

Safari: A Bucket List Trip for Your Post-Pandemic Travels

EXCERPTED FROM AN ARTICLE BY LARRY OLMSTED

To me safari is the very epitome of the Bucket List concept, because unlike most of the others, I can't imagine a personality that would not be wowed. It's for everyone, and it is truly something you need to experience in your lifetime. The classic is East Africa, Kenya and Tanzania, but if I were planning your trip and you had never been, I would suggest South Africa, or South Africa and Botswana. South Africa has a lot more non-wildlife appeal—wine country, amazing food, beaches, golf, classic luxury trains—and Cape Town is one of the



world's great cities. Southern Africa is easier to get to and has better luxury safari lodges and much better luxury non-safari hotels and resorts. Botswana probably has the very best concentration of pure wildlife viewing and some of the best lodges of the eight marquee African safari countries I've visited. However, East Africa has two unique appeals, the annual great migration across the Serengeti, one of earth's premier natural wonders, and proximity to Rwanda and its unique gorilla trekking. Gorillas are not found in the same places as all the other desirable African animals and for many travelers gorilla trekking (you have to go on foot to see them) is the single most amazing wildlife experience on earth, and a Bucket List trip in its own right. But it lasts only a day or two, so it is best combined with a conventional East African safari.

Do It Best: Micato Safaris is my pick for making this dream trip a dream come true - by a mile. Not only are they the best safari outfitter I know, but the best company of any kind in the entire travel industry I've experienced, and I'm not alone—Micato is the only 10-time #1 winner of any World's Best Award category from *Travel + Leisure Magazine*, all for World's Best Safari Operator. This is a complex trip with a lot of moving parts and using Micato will alleviate all planning concerns and guarantee a great time ([read more here](#)). This is especially true if you add gorilla trekking, for which permits are strictly required, very limited, demand far exceeds supply, and insider connections help. Micato has those, I've seen it myself.

I've had the good fortune to have been many times, and I would go again tomorrow, because for me it never gets old - it's more than a once-in-a-lifetime trip - but at least once!