heavens.

There are 12 remnant glaciers on the mountain, all receding rapidly, and four secondary peaks that sit at the head of the U-shaped glacial valleys. With its rugged glacier-clad summits and forested middle slopes, Mount Kenya is one of the most impressive landscapes in East Africa.

The evolution and ecology of its afro-alpine flora provide an outstanding example of ecological and biological processes. The area also lies within the traditional migrating route of the African elephant population.

6. Fish River Canyon, Namibia



Figure 4: Fish River Canyon

The Fish River Canyon is located in southern Namibia, West Africa. As the second largest canyon in the World, it's a very popular destination among tourists. Although dry with only a small series of pools for most of the year, late summer flooding breathes new life into the 404 mile Fish River. Spectacular panoramic views await visitors of the Fish River Canyon, particularly at Hell's Bend, a scenic overlook named after a horseshoe shaped bend in the river.

Set in a harsh, stony plain dotted with drought resistant succulents, such as the distinctive quiver tree or kokerboom, the canyon is a spectacular natural phenomenon.

Formed over 500 million years ago, Fish River Canyon was created not only by water erosion, but through the collapse of the valley bottom due to movements in the earth’s crust. It drops vertically by half a kilometre without any warning. And as with most rivers in Namibia, the Fish River is generally dry except in the raining season, from January to April. Beyond being a great place to take amazing photographs, the Fish River Canyon has become a popular hiking destination. The most popular trail, the aptly named Fish River Hiking Trail, is a 4-day, 86 km expedition open from May to September requiring a doctor’s approval to participate. With no services except for at the beginning and end, it’s obviously not for the faint of heart.

7. Three Rondavels, South Africa

Located in South Africa, the Three Rondavels are marvellous round rocks rising above the Blyde River Canyon. Also called the Three Sisters, they serve as reminders of the native hut housing structures called rondavels. Situated along the famous Panorama Route in Mpumalanga, the Three Rondavels rock formations consist of quartzite and shale.

They are sometimes referred to as the 'Chiefs Troublesome Wives', with the flat-top peak representing the chief, Mapjaneng, and the Rondavels representing his three wives. The flat-topped peak was named Mapjaneng ('the chief') after a legendary Bapedi chief, MaripiMashile, who defeated invading Swazis in a great battle near here.

In fact, when you stand on the viewpoint, 1 380m above sea level with the Blyde River Canyon below, you'll still be looking up at those three distinctive peaks which tower 700 m above the surrounding countryside. Be surefooted at the viewpoint, especially as there's no rail, and then just drink in the dramatic view with the canyon and the Blyde River dam way below you. Expect spectacular African sunsets if you're there as the sun goes down.

8. Zanzibar, Tanzania



Figure 5: Zanzibar

Zanzibar, which means “coast of blacks” is an archipelago situated 25-50km (16-31 mi) east of mainland Tanzania. The archipelago consists of numerous small islands and two large ones: the main island is Unjuga, which is commonly referred to as Zanzibar itself, and the other is Pemba, which is known as the “Green Island”.

The Zanzibar archipelago is characterized by beautiful sandy beaches, which line its perimeter. Zanzibar, a part of the United Republic of Tanzania, is a series of many islands, the main ones being Unguja and Pemba. The more populated of the two main islands, Unguja, is better known as Zanzibar Island and is home to Stone Town (also known as Zanzibar Town or Zanzibar City), an historic, bustling city of narrow alleyways and stone coral buildings. In addition to the two main islands, there are many other islands and islets in the Zanzibar archipelago which stretches from the top of Pemba to the south point of Unguja.

Unguja is in the Indian Ocean and most of the population lives in the more fertile regions of the north and west. The eastern part of the island is arid and covered in coral rag (rock made of coral) making it unattractive for farming, but the beaches and the reefs on the eastern coasts make them ideal for fishing villages, tourist guesthouses, and resorts.

Pemba, located about 50 kilometres north of Unguja, is far less populated. Known also by its Arabic name, Al Khundra meaning Green Island, Pemba is covered in steep hills full of palms, clove and rubber trees, rice paddies and the Ngezi Forest in the north. There are many pure, beautiful beaches in and around the numerous inlets and coves. Tourism is not as developed on Pemba as it is on Unguja but resorts are being built and the infrastructure will undoubtedly improve as tourism increases.

9. Sossusvlei, Namibia

Sossusvlei is a large salt and clay pan, home to the world’s highest sand dunes. Situated in the southern region of the Namib Desert of Namibia, Sossusvlei features sand dunes which can reach heights of up to 325 m. Its name is thought to originate from both the Afrikaans and Nama languages, roughly meaning “dead end marsh" when translated. The name actually refers to the river which once cut right through the massive dune field to reach the ocean, but which for the last 50 km has, over millennia, become blocked by the shifting sands.

Sossusvlei is home to the huge red sand-dunes for which Namibia is so renowned.  
  
A visit typically entails a pre-dawn drive into the valley, flanked by enormous truncated dunes, followed by a walk around Sossusvlei itself and over into the mysterious Dead Vlei and climb up one of the largest dunes. An isolated desert experience it is not, but still mighty impressive.

10. Serengeti National Park, Tanzania



The Serengeti National Park is a beautiful area in Tanzania, famous for its annual wildebeest migration. Over two million animals migrate from the Serengeti in Tanzania to the Maasai Mara Reserve in Kenya in search of fresh pasture. To get a sense of just how monumental this migration is, imagine the entire population of Houston, Texas, leaving their homes and walking to Oklahoma. Astonishingly beautiful in its own right, the Serengeti features an impressive 14,763 km. sq (5700 sq. mi) of savanna, woodland and grassland plains.

The Serengeti region encompasses the Serengeti National Park itself, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Maswa Game Reserve, the Loliondo, Grumeti and Ikorongo Controlled Areas and the Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya. Over 90,000 tourists visit the Park each year.

The Serengeti ecosystem is one of the oldest on earth. The essential features of climate, vegetation and fauna have barely changed in the past million years. Early man himself made an appearance in Olduvai Gorge about two million years ago. Some patterns of life, death, adaptation and migration are as old as the hills themselves. So strong is the ancient instinct to move that no drought, gorge or crocodile infested river can hold them back.

Table of Figures/Illustration Index